

RONWA

ART PROJECTS

IMO NSE IMEH

Born:
1980

Dr. Imo Nse Imeh is a American-Nigerian visual artist and scholar of African Diaspora Art. He leverages his practice of visual art and research in art history to investigate historical and philosophical issues around the black body and cultural identity.

Lives in:
Holyoke, MA

Dr. Imeh's work has been exhibited in numerous public venues including the Maison Lune (Los Angeles) for Art Frieze LA 2024, the August Wilson African American Cultural Center (Pittsburgh, PA), the Fine Arts Center Galleries of Bowling Green State University (Bowling Green, Ohio), the Sigal Museum of the Northampton County Historical and Genealogical Society (Easton, Pennsylvania), the Mariposa Museum (Oak Bluffs, Massachusetts), University Museum of Contemporary Art (Amherst, Massachusetts), the Urban Institute for Contemporary Art (Grand Rapids, Michigan). His work is represented in the Petrucci Family Foundation Collection of African American Art; in the museum collection of the University of Massachusetts, Amherst; as well as in a number of private collections; and it has been featured by the PBS NewsHour, New England Public Media, Orion Magazine, and in the contemporary art and culture magazine Art New England.

Solo Exhibitions

- 2025 *The Sacred Study of Becoming*, 2025, Ronewa Art Projects, Berlin, Germany
- 2025 *Monuments to Our Skies*. The National Academy of Sciences, Cultural Programs Gallery, Washington, DC. Curator: J.D. Talasek
- 2023 *The Hope of Radiance*. August Wilson African American Cultural Center (AWAACC), Pittsburg Pennsylvania
- 2023 *Ten Little ~~Nigger~~ Girls*. South Gallery, Greenfield Community College, Greenfield, MA
- 2022 *And i'll be there with you*. Pulp Gallery, Holyoke Massachusetts

Group Exhibitions

- 2024 *Queens, Gods, and Devotees*, Maguire Museum of Art, St. Joseph's University, Philadelphia, PA. Sea Change, Knowhere Gallery, Martha's Vineyard, Massachusetts, Curator; Valerie Francis
- 2024 *A Time Was Had: Is An Awakening*. Art Genesis Gallery in collaboration with Maison Lune Gallery, Los Angeles, CA. Curator: Mashonda Tifere
- 2024 *The Miracle Machine*, Augusta Savage Gallery, UMass Amherst, Amherst, MA. Curator and exhibiting artist: Imo Nse Imeh
- 2023 *Something Extraordinary: A Visual Review of 'Story' as Timeless*, Arno Maris Gallery, Westfield State University. Curator: Imo Nse Imeh
- 2023 *Visible Man: Art and Black Male Subjectivity*. Fine Arts Center Galleries, Bowling Green State University, Bowling Green, Ohio. Curator: Dr. Micheal D. Harris

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- 2022 *Another American's Autobiography: Selected Works from the Petrucci Family Foundation Collection of African American Art.* Northampton County Historical and Genealogical Society's Sigal Museum. Curator: Claudia Volpe
- 2021 *Clarion Call: Poems and Paintings* by Danny Simmons; *Angels of 17 Years Boy* by Imo Nse Imeh. Mariposa Museum, Oaks Bluff, MA
- 2021 *We Are For Freedoms.* University Museum of Contemporary Art, Umass Amherst, Amherst, MA
- 2013 *I Dreamed My People Were Calling But I Couldn't Find My Way Home.* Rush Arts Gallery, NYC (Chelsea). Curated by Danny Simmons, curator: Danny Simmons

Commissioned Projects

- 2024 Journal of Biological Psychiatry, Yale University "CoverArt Initiative"
- 2024 Mechanics Hall Portraits Project: "Portrait of Frederick Douglass," Installation

Publications (Writing)

- 2022 "Feeding the Veins of the Earth," Essay contribution for Shifting Time: African American Artists 2020-2021, The Petrucci Family Foundation Collection of African American Art, ed. Klare Scarborough and Berrisford Boothe
- 2021 "The Hope of Radiance," Exhibition Catalogue Essay for Another American's Autobiography: Selected Works from the Petrucci Family Foundation Collection of African American Art, at the Northampton County Historical and Genealogical Society's Sigal Museum, ed. Claudia Volpe
- 2021 "I am My Ancestors' Essence," Exhibition Catalogue Essay for I am My Ancestors' Essence, Tafeta gallery, London
- 2018 "Hip Sistas in Flux: Globetrotting Maidens, Black Diaspora Shifts, and the Visual-Lingual Braid in Victor'Mbobo Series'" in African Graphics, Signs and Cultures: The World of Victor Ekpuk, ed. Falola, Ekpuk's Toyin
- 2016 "The Dynamics of Cultural and Aesthetic Expansion in Cross River Networks," A Review for Purchasing Culture: the Dissemination of Associations in the Cross River Region of Cameroon and Nigeria, by Ute Röschenhaler (Africa World Press, 2011), in African Arts, Volume 49, Issue 1
- 2012 *Daughters of Seclusion: The Revelation of the Ibibio* (Peter Lang Publishing). "Fattened Bride" as the Icon of Beauty and Power

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Publications (Art)

- 2022 *Feeding the Veins of the Earth* (2020), *Angel Landing* (2020), *Lead Me to Rest* (2020), in *Shifting Time: African American Artists 2020-2021*, The Petrucci Family Foundation Collection of African American Art, ed. Klare Scarborough and Berrisford Boothe
- 2022 *Breathe* (2020), cover illustration (back) and featured in *A Gathering of the Tribes Magazine* Issue 16, "The Black Lives Matter Issue" eds. Reed, Ishmael and Simmons, Danny
- 2022 *The Furies* (1999), cover illustration for *The Black Intellectual Tradition: Reading Freedom in Classical Literature*, by Parham, Angel and Prather, Anika, Classical Academic Press, Camp Hill, PA
- 2021 *Good-bye Brother* (2012), cover illustration for *A New Perspective for the Use of Dialect in African American Spirituals: History, Context, and Linguistics*, by Barber, Felicia, Lexington Books, Lanham, Maryland, 2021
- 2021 *Feeding the Veins of the Earth* (2020), in *Exhibition Catalogue for Another American's Autobiography: Selected Works from the Petrucci Family Foundation Collection of African American Art*, at the Northampton County Historical and Genealogical Society's Sigal Museum, ed. Claudia Volpe

Museum Lectures

- 2022 "*In his name: An Artist Talk on New Work by Dr. Imo Nse Imeh.*" Lecture & Musical Performance. Museums a la Carte Lecture Series. Springfield Museums, Springfield, MA
- 2016 "*The Maiden Spirit: Beauty and Power Realized in the Identity of the African Woman, in Nigeria and Beyond*" Friends of the Arts of Africa and Oceania Lecture Series. Boston Museum of Fine Art
- 2014 "*Igbo Maiden Spirit Masks: Considering Agbogho Mmuo and the persistence of the Southern Nigeria,*" Art Institute of Chicago

Conference Lectures

- 2024 "*Special Session: The Biological Psychiatry Cover Art Initiative: Addressing the Underrepresentation of Black People on the Journal Cover Through a Series of Commissioned Artworks,*" Society of Biological Psychiatry Annual Meeting, Austin, TX
- 2022 "*Benediction/in his name*": Locating Ourselves in America's Stories, Revised and Untold," 53rd Annual National Conference of Black Political Scientists. Conference Speaker. Theme: Visions of Black Futures at a Crossroads, Virtual Studio Talk

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University Lectures & Artist talks

- 2022 *"In Conversation: Imo Nse Imeh."* Museum Lecture. In Conversation Lecture Series. Programming around the exhibition Another American's Autobiography: Selections from the Petrucci Family Foundation Collection of African American Art, Northampton County Historical & Genealogical Society, Sigal Museum, Easton, PA
- 2021 *"Benediction: A Studio Talk with Dr. Imo Nse Imeh,"* Guest Lecture. Course: African American Literature (with Dr. Vanessa Diana). Schoolwide open event. Westfield State University
- 2021 *"Benediction: A Studio Talk with Dr. Imo Nse Imeh,"* Alumni Research Forum, History of Art, Yale University
- 2021 *"Benediction: A Studio Talk with Dr. Imo Nse Imeh,"* Guest Lecture. Course: Reflective Teaching Practices and Classroom Management, Elms College
- 2021 *"Dr. Imo Nse Imeh's Current Studio Projects and the Importance of Finding Your Voice,"* Guest Speaker, Men of Excellence Club, Springfield College
- 2021 *"Benediction: A Studio Talk with Dr. Imo Nse Imeh,"* Guest Speaker, Social Justice Scholars Talk, Loyola University-New Orleans
- 2019 *"Suicide Girl and Her Nine Sisters: A Conversation about Black Children, Danger, and Invisibility,"* Artist Talk, Western New England University, 2019
- 2018 *"17 Years Boy: Images, Sounds, and Words Inspired by the Life and Death of a Young Black Boy,"* Campus Scholarship Showcase Talk, Westfield State University
- 2017 *"Ten Little ~~Nigger~~ Girls, New Works by Imo Nse Imeh,"* Visiting Artist lecture Series. Brown University
- 2017 *"Ten Little ~~Nigger~~ Girls, New Works by Imo Nse Imeh,"* Diversity Workshop. American International College
- 2015 *"The Maiden Spirit: Beauty and Power Realized in the Identity of the African Woman, in Nigeria and Beyond."* Sankofa Lecture Series. Quinsigamond Community College

Panels

- 2022 *"BIPOC Artists: A Conversation on Advocacy and Equity in the Arts and Culture,"* part of series Community Conversations at Westfield State University. Panel includes: Dr. Imo Nse Imeh (Art), Dr. Felicia Barber (Music), Jose Rivera (Theatre), and Rosemary Tracy Woods (Arts Advocate)
- 2021 *"What Does it Mean to Be an Artist of Color?":* A Panel Discussion with Dr. Imo Imeh (Art, Westfield State); Michael Hagins (playwright); Joel Thompson (doctoral student in Music Composition at Yale University); George Ramirez (Art, Westfield State)

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- 2017 “As an African American educator-what can we do to impact change?” Westfield State University Constitution Day Panel. Panel: Dr. Felicia Barber – Moderator/Organizer (Director of Choral Activities), Dr. Imo Nse Imeh.(WSU Art Department), Ashiah Richeme (WSU Director of Diversity and Inclusion), Aubree Bowman (Bloomfield High School, Choral Director), and Nuchette Melissa Burke (Hartford Community Schools Coordinator)
- 2016 “Coon Songs and Spirituals: Constructing Race and Culture Through Lyrics and Performance, a History of African-American Music,” 3 Conversations Lecture Series for *Ten Little Nigger Girls* Exhibition, Panel: Dr. Felicia Barber and Dr. Imo Imeh. Westfield State University
- 2016 “The Pickin’ at Play: Puzzles, Postcards, and the Black Body as a Pictorial Commodity,” 3 Conversations Lecture Series for *Ten Little Nigger Girls* Exhibition, Panel: Dr. Robert Thornton and Dr. Imo Imeh. Westfield State University
- 2016 “#blackboysindanger: The Public Consumption of Black Bodies in the Media,” 3 Conversations Lecture Series for *Ten Little Nigger Girls* Exhibition, Panel: Dr. Robert Thornton, Dr. Chris Gullen, and Dr. Imo Imeh. Westfield State University

Press

- 2023 Worcester Magazine, “Painting history: Mechanics Hall readies new portraits of four 19th century Black leaders”
- 2023 Massachusetts Daily Collegian, “The Miracle Machine: the brotherhood and vulnerability of black men”
- 2023 New England Public Media, “Imo Imeh on Curating “Something Extraordinary”
- 2023 Addy Hour Podcast, “Black Bodies and Race in Art & Society with Imo Imeh and Daniel Swann”

Additional Recognition, Press, Articles

- 2022 The Greenfield Recorder. Feature Article: “An Artist Responds to Insurrection,” by Allen Woods | Link: <https://www.recorder.com/Col-woods-ImehExhibit-44689525>
- 2020 New England Public Media. Requested Commentary: “Rioters Need Our Prayers and Activism—Not Our Criticism,” written and delivered by Imo Imeh | Link: <https://www.nepm.org/post/rioters-need-our-prayers-and-activism-not-our-criticism#stream/0>
- 2018 New England Public Media. Feature Story about 17 Years Boy: “Public Painting of Trayvon Martin Sparks Conversations about Racism on Campus,” by Jill Kaufman. | Link: <https://www.nepm.org/post/public-painting-trayvon-martin-sparks-conversations-about-racism-campus#stream/0>
- 2018 AISLIN Magazine (Cover Story, Cover Image) Issue 005, The Color Issue Cover Story: “Dr. Imo Nse Imeh: Exploring the Invisibility of Black Children Through Art” Cover Image: Ovation, 2018 | Link: <https://www.aislinmagazine.com/imo-imeh>