

JOANA CHOUMALI

Biography

1974 Born in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire.
Lives and works in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire.

Residencies and Awards

2025 Fountainhead Arts Residency Prize and Residency Fellowship
2023 Residency, Loft Art Gallery, Casablanca
2022 Civitella Ranieri Visual Arts Fellowship and Residency
Le 3ème Prix d'Excellence, Cinéma et Arts Visuels, Côte d'Ivoire
2021 Officier, L'ordre national de la république de Côte d'Ivoire
Robert Gardner Fellow in Photography, Peabody Museum of Archaeology & Ethnology, Harvard University, Cambridge, MA
2019 "Hope," Prix Pictet
2017 Nirox Foundation, Johannesburg
2016 Fourthwall Books Photobook Award
Magnum Foundation Emergency Fund Grant
IFITRY Residency, Essaouira, Morocco
2015 IFITRY Residency, Essaouira, Morocco
2014 POPCAP '14 Award
LensCulture Emerging Talents Awards

Solo Exhibitions

2025 "Joana Choumali: Languages of West African Marketplaces," University Research Gallery at Harvard Art Museums, Cambridge, MA, 25 January – 11 May
2024 "Joana Choumali: I am not lost, just wandering," Sperone Westwater, New York, 26 April – 15 June
2022 "Joana Choumali: IT STILL FEELS LIKE THE RIGHT TIME," Sperone Westwater, New York, 17 March – 30 April
2019 "Joana Choumali – How Do You Spell A Silent Sound," Gallery 1957, Accra, Ghana, 24 August – 5 October
"3134," Loft Art Gallery, Casablanca, 7 February – 10 March
2018-19 "Dream and Identity," Riad El Fenn, Marrakech, 30 December 2018 – 5 January 2019
2017 "Bitter: Chocolate Stories," Beurs van Berlage, Amsterdam, 13 October – 22 November (catalogue)
2016 "Hââbré, the last generation," Festival Cinemas d'Afrique de Lausanne, Lausanne, Switzerland, 18 – 21 August
"Joana Choumali: Hââbré," 50 Golborne, London, 25 February – 2 April
2011-12 "Joana Choumali," Eureka Galerie, Abidjan, December 2011 – January 2012

Selected Group Exhibitions

2024-25 "Memoria: Récits d'une Autre Histoire," curated by Nadine Hounkpatin and Céline Seror, Fondation H, Antananarivo, Madagascar, 4 April 2024 – 28 February 2025
2024 "Festival La Gacilly-Baden Photo," Baden, Austria, 13 June – 13 October

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- 2023-25 “Passengers in Transit,” curated by Paula Nascimento, Oyindamola Faithful and Roger Niyigena Karera, organized by Centre for Contemporary Art, Lagos, collateral event of the 60th Venice Biennale, Ex Farmacia Solveni, Venice, 18 April – 24 November
- 2023-24 “Amur Yakus: The Land of God,” Loft Art Gallery, Marrakech, 8 February – 8 April
- 2023-24 “Nude: The Naked Body in Contemporary Photography,” Fotografiska Berlin, Berlin, 14 September 2023 – 28 January 2024; Fotografiska Tallinn, Tallinn, Estonia, 13 September 2024 – 5 January 2025
- 2023 “Africa Supernova: The contemporary African painting collection of Carla and Pieter Schulting,” Kunsthal KAdE, Amersfoort, Netherlands, 24 September 2023 – 7 January 2024 (catalogue)
- 2023 “Dig Where You Stand – From Coast to Coast: Seke,” organized by African Artists’ Foundation, Palais de Lomé, Lomé, Togo, 12 August – 31 December
- 2022-24 “Festival La Gacilly-Baden Photo,” La Gacilly, France, 1 June – 1 October
- 2022 “Kyotographie: International Photography Festival,” Ryosokuin Zen Temple and Demachi Masugata Shopping Arcade, Kyoto, Japan, 15 April – 14 May
- 2022 “We Are Enough,” curated by Roger Niyigena Karera, organized by AFIRIKA ARTFEST, 193 Gallery, Paris, 11 – 26 March
- 2022 “Ozangé,” 1st Biennial of African Photography, Centro Cultural La Malagueta, La Térmica, and Calle Alameda Principal, Málaga, 4 November 2022 – 29 January 2023; Círculo de Bellas Artes, Madrid; Museum of contemporary cultures Adama Toungara, Abidjan
- 2021-22 “UNLIMITED,” curated by Marwan Zakhem, Gallery 1957, Kempinski Hotel Gold Coast, Accra, Ghana, 10 November – 15 December
- 2021 “Dig Where You Stand,” organized by African Artists’ Foundation, Savannah Centre for Contemporary Art, Tamale, Ghana, 2 September – 9 October
- 2020 “Time Is Going: Archive – Future – Memories,” organized by EUNIC Sénégal for the 14th Biennale de l’art contemporain africain, Dak’Art, Résidence de l’Ambassade de l’Union Européenne, Dakar, Sénégal, 20 May – 12 June
- 2021-22 “Africa in Motion,” Fondation Donwahi, Abidjan, opened 29 April – July
- 2021 “Memoria: Récits d’une autre Histoire,” Musée des Cultures Contemporaines Adama Toungara (MuCAT), Abidjan, 7 April – 21 August
- 2020 “Summer Exhibition 2021,” Royal Academy of Arts, London, 22 September 2021 – 2 January 2022
- 2021 “NUDE,” Fotografiska Museum, Stockholm, 3 September – 28 November 2021; Fotografiska Museum, New York, 12 February – 1 May 2022
- 2020 “Self – Identity in the Face of the Global Pandemic,” Gallery 1957, London, 22 April – 12 May
- 2019-21 “Le Jardin en soi,” Loft Art Gallery, Casablanca, 7 October – 14 November
- 2019-21 “Prix Pictet: Hope,” Victoria and Albert Museum, London, 14 November – 8 December 2019; Daikanyama Hillside Forum, Tokyo, 12– 28 December 2019; Luma Westbau, Zurich, 16 January – 9 February 2020; Mouravieff-Apostol House & Museum, Moscow, 14 February - 13 March 2020; EPFL ArtLab, Lausanne, Switzerland, 4 September – 4 October 2020; Palazzo della Gran Guardia, Verona, 18 February – 25 May 2021; MUZA Eretz Israel Museum, Tel Aviv, 30 June – 21 September 2021; Grimaldi Forum, Monaco, 14 – 27 July 2021; Shanghai Centre of Photography, Shanghai, 11 September – 24 October 2021; Gallery of Photography Ireland, Dublin, 17 September – 6 November 2021; Fondazione Sozzani, Milan, 9 – 28 November 2021; Today Art Museum, Beijing, 16 November – 12 December 2021 (catalogue)
- 2020 “The Inner Garden,” Loft Art Gallery, Casablanca, Morocco, 7 October – 14 November
- 2019-20 “Joana Choumali & Godfried Donkor,” Gallery 1957, Accra, Ghana, 10 January – 15 February
- 2019 “Group Show,” Gallery 1957, Accra, Ghana, 17 December 2019 – 5 January 2020
- 2019 “Welcome Home,” MACAAL, Marrakesh, 12 September 2019 – 5 January 2020
- 2019 “LagosPhoto Festival: Passports,” Federal Government Press Liaison Office, Lagos, 27 October – 15 November

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- “N’GOLÁ Biennial of Arts and Culture,” Casa das Artes Criação Ambiente Utopias (CACAU), São Tomé e Príncipe, 26 July – 18 August
- “Mon rêve est Pop!,” Loft Art Gallery, Casablanca, 20 June – 3 August
- “Filam(an)nt,” Fondation Blachère Art Center, Apt, France, 23 May – 5 October
- “Still Here Tomorrow to High Five You Yesterday...Chapter 2,” Zeitz Museum of Contemporary Art Africa (Zeitz MOCAA), Cape Town, South Africa, 30 January – 22 September
- 2018-19 “Africa Is No Island,” Museum of African Contemporary Art Al Maaden (MACAAL), Marrakesh, 24 February – 24 August 2018; Fondation Zinsou, Cotonou, Benin, 2 November 2018 – 19 February 2019 (catalogue)
- 2018 “Awoulaba/Taille fine,” Breda Photo Festival, Breda, Netherlands, 5 September – 21 October
- “Côte d’Ivoire: Identité et vitalité de l’Art Contemporain,” Musée Mattatoio, Rome, 7 June – 22 July
- “Le Off de Dapper,” La Biennale de Dakar, Dakar, Senegal, 5 May – 3 June
- “Where I Seek, I Find Myself,” Museum of Contemporary African Diasporan Arts (MOCADA), New York, 12 April – 30 September
- “AfricaAfrica,” Palazzo Litta Culture, Milan, 15 March – 2 April
- “Afriques Artistes d’hier et d’aujourd’hui,” The Fondation Clément, Martinique, 21 January – 6 May
- 2017-18 “Afrotopia,” 11th Annual Rencontres de Bamako Biennale Africaine de la Photographie, National Museum of Mali, Bamako, 2 December 2017 – 31 January 2018
- 2017 “LagosPhoto Festival: Regimes of Truth,” African Artists’ Foundation, Lagos, 24 November – 15 December
- “Photo Vogue Festival,” Milan, 16 – 19 November
- “Rêveries d’hier et songes du présent,” Musée de la Photographie de Saint Louis, Senegal, opened November
- “Festival International de Photographie pour les femmes photographes,” Communauté de Communes du Pays de Saint Gilles Croix de Vie, Givrand, France, 1 July – 20 August (catalogue)
- “Le Havre: Dakar,” Musée d’Histoire Naturelle, Le Havre, France, 24 June – 31 December
- “A fleur de peau,” Abbaye de Daoulas, Daoulas, France, 16 June – 31 December
- “The Elusive Body,” IAF Basel, Basel, 9 June – 2 July
- “The Juices of Time,” Pavilion of the Ivory Coast, 57th Venice Biennale, Venice, 13 May – 26 November (catalogue)
- “LagosPhoto Festival: Where the Future Beats,” Casello Ovest di Porta Venezia, Milan, 19 – 26 March
- 2016 “The Female Gaze,” Base Milano, Milan, 22 – 26 November
- “Resilients,” Land of African Business Conference, Hotel de l’Industrie, Paris, 19 – 23 October
- “Casablanca Biennale: We the people,” Institut Français de Casablanca, Casablanca, 14 – 23 October
- “Africa Forecast: Fashioning Contemporary Life,” Spelman College Museum of Fine Art, Atlanta, 15 September – 3 December
- “Les Recontres de la Photographie,” La Grande Hall, Arles, 4 July – 25 September
- “LagosPhoto Festival: Find us on the map,” Rush Gallery, New York, 12 – 18 May
- 2015 “Sacro e profano,” Photolux, Lucca, Italy, 21 November – 13 December
- “LagosPhoto Festival: Designing Futures,” Eko Suite Hotel Nigeria, Lagos, 24 October – 27 November
- “Bold (Feminine),” Marcia Wood Gallery, Atlanta, 15 October – 14 November
- “Photoquai Biennale 2015: We are family,” Quai Branly Museum, Paris, 22 September – 22 November
- Casablanca Biennale, French Institute of Valencia, Spain, August
- OBSCURA Festival, George Town, Malaysia, 14 – 21 August
- “Design is the personality of an idea,” Ford Foundation, Lagos, 20 July – 3 August
- “Skin Deep,” The Tropenmuseum of World Cultures, Amsterdam, April

- “Making Africa: A Continent of Contemporary Design,” Vitra Design Museum, Weil am Rhein, Germany, 14 March – 13 September (catalogue)
- “GRID Cape Town,” International Photography Biennial, Cape Town, South Africa, 14 February – March 15
- 2014-15 “AGri-Cultures,” National Museum of Civilisations, Abidjan, November 2014 – 31 January 2015
- 2014 “POPCAP’14: Outstanding African Photographers,” PhotoIreland Festival, Dublin, 1 – 31 July; Image Afrique, Basel, 1 – 25 September; LagosPhoto Festival, Lagos, 25 October – 26 November; Cape Town Month of Photography, Cape Town, South Africa, 1 October – 1 November; Eyes On, Vienna, 28 October – 30 November; Addis Foto Fest, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, 1 – 7 December; Festival Internacional de Fotografia Cabo Verde, Mindelo, Cape Verde, 14 November – 12 December;
- “3x3,” La Galerie MAM, Dakar, Senegal, November
- “Lenculture: 50 Emerging Talents,” Galeria Valid Foto, Barcelona, 13 – 31 October
- Casablanca Biennale, Casablanca, Morocco, 3 – 12 October
- 15th Edition BarrObjectif Festival de Photoreportage, Barro, France, 20 – 28 September
- “Pour les noirs et pour les blancs,” Hierro des Villes Gallery, Nice, 14 July – 14 September
- “Abidjan Arts Actuels (AAA),” Fondation Donwahi, Abidjan, 14 June – 30 August
- 2013 “L’Emoi Photographie: Portrait,” Hôtel Saint Simon, Angoulême, France, 1 April – 4 May
- Private exhibition, ASCOMA Company, Abidjan, October
- “L’Emoi Photographie: Naissance d’une association,” Hôtel Saint Simon, Angoulême, France, May
- 2012 “BICICI Amie des Arts,” Bank for Industry and Trade of Côte d’Ivoire, Abidjan, September
- “On the Roof,” National Museum Cinémathèque of Bamako Biannual, Mali, November
- “OFC,” The Barbican Center as part of the Olympic Games, London 1 – 7 August
- 2011 “BICICI Amie des Arts,” Bank for Industry and Trade of Côte d’Ivoire, Abidjan, 29 September – 28 October
- “Petite revue de l’art moderne et contemporain de Côte d’Ivoire,” Rotonde des Arts Gallery, Abidjan, 28 September – 29 December

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Selected Collections

Africa First, Tel Aviv
Collection Gervanne + Matthias Leridon
Fondation H, Paris, France and Antananarivo, Madagascar
Harry David Art Collection
Harvard Art Museums, Cambridge, MA
High Museum of Art, Atlanta, GA
Institute Museum of Ghana, Accra
The Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York
Musée de la Photographie de Saint Louis, Senegal
Museum of African Contemporary Art Al Maaden (MACAAL), Marrakech
Nesr Art Foundation, Angola
Palais de la Culture, Paris
Pérez Art Museum Miami, FL
Prix Pictet Collection
Tropenmuseum, Amsterdam
Victoria and Albert Museum, London
Voodart Collection