

## Magdalene Anyango Namakhiya Odundo OBE, MA

### *Curriculum Vitae*

- Born 1950** Nairobi, Kenya  
Educated in India & Kenya
- 1973-76** West Surrey College of Art & Design, BA Hons. 1st. Class
- 1976-79** Teaching: Commonwealth Institute, London
- 1979-82** Royal College of Art, London. MA (RCA)
- 2008** Appointed Officer of the Order of the British Empire in the Queen's Honour's List for services to the Arts  
Awarded the *African Art Recognition Award* by Detroit Art Institute's Friends of African and African-American Art  
Lives and works in Surrey

### *Solo Exhibitions*

- 2007-8** *Resonance & Inspiration: New Works by Magdalene Odundo*. Hood Museum of Art, Hanover, New Hampshire. June 7, 2007 – January 20, 2008
- 2006** *Resonance & Inspiration: New Works by Magdalene Odundo*. Harn Museum of Art, Gainesville, Florida. September 5 – December 31 catalog
- 2005** *Magdalene Odundo: Ceramic Vessels*. British Council, Nairobi, Kenya. March-July
- 2004** *Magdalene Odundo: Time and Again*, Crafts Study Centre. The Surrey Institute of Art & Design, University College, Farnham. June 1 – July 9
- 2002** *Acknowledged Sources – Magdalene Odundo*: Russell-Cotes Art Gallery & Museum, Bournemouth, United Kingdom, August 10 – October 30
- 2001** *Magdalene Odundo – Clay Forms – A Retrospective*: Blackwell House, Bowness-on-Windemere, United Kingdom, July 4 – September 23  
*1997/8 New Work*: Michael Hue-Williams Gallery, London, November 25, 1997 – January 24, 1998
- 1997** *Magdalene Odundo: Current Work*. Pro-Art, St. Louis, April 29 – May 31
- 1995** *Ceramic Gestures: New Vessels by Magdalene Odundo*. (a touring exhibition, catalogue) University Art Museum, Santa Barbara, California. March 15 – April 23, 1995  
Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art, Kansas City, Missouri. June 30 – August 20, 1995  
The Fowler Museum of Cultural History, University of California, Los Angeles. September 24, 1995 – March 3, 1996

- The Newark Museum, Newark, New Jersey. April 3 – June 30, 1996  
 The National Museum of African Art, Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D.C.  
 September 15, 1996 – January 1, 1997  
 Indiana University Museum of Art, Bloomington, Indiana.  
 January 17 – March 15, 1997  
 St. Louis Museum of Art, St. Louis, Missouri. April 29 – July 6, 1997
- 1994** *Magdalene Odundo: African Beauty – A Retrospective*: Stedelijk Museum voor Hedendaagse Kunst, 's-Hertogenbosch, Netherlands, (catalogue)
- 1993** The Sloss Furnaces, National Historic Landmark, A Museum of the City of Birmingham, Alabama, USA
- 1992** *New Ceramics*, The Oxford Gallery, Oxford, UK  
*Magdalene Odundo – Ceramics*  
 Museum fur Kunst und Gewerbe, Hamburg, Germany  
 Badisches Landesmuseum, Karlsruhe, Germany
- 1991** *Magdalene Odundo*, Anthony Ralph Gallery, New York, USA (catalogue)
- 1989** *Kunstformen*, Jetzt, Salzburg, Austria
- 1988** Beaux Arts, Bath, UK
- 1987** *Magdalene Odundo*, Anne Berthoud Gallery, London, UK  
*New Works: Magdalene Odundo* (catalogue)  
 The Glynn Vivian Art Gallery, Swansea, UK October 24 – December 5, 1987  
 Carmarthen Museum, Dyfed, December 19 – January 30, 1988  
 Ruthin Craft Centre, Clwyd, February 20 – March 19, 1988  
 Aberystwyth Arts Centre, Dyfed, March 26 – May 7, 1988  
 Mostyn Art Gallery, Llandudno, May 14 – June 25, 1988
- 1986** Crafts Council at the Victoria & Albert Museum, London, UK
- 1983** Crafts Council, ICA, London, UK  
 Royal Exchange Theatre Craft, Manchester, UK
- 1982/3/4** Rosenthal Studio Haus, West Germany & London, UK
- 1979-82** Commonwealth Institute, London, UK
- 1977** Africa Centre, London, UK

## *Group Exhibitions*

- 2005** *Art from Africa: Long Steps Never Broke a Back.*  
Seattle Art Museum, February 7 – May 19, 2002  
Philadelphia Art Museum, October 3, 2004 – January 2, 2005  
Wadsworth Atheneum Museum of Art, February 12 – June 19, 2005  
Cincinnati Art Museum, October 8, 2005 – January 1, 2006  
Frist Center for the Visual Arts, January 27 – April 30, 2006
- 2004** *Material Differences: Artists and Identity in Africa.* The Museum for African Art, New York City, New York, a touring exhibition. [catalogue]  
Hamline University, St Paul, Minnesota, USA  
Crocker Art Museum, Sacramento, California, USA  
National Gallery of Canada, Ottawa, Canada
- 2003** *Material Differences: Artists and Identity in Africa.* Museum for African Art, New York City. April 8 – August 15, 2003.  
British Ceramics: Five Artists. Frank Lloyd Gallery, Los Angeles  
International Biennial Art Invitational, 2003. July 9 – August 16, 2003
- 2002** *Pioneers to the Present*, Foyer Gallery, The Surrey Institute of Art and Design, January 14 – February 11, 2002  
*Art from Africa: Long Steps Never Broke a Back.* Seattle Art Museum, February 6 – May 19, 2002
- 2000** *Color and Fire: Defining Moments in Studio Ceramics, 1950-2000.* Los Angeles County Museum of Art, June 4 – September 17, 2000, Kemper Museum of Contemporary Art, Kansas City, December 15, 2000 – March 4, 2001, The Tucson Museum of Art and Historic Block, April 1 – May 30, 2001, Memorial Art Gallery of the University of Rochester, July 29 – October 7, 2001  
British Ceramics 2000, Keramikmuseet Grimmerhus, Denmark, April 9 – June 18, 2000, (catalogue)  
*Contemporary African Art: Five Artists, Divers Trends*, Indianapolis Museum of Art, August 19, 2000 – December 2, 2001. Catalogue, pp. 32-40  
*The Jugs Show*, Candover Gallery, Arlesford, Hampshire, UK  
*Millenium Mugs*, Besson Gallery, London
- 1999** *A Dialogue in Clay*, Artizana, September 19 – October 8, 1999, (catalogue/Edward Lucie-Smith)
- 1998** *Contemporary Ceramics – Selections from the Metropolitan Museum of Art.* November 24, 1998 – May 30, 1999, (catalogue)  
*Magdalene Odundo*, List Gallery, Swarthmore College, Pennsylvania, USA
- 1997** *Old Africa – New Africa – Africa Observed*, Mulvane Art Museum, Washburn University, Topeka, Kansas, November 7 – December 21, 1997

- 1996 *New for the Nineties – The Crafts Council Collection*, Shipley Arts Gallery, Gateshead, UK March 1 – May 12, 1996  
*Design of the Times – One Hundred Years of the Royal College of Art*, The Royal College of Art, London, February 7 – March 20, 1996  
*Drinking Glasses*, Leerdan Glass Symposium, Leerdam, Netherlands
- 1995 *Showcase Exhibition*, Crafts Council, London, UK September – October 1995  
*Africa 95 – African Metalwork*, Crafts Council, London, UK (curated by Odundo and includes two bronze works from the Sloss Institute of Metal Arts Workshop, 1993, Birmingham, Alabama, USA)  
*Africa 95*, British Museum Exhibition, Museum of Mankind, October, 1995 – March, 1996  
*Contained and Uncontained: Four Clay Artists*, African American Museum, Dallas (catalogue) November 10, 1995 – March 17, 1996
- 1994 Art Box, Waregem, Belgium.  
*101 Jugs*, Candover Gallery, Arlesford, UK  
*Africa Explores – 20th Century African Arts*. catalogue  
Art Contemporain Lyon, France  
Tate Gallery, Liverpool, UK
- 1993 *The Ceramics of Europe '93'*, Westwald/Kreis, Germany (a touring exhibition: the countries of the EEC)  
*Africa Explores – 20th Century African Arts*. catalogue  
Corcoran Gallery of Art, Washington, D.C.  
Center for Fine Arts, Miami, Florida  
Ludwig Forum für Internationale Kunst, Aachen, Germany  
Fundació Antoni Tàpies, Barcelona, Spain
- 1992 *Africa Explores – 20th Century African Arts*. catalogue  
Mint Museum of Art, Charlotte, North Carolina  
Dallas Museum of Art, Dallas, Texas  
Carnegie Institute, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania  
Saint Louis Art Museum, St. Louis, Missouri  
*Columbus Drowning*, Rochdale Art Gallery, UK  
*Faculty Invites*, University of Nebraska, Lincoln, Nebraska, USA
- 1991/2/3 *Colours of the Earth – Twentieth Century British Ceramics*.  
A British Council touring exhibition in India and Malaysia
- 1991 *Africa Explores – 20th Century African Arts*. catalogue  
The Museum for African Art, New York, NY  
The New Museum of Contemporary Art, New York City, New York  
University Art Museum, Berkeley, CA

- 1990 *Kunst und Antiquitätenmesse, Galerie L (Frankfurt Art Fair) Germany*
- 1989 Candover Gallery, Alresford, UK
- 1986 Courcoux & Courcoux, Salisbury, UK
- 1985 Bluecoat Art Centre, Liverpool, UK  
*African Heritage Showcases Six African Women Artists. 10th Women's Decade Conference, Nairobi, Kenya*
- 1984 *Individual Eye, Craftsmen Potters Association, London, UK*  
 Anne Berthoud Gallery, London, UK
- 1983/4/5 *Modern British Ceramics, Queensbury Hunt, London, UK*  
*Fire & Smoke, Midland Group Touring Exhibition, England*
- 1983 Craftsmen Potters Association 25th Anniversary, Victoria & Albert Museum, London, UK
- 1978 Commonwealth Arts Festival, Calgary & Edmonton, Canada

### *Special Projects*

- 2001-2002 Fordsburgh Artists Studios – residency invitation, Newtown, South Africa
- 2000 The Sloss Furness & Hope Project Fountain Design, a collaboration with Brad Morton at Brad Morton Bronze Casting Workshop, Birmingham, Alabama, USA (design model of fountain made)
- 1996 Leerdam – Drinking Glass exhibition & symposium, Leerdam, Netherlands (Magdalene Odundo glass designs show case)

### *Teaching*

- 2009 Artist in residence, Huara Huara, Santiago, Chile. January
- 2008 Artist in residence, Dartmouth College, Hanover, NH. September-December
- 2001 Professor of Ceramics – The Surrey Institute of Art & Design, University College
- 1998 Artist in residence, Swarthmore College, Swarthmore, Pennsylvania, USA

### *Books (Selected)*

- Baker, Emma, *Contemporary Cultures of Display*, New Haven, Conn. Yale University Press in association with The Open University, 1999
- Barley, Nigel, *Smashing Pots*, London: British Museum Press, 1994
- Blandino, Betty, *Coiled Pottery*. London: A & C Black, 1984
- Cardew, Michael, *A Pioneer Potter*, London: Collins, 1988
- Cardew, Michael, *Pioneer Pottery*, London: A & V Black, 1984
- Clark, Garth and Michael Cardew, *An Intimate Account of a Potter who has Captured the Spirit of Country Craft*, London and Boston: Faber and Faber, 1978

Cooper, Emmanuel, *Ten Thousand Years of Pottery*, London: British Museum Press, revised, edn. 2000

Cosentino, Peter, *The Encyclopedia of Pottery Techniques*, Philadelphia: Running Press, 1990

de Waal, Edmund, *Design Sourcebook: Ceramics*, London: New Holland Publishers, 1999

Freyberg, Annabel, *Ceramics for the Home*, London: Laurence King, 1999

Jones, David, *Raku*, Ramsbury, UK: The Crowood Press, 1999

Lane, Peter, *Ceramic Forms*, London: Collins, 1986

Margetts, Martina {ed.}, *International Crafts*, London: Thames & Hudson, 1991

Peterson, Susan, *Contemporary Ceramics*, London: Laurence King, 2000

Rice, Paul, and Christopher Growings, *British Studio Ceramics in the Twentieth Century*, London: Barrie and Jenkins, 1989

Scott, David, *Clay & Glazes in Studio Ceramics*, Ramsbury, UK: The Crowood Press, 1990

Vincentelli, Moira, *Women and Ceramics – Gendered Vessels*, Manchester, UK and New York: Manchester University Press, 2000

Vogel, Susan, [ed.], *Africa Explores: 20th-Century African Art*, New York: The Center for African Art. New York and Munich: Prestel, 1991

Watson, Oliver, *British Studio Potters in the Victoria & Albert Collection*, London: Phaidon/Christie's, 1990

## Articles

'Artist Synthesizes African and Western Ideas in Art', *Kansas State Globe*, Kansas City, July 6, 1995

Blandino, Betty. 'Private Conversations', *Ceramic Review*, March/April, 1998, pp.31-33

Berns, Marla. 'Ceramic Gestures', *Contact*, Spring, 1997, pp.10-13

Graham-Dixon, Andrew, 'Magdalene Odundo', *Observer Magazine*, (June 2, 1985)

Bowye, Leslie R. 'A Love Affair with Form', *New Times*, August 10-16, 1995. (Kansas City)

Briers, David, review, *Arts Review*, (December 1987)

Buck, Louisa, 'The Critics Eye', *Crafts*, (November/December 1989)

Doone, J., Magdalene Odundo, *Antique Collector*, 1977

Estrada, Andrea, 'The Ceramic Art of Magdalene Odundo', *Independent*, April 20, 1995

Evans, Max, 'Nelson's exhibits shine spotlight on pottery...' *Olathe Daily News*, August 5, 1995

Magdalene Odundo *Ceramics Monthly*, September, 1995, p.18

Margrie, Victor, 'Review of new work, Oxford Gallery', *Craft*, (November/December, 1992)

'New works by Magdalene Odundo'

'Exhibition of Magdalene Odundo's works at Nelson-Atkins Kansas', *City Globe*, July 14, 1995, p.6-7

Kenyan Heritage, *Crafts* 67, March/April, 1984

Magdalene Odundo, *Crafts* 92, May/June, 1988

'Magdalene Odundo', *Ceramics Monthly*, p.30-33. May, 1991

Glancey, Jonathan, 'The Universal Truths Behind Designer Labels', *The Independent*, April 8, 1989

Hill, Rosemary, Workshops of the World, *Crafts*, (January/February, 1991)

Howell, Sarah, 'Shop Tactics', *World of Interiors*, June, 1990

'Graceful Ceramics', *This Week in Santa Barbara*, March 23-30, 1995

Greenhalgh, Paul, A Review of Contemporary Ceramics at Christie's, *Ceramic Review*, (Nov./Dec., 1984)

Joris, Yvonne G.J.M., ed., *Magdalene Odundo*, 's-Hertogenbosch, Netherlands: Het Kruithuis Stedelijk Museum voor Hedendaagse Kunst, 1994)

Muchnic, Suzanne, 'British Ceramics: Five Artists', *American Craft*, October/November, 2003, p.77

Norrie, Jane, 'Review of Magdalene Odundo at the Oxford Gallery', *Arts Review*, (August, 1992)

Peebles, Debra, 'Forms, Vibration and Spirit', *Pitch Weekly*, July 20-26, 1995, p.26

Queensbury, David, 'Magdalene Odundo', (London, 1991)

Report, *Ceramic Review* 100, July, 1986

Report, Christie's, London, 1986

Review, *Craft* 45, December, 1987

Review, *Craft* 44, September, 1987

Staal, Gert. 'Magdalene Odundo – Silent Dancers', *kerameiki techné*, December, 1997, pp.8-11

'The Peach, Artist Synthesizes African & Western Ideas in Art', *Kansas City Star*, Wed., August 9, 1995, p.18

Thompson, Robert Farris, 'Afro-Modernism', *Artforum*, (September, 1991): 91-94, illustration

Thorson, Alice, 'International Influences seen in Kansas City art spaces', *Kansas City Star*, July 14, 1995, p.17

Tressida, Megan, 'A Feat of Clay', *World of Interiors*, (June, 1984)

Vogel, Susan, ed., 'Africa Explores: 20th-Century African Art' (New York: The Museum for African Art, New York and Munich: Prestel, 1991)

Watts, I., 'Magdalene Odundo', *Africa Magazine*, 1977

Wainwright, Martin, 'Craftnotes', *Crafts*, (March/April, 1989)

Wingrave, Hannah, 'Magdalene Odundo', *Ceramics in Society*, Autumn, 2001, pp.13-19

Wood, Eoline, 'A Visit with Magdalene Odundo', *The Studio Potter*, Fall, 1991

## *Films and Video*

*Out of Africa*, Bacchanal Film, Insight Production, Channel 4 Television, 1984

*Magdalene Odundo*, a video produced by East Midlands Arts, 1989

*Ceramic Gestures: A Conversation with Magdalene Odundo*, Victoria Vesna, dir.,

Television Studios of Instructional Resources, University of California, Santa Barbara,  
1995, 9 min., videocassette

## *Selected Public Collections*

African Heritage, Nairobi

Arkansas Arts Center, Little Rock, Arkansas

The Art Institute of Chicago

Art Box, Waregem, Belgium

Badisches Landesmuseum, Karlsruhe

Birmingham Museum and Art Gallery, Birmingham, Great Britain

Birmingham Museum of Art, Birmingham, Alabama

The British Museum, London

The Brooklyn Museum, New York

Buckinghamshire County Museum, Great Britain

Cantor Arts Center, Stanford, CA

The Carnegie Museum of Art, Pittsburgh

The Cleveland Crafts Centre, Middlesborough, UK

Cleveland Museum of Art

Commonwealth Institute, London

The Crafts Council, London

The Detroit Institute of Art

Fine Arts Museums of San Francisco, M.H. de Young Museum

The Fitzwilliam Museum, Cambridge,

Fowler Museum of Cultural History, University of California, Los Angeles

Hood Museum of Art

Indiana University Art Museum

Indianapolis Museum of Art

Los Angeles County Museum of Art

The Metropolitan Museum of Art

Minneapolis Institute of Art

Murumbi Collection, Nairobi, Kenya

Museum for African Art, New York



The Museum of Fine Arts, Houston  
Museum für Kunst und Gewerbe, Hamburg  
Museum für Kunsthandwerke, Frankfurt  
National Design Museum, Cooper-Hewitt/Smithsonian Institution, New York  
National Museum of African Art, Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D.C.  
The Nelson-Atkins Museum, Kansas City  
The Newark Museum  
Nottingham City Gallery, Nottingham, Great Britain  
Rosenthal Collection, Hamburg  
The Saint Louis Museum of Art  
Samuel P. Harn Museum, Gainesville  
Seattle Art Museum  
Stedelijk Museum voor Hedendaagst Kunst, Netherlands  
Victoria & Albert Museum, London  
Wakefield Schools and Resources Museum, Wakefield, UK

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