Tracy Naa Koshie Thompson

Artist

Biography

Tracy Naa Koshie Thompson, PhD (b. 1993), is a Ghanaian artist based in Accra. Thompson is interested in plasticity and self-generative patterns, employing reverse-engineering and material modification to produce ambiguous forms that sit at the intersection of art and science. She modifies foods to transcend the convention of still life — producing drapery food landscapes, dissecting food modifications microscopically to generate alien terrains through 3D topography reconstructions and cartography. This opens up discourses on nonhuman agency and ecologies that connect foods to geological formations, thermal fluxes, decomposition, and microbial systems.

Her recent works also include saliva ferning, further expanding on a micro-world/ecology of foods, where "still-life flora and landscapes" emerge from the mouth. These crystalline formations speak to the animacy of inorganic matter as it emerges from biological fluids, linking bodily processes to geological patterns of crystal growth — blurring living and nonliving systems. Thompson's practice has translated into site-specific/process-based installations, 3D printing, digital topography animations, and cartography.

Exhibitions

2026	***Inter Acting Buggy Worlds;*** Universitätsgalerie der Angewandten and Mel e Logan; Vienna (Austria)
	Slow Down: Cattle Battle Ahead; blaxTARLINES and Koyo Kouoh; 61st International Art Exhibition | La Biennale di Venezia, Arsenale; Venice (Italy)
	Worlds within Worlds: Terra Incognita; Solo Exhibition | Grad Tivoli; International Centre of Graphic Arts (MGLC); Ljubljana (Slovenia)
	CCAM MIX: ground // horizons; Yale CCAM; Connecticut (United States of America)
2025	***Blur: Dreaming In Data;*** Nieuwe Instituut, Limbo Museum, Lumako and Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands; Accra (Ghana)
	The Writing's on the Wall (TWTW); Savannah Centre for Contemporary Art Tamale and Robin Beth Inc.; Tamale (Ghana)
	And This is Us; Frankfurter Kunstverein and La Caoba; Frankfurt (Germany)
2024	***The Allegory of Decoy;*** Galerie Hubert Winter and BlaxTARLINES; Vienna (Austria)
	Busan Biennale: Seeing in the Dark; Busan Museum of Contemporary Art; Busan (South Korea)
	Morphogenesis: Reverse-Engineering Foods and Still-Life; Solo Exhibition (PhD Viva Voce) | Materials Engineering Lab, KNUST; Kumasi (Ghana)
	Worlds within Worlds: Eruptions from a "still-life" Microverse; Solo Exhibition | Apex University College (Advanced Business College); Accra (Ghana)
2023	***Silent Invasions: The Art of Material Hacking;*** Amasaka Gallery, Vodoo Art, Weaverbird, Underground Kampala and BlaxTARLINES; Masaka (Uganda)
	From the Void came Gifts of the Cosmos; 35th Ljubljana Biennale of Graphic Arts; Ljubljana (Slovenia)
	What'Chu Looking At? Who You Speaking With?' A Gazing All Round; Spazju Kreattiv; Valletta (Malta)
2022	***Unraveling The (Under-) Development Complex;*** SAVVY Contemporary; Berlin (Germany)
	The Powerhouse; ArtxAfrica, Kunstmuseum Museumsmeile and The KNUST Museum; Bonn (Germany) and Kumasi (Ghana)
	Existing Otherwise - Future of Coexistence; Savannah Centre for Contemporary Art, Redclay and Nkrumah Voli-ni; Tamale (Ghana)

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2021	***Matières Sensibles 'Of Materials and Things';*** Exit Frame Collective (Ghana) and Artists-in-Residence at La Condition Publique, Saison Africa 2020; Roubaix (France)
	Ecologies and Politics of the Living; Vienna Biennale for Change 2021, University of Applied Arts Vienna and Angewandte Innovation Lab; Vienna (Austria)
	A Diagnosis of Time: Unlearn What You Have Learned; Savannah Centre for Contemporary Art Tamale and ARoS Aarhus Art Museum; Tamale (Ghana)
	This is not Africa - Unlearn What You Have Learned; ARoS Aarhus Art Museum; Aarhus (Denmark)
2020	***1st Stellenbosch Triennale: Tomorrow There Will Be More of Us;*** Stellenbosch Outdoor Sculpture Trust South; Stellenbosch (South Africa)
2019	***UmStand der Dinge: A State of Affairs;*** HFBK Hamburg; Hamburg (Germany)
	Rundgang 2019; Städelschule; Frankfurt (Germany)
2017	***Orderly Disorderly;*** blaxTARLINES KUMASI; Accra (Ghana)
2016	***Cornfields in Accra;*** blaxTARLINES KUMASI; Accra (Ghana)

Curating

2025	***Failure Is The Key: 2nd Edition;*** Group Exhibition | Hassan Issah, Jonathan Okoronkwo, and Samuel Baah Kortey; IBM Filling Station — Kumasi (Ghana)
2024	***Constellations Part 2: Figures in Webs and Ripples of Space;*** Group Exhibition | w/ Katherine Finerty and Nuna Adisenu-Doe; Gallery 1957 — Accra (Ghana)
	Constellations Part 1: Figures on Earth & Beyond; Group Exhibition | w/ Katherine Finerty and Nuna Adisenu-Doe; Gallery 1957 — London (UK)
2023	***Silent Invasions: The Art of Material Hacking;*** Group Exhibition | w/ Sascia Bailer, Juliy Gyemant, Nantume Violet, and Zitoni Tristan; Amasaka Gallery — Masaka (Uganda)
	A Thousand Disguises; Priscilla Kennedy (Artist, 2022 Yaa Asantewaa Women's Art Prize Winner); Gallery 1957 — Accra (Ghana)
	Kum Ase: A Field Filled With Golden Spikes; Al-Hassan Issah (Artist); Compound House Gallery — Accra, Kumasi and Tamale (Ghana)
2022	***Some Things Stay Broken;*** Jonathan Okoronkwo (Artist); Gallery 1957 — Accra (Ghana)
	CHRIS-SIS: Feast of the Sacred Heart; Samuel Baah Kortey (Artist); Compound House Gallery — Accra (Ghana)
	CHRIS-SIS: The Experimental Joke; Samuel Baah Kortey (Artist); 1822 - Forum — Frankfurt (Germany)
2020	***Akutia: Blindfolding the Sun and the Poetics of Peace;*** A Retrospective of Agyeman Ossei; Savannah Centre for Contemporary Art (SCCA) — Tamale (Ghana)

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)

Residencies

2026	***PART International Art Residency;*** Österreichischen Kunst- und Kulturministeriums — Vienna (Austria)

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Talks/Workshops

2026	***Urban Pasts & Future Imaginaries;*** 2026 Public Art Abu Dhabi Biennial — Abu Dhabi (UAE)
2025	***The Curatorial Imagination 2025;*** [Online] Eina University Centre of Design and Art — Barcelona (Spain)
2024	***TheMuseumsLab 2024;*** The National Museum — Accra (Ghana)
	Remote Sensing Emergent Worlds; Foundation for Contemporary Art - Ghana — Accra (Ghana)
	Decoys with Food; Palaver in the Dark | Artist Talk 1| Busan Museum of Contemporary Art — Busan (South Korea)
2022	***Symposium 2022: Humans, Fungi, Rottenness, and the Future of Soil;*** Norwegian BioArt Arena (NOBA); Vitenparken Campus — Ås (Norway)
	1st Senior High Schools Visual Art Festival; Centre for National Culture (CNC) of Sekondi-Takoradi Metropolitan Assembly, Youth Centre — Sekondi (Ghana)
2021	***Career Pathways in Arts;*** Visual Arts Block; Archbishop Porter Girls' Senior High School — Takoradi (Ghana)
	Critlab 2021; Exit Frame Collective; KNUST Museum and blaxTARLINES Space — Kumasi (Ghana)
	Duɣ'bu Art Workshop; Sanatu Zambang Studios; Savannah Centre for Contemporary Art (SCCA) — Tamale (Ghana)
	Embracing the Traumatic in the Aesthetic Unconscious; Goethe-Institut Ghana; Nubuke Foundation — Accra (Ghana)
	Ecologies and Politics of The Living; Angewandte Innovation Lab — Vienna (Austria)
2019	***Streams of Consciousness;*** Curated by Dr. Bonaventure Soh Bejeng Ndikung; 12th Bamako Encounters Photography Biennale — Bamako (Mali)
	On Universality and Multiplicity: Curating from the Void; KfW Stiftung and DAAD Artists-in-Berlin Program; daadgalerie — Berlin (Germany)
2017	***Art Talk w/ Tracy Thompson;*** The Studio Accra; #artTalk — Accra (Ghana)

Publications

2024	***de arte;*** Leandra Koenig-Visagie, Nicola Cloete & Obakeng Kgongoane; Routledge, Taylor & Francis Group — Abingdon-on-Thames (UK)
	Busan Biennale 2024 Catalogue; Vera Mey and Philippe Pirotte; Busan Biennale Organizing Committee — Busan (South Korea)
	New Perspectives: Contemporary Art from Ghana; Elisabeth Prah and Bernard Akoi-Jackson; Nuvo Publishing — London (UK)
2022	***Existing Otherwise;*** Solvej Helweg Ovesen and Ute Müller-Tischler; Kerber — Berlin (Germany)
	Ibrahim Mahama Voli-ni; Ibrahim Mahama and Eva Brioschi; Lenz Press — Milano (Italy)
	Contemporary Art in Ghana: A Conversation with kąrî'kachä seid'ou; Ghana Studies (2022) Volume 25, 194-206; University of Wisconsin Press — Wisconsin (USA)
2021	***Ubuntu, A Lucid Dream;*** Magazine Palais #32; Palais de Tokyo — Paris (France)
	Ecologies & Politics of the Living; Gerald Bast, Elisabeth Falkensteiner, Ibrahim Mahama and Baerbel Mueller; University of Applied Arts Vienna — Vienna (Austria)
	This Is Not Africa: Unlearn What You Have Learned; ARoS Aarhus Kunstmuseum; Narayana Press — Gylling (Denmark)
	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, Regents of the University of California — Oakland (USA)
	Transforming Art from Commodity to Gift: kąrî'kąchä seid'ou's Silent Revolution in the Kumasi College of Art; "blaxTARLINES", African Arts (2021) Volume 54, Issue 2: 22–25; Regents of the University of California — Oakland (USA)

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