

# ZAK OVÉ

Born 1966, London. Lives and works in Spain and UK

## EDUCATION

Graduated 1987, Film as Fine Art, Bachelor of Arts, St. Martin's School of Art, London, UK

## CURATION

2019 Sole curator. Get Up, Stand Up Now: Generations of Black Creative Pioneers, Somerset House, London, UK

## PUBLIC & PRIVATE COMMISSIONS

2025 Black Starliner, Louvre, Abu Dhabi, UAE  
2024 Jumbie Jubilation, Ruby Hotel facade, Notting Hill Gate, London, UK  
2021 Moko Jumbie, Art Gallery of Ontario (AGO), Toronto, Canada  
2020 The Mothership Connection, Holualoa Sculpture Reserve, Kona, Hawaii  
2020 The Invisible Man and the Masque of Blackness, Somerset House Courtyard, London UK  
2018 Autonomous Morris, Tishman Speyer, Smithson Plaza, London, UK  
2018 Facebook, FB AIR Commission, London, UK  
2015 Moko Jumbies, Great Hall, British Museum  
2013 Time Tunnel, Glasstress, Fondazione Berengo, Venice, Italy

## SOLO EXHIBITIONS

2024 Exodus, Museum of London Docklands, London, UK  
2024 Virulent Strain, CAAM, Gran Canaria, Spain  
2024 Abeba Esse, Saatchi Gallery, Chelsea Flower Show, London, UK  
2024 The Mothership Connection, The Shepherd, Detroit, USA  
2023 'Lost Soul' Sculpture Intervention, Walker Art Gallery, Liverpool Museum, UK  
2023 Comments on Cosmology, County Gallery, Palm Springs, Florida, USA  
2022 The Evidence Of Things Not Seen, De Buck Gallery, Saint-Paul-De-Vence, France  
2021 Canboulay, De Buck Gallery, New York City, USA  
2021 Autonomous Morris, Design Museum, London, UK  
2019 The Invisible Man and the Masque of Blackness, Rodin's Garden, Los Angeles County Museum of Art (LACMA), Los Angeles, USA  
2018/2019 Autonomous Morris, Tishman Speyer, Economist Plaza, St James, London, UK  
2018/2019 The Invisible Man and the Masque of Blackness, New Art Centre, Wiltshire, UK  
2018 The Invisible Man and the Masque of Blackness, San Francisco Civic Centre Plaza, San Francisco, USA  
2018 Starliner, Lawrie Shabibi, Dubai, UAE  
2017/2018 The Invisible Man and the Masque of Blackness, Yorkshire Sculpture Park, Wakefield, UK  
2017 Moko Jumbies, Africa Galleries, Sainsbury Wing, The British Museum, London, UK  
2016 Modern Forms, Untitled, Miami, USA  
2016 The Invisible Man and the Masque of Blackness, 1:54 Contemporary African Art Fair, Somerset House (Courtyard), London, UK  
2015 Celebrating Africa; Moko Jumbies, The British Museum, London, UK  
2014 Arms Around the Child', No1 Mayfair London, UK  
2013/2014 Speaker, Vigo Gallery, London, UK  
2010 Twice Is Too Much, The Freies Museum, Berlin, Germany  
2010 Past Future, Fine Art Society, London, UK

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## GROUP EXHIBITIONS

- 2024 The 80's: Photographing Britain, Tate Britain, London, UK
- 2024 One Nation Under a Groove, Bomb Factory, London, UK
- 2024 Surrealism and Us: Caribbean and African Diasporic Artists since 1940, Curated by Maria Elena Ortiz, The Modern Art Museum of Fort Worth, Texas, US
- 2024 Constellations, Curated by Katherine Finerty, Gallery 1957, London, UK
- 2023 Untitled Art Fair, Miami Beach, USA
- 2023 Filling in the Pieces in Black, Curated by June Sarpong, Maruani Mercier Gallery, Brussels, Belgium and Saatchi Gallery, London, UK
- 2023 The Mothership Connection, Frieze Sculpture 2023, Regents Park, London, UK
- 2023/2024 The Missing Thread, Curated by BOLD. East Wing Galleries, Somerset House London, UK
- 2023 1-54 African Art Fair, Curated by Caryl Ivrisse Crochemar & [creative renegade society], Christie's, London, UK
- 2023 Sparkling Islands, Another Postcard of the Caribbean. Curated by Caryl Ivrisse Crochemar & [creative renegade society], 1-54 Presents, New York, USA
- 2023 Design East, Dubai, UAE
- 2022/2023 Beth De Woody Private Collection Exhibition, Curated by Thelma Golden and Anne Pasternak, at The Bunker, Miami, USA
- 2021/2022 Still, Life! Mourning, Meaning, Mending. 21c Museum Hotel Louisville, Louisville, USA
- 2021 Life Between Islands: Caribbean-British Art 50s- Now, Tate Britain, London, UK
- 2021 Summer Exhibition, The Royal Academy of The Arts, London, UK
- 2021 Fragments of Epic Memory, Art Gallery of Ontario (AGO), Toronto, Canada
- 2021 Design Museum, Kensington and Chelsea Art Week (KCAW), London, UK
- 2021 Interior Infinite, The Polygon Gallery, North Vancouver, Canada
- 2019/2020 Refuge, 21C Museum Hotel, Bentonville, USA
- 2019 Utopian Imagination, Ford Foundation Gallery, New York, USA
- 2019 Autonomous Morris, Frieze Sculpture 2019, London, UK
- 2019 Get Up, Stand Up Now, Somerset House, London, UK
- 2019 The Armory Show, Focus, Lawrie Shabibi, New York, USA
- 2018 Resignifications: The Black Mediterranean, University of Palermo, Palermo, Italy
- 2018 Talisman in an Age of Difference, Stephen Friedman Gallery, London, UK
- 2018 Eco Visionaries, MAAT Museum, Lisbon, Portugal
- 2018 Reclamation! Pan-African Works from the Beth Rudin De Woody Collection, Taubman Museum of Arts, Roanoke, Virginia, USA
- 2017/2018 Lots in Spite of the Swamp, Prospects, 4, New Orleans, USA
- 2017 Textures and Patterns, Quint Gallery, San Diego, USA Contemporary Istanbul, Istanbul, Turkey
- 2017 Contemporary Istanbul, Istanbul, Turkey
- 2017 Summer Exhibition, The Royal Academy of The Arts, London, UK
- 2017 1:54 Contemporary African Art Fair, Pioneer Works, New York, USA
- 2016 Art Basel | Film Sector Curated by David Gryn | A Land So Far | Miami, USA
- 2016 The Arts of Global Africa Collection Newark Museum USA
- 2015 1:54 Contemporary African Art Fair, Somerset House, London, UK
- 2015 David Roberts Art Foundation, London, UK
- 2013/2014 Chaos into Clarity: Re-Possessing a Funktioning Utopia, Sharjah Art Foundation, Dubai, UAE
- 2013 1:54 Contemporary African Art Fair, Somerset House, London
- 2013 Glasstress 'White Light / White Heat,' Venice Biennale, Venice
- 2012 London Twelve, City of Prague Museum. Czech Republic

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2012 The Future Can Wait, Charlie Smith, London, UK  
2012 Voices of Home, Jenkins Johnson Gallery, New York, USA  
2011 Karen Jenkins Johnson Gallery, Texas contemporary fair, Houston  
2011 LA Platform, Karen Jenkins Johnson Gallery, Los Angeles, USA  
2011 Sculpture today - New Forces New Forms, Frederik Meijer Sculpture Park, Michigan, USA  
2011 Carnival and Masquerade, Musee Dapper, Paris, France  
2011 The Minotaur, Lazarides Gallery, Old Vic Tunnels, London, UK  
2011 Go Tell it to the Mountain, 3D Sculpture Park, Verbier, Switzerland  
2011 Africa See You See me, Li – Space, Beijing, China  
2011 Stephen Burks | Are You A Hybrid, Museum of Art and Design, New York, USA  
2011 Encounters of Bamako, Fundacao Calouste Gulbenkian, Lisbon, Portugal  
2011 Fine Arts Society, Volta NY, New York, USA  
2011 Africa: See You, See Me, Fondazione Studio Maragoni, Florence, Italy  
2011 Africa: See You, See Me, Officine Fotografiche, Rome, Italy  
2010 Fesman, World Festival of Black Arts, Dakar, Senegal  
2010 Encounters of Bamako, B-Gallery European centre for Contemporary Art, Brussels  
2010 Encounters of Bamako, Johannesburg Art Gallery, Johannesburg, South Africa  
2010 We Are Not Witches, The Saatchi Gallery, London, UK  
2010 Tough Love, Plataforma Revólver, Lisbon, Portugal  
2010 Encounters of Bamako, Panafrican Exhibition tour, Foto Museum, Antwerp

## SELECTED DIRECTED FILMS

2010 A Land So Far, film installation, Afrodizzia, by Chris Ofili, Tate Britain, London, UK  
2002 I Have A Dream, Independent Short Film  
2002 Wonderful World, PSA short film for the Anti Racist Alliance campaign, UK national cinema  
2002 Guinness campaign, Cinema, TV and Print, featuring Lee Scratch Perry, Ireland

## SCREENINGS AND FILM FESTIVALS

2016 A Land So Far, Art Basel, Film Sector Curated by David Gryn, Miami, USA  
2016 The Arts of Global Africa Collection, Newark Museum USA  
2013 Cutlog, New York, USA  
2005 Peter Doig's Studio Film Club, Ludvig Museum, Cologne, Germany  
2005 Peter Doig's Studio Film Club, Kunsthal Museum, Zurich, Switzerland  
2004 Peter Doig's Studio Film Club, Trinidad  
2003 Africa in the Picture, Amsterdam, Netherlands  
2003 African Film Festival, New York, USA  
2002 BFM Short Film Festival, London, UK  
2003 UK Melvin Van Peebles Festival, San Francisco, USA  
2003 Milan African Film Festival, Milan, Italy  
2002 Toronto Film Festival, Toronto, Canada  
2002 Venice Film Festival, Venice, Italy

## AWARDS

2003 Milan African Film Festival, Italy: Cinit Award, Best Short Film  
2002 Black Film & TV Awards, UK: Best Short Film /Best Short Film Director /Best New Talent  
2002 SoHo Images, UK: Best Short Film

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## COLLECTIONS

Brooklyn Museum, NY, USA  
Bimpe Nkontchou Collection, London, UK  
Ceyda Ulasa, Turkey  
Museum of London Docklands, London, UK  
Alain Nkontchou Collection, France  
Art Gallery of Ontario, Toronto, Canada  
International Slavery Museum, Liverpool, UK  
21C Museum Hotels, USA  
Royal Ontario Museum, Toronto Canada  
Beth De Woody Collection, New York, USA  
British Museum, London, UK  
David Roberts Art Foundation, London, UK  
Frédéric de Goldschmidt, Brussels, Belgium  
Jameel Collection, Saudi Arabia  
Levett Collection, London, UK  
Modern Forms Collection, London, UK  
Newark Museum, Newark, USA  
Pizzuti Collection, Columbus, USA  
Hadeel Ibrahim Collection, Lisbon, Portugal

## RESIDENCIES

2011 The 3D Foundation, Sculpture Residency, Verbier, Switzerland  
2007 Caribbean Contemporary Arts, Trinidad: sponsored by the A. Warhol Foundation, New York, USA

## PUBLICATIONS

Michket Krifa and Laura Serani, Encounters of Bamako 9: The African Photography Biennial, 2009, Paris

## BIBLIOGRAPHY Online

### 2025

Feb 25, Aletihad, [Ové's Black Starliner reimagines black identity through an Afrofuturist lens in Abu Dhabi](#)

### 2024

Dec 12, Forbes, [8 Exhibitions to see in London this winter, from African diaspora to electric dreams and Picasso](#)

Nov 07, CAAM ["Zak Ové: Virulent Strain / Cepa virulenta"](#)

Oct, 23, [LONDON MUSEUM DOCKLANDS ANNOUNCES THE OPENING OF THE REFLECTIONS ROOM WITH A DISPLAY FROM ARTIST ZAK OVÉ](#)

Jun 20, Artlyst [Zak Ové Unveils Glass Mosaic for new Public Artwork in Notting Hill Gate, London](#)

May KCAW, [Art Trail locations Zak Ové](#)

May 24, Artplugged [Lee Sharrock In Conversation with Zak Ové](#)

April 07, Trinidad and Tobago Newsday, [Across Continents-Zak Ové preserves fathers artistic legacy](#)

April 04, Saatchi Gallery, [Saatchi Gallery announces 2024 RHS Chelsea Flower Show Garden with British-Caribbean Artist Zak Ové](#)

### 2023

Oct 14, Alt Africa, ["Zak Ové Lands in Frieze Sculpture London: 'The Mothership Connection'"](#)

Oct, The Spaces, ["Frieze London is 20: what to see at the Art Fair and beyond on its milestone edition"](#)

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Oct 13, The Art Newspaper, [“Zak Ové: ‘I learned that the important thing is never to be shut down’”](#)  
Oct 12, The Art Newspaper, [“‘I can buy a work by looking at it on my phone’: Nana Sao on being decisive with his collecting”](#)  
Oct 02, Sotheby's, [“An Insider's Guide to Frieze Week in London”](#)  
Sept 21, Artnet, [“Frieze Sculpture Opens, Unveiling 20 Stunning Artworks in London's Art Oasis at the Regent's Park”](#)  
Sept 20, Time Out, [“Frieze Sculpture 2023 is the best outdoor art you'll see this autumn”](#)  
Sept 20, Financial Times, [“Artist Zak Ové on his totem pole-cum-space rocket for Frieze Sculpture”](#)  
Sept 15, Art News Africa, [“Gallery 1957, London Presents “The Mothership Connection” by Zak Ové at Frieze Sculpture”](#)

## 2022

July 27, AGO Insider, [ICYMI: Freedom and Folklore](#)  
April 5, Aspire, [“Zak Ové Elevates The Humble Crocheted Doily To High Spirited Art”](#)

## 2021

Dec 01, Foyer, [“Freedom and folklore”](#)  
Nov 15, Artnet, [“Spotlight: See How British-Trinidadian Artist Zak Ové Finds Freedom in Reimagining the Histories of Carnival and Textile Craft”](#)  
Sept 15, Christie's, [“In Partnership with Aindrea Emelife, New Exhibition, ‘Bold, Black & British’, will Showcase the Legacy and Influence of Black British Artists, 1-21 October 2021”](#)

## 2019

Sept, Arts and Culture Google, [“Power to the People: Curator Zak Ové introduces Get Up, Stand Up Now”](#)  
July 29, , Art and Object, [“LACMA Presents Zak Ové's First Solo Exhibition in Los Angeles”](#)  
July 11, Africanah, [“Zak Ové, artist, curator of Get Up, Stand Up Now”](#)  
June 14, Financial Times, [“Jewels from the Windrush: Get Up, Stand Up Now at Somerset House”](#)  
June 14, Afropunk, [“Artist Zak Ové On Curating ‘Get Up, Stand Up Now’”](#)

## 2018

Nov, SF Arts Commission, [“Civic Center Plaza to Host Major Installation by Celebrated Artist Zak Ové”](#)

## 2017

March 31, The Art Newspaper, [“British Museum permanently installs first Caribbean art commission: Zak Ové's Moko Jumbie sculptures now stand in the Africa Galleries”](#)

## 2016

Nov 01, The Art Newspaper, [“Nubian masked army could go on tour before heading to new UK sculpture park”](#)  
Oct 08, The Art Newspaper, [“Africa comes to the Home Counties”](#)  
Oct 07, Financial Times, [“The Art Market: London hosts Frieze and 1:54 African art fair”](#)