

LAYO BRIGHT

Nigerian, b. 1991

"I don't think of comparative ways of assessing my works when I'm making them. Instead, it's a kind of dance with each work — the 'dance' here connoting free thought and expression — it doesn't have to be perfect but I make my own moves and enjoy what each one brings. If I don't let myself 'dance' freely, then it's back to the start for me."

-Layo Bright

BIOGRAPHY

Mining personal archives and collective experiences, Layo Bright's sculptural practice interrogates how materials shape perception, culture, and politics. Bright's work explores specific themes of migration, inheritance, legacy and identity through hybrid portraits, textiles, and mixed media that call on natural forms and ancestral memory. Employing a range of materials such as glass, clay, wood and textiles, these forms mirror fragile yet complex relationships with the personal, natural, and built environment. Bright's work with plastic, checkered bags—often linked to migrants around the world—combines the material with crushed glass to critically address the inevitability of migration and loss in our current global climate. In fusing these and other materials, Bright's practice carefully considers the legacy of suppressed histories within inequitable class structures.

Layo Bright (b.1991, Lagos, Nigeria) received her LL. B (Hons.) from Babcock University (2014), was called to the Nigerian Bar Association (2015) and received her MFA in Fine Art (Hons.) from the Parsons School of Design (2018). Bright has exhibited work both internationally and nationally. Solo and group exhibitions include: Rockhaven, moniquemeloche, Chicago, IL (2022); Undercurrents, Sean Kelly Gallery, New York, NY (2022); Lubeznik Center for the Arts, Michigan City, IN (2022); Bode Projects, Berlin, Germany (2022); Phillips, New York, NY (2021); Welancora Gallery, New York, NY (2021); Mike Adenuga Centre, Lagos, Nigeria (2021); Anthony Gallery, Chicago, IL (2021); Parts & Labor, New York, NY (2020); Meyerhoff Gallery at MICA, Baltimore, MD (2020); Untitled AWCA, Lagos, Nigeria (2019); Mana Contemporary, Chicago, IL (2019); and Smack Mellon, New York, NY (2019), among others. In fall of 2023 Bright's work will be included in A Two Way Mirror: Double Consciousness in Contemporary Glass by Black Artists, Museum of Glass, Tacoma, WA. She is the recipient of honors and awards including the UrbanGlass Winter Scholarship Award (2021/2020), the International Sculpture Center's 2018 Outstanding Student Achievement in Contemporary Sculpture Award (2018), and the Beyoncé Formation Finalist Scholarship (2017). Previous residencies include Tyler School of Glass, Philadelphia, PA; Art Cake Residency in Brooklyn, NY; NXTHVN Fellowship in New Haven, CT; Triangle, Brooklyn, NY; Flux Factory, Queens, NY; The Studios at Mass MoCA, North Adams, MA; Tritryagain Studio Residency, Brooklyn, NY; International Studio Center Sculpture Residency at Grounds for Sculpture, Hamilton Township, NJ. Bright lives and works in New York, NY..

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Education

- 2018** MFA in Fine Arts (Honors), Parsons the New School of Design, New York, NY
- 2015** The Nigerian Law School, Lagos, Nigeria
- 2014** L.L. B (Honors) Babcock University, Ogun State, Nigeria

Selected Exhibitions

- 2023** A Two Way Mirror: Double Consciousness in Contemporary Glass by Black Artists, Museum of Glass, Tacoma, WA (forthcoming)
The Alchemists, Johnson Lowe Gallery, Atlanta, GA (forthcoming)
Death of Beauty, Sargent's Daughters Los Angeles, CA
- 2022** Rockhaven, moniquemeloche gallery, Chicago, IL
moniquemeloche presents... Lubeznik Center for the Arts, Michigan City, IN
Undercurrents, Sean Kelly Gallery, New York, NY
Woman to Woman, Bode Projects, Berlin, Germany
- 2021** House of Crowns, Phillips, New York, NY
Future Fair, Superposition Gallery, New York, NY
The Meeting Point, RegularNormal Gallery & ARTNOIR, New York, NY
Faces of the Hero: From New York to Athens, Lincoln Center, New York, NY, and Stavros Niarchos Foundation Cultural Center, Athens, Greece
Ebony G. Patterson, Brittney Leeanne Williams, Layo Bright, moniquemeloche gallery, IL
Showfields: Layo Bright & Adama Delphine Fawundu, Showfields Gallery, New York, NY
To Heal and Protect, Welancora Gallery, Brooklyn, NY
I Am Not a Goddess...Unless I Say I Am, Alliance Française, Mike Adenuga Centre, Ikoyi, Lagos
Something About Us, Anthony Gallery, Chicago, IL
- 2020** A Chance Encounter, Parts & Labor, Beacon, NY
Flat File 202, Peep Space, Tarry Town, NY
A Familiarity that Warms, Flux Factory, Queens, NY
All of the Above, Digital Group Show, Living Fearless
Black Is King, The Bond Collective, Brooklyn, NY
Here We Are, BSB Gallery, Trenton, NJ
You Don't See Me, Cuchifrito Gallery + Project Space, New York, NY
Migrations and Meanings in Art, Meyerhoff Gallery, Maryland Institute College of Art, MD
- 2019** Boiling Point, Superposition Gallery, Los Angeles, CA
Interwoven, BSB Gallery, Trenton, NJ
In the eye of the needle, Tri-tryagain Studio, New York, NY

JOHNSON LOWE GALLERY

- Wish You Were Here '19, A.I.R Gallery, Brooklyn, NY
Maid in Nigeria, AWCA, Lagos, Nigeria
- 2018** Through Her Eye, Mana Contemporary, Chicago, IL
Carry Over: New Voices from the Global African Diaspora, Smack Mellon, Brooklyn, NY
The Hybrid of Being, MFA Thesis Exhibition, Westbeth Gallery, Chelsea, New York, NY
Growing Pebbles, Sleep Center, New York, NY
FlowZone, 25 East Gallery, Parsons Fine Arts, New York, NY
SHIFT: The Spark of Resistance, 25 East Gallery, Parsons Fine Arts, New York, NY
How and Artwork Should Speak, 25 East Gallery, Parsons Fine Arts, New York, NY
- 2017** Now, An Unbecoming, Skybridge Art Space, Eugene Lang College, New York, NY
Reality Check, Sotheby's Institute of Art, New York, NY
Manifestos Unheard, 25 East Gallery, Parsons Fine Arts, New York, NY
Between, Skybridge Art Space, Eugene Lang College, New York, NY
- 2016** Politics & Lies, 25 East Gallery, Parsons Fine Arts, New York, NY
Art Salon, The Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands, Lagos, Nigeria
- 2015** The Nimbus Gallery, Lagos, Nigeria

Awards and Residencies

- 2022** Laurie Wagman Visiting Artist and Artist in Residence, Tyler School of Art and Architecture
Art Cake Residency, Brooklyn, NY
- 2021** UrbanGlass Scholarship Award, Decorative Decals
NXTHVN Fellowship, New Haven, CT
- 2020** UrbanGlass Scholarship Award, Kiln Casting
Triangle Residency, Brooklyn, NY
Flux Factory Artist Residency, Queens, NY
- 2019** The Studios at Massachusetts Museum of Contemporary at MASS MoCA, North Adams, MA
Tri-tryagain Studio Residency, Brooklyn, NY
- 2018** International Sculpture Center's 2018 Outstanding Student Achievement in Contemporary
Sculpture Award
Program Honours, Department of Fine Arts, Parsons the New School of Design, New York
International Sculpture Center Residency, Grounds for Sculpture, Hamilton Township, NJ
- 2017** Recipient of Beyoncé Formation Finalist Scholarship, New York, NY
- 2016** Parsons Dean's Merit Scholarship

Teaching

- 2018** Professor, Department of Integrated Design, Parsons the New School of Design, New York, NY
Teaching Assistant for Bachelor of Fine Arts Core 6 Course under Vishal Jugdeo, Parsons, NYC
- 2017** Teaching Assistant for Bachelor of Fine Arts Core 5 Course under Shane Selzer, Parsons, NYC
Lectures
- 2022** Visiting Artist Talk, Laurie Wagman Visiting Artist Series, Tyler School of Art and Architecture,
Temple University, Philadelphia, PA
- 2021** Visiting Artist Talk, Tyler School of Art, Temple University
Visiting Artist Talk, Parsons School of Design, NY

Bibliography

- 2022** "What to see in N.Y.C Galleries Right Now", The New York Times. July 28, 2022
- 2021** Estiler, Keith. "Anthony Gallery Celebrates Black Culture in 'SOMETHING ABOUT US' HYPEBEAST. March
- 2020** "Flux Factory Presents In-Person Exhibition A FAMILIARITY THAT WARMS," BWW News
"In Celebration of Superposition Gallery's Second Anniversary: Notes on the Hamptons,"
Superposition and Sans. September
Purcell, Janet. "Fine Art: What's Happening in the Trenton Art World?," True Jersey. June
"Three Trenton Art Galleries Confront COVID-19 (and other social issues) in virtual exhibit
Nadel, Logan. "BSB Gallery to Host its First Ever Online Gallery Starting Tomorrow," 2019
"Layo Bright & Ajibola are Highlighting the Realities of Househelps with the 'Maid in Nigeria'
Exhibition," Bellanaija. May
Ntianu, Obiora. "Meet the two artists tackling the plight of domestic help in Nigeria through
their enlightening new exhibition," Pulse. April
- 2018** "The International Sculpture Center 2018 Outstanding Student Achievement in Contemporary
Sculpture Awards," Sculpture Magazine, Volume 37, No. 8, October
Mendiola, Orlando. "Meet Beyonce's Formation Scholars," New School Free Press. October