

# Joy Okokon

Springfield, MO

Email: [Joymokokon28@gmail.com](mailto:Joymokokon28@gmail.com)

Website: <https://joyokokon.com>

## Education

- 2022 - Expected date of Graduation, May 2025  
MFA Visual Studies Candidate, Missouri State University,  
Springfield, MO
- 2021 MA in Art, Department of Art, Eastern Illinois University Charleston, IL
- 2018 BA in Industrial Arts, Ceramics, Department of Industrial Art, Kwame  
Nkrumah University of Science and Technology (KNUST), Kumasi, Ghana

## Exhibitions

### Solo

- 2024 *Cultural Significance of Hair Braiding in Nigeria, Roots & Rhythm Tales from Africa* (Outdoor event) Missouri State University, Springfield MO
- Go back and Fetch*, 2024 United Efik National Convention, Lansing MI
- 2023 *Ethnic Identity*, Tour of the Globe, Regional, Jim Morris Center, Springfield, MO
- 2018 *BA Thesis Exhibition*, Industrial Art Ceramics Gallery, International, KNUST, Kumasi, Ghana

### Two Person

- 2013 *GAG Clothing line*, Ceramic Jewelry Exhibition, and sales, Silverbird Mall, Abuja, Nigeria.
- 2009 *Jewelry Exhibition*, Agura Hotel, Abuja, Nigeria

### Group

- 2025 *NCECA Student Exhibition*, Juried, Utah Museum of Contemporary Art, UT. Nicole Seisler and Adrienne Eliades (Juror). (forthcoming)
- Expo 44 International Juried Competition*, B. J Spoke Gallery, Virtual Exhibition. Emily Olek (Juror) (Forthcoming)
- 2024 *Sight Lines, The 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual MSU Graduate Student Arts Exhibition*, Obelisk Gallery, Springfield, MO

- Student Exhibition*, Juried, Carolla Exhibition Center, Springfield MO
- NCECA Student Exhibition*, Juried, Visual Arts Center of Richmond VA  
April Felipe and Jennifer Zwilling (Juror).
- Small Works Synchronous*, Iowa Lakes Community College, Estherville IA
- 2023 *Collective / Differences*, Obelisk Gallery, Springfield, MO
- Student Award*, The Seward Johnson Atelier, Juried, Hamilton, NJ
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Show Your Color*, Creamery Art Center, Regional, Springfield, MO
- Off Center – An International Ceramic Art Competition*, Blue Line Arts, Juried, Roseville CA
- Within – Without Exhibition*, Glenn Hild Student Art Gallery, Charleston, IL
- Juried Student Exhibition*, Brick City Gallery, Springfield, MO
- 2022 *Make to know*, Brick City Gallery, Springfield, MO
- Mo-Ky Mud 2: A Collaborative Exhibition of Contemporary Ceramics*, Corolla Arts and Exhibition Center, Invited, Springfield, MO.
- Mattoon Art Works*, Ceramic Jewelry Exhibition, and sales, Mattoon Art and Council, Mattoon IL
- Clas-Spring Fest*, Ceramic Jewelry Exhibition, and sales, Doudna, Fine Art Center, Charleston IL
- What Are You Thinking*, Tarble Art Center, Charleston, IL
- Open House Exhibition*, Graduate studio, Eastern Illinois University, Charleston, IL
- 2018 *Unveiling the Art in Nature*, Industrial Art Ceramics Gallery, Kumasi, Ghana

### **Scholarships, Grants and Awards**

- 2025 21<sup>st</sup> Annual NCECA Graduate Student Fellowship, Boulder, CO. \$2,000
- 2024 2024 Kaabo Clay Awardee at the 4th Annual Kaabo Award for Black Ceramicists in Sarasota, FL. \$2500

Juried Student Exhibition Award, Best Graduate, Carolla Exhibition Center, Springfield MO. Steve Snell (Juror). \$100

2024 NCECA Juried Student Exhibition, Studio Potter Merit Award, Visual Arts Center of Richmond VA. April Felipe and Jennifer Zwilling (Jurors).

Nominated for the Judy Award, Reynolds College, Missouri State University, Springfield MO

2023 Thesis Funding Award, Graduate College, Missouri State University, Springfield MO, \$500

Nominated for the Judy Award, Reynolds College, Missouri State University, Springfield MO

Arrowmont + Windgate Foundation Scholarship Award, Gatlinburg, TN, to attend Indigo Adire workshop. \$400

Student Achievement Funding Award, Reynolds College of Art and Letters, Springfield, MO, \$400

RCASH Student Achievement Funding Award, Art and Design Department, Springfield, MO, \$400

2022 Outstanding Student Achievement in Contemporary Sculpture Award, International, Sculpture Center, Juried, International, Hamilton, New Jersey (270 Student nominated, 570 images of sculpture, 13 awardees)

## Teaching Experience

2024 - Ceramics 1, Instructor of Record, Missouri State University, Springfield MO

2022 - 2023 3D foundation, Instructor of Record, Art and Design Department, Missouri State University, Springfield, MO

2021 - 2022 Art Foundation, Teaching Assistant, Doudna Art Center, Eastern Illinois University, Charleston, IL

2015 Bead- Making Course, Instructor, *Tabitha Women Empowerment*, Abuja, Nigeria,

2014 Art and Craft Summer School, instructor, Premier International School, Abuja, Nigeria, (June – July)

## **Pedagogy Art Exhibition**

- 2024                    *2024 Foundation Exhibition*, Brick City Gallery, Springfield MO
- 2022                    *Introduction to Art Spring Exhibition*, Glenn Hild Gallery, Charleston IL

## **Professional Experience**

- 2024 -                    Secretary, West African Student Association, Missouri State University, Springfield MO
- President, Clay works Student Association, Missouri State University, Springfield MO
- Ceramic Studio Technician, Art and Design Department, Missouri State University, Springfield MO
- Engagement Manager, Graduate Student of Visual Studies Organization, Art & Design Department, Missouri State University, Springfield MO
- 2023                    Gallery Assistant, Carolla Art Exhibition Center, Springfield, MO, (January – December)
- 2022                    Gallery Assistant, Brick City Gallery, Springfield, MO, (August – December)

## **Technical Abilities**

- Proficient:**
- Ceramics Studio Technician: Extensive operational and safety knowledge of potter's wheels, coil extruders, slab rolling machines, and throwing tools.
  - Clay and Glaze Preparation: Clay mixing and glaze making, including application techniques and color formulation.
  - Kiln Firing: Electric firing, including firing schedules, maintenance, and troubleshooting.
  - Sculpture Equipment: Jig and bandsaw, radial arm saw, steel cutter, steel rolling machine, sanders, drills, and welding machines.
  - Batik Dyeing: Expertise in hot and cold batik dyeing techniques, including fabric preparation and pattern creation.
  - Hair Braiding: Skilled in braiding and styling hair textures from 2b-2c, 3a-3c, and 4a-4c.
  - Computer Technologies: Microsoft Office Suite (Excel, Word, PowerPoint), Teams, Google meet, Zoom for remote meetings and collaboration.

**Intermediate:** - Wood & Gas Kiln Firing: Familiarity with loading, firing, and monitoring wood & gas kilns

**Novice:** - Digital Design: Rhinoceros 3D software for modeling and prototyping.  
- Sculpture Fabrication: Developing proficiency in advanced techniques for complex sculpture assembly and finishes.

## Research Engagement

### Workshops, Lectures, and Conferences attended:

- 2025 NCECA 59<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference, *Formation*, Salt Lake City, UT (Forthcoming)
- 2024 NCECA 58<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference *Coalescence*, Richmond VA
- 14<sup>th</sup> Annual Everson Ceramic Arts Lecture, Sana Musasama, Everson, Museum of Art
- 2023 Angelica Pozo, Lecture, Zoom meeting via Ceramic Exchange with Women in Ghana (CEWIG)
- Linda Thompson, Lecture, Zoom meeting via Ceramic Exchange with Women in Ghana (CEWIG)
- International Sculpture Center, Conference, Hamilton, NJ
- Adeyemo Textile Workshop, Arrowmont School of Art and Craft, Gatlinburg, TN
- Batik Making Workshop, Nike Art Gallery, Abuja, Nigeria
- Linda Hair Artistry, Workshop, Utako Plaza, Abuja Nigeria
- Britt Ransom, Lecture, Jay Wasson Idea Loft, Springfield, MO
- Selina Trepp, Lecture, Jay Wasson Idea Loft, Springfield, MO
- 2022 NCECA 57<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference, *Current*, Cincinnati, OH
- Micha Cardenas, Zoom Lecture, Doudna Fine Art Center, Charleston, IL
- Rafel E. Vera, Artist Lecture, Tarble Art Center, Charleston, IL

- 2021 Touch me, A Flat File Exhibition, Tarble Art Center, Charleston, IL  
Yoko Ono, Mend Piece, Organized by the American Federation of Art,  
Tarble Art Center, Charleston, IL

## **Professional Service**

- 2024 Volunteer, NCECA Coalescence, Richmond VA
- 2023 Volunteer, NCECA Current, Cincinnati, OH  
Volunteer, STEM Awareness, Missouri State University, Springfield MO  
Volunteer, Clay works Christmas sales, Art and Design department, Missouri State University, Springfield MO  
Volunteer, Tour of the Globe, International Student Services, Missouri State University, Springfield MO
- 2022 - 2023 Vice President, Graduate Student of Visual Studies Organization, Art & Design Department, Missouri State University, Springfield, MO
- 2022 Volunteer, Tour of the Globe, International Student Services, Missouri State University, Springfield MO  
Volunteer, Clay works Christmas sales, Art and Design department, Missouri State University, Springfield MO

## **Lectures and Demonstrations**

- 2024 Moderator, *Past Present Future*, Ceramic Exchange for Women in Ghana (CEWIG), Virtual meeting.  
Highschool workshop, Ceramics, Art and Design Department, Missouri State University, Springfield MO  
Roundtable Discussion, 19<sup>th</sup> Triennial Symposium of African Art, *A Ghanaian-United States Nexus in Art Pedagogy and Practice*, Art institute of Chicago and DePaul University Conference Center, IL  
Arts Lecture, Ceramic Exchange for Women in Ghana (CEWIG), Virtual meeting.
- 2023 Panel discussion, Teaching Pedagogy class, Art & Design Department, Missouri State University, Springfield, MO.

*8<sup>th</sup> Annual 3MT Competition*, Top Tier Four - Reynolds College of Arts and Letters, Missouri State University, Springfield MO

*8<sup>th</sup> Annual 3MT Competition*, Top Tier Five - Arts and Design Department, Missouri State University, Springfield, MO

2022 *7<sup>th</sup> Annual 3MT Competition*, Top Tier Four - Reynolds College of Arts and Letters, Missouri State University, Springfield, MO

*7<sup>th</sup> Annual 3MT Competition*, Top Tier Five - Arts and Design Department, Missouri State University, Springfield, MO

Panel discussion, *Within – Without Exhibition*, Glenn Hild Student Art Gallery, Charleston, IL

Arts Lecture, *Latino /a/x Art*, The Multicultural Resource Center, Missouri State University, Springfield, MO

2018 Instructor, Bead – Making Course, *Tabitha Woman Empowerment*, Abuja, Nigeria (June – July)

### **Donation**

2024 Contributed artwork to “Artaxis and Ceramic Exchange for Women in Ghana (CEWIG)” raising over \$5,000 to purchase art supply for Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology, Kumasi GH.

Contributed artwork to “Kaabo Clay Collectives” raising over \$12,000, for the 2024 Kaabo Award fundraiser for Black Artist.

### **Publication**

2018 Joy Okokon, “Exploration of Surface Decoration to Enhance the Value of Indigenous Ghanaian Pottery” *Scholars Journal of Arts, Humanities and Social Science*, 2018; 6(7): 1459-1464. DOI: 10.21276/sjahss.2018.6.7.16

### **Bibliography**

- 2024 Joy Okokon, Unified Efik National Convention Magazine, Pg 66 – 67, July 2024
- Joy Okokon, NCECA Coalescence Juried Student Magazine, Pg 182-183, March 2024
- 2023- Joy Okokon, Kaboo Clay Collectives,  
<https://www.kaaboclay.org/directory>
- Joy Okokon, *Show Your Colors*, Springfield Regional Arts Council  
 March 2022 - <https://www.springfieldarts.org/show-your-colors/>
- Joy Okokon, 2022, *Outstanding Student, Achievement in Contemporary Sculpture Award*, Sculpture, Vol 24/no 1, January / February 2023, Page 12
- 2022- Joy Okokon, *Life and Work with Joy Okokon*, Voyage Ohio, August 2023, Bibliography
- <https://voyageohio.com/interview/life-work-with-joy-okokon-of-springfield-mo/>
- Joy Okokon, *Black artist making magic*, The Daily Eastern News, Vol.106 | No.77, February 2022, Page 4

## Membership

- 2024 - Springfield Regional Arts Council (SRAC)
- Art Council of the African Studies Association (ACASA)
- 2023 - Kaabo Clay Collectives
- 2022 - Ceramic Exchange with Women in Ghana (CEWIG)
- International Sculpture Center (ISC), Hamilton, NJ
- National Council on Education for Ceramics Arts (NCECA), Boulder, CO
- 2021- Nka Ima Obio Efik Inc, Reno / Lake Tahoe



## References

Kevin Hughes  
Associate Professor  
[kevinhughes@missouristate.edu](mailto:kevinhughes@missouristate.edu)  
+14178372342

Deidra Argyle  
Associate Professor  
[dargyle@missouristate.edu](mailto:dargyle@missouristate.edu)  
+14178372342

Steve Willis  
Professor  
[stevewillis@missouristate.edu](mailto:stevewillis@missouristate.edu)  
+14178366693