

# MIMI ỌNỤỌHA

b.1989, Italy

Lives and works in Brooklyn, New York

Mimi Ọnụọha is a Nigerian-American artist whose work highlights the absences that result from making the world fit forms of data. Her multimedia practice uses print, text, code, installation and video to unpack the power dynamics that result in different groups' different relationships to systems that are simultaneously digital, cultural, and ecological.

Ọnụọha has been in residence at the Royal College of Art (UK), Studio XX (Canada), Data & Society Research Institute (USA), Eyebeam Center for Arts & Technology (USA), and Arthouse Foundation (Nigeria, upcoming). She has spoken and exhibited internationally at venues like La Gaitê Lyrique (France), FIBER Festival (Netherlands), Mao Jihong Arts Foundation (China), and Le Centre Pompidou (France).

Her recent work includes *In Absentia*, a series of prints that borrow language from research by Black sociologist W.E.B. Du Bois conducted in the nineteenth century to address the difficulties he faced and the pitfalls he fell into, and *A People's Guide To AI*, a comprehensive beginner's guide to understanding AI and other data-driven systems, co-created with Diana Nucera.

## EDUCATION

- 2011 BA, Princeton University
- 2013 MPS, New York University

## SOLO EXHIBITIONS

- 2021 *These Networks In Our Skin*, Forest City Gallery, London, Canada
- 2020 *How We Make Meaning*, Quad Gallery, Derby, UK
- 2019 *In Absentia*, Cantor Fitzgerald Gallery, Philadelphia, PA

## GROUP EXHIBITIONS

- 2021 *Artificial Intelligence: Machine Learning Human Dreams*, Deutsches Hygiene Museum, Dresden, DE
- Dark Data*, EFA Project Space, New York, NY
- Her Data*, Romance, Athens, GR
- Decode*, Birmingham Open Media, Birmingham, UK

- Transmediale Almanac*, Transmediale, online  
*Far Away, So Close*, Gallatin Galleries, New York, NY
- 2020 *Forking Room Media Arts Festival*, Unmake Lab, Seoul, KR  
*DEGITAL - destructive progressive mid tech*, Seoul, KR  
*Networked Visions*, isthisit, online  
*The Question of Intelligence*, Kellen Gallery, New York, NY
- 2019 *Dataism*, ArtsWestchester, Westchester, NY  
*Data/Set/Match*, Photographers' Gallery, London, UK  
*Higher Resolution*, Tate Gallery Workshop, London, UK  
*Heaven Must Be Missing An Algorithm*, Paradise Palase, Brooklyn, NY  
*Mutual Reality: Art On the Edge of Technology*, Scottsdale Museum of Contemporary Art, Scottsdale, AZ  
*Frieze New York*, New York, NY  
*My Mother's Maiden Name*, Root Division, San Francisco CA  
*Open Codes*, ZKM, Utrecht, NL
- 2018 *System Failure*, Minnesota Street Project, San Francisco, CA  
*The Influencing Machine*, NGBbk, Berlin Germany  
*Privacy*, Brooklyn Public Libraries Exhibit, Brooklyn, NY  
*A Recounting: Data, Disinformation & Black Experience*, Guerrero Gallery, San Francisco, CA  
*Cosmopolis #1.5: Enlarged Intelligence*, Centre Pompidou, Paris France and Mao Jihong Foundation, Chengdu, China  
*Open Codes* Karlsruhe, Germany  
*Existência Numérica*, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil  
*REFEST*, La MaMa Gallery, New York, NY  
*FIBER Festival*, Amsterdam, Netherlands  
*Afrotech Fest*, London, England
- 2017 *DevFest Exhibition*, Google Atlanta, GA  
*Haunted Machines*, Impakt Festival, Amsterdam, Netherlands  
*9to5tv*, Atlanta, GA  
*Believe the Hype*, B4BEL4B Gallery, San Francisco, CA  
*KNOW YOUR MEDIA* pop-up, Brooklyn, NY
- 2016 *The Glass Room*, Tactical Tech, New York, NY  
*Holiday Hack Shop*, Eyebeam, New York, NY  
*Practice and Challenge*, New York, NY
- 2015 *British HCI Exhibition*, Lincoln, UK  
*School of Design WIP Show*, Royal College of Art | London, UK
- 2014 *Exploded Screens*, Royal College of Art, London, UK
- 2013 *ITP Thesis Week + Spring Show*, New York NY
- 2012 *NY Hall of Science Showcase*, New York NY

## AWARDS AND RESIDENCIES

- 2022 Lincoln Center David Rubenstein Atrium Space Grant (upcoming)  
 Arthouse Foundation Residency, Lagos, Nigeria (upcoming)
- 2021 Princeton University Ida B Wells Just Data Lab Fellowship, Princeton, NJ  
 Mozilla Award 2021, Brooklyn, NY
- 2020 Eyebeam Rapid Response Residency, Brooklyn, NY  
 Brooklyn Public Library Arts & Letters Committee, Brooklyn, NY
- 2019 Pioneer Works Tech Residency, Brooklyn, NY
- 2018-2019 Jarislowsky Fellow, University of Waterloo, Waterloo, Canada  
 Creative-in-Reference, Olin College of Engineering, Boston, MA
- 2017 Studio XX Artist in Residence, Montreal, Canada  
 Advisory committee, AI & Inclusion Symposium, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil
- 2016-2017 Eyebeam Research Resident, Brooklyn, NY
- 2016 ITP Fellowship, New York, NY
- 2015 Data & Society Fellow, New York, NY  
 Columbia Tow Center for Digital Journalism Fellow, New York, NY
- 2014 Fulbright National-Geographic Digital Storytelling Fellow, London, UK

## LECTURES, PANELS, AND WORKSHOPS

- 2021 Arts Collider Session, Lincoln Center for Performing Arts, New York, NY  
 "Intersections of Art, Feminism, and Digital Technology", PAFA, Philadelphia, PA  
 Jina Valentine in conversation with Mimi Onuoha, Columbia College, Columbia, MO  
 "The Normalizing Gaze", High Line Art, New York, NY

- Black History Month Panel, Microsoft, remote  
 Visiting Art Talk, Minneapolis College of Art & Design, remote  
 Critical AI Series, Rutgers University, remote
- 2020 Patch Connect, Gray Area Foundation, San Francisco, CA  
 "Race, Data, & Equity", MIT Dept of Urban Studies & Planning, remote  
 Mimi Onuoha & Nontsikelelo Mutiti, Black Lunch Table, remote  
 AI x Gender, Ars Technica, remote  
 AI & Design, AIGA Design Conference, remote  
 Dataism, ArtsWestchester, West
- 2019 KIKK Festival, Namur, Belgium  
 "What is Missing Is Still There", Wellesley University, Wellesley, MA  
 "AI, Missing Data, and Identity", Columbia University, New York, NY  
 "In Absentia", McGill University, Montreal, CA
- 2018 Chicago Humanities Festival, Chicago, IL  
 Gather Festival, Stockholm, Sweden  
 "Coded Matter(s)", FIBER, Amsterdam, Netherlands  
 "Collections as Algorithms", Pioneer Works, Brooklyn, NY  
 "Afrocyberféminisms 5", La Gaîté Lyrique, Paris, France  
 !!Con Keynote, New York, NY  
 "Hard to Read: Lovelace", Bridget Donahue Gallery, New York, NY  
 Steiner Lecture in Creative Inquiry, Carnegie Mellon, Pittsburgh, PA  
 "A Pressing Conference", Abrons Art Center, New York, NY  
 "Vision and Technology", International Center for Photography, New York, NY
- 2017 Cybernetics Conference, New York, NY  
 AI & Ethics Symposium, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil  
 Google SPAN Conference [keynote talk], Pittsburgh, PA  
 A Night With the Enron Archive, New Museum, New York, NY  
 Digital Humanities & Design Symposium, Atlanta, GA  
 Parsons School of Media Lecture Series, New York, NY  
 Software for Artists Day, Pioneer Works, Brooklyn, NY  
 UN Data Revolution for Policy Makers, Jakarta, Indonesia  
 Eyeo Festival, Minneapolis, MN
- 2016 Wordhack, Babycastles, New York, NY  
 Arts & Machine Learning Summit, Paris, France  
 Facets Conference [keynote panel], New York, NY  
 ONA Digital Journalism Conference, London, England  
 Tyranny of the Algorithm, NYU, New York, NY  
 Machine Eatable Lecture Series, Microsoft & NY City Hall, New York, NY
- 2015 National Geographic Voices, Washington, DC  
 Datapoint Conference, New York, NY  
 Oslo School of Architecture and Design Lecture, Oslo, Norway

## CURATION

- 2020 *Feminist Data Visualization*, Curatorial Consultant, Atlanta Contemporary, Atlanta, Georgia  
 2019 *Impossible Maps*, Academic Consultant, Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum, Boston, MA  
*Code+Resistance*, Curatorial Fellow, Eyeo Festival, Minneapolis, MN  
 2018 Co-founder & Curator, New York Tech Zine Fair, New York, NY  
*Refiguring the Future: A NetGain Event*, Curatorial Consultant, hosted by the Museum of Contemporary Art, Chicago, IL z  
 2016 *Practice and Challenge*, Co-curator, Artist-Run Group Show, New York, NY

## ARTICLES & PUBLICATIONS

- 2021 Onuoha, Mimi. "Natural." Chapter In *Uncertain Archives: Critical Keywords for Big Data*, edited by Nana Bonde Thylstrup, Daniela Agostinho, Annie Ring, Catherine D'Ignazio, and Kristin Veel. Cambridge, MA: The MIT Press.
- 2020 Onuoha, Mimi. "When Proof Is Not Enough." *FiveThirtyEight*, July 1, 2020.
- 2019 "There Is More Than One We In Web", *Area.na Annual*
- 2018 "Not Everything Can Be Contained" *The Work of WInd: Land*  
 "On Algorithmic Violence", *Cause Magazine*  
 "What Is Missing Is Still There", *Nichons-nous dans L'Internet*
- 2017 Onuoha, Mimi. "The Point of Collection." *Data & Society: Points*, in *Google SPAN Reader*, 2017
- 2016 Onuoha, Mimi. "What It Takes to Truly Delete Data." *FiveThirtyEight*, January 30, 2017.

- 2017 Contributor, Quartz
- 2016 Contributor, *Points*, How We Get To Next
- 2015 Onuoha, Mimi, Jeanne Pinder, and Jan Schaffer. *Guide To Crowdsourcing*. *TowCenter.GitBooks.io*. New York, NY: Tow Center for Digital Journalism, 2015.
- 2014 Contributor, *Voices*, National Geographic

## SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY

- 2021 Rea, Naomi. "How Did A.I. Art Evolve? Here's a 5,000 Year Timeline of Artists Employing Artificial Intelligence, From the Ancient Inca to Modern-Day GANS." *Artnet*, December 2021
- Hackl, Cathay. "Jadu Partners With Grimes, Lewis Hamilton, And Snoop Dogg To Bring NFT Hoverboards To The Metaverse." *Forbes*, November 24 2021.
- 2020 Whitehot Staff. "Artists to Watch: Visionaries in Their Studios, 2020." *Whitehot Magazine of Contemporary Art*, December 2020.
- Estorick, Alex. "Episode III. Algorithmic Violence and the Politics of Data: The Work of Mimi Onuoha and Gretchen Andrew." *Flash Art*, December 11, 2020.
- Miller, Meg. "Finding the Blank Spots in Big Data." Medium. *Modus/AIGA Eye on Design*, February 5, 2020.
- 2019 Shihpar, Abdullah. "Data for the Public Good." *The New York Times*. October 24, 2019.
- 2018 Desmarais, Charles. "'Data, Disinformation and the Black Experience' at Guerrero Gallery." *SF Chronicle*, December 17, 2018.
- "This Artist Shows Which Data Isn't Collected" , Vice Creator's Project
- Stinson, Liz. "Four Black Creatives on the Importance of Building and Cultivating Community." *AIGA Eye on Design*, March 9, 2018.
- 2017 "Utrecht's art festival IMPAKT sheds light on the future", Volkskrant
- Wortham, Jenna. "Finding Inspiration for Art in the Betrayal of Privacy." *The New York Times*, January 1, 2017, Sunday edition, sec. Magazine.
- XX Files CKUT Radio Show, Montreal, Canada
- Expresso Futuro TV Programme, "Inteligencia Artificial", Brazil
- Sense of Place, Roundhouse Radio, Vancouver, Canada
- 2016 Almino, Elisa Wouk. "A Tech Collective Sets up a Sleek Boutique - to Help Visitors Elude Big Data." *Hyperallergic*, December 6, 2016.