

CURRICULUM VITAE

BENEDICTA OPOKU-MENSAH

Born 1995, Kumasi, Ghana

Lives and works in Gainesville, FL.

Email: Opokumensahb95@gmail.com

Website: <https://benedictaopokumensaharts.netlify.app/>

Instagram/Facebook: @Benedicta Opoku-Mensah

Education

- 2023-26 Master of Fine Art, University of Florida, Gainesville FL.
- 2014-18 B.A with First Class honours, Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology (KNUST), Kumasi Ghana.

Professional And Teaching Experiences

- 2026 Instructor, University of Florida, Gainesville, FL (Shaping Form and Space - Foundation, Spring 2026)
- 2025 Lead Teaching Assistant, University of Florida, Gainesville, FL (Workshop for Art Research and Practice, Fall 2025).
- Instructor, University of Florida, Gainesville, FL (Space Studio, Spring 2025)
- 2024 Instructor, University of Florida, Gainesville, FL (Space Studio, Fall 2024)
- Teaching Assistant, University of Florida, Gainesville, FL (Materials and Methods, Spring 2024)
- 2023 Sculpture Wood Shop Assistant, University of Florida, Gainesville, FL (Fall 2023)
- 2018-19 Teaching and Research Assistant, Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology, Kumasi, Ghana (Product Design)
- 2017 Intern, St. Ben's Jewellery KSI, Ghana

Honors, Awards and Grants

- 2025 Grinter Fellowship, School of Art and Art History, University of Florida (2023-25).
- Travel Grant, School of Art and Art History, University of Florida.
- Honourable Mention, 33rd Annual Emerald Coast National juried art exhibition, Mattie Kelly Gallery.
- Honorarium Artist Award, Morean Art Center.
- Full Huntley-Tidwell Scholarship, Penland School of Craft.
- Travel Grant, School of Art and Art History, University of Florida.
- Graduate Student Research Travel Grant, School of Art and Art History, University of Florida.

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- 2024 The Rude & Daphne Osolnik Scholarship, Arrowmont School of Art and Craft.
Travel Grant, School of Art and Art History, University of Florida.
- 2023 Graduate Student Research Travel Grant, School of Art and Art History, University of Florida.

Solo Exhibitions

- 2024 *Plane Print-Can I call this place home?* 4most Gallery, Gainesville FL.

Two/Three-Persons Exhibition

- 2026 *Topography of Memory*, Thesis exhibition, Gary R. Libby Gallery, Gainesville FL.

Group Exhibitions

- 2026 *Students thinking big*, Cade Museum, Gainesville, FL.
Six Forms of Address Hippodrome Theatre, Gainesville, FL.
- 2025 *33rd Annual Emerald Coast National juried art exhibition*, Mattie Kelly Arts Center Gallery, Niceville (curated by Nicholas Croghan)
Fresh Squeezed 9: Emerging Artist, Morean Art Centre, St. Petersburg, FL (curated by Amanda Cooper)
2025 Juried Student Exhibition, Gary R. Libby University Gallery, Gainesville, FL (Juried by Coralie Claeysen-Gleyzon)
Fuious Joy: Our Pleasure Despite All, GFAA Gallery, Gainesville, FL.
- 2024 *Summer Youth Celebration*, Cotton Club Museum & Cultural Centre, Gainesville, FL.
B24: Wiregrass Biennial, Wiregrass Museum of Art Juried exhibition, Dothan, Alabama (Juried by Amanda Karioth Thompson and Carrie Jaxon)
Shaped by water, The water state, Florida Springs Institute, Cade Museum, GNV, FL.
Odyssey, TedXUF conference, The university auditorium, Gainesville FL.
Black space, Moisturizer Gallery, The Historic Thomas Centre, Gainesville FL.
Veiled, Hooded and Hidden, GFAA Gallery, Gainesville, FL.
Aging -passage of life, virtual exhibition juried by Exhibizone.
A Ball Court, Crocodiles, virtual exhibition juried by I Like Your Work
- 2019 *KNUST Tratech Exhibition*, Royal Parade Grounds, KNUST, Kumasi, Ghana
- 2018 *Conventional Metal Fabrication Exhibition*, IRAI Gallery, Kumasi, Ghana
- 2017 *Leather Mask Exhibition*, Royal Parade Grounds, KNUST, Kumasi, Ghana

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Performances

2026 *Weaving our haven*, Gary R. Libby University Gallery, Gainesville Fl.

2024 *Fluxus in the swamp – Piano activities* written by Philip Corner, Santa Fe College Gallery, Gainesville, FL
with artist Bibbe Hansen, Billie Maciunas, Craig Coleman etc.

Bibliography (/Articles/Catalogues/Magazines)

Journals

Rebecca Martin Nagy; What is Their Secret? Artists from KNUST at American Universities. *African Arts* 2025; 58 (3): 1–11. doi: <https://doi.org/10.1162/AFAR.e.24>

Online Periodicals

Emerging artists step into the spotlight at Morean Arts Center annual showcase. (2025, March 26). *Tampa Bay Newspapers*. [Link](#)

Avlonitis, M. (2024, September 25). Destroyed piano, meteor dust redefining art at Santa Fe college gallery. *WUFT News and Public Media for North Central Florida*. Retrieved December 20, 2024, from [Link](#).

Voleer Thomas, *Black Space Art Exhibition*, The Gainesville Sun. [Link](#)

Seghi, M., & Burns, A. B. (2024, January 22). Gainesville celebrates black creative expression during Afrofuturism week. *The Independent Florida Alligator*. Retrieved from [Link](#)

Catalogues

B24: Wiregrass Biennial, 2024 Wiregrass Museum, Dothan Alabama. [Link](#)

Fresh Squeezed 9: Emerging Artists in Florida, 2025 Morean Arts Center, St. Petersburg Florida. [Link](#)

Magazines

Christina Massey, *New Visionary Magazine*, issue 9, January 2024 (p.74). [Link](#)

Featured Artist, *Artist Closeup Contemporary Magazine #15*, February 2024 (p.52) [Link](#)

Websites

Fluxus Scores, Performances and Reflections on Fluxus in the Swamp. Harn Museum of Art. (2024, September). [Link](#)

Center for African Studies. (n.d.). *Celebrating Migration, and Expression at Arts Across Africa*. UF Liberal Arts and Sciences. [Link](#)

Student Workshop Fashion Power: Knotting Narratives. Harn Museum of Art. (2025, January). [Link](#)

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Lectures, Artist Talk, Workshops Led and Panel Discussion

- 2025 Artist Lecture, Art of Africa, Oak Hammock Institute for Learning in Retirement, Gainesville FL.
Workshop, University of Florida, Workshop for Art Research and Practice, Gainesville FL
Workshop, Morean Art Centre, St. Petersburg FL
Workshop, Harn Museum of Art, Gainesville FL.
Artist Talk, Fresh Squeezed 9: Emerging Artist, Virtual.
Artist Talk, Museum Night- Art Across Africa, Harn Museum of Art, Gainesville FL.
- 2024 Lecture, African clothing and African Sculpture Art, East side High School, Gainesville FL.
Performers Panel discussion, Fluxus in the swamp-Piano activities, Harn Museum Gainesville FL.

Residencies

- 2025 Penland School of Craft, Bakersville, North Carolina, June 15 - 27, 2025
2024 Arrowmont School of Art and Craft, Gatlinburg, Tennessee, July 28 - August 2, 2024.

Technical Abilities

- 2023 Wood shop assistant, School of Art and Art History, University of Florida
2018-19 Rhinoceros 3D Software, Teaching Assistant, Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and
Technology, Kumasi, Ghana
2017 Intern, St. Ben's Jewellery KSI, Ghana