

Tracy Naa Koshie Thompson

Artist

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Biography

Tracy Naa Koshie Thompson, PhD. (b. 1993), is a Ghanaian artist living and working in Accra. She is an alumnus of the Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology (KNUST) in Kumasi, Ghana. Thompson has an independent practice, exploring plasticity, self-generative systems in polymer materials and reverse-engineering foods. These explorations are integral to her interest in the non-human agency and ecologies that connect foods to geological formations, thermal fluxes, decomposition, and microbial systems that deconstruct familiar notions of foods and still-life traditions. These are explored through site-specific installations and process-based forms. These conceptions are profoundly influenced by the emancipatory teachings of the pedagogue, Prof. kaŋkàchà seid'ou. Thompson is currently experimenting with food cartography (micro-topography) by blending aspects of geology, digital morphogenesis, landscape, and still-life. This involves microscopy, digital elevation modelling (DEM) / 3D terrain modelling, and 3D-printing — all generated from the microstructures of foods.

Exhibitions

2025	And This is Us 2025
	Frankfurter Kunstverein and La Caoba
	<i>Frankfurt (Germany)</i>
2024	The Allegory of Decoy
	Galerie Hubert Winter and BlaxTARLINES
	<i>Vienna (Austria)</i>
2024	Busan Biennale: Seeing in the Dark
	Busan Museum of Contemporary Art
	<i>Busan (South Korea)</i>
2024	Morphogenesis: Reverse-Engineering Foods and Still-Life
	Solo Exhibition (PhD Viva Voce) Materials Engineering Lab, KNUST
	<i>Kumasi (Ghana)</i>
2024	Worlds within Worlds: Eruptions from a “still-life” Microverse
	Solo Exhibition Apex University College (Advanced Business College)
	<i>Accra (Ghana)</i>
2023	Silent Invasions: The Art of Material Hacking
	Amasaka Gallery, Vodoo Art, Weaverbird, Underground Kampala and BlaxTARLINES
	<i>Masaka (Uganda)</i>
2023	From the Void came Gifts of the Cosmos
	35th Ljubljana Biennale of Graphic Arts
	<i>Ljubljana (Slovenia)</i>
2023	'What'Chu Looking At? Who You Speaking With?' A Gazing All Round
	Spazju Kreattiv
	<i>Valletta (Malta)</i>
2022	Unraveling The (Under-) Development Complex
	SAVVY Contemporary
	<i>Berlin (Germany)</i>
2022	The Powerhouse
	ArtxAfrica, Kunstmuseum Museumsmeile and The KNUST Museum
	<i>Bonn (Germany) and Kumasi (Ghana)</i>
2022	Existing Otherwise - Future of Coexistence
	Savannah Centre for Contemporary Art, Redclay and Nkrumah Voli-ni
	<i>Tamale (Ghana)</i>
2021	Matières Sensibles ‘Of Materials and Things’
	Exit Frame Collective (Ghana) and artists-in-residence at La Condition Publique throughout the Saison Africa 2020
	<i>Roubaix (France)</i>

2021	Ecologies and Politics of the Living
	Vienna Biennale for Change 2021, University of Applied Arts Vienna and Angewandte Innovation Lab
	<i>Vienna (Austria)</i>
2021	A Diagnosis of Time: Unlearn What You Have Learned
	Savannah Centre for Contemporary Art and Aaros Aarhus Museum Denmark
	<i>Tamale (Ghana)</i>
2021	This is not Africa - Unlearn What You Have Learned
	Aarhus Art Museum
	<i>Aarhus (Denmark)</i>
2020	1st Stellenbosch Triennale: Tomorrow There will Be More of Us
	Stellenbosch Outdoor Sculpture Trust South
	<i>Stellenbosch (South Africa)</i>
2019	UmStand der Dinge: A State of Affairs
	HFBK Hamburg
	<i>(Hamburg) Germany</i>
2019	Rundgang 2019
	Städelschule
	<i>Frankfurt (Germany)</i>
2017	Orderly Disorderly
	blaxTARLINES KUMASI
	<i>Accra (Ghana)</i>
2016	Cornfields in Accra
	blaxTARLINES KUMASI
	<i>Accra (Ghana)</i>

Curating

2025	Failure is the Key: 2nd Edition
	Group Exhibition Hassan Issah, Jonathan Okoronkwo, and Samuel Baah Kortey
	<i>IBM Filling Station — Kumasi (Ghana)</i>
2024	Constellations Part 2: Figures in Webs and Ripples of Space
	Group Exhibition Co-curated w/ Katherine Finerty and Nuna Adisenu-Doe
	<i>Gallery 1957 — Accra (Ghana)</i>
2024	Constellations Part 1: Figures on Earth & Beyond
	Group Exhibition Co-curated w/ Katherine Finerty and Nuna Adisenu-Doe
	<i>Gallery 1957 — London (UK)</i>
2023	Silent Invasions: The Art of Material Hacking
	Group Exhibition Co-curated w/ Sascia Bailer, Juliy Gyemant, Nantume Violet, and Zitoni Kayonga Tristan Tani
	<i>Amasaka Gallery — Masaka (Uganda)</i>
2023	A Thousand Disguises
	Priscilla Kennedy (Artist, 2022 Yaa Asantewaa Women's Art Prize Winner)
	<i>Gallery 1957 — Accra (Ghana)</i>
2023	Kum Ase: A Field Filled With Golden Spikes
	Al-Hassan Issah (Artist)
	<i>Compound House Gallery — Accra, Kumasi and Tamale (Ghana)</i>
2022	Some Things Stay Broken
	Jonathan Okoronkwo (Artist)
	<i>Gallery 1957 — Accra (Ghana)</i>
2022	CHRIS-SIS: Feast of the Sacred Heart
	Samuel Baah Kortey (Artist)
	<i>Compound House Gallery — Accra (Ghana)</i>

2022	CHRIS-SIS: The Experimental Joke
	Samuel Baah Kortey (Artist)
	<i>1822 - Forum — Frankfurt (Germany)</i>
2020	Akutia: Blindfolding the Sun and the Poetics of Peace
	A Retrospective of Agyeman Ossei Co-Curated w/ Kwasi Ohene-Ayeh and Adwoa Amoah
	<i>Savannah Centre for Contemporary Art (SCCA) — Tamale (Ghana)</i>

Education

2019-2024	PhD. Painting (Fine Art)
	Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology (KNUST) - Kumasi (Ghana)
2018-2019	Städelschule Exchange Programme
	Städelschule - Frankfurt (Germany)
2017-2019	MFA. Painting and Sculpture (Fine Art)
	Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology (KNUST) - Kumasi (Ghana)
2013-2017	BFA. Painting (Fine Art)
	Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology (KNUST) - Kumasi (Ghana)

Talks/Workshops

2024	TheMuseumsLab 2024
	The National Museum
	<i>Accra (Ghana)</i>
2024	Remote Sensing Emergent Worlds
	Foundation for Contemporary Art - Ghana
	<i>Accra (Ghana)</i>
2024	Palaver in the Dark Artist Talk 1 (Decoys with Food)
	Busan Museum of Contemporary Art
	<i>Busan (South Korea)</i>
2022	Symposium 2022: Humans, Fungi, Rottenness, and the Future of Soil
	Norwegian BioArt Arena (NOBA)
	<i>Ås (Norway)</i>
2022	1st Senior High Schools Visual Art Festival
	Centre for National Culture (CNC) of Sekondi-Takoradi Metropolitan Assembly
	<i>Sekondi (Ghana)</i>
2021	Career Pathways in Arts
	Archbishop Porter Girls' Senior High School
	<i>Takoradi (Ghana)</i>
2021	Critlab 2021
	Exit Frame Collective
	<i>Kumasi (Ghana)</i>
2021	Duy'bu Art Workshop
	Sanatu Zambang Studios
	<i>Savannah Centre for Contemporary Art (SCCA) — Tamale (Ghana)</i>
2021	Embracing the Traumatic in the Aesthetic Unconscious
	Goethe-Institut Ghana
	<i>Accra (Ghana)</i>
2021	Ecologies and Politics of The Living
	Angewandte Innovation Lab
	<i>Vienna (Austria)</i>
2019	Streams of Consciousness
	Curated by Dr. Bonaventure Soh Bejeng Ndikung
	<i>12th Bamako Encounters Photography Biennale — Bamako (Mali)</i>
2019	On Universality and Multiplicity: Curating from the Void
	KfW Stiftung and DAAD Artists-in-Berlin Program
	<i>daadgalerie — Berlin (Germany)</i>

2017	Art Talk w/ Tracy Thompson
	The Studio Accra
	<i>#artTalk — Accra (Ghana)</i>

Publications

2024	Busan Biennale 2024 Catalogue
	by Vera Mey and Philippe Pirotte
	<i>Busan Biennale Organizing Committee — Busan (South Korea)</i>
2024	New Perspectives: Contemporary Art from Ghana
	by Elisabeth Prah and Bernard Akoi-Jackson
	<i>Nuvo Publishing — London (UK)</i>
2022	Existing Otherwise
	by Solvej Helweg Ovesen and Ute Müller-Tischler
	<i>Kerber — Berlin (Germany)</i>
2022	Ibrahim Mahama Voli-ni
	by Ibrahim Mahama and Eva Brioschi
	<i>Lenz Press — Milano (Italy)</i>
2022	Contemporary Art in Ghana: A Conversation with ƙarĩ'kachä seid'ou
	Ghana Studies (2022) Volume 25, 194–206
	<i>University of Wisconsin Press — Wisconsin (USA)</i>
2021	Ubuntu, A Lucid Dream
	Magazine Palais #32
	<i>Palais de Tokyo — Paris (France)</i>
2021	Ecologies & Politics of the Living
	by Gerald Bast, Elisabeth Falkensteiner, Ibrahim Mahama and Baerbel Mueller
	<i>University of Applied Arts Vienna — Vienna (Austria)</i>
2021	This Is Not Africa: Unlearn What You Have Learned
	by ARoS Aarhus Kunstmuseum
	<i>Narayana Press — Gylling (Denmark)</i>
2021	Talking, Stuttering, Speaking Whilst Listening Intently for a Promise of Egalitarian Regeneration: A Five-Way Conversation
	"blaxTARLINES", African Arts (2021) Volume 54, Issue 2: 12–21
	<i>Regents of the University of California — Oakland (USA)</i>
2021	Transforming Art from Commodity to Gift: ƙarĩ'kachä seid'ou's Silent Revolution in the Kumasi College of Art
	"blaxTARLINES", African Arts (2021) Volume 54, Issue 2: 22–25
	<i>Regents of the University of California — Oakland (USA)</i>