

# Kudzanai Chiurai



## Biography

Kudzanai Chiurai (b. 1981, Harare, Zimbabwe) is a multidisciplinary artist exploring notions and cycles of political, economic, and social strife present in post-colonial societies. His work interrogates urgent social issues, such as xenophobia, exile, displacement, the psychological experiences of urban spaces, as well as the Western imprint on Africa.

In 2024, Chiurai's film *We Live in Silence* (Chapters 1 – 7) was on view as part of the main exhibition at the 60th Venice Biennale *Stranieri Ovunque – Foreigners Everywhere*, curated by Adriano Pedrosa. In 2023, photographs from the artist's *We Live in Silence* series were part of *A World in Common: Contemporary African Photography*, at TATE Modern curated by Osei Bonsu.

In 2013, Chiurai's *Conflict Resolution* series was exhibited at DOCUMENTA (13) (2012) in Kassel and the film *Iyeza* was one of the few African films to be included in the New Frontier shorts programme at the Sundance Film Festival.

Chiurai's project, *The Library of Things We Forgot to Remember*, is built around his collecting practice which focuses on preserving archives and memorialising social and cultural history from southern Africa. The project exists in the form of an archive of materials situated in Johannesburg including vinyls, posters, paintings and more, drawn from private African collections. Each time this archive is exhibited, Chiurai invites a different librarian to interrogate the archive and curate an exhibition.

Solo exhibitions include: *Genesis [Je n'isi isi]*, *We Live in Silence*, IFA, Stuttgart (2019); *Madness and Civilization*, Kalmar Konstmuseum, Sweden (2018); *Now and Then: Guercino and Kudzanai Chiurai*, Zeitz MOCAA, Cape Town (2018); and *Regarding the Ease of Others*, Zeitz MOCAA, Cape Town (2017).

Group shows include: *FLIGHT*, Malmö Konsthall, Sweden (2023); *Ubuntu, a Lucid Dream*, Palais de Tokyo, Paris (2020); *Art/Afrique*, Le nouvel atelier, Fondation Louis Vuitton, Paris (2017); *The Divine Comedy: Heaven, Purgatory and Hell Revisited*, Museum für Moderne Kunst, Frankfurt (2014) and travelled to the SCAD Museum of Art, Savannah (2015); *Figures & Fictions: Contemporary South African Photography*, Victoria and Albert Museum, London (2011); and *Impressions from South Africa, 1965 to Now*, Museum of Modern Art, New York (2011).

Collections include: Museum of Modern Art, New York; Hessel Museum of Art, Bard College, Annandale-On-Hudson; Pérez Art Museum Miami, Miami; Pigozzi Collection, Geneva; Walther Collection, New York; and Zeitz Museum of Contemporary Art Africa, Cape Town.

Chiurai lives and works in Harare, Zimbabwe.

## Solo Exhibitions

- 2021** *We Live in Silence*, Lundgren Gallery, Illes Balears, Spain
- 2019** *Genesis [Je n'isi isi]*, *We Live in Silence*, IFA, Stuttgart, Germany
- 2019** *Madness and Civilization*, Södertälje Konsthall, Stockholm, Sweden
- 2018** *Madness and Civilization*, Kalmar Konstmuseum, Kalmar, Sweden
- 2018** *Now and Then: Guercino and Kudzanai Chiurai*, Zeitz MOCAA, Cape Town, South Africa
- 2018** *We Live in Silence*, Mariane Ibrahim Gallery, Seattle, USA
- 2018** *Madness and Civilization*, Goodman Gallery, Cape Town, South Africa
- 2018** *While the Harvest Rots*, Lundgren Gallery, Palma, Spain
- 2017** *We Need New Names*, National Gallery of Zimbabwe, Harare, Zimbabwe
- 2017** *Regarding the Ease of Others*, Zeitz Museum of Contemporary Art Africa, Cape Town, South Africa
- 2017** *We Live in Silence*, Goodman Gallery, Johannesburg, South Africa
- 2017** *We Live in Silence*, Constitution Hill, Pretoria, South Africa
- 2015** *Kudzanai Chiurai: Iyeza*, Rhode Island School of Design Museum, Rhode Island, USA
- 2015** *Selection from Revelations*, Museum of Contemporary African Diasporan Arts, New York, USA
- 2015** *REVELAÇÕES*, Kulungwana Gallery, Maputo, Mozambique
- 2014** *Defining the State of the Nation*, Zeitz Museum of Contemporary Art Africa Pavilion, V&A Waterfront, Cape Town, South Africa
- 2014** *This is not Africa, this is Us*, Kunsthal Rotterdam, Rotterdam, Netherlands
- 2013** *Front Page*, Mallorca Landings, Palma, Spain
- 2012** *The Harvest of Thorns*, The Assylem Atelje, Johannesburg, South Africa
- 2011** *State of the Nation*, Goodman Gallery Project Space, Arts on Main, Johannesburg, South Africa
- 2010** *Communists and Hot Chicken Wings: The Birth of a New Nation*, Goodman Gallery Project Space, Arts on Main, Johannesburg, South Africa
- 2009** *Dying To Be Men*, Goodman Gallery, Cape Town, South Africa
- 2008** *Yellow Lines*, Obert Contemporary, Johannesburg, South Africa

- 2007** *Graceland*, Obert Contemporary, Johannesburg, South Africa  
**2005** *Y Propaganda*, Obert Contemporary, Johannesburg, South Africa  
**2004** *Correction: The Revolution Will Be Televised*, Obert Contemporary, Johannesburg, South Africa  
**2003** *The Revolution Will Not Be Televised*, Brixton Art Gallery, London, UK

## Group Exhibitions

- 2024** \_'Stranieri Ovunque – Foreigners Everywhere'\_., curated by Adriano Pedrosa, International Art Exhibition of La Biennale di Venezia, Italy  
**2024** *The Culture: Hip Hop and Contemporary Art in the 21st Century*, The SCHIRN, Frankfurt, Germany  
**2024** *Translations: Afro-Asian Poetics*, curated by Dr Zoe Whitley, The Institutuum, Singapore  
**2023** *A World In Common*, Tate Modern, London, UK  
**2023** *Deep Blue*, Porto Photography Biennial '23, Porto, Portugal  
**2023** *Common*, A4 Arts Foundation, Cape Town, South Africa  
**2023** *Trace – Formations of Likeness: Photography and Video from The Walther Collection*, Haus der Kunst, Munich, Germany  
**2023** *FLIGHT*, Malmö Konsthall, Malmö, Sweden  
**2022** *Subverted Resistance*, Bode Projects, Berlin, Germany  
**2022** *UBUNTU: A Lucid Dream*, Palais de Tokyo, Paris, France  
**2021** *Photographs in Our Mother Tongue: The New South Africa Under Scrutiny*. Standard Bank Art Gallery, Johannesburg, South Africa  
**2021** *We Live in Silence (Chapters 1-7)*, Summer Exhibition, The Royal Arts Academy, London, UK  
**2020** \_Did ever think there would come a time?, Goodman Gallery, Cape Town, South Africa  
**2020** *Allied with Power: African and African Diaspora Art from the Jorge M. Pérez*, Pérez Art Museum Miami, Miami, USA  
**2020** *Living Just Enough*, Goodman Gallery London, UK  
**2020** *Witness: Afro Perspectives*, El Espacio 23, Miami, USA  
**2020** *Uptown South*, Adler Beatty, New York, USA  
**2019** \_I've grown roses in this garden of mine, Goodman Gallery London, UK  
**2019** *Acts of Reading*, Goodman Gallery Cape Town, SA  
**2019** *Inheritance: New Video Art by Kudzanai Chiurai, Zina Sara-Wiwa and Mikhael Subotzky*, Fowler Museum, UCLA, Los Angeles, USA  
**2018** *We Live in Silence (Chapters 1-7)*, in collaboration with M.anifest, RE:Publica, Accra, Ghana  
**2018** *Women on Aeroplanes*, Museum of Modern Art in Warsaw, Warsaw, Poland  
**2018** *Beyond Borders: Global Africa*, UMMA, Michigan, USA  
**2018** *Dress Up, Speak Up: Costume and Confrontation*, 21c Hotel Museum, Louisville, USA  
**2018** *The Red Hour*, 13th Biennale of Contemporary African Art, Dakar, Senegal  
**2018** *In Their Own Form*, Museum of Contemporary Photography, Chicago, USA  
**2018** *After the Thrill is Gone: Fashion, Politics, and Culture in Contemporary South African Art*, Museum of the African Diaspora, San Francisco, USA  
**2018** *Ex Africa*, Centro Cultural Banco do Brasil Rio de Janeiro, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil  
**2017** *Ex Africa*, Centro Cultural Banco do Brasil Belo Horizonte, Belo Horizonte, Brazil  
**2017** *After the Thrill is Gone: Fashion, Politics, and Culture in Contemporary South African Art*, College of Wooster Art Museum, Wooster, USA  
**2017** *Through the Lens-Platform for Photography\_.*, Deweer Gallery, Otegem, Belgium.  
**2017** *Africa. Telling A World\_.*, Padiglione d'Arte Contemporanea, Milan, Italy  
**2017** *A Short History of South African Photography*, Fotografia Europea, Chiostrri di San Pietro, Reggio Emilia, Italy  
**2017** *Art/Afrique, Le nouvel atelier* , Fondation Louis Vuitton, Paris, France  
**2017** *New Acquisitions: Standard Bank Corporate Collection*, Standard Bank Art Gallery, Johannesburg, South Africa  
**2016** *Summer Show*, Goodman Gallery, Cape Town, South Africa  
**2016** *In Context: Where We Are*, Goodman Gallery, Cape Town, South Africa  
**2016** *Sleight of Hand*. Zuckerberg Museum of Art, Kennesaw, USA  
**2016** *Regimes of Truth*, LagosPhoto Festival, Lagos, Nigeria  
**2016** *Tear my Bra*, Rencontres de la Photographie, Arles, France  
**2016** *New Revolutions: Goodman Gallery at 50* , Goodman Gallery, Cape Town, South Africa  
**2016** *Kabbo Ka Muwala: Migration and Mobility in Contemporary Art in Southern and Eastern Africa*, National Gallery of Zimbabwe, Harare, Zimbabwe  
**2016** *Kabbo Ka Muwala: Migration and Mobility in Contemporary Art in Southern and Eastern Africa*, Makerere Art Gallery, Kampala, Uganda  
**2016** *Kabbo Ka Muwala: Migration and Mobility in Contemporary Art in Southern and Eastern Africa*, Städtische Galerie, Bremen, Germany  
**2016** *Making Africa: A Continent of Contemporary Design*, Centre de Cultura Contemporània de Barcelona, Barcelona, Spain  
**2016** *Making Africa: A Continent of Contemporary Design*, Guggenheim Museum, Bilbao, Spain  
**2015** *Making Africa: A Continent of Contemporary Design*, Vitra Design Museum, Weil am Rhein, Germany  
**2015** *What remains is tomorrow*, South African Pavilion at the 56th La Biennale di Venezia, Venice, Italy  
**2015** *Dis/Place*, MoCADA, New York, USA  
**2015** *The Divine Comedy: Heaven, Hell, Purgatory Revisited by Contemporary African Artists*, SCAD Museum of Art, Savannah, USA  
**2014** *Nevralgies*, Galerie Maïa Muller, Paris, France  
**2014** *Daegue Biennale*, Daegue, South Korea  
**2014** *Arles Discovery Award Exhibition*, Arles, France  
**2014** *Surfacing*, Goodman Gallery, Cape Town, South Africa  
**2014** *This is not Africa, this is Us*, Part II: Art Rotterdam, Netherlands  
**2014** *This is not Africa, this is Us*, Part III: West den Haag, Netherlands  
**2014** *The Divine Comedy: Heaven, Hell, Purgatory Revisited* by Contemporary African Artists, MMK Museum für Moderne Kunst, Frankfurt, Germany  
**2014** *Staging Reality*, Lagos Photo Festival, Nigeria  
**2014** *Vision of Africa*, Addis Photo festival, Ethiopia  
**2014** *Luminós/C/ity. Ordinary Joy: From the Pigozzi Contemporary African Art Collection*, Ethelbert Cooper Gallery, Cambridge, UK  
**2013** *Distance and Desire: Encounters with the African Archive*, Walther Collection, Ulm, Germany  
**2013** *Pop Goes the Revolution*, New Church, Cape Town, South Africa  
**2013** *LagosPhoto 2013: The Megacity and the Non-City* , Art21, Victoria Island, Lagos, Nigeria  
**2013** *My Joburg*, La Maison Rouge, Paris, France  
**2013** *!Kauru*, Pretoria Art Museum, Pretoria, South Africa  
**2013** *eMerging: Visual Art and Music in a Post-Hip-Hop Era*, Museum of Contemporary African Diasporan Arts, (MoCADA), New York City borough of Brooklyn, USA  
**2013** *Making Way: Contemporary Art from South Africa and China*, Standard Bank Gallery, Johannesburg, South Africa  
**2013** *New Frontier*, Sundance Film Festival, Park City, Utah, USA  
**2013** *The Beautiful Ones*, Nolan Judin Gallery, Berlin, Germany  
**2012** *Video Artprojx*, Art Basel Miami Beach, Miami, USA  
**2012** *DOCUMENTA (13)*, Kassel, Germany  
**2011** *Figures & Fictions: Contemporary South African Photography* , Victoria and Albert Museum, London, UK

**2011** *über(W)unden – Art in troubled times*, Goethe- Institut, Johannesburg, South Africa  
**2011** *Impressions from South Africa*, 1965 to Now, Museum of Modern Art in New York, New York, USA  
**2011** *Contemporary African Art*, Kiasma Museum of Contemporary Art, Helsinki, Finland  
**2011** *Impressions from South Africa, 1965 to Now*, MoMA, New York, USA  
**2010** Cairo Biennale, Cairo, Egypt  
**2010** *Its greener on the other side*, Co-op, Johannesburg, South Africa  
**2010** *In other words*, Goodman Gallery, Johannesburg, South Africa  
**2010** *Photo Ireland* festival, Dublin, Ireland  
**2010** *SPace*, Museum Africa, Johannesburg, South Africa  
**2010** *For those that live in it*, MU, Netherlands  
**2009** *ParisPhoto* Exhibition, Paris, France  
**2009** *Us*, Johannesburg Art Gallery, Johannesburg, South Africa  
**2009** *Armory Show*, Goodman Gallery, New York, USA  
**2009** *Joburg Art Fair*, Goodman Gallery, Johannesburg, South Africa  
**2009** *Nation State*, Goodman Gallery Cape Town and Johannesburg, South Africa  
**2008** *Melbourne Stencil Festival*, Melbourne, Australia  
**2008** *Africa Now*, Round Tower, Copenhagen, Denmark  
**2008** *Africa Now*, Northern Norway Art Centre, Lofoten, Norway  
**2008** *Africa Now*, Tampere Art Museum, Finland  
**2006** *Dak'art*, Dakar, Senegal  
**2006** *New Painting*, KZNSA, Durban, South Africa  
**2005** *Melrose Art*, Obert Contemporary, Johannesburg, South Africa  
**2005** *Reconciliation*, University of Pretoria, Pretoria, South Africa

## Curated Exhibitions

**2021** *The Library of Things We Forgot to Remember*, Johannesburg, South Africa  
 visit the website here – <https://kudzanaichiurai.com/>

## Awards and Merits

**2014** Shortlisted for Future generation Art Prize  
**2012** FNB Art Prize  
**2011** Top 200 Young South Africans, Mail & Guardian  
**2005** Top 100 Dazzlers and Doers in South Africa, Mail & Guardian, South Africa

## Academic Record and Residencies

2006 Bachelor of Arts (Fine Art), University of Pretoria, Pretoria, South Africa

## Collections

21C Museums, Louisville, USA  
 Barloworld, Johannesburg, South Africa  
 BHP Billiton, London, UK  
 Braunsfelder Family Collection, Cologne, Germany  
 Click Media, Johannesburg, South Africa  
 Danjuma Collection, London, UK  
 Franks-Suss Collection, London, UK  
 Institut für Auslandsbeziehungen, Stuttgart, Germany  
 Iziko South African National Gallery, Cape Town, South Africa  
 Les Arts a la Giclais, Paris, France  
 Hessel Museum of Art, Bard College, Annandale-On-Hudson, USA  
 Museum für Moderne Kunst, Frankfurt, Germany  
 Museum of Modern Art, New York, USA  
 Nandos, London, UK  
 Patrice Motsepe Collection, Johannesburg, South Africa  
 Pérez Art Museum Miami, Miami, USA  
 Pigozzi Collection, Geneva, Switzerland  
 Sindika Dokolo Collection, Luanda, Angola  
 Scheryn Art Collection, Cape Town, South Africa  
 The New Church Museum, Cape Town, South Africa  
 Tiroche Deleon Collection, Geneva, Switzerland  
 UNISA Art Gallery, Pretoria, South Africa  
 Walther Collection, New York, USA  
 Zeitz Museum of Contemporary Art Africa, Cape Town, South Africa

## Selected Articles and Reviews

**2013** Tim Leibbrandt, *Harvest of Thorns* Art South Africa, South Africa  
**2013** Simphiwe Mpye, *GQ & A With Kudzanai Chiura*, GQ Magazine, South Africa  
**2013** Katherine Jacobs, *Dying to be Men*, Artthrob, South Africa  
**2013** Laurice Taitz, *Kudzanai Chiurai Considers the Nature of Violence*, Mail & Guardian, Johannesburg  
**2012** Charl Blygnaut, *Jesus is a black woman*, City Press, 9 December  
**2012** Nkepile Mabuse, *Kudzanai Chiurai: The artist who stood up to Mugabe*, CNN online, July 12  
**2010** Camilla Peus, *Schwartz, Weiss, Und, Alle Farben* Art Magazine, June  
**2010** Jana Du Plessis, *Kudzanai Chiurai on the Black President*, One Small Seed, June  
**2011** Percy Zvomuya, *Pathology of Power* Mail & Guardian, November 11 – 17

- 2011** Sean O'Toole, *Starkest Africa*, Sunday Times Lifestyle, 16 October
- 2010** Percy Zvomuya, *Sense of time and Space*, Mail & Guardian, May 14
- 2008** Bongani Madondo, *He ain't yellow*, Sunday Times Lifestyle, 26 October
- 2007** Review by Catherine Green, *Art South Africa*, Vol. 06, Issue 02, Summer
- 2007** Review by Anthea Buys, Mail & Guardian, 31 August
- 2007** *Paranoia Comes Up Against Acclaim*, Business Day, 1 June
- 2007** Fred de Vries, "Urban Guerilla Of Afro Pop Art" *The Weekender*, 3 February
- 2005** Kwanele Sosibo, *Aluta Continua*, *Art South Africa*, Vol. 04, Issue 02, Summer
- 2005** Rebecca Kahn *Propagandist*, *SL Magazine*, June
- 2005** *Charcoal Revolution*, Mail & Guardian, 20 May
- 2005** Bongani Madondo, *Pop Goes The Easel*, Sunday Times, 01 May
- 2004** Review by Thuthu Lesuthu, *Art South Africa*, Vol. 03, Issue 01, Spring
- 2004** Robyn Sassen, *Calling a spade a spade: youth, audacity and bravery in the work of Zim painter Kudzanai Chiurai*, ARTTHROB, August
- 2004** *Child of the Zimbabwean Revolution*, This Day, August 3,
- 2004** Bunmi Akpata-Ohohe *Doing it his own way*, Africa Today, May

## Publications

- 2012** \_Lodi Matsetela (ed) *Lines Volume 3. STATE OF THE NATION*, Goodman Gallery
- 2011** \_Lien Heidenreich-Seleme & Sean O'Toole (eds), *über(w)unden: Art in Troubled Times*, Jacana Media
- 2011** \_Peter Anders and Matthew Krouse (eds), *Positions: Contemporary South African Artists*, Jacana Media
- 2010** \_Mbali Soga (ed), *Lines Volume 2. THE BLACK PRESIDENT*, Goodman Gallery
- 2009** \_Lauren Cornell, Massimiliano Gioni, and Laura Hoptman (eds), *Younger Than Jesus: The Reader*New Museum and Steidl
- 2008** *Lines Volume 1. YELLOW LINES*

## Performances

- 2022** *We Still Insist* in collaboration with Tumi Mogorosi, Freedom Now Suite, Constitution Hill, Johannesburg, South Africa
- 2019** *We Live in Silence (Chapters 1-7)* in collaboration with Joao Orecchia, I've grown roses in this garden of mine, Goodman Gallery, London, UK
- 2018** *We Live in Silence (Chapters 1-7)* in collaboration with Manifest, RE:Publica, Accra, Ghana
- 2017** *We Live in Silence (Chapters 1-7)* in collaboration with Joao Orecchia, Constitution Hill, Johannesburg, South Africa