

IMO NSE IMEH

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Education

Yale University, New Haven, CT

Doctor of Philosophy, Art History; May 2009

Master of Arts, Art History; May 2005

Columbia University, New York, NY

Bachelor of Arts, Art History; May 2002

Present Work

Associate Professor of Art & Art History, Westfield State University, Westfield, MA

Publications

Daughters of Seclusion: The Revelation of the Ibibio "Fattened Bride" as the Icon of Beauty and Power (Peter Lang Publishing, 2012)

"Hip Sistas in Flux: Globetrotting Maidens, Black Diaspora Shifts, and the Visual-Lingual Braid in Victor Ekpuk's 'Mbobbo Series'" in *African Graphics, Signs and Cultures: The World of Victor Ekpuk*, ed. Falola, Toyin (2018)

"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 Rösenthaller (Africa World Press, 2011), in *African Arts*, Volume 49, Issue 1, Spring 2016

Recent Recognition/ Features

PBS News Hour: Art Canvas

Aug. 3, 2020. Feature Story: "This Painter's Work-in-progress Resonated after George Floyd's Death," by Ross Lippman, New England Public Media

OPEN STUDIO with Jared Brown (WGBH Media, Boston)

July 2020. Host Jared Bowen presents new projects by Yinka Shonibare, Imo Imeh, and a retrospective exhibition of Jacob Lawrence.

New England Public Media

June 1, 2020. Requested Commentary: "Rioters Need Our Prayers and Activism—Not Our Criticism," written and delivered by Imo Imeh

Black Art in America

Jan. 22, 2020. Feature Article: "A Voice for the Voiceless: The Artwork of Imo Nse Imeh," by Gina Beavers

New England Public Media (NEPM)

Feb. 12, 2018. Feature Story about *17 Years Boy*: "Public Painting of Trayvon Martin Sparks Conversations about Racism on Campus," by Jill Kaufman.

AISSLIN Magazine (Cover Story, Cover Image)

Spring 2019, Issue 005, *The Color Issue*

Cover Story: "Dr. Imo Nse Imeh: Exploring the Invisibility of Black Children Through Art"

Cover Image: *Ovation*, 2018

Valley Advocate Podcast

Feb. 6, 2018. Featured in the inaugural Valley Advocate Podcast: *A Chat with Provocative Artist Imo Imeh*. "Hear Imeh's take on the increase of racially charged language and incidents both locally and throughout the country, as well as his efforts to address the topic through his art."

Valley Advocate

Feb. 6, 2018. "Forgotten Girls: Lives in Peril," by Gina Beavers. Review of Imo Imeh's solo exhibition *Forgotten Girls: Black Heroines on the Edge of Darkness and Hope*

Westfield State University, Campus Scholarship Showcase Award

2018 Recipient of the Westfield State University Campus Scholarship Showcase Award, in recognition of *17 Years Boy: Images, Sounds, and Words Inspired by the Life and Death of a Young Black Boy*.

African Arts Journal

Autumn 2014, Vol. 47, No. 3. Review of *Daughters of Seclusion: the Revelation of the Ibibio "Fattened Bride" as the Icon of Beauty and Power*

Transition Magazine (International African Diaspora arts/culture journal)

Summer 2014, Issue 114. Feature: *Flying Home with Laura Nelson* (120 x 96 Inches, Charcoal, Oil and Acrylic on Canvas, 2012). Featured artists for this issue include Barkley L. Hendricks, Kehinde Wiley, Allison Janae Hamilton, Brianna McCarthy, Meshac Gaba, Imo Nse Imeh, Marcia Kure, and Mickalene Thomas.

Eight New-Generation African Poets: A Chapbook Box Set, ed. Dawes, Kwame, Akashic Books, 2015

Featured visual artist/ cover illustrator for this box set of eight books.

Recent Projects:

17 Years Boy: Images, Sounds, and Words Inspired by the Life and Death of a Young Black Boy

This project is an ephemeral portrait painting, and time-based, multimedia installation that is inspired by the life and untimely death of Trayvon Martin. The project speaks to the issue of Black boy subjugation in the United States, but also to the question of the black male spectacle in the public space.

Ten Little ~~Nigger~~ Girls/Boys Project

This series of large-scale drawings is a retelling of the 1907 children's book and nursery rhyme, *Ten Little Nigger Girls*, by Nora Case, which features a cast of ten black girls who are eliminated from the story one-by-one, sometimes in horrific ways (for example, one is burned alive, another is eaten by a bear). My project features contemporary black girls in various states of danger, in the present-day, in the spirit of education and conversation, to examine the language, history, and realities of race in America, and the unsettling ways in which black *children* specifically have been imagined in the American social economy over the past century.

5 Takes on African Art/ 42 Flags of Fred Wilson, University Museum of Contemporary Art Guest Curator, Curatorial Advisor

As a visiting curator and advisor for this exhibition, I have worked with graduate students and the director of the UMCA to imagine and organize this remarkable exhibition of the Charles Derby Collection of African Art, and Fred Wilson's *42 Flags* series of paintings. As an Africanist art historian by discipline, I have been able to provide my knowledge of African aesthetic objects and performances; as a writer and researcher, I served as "Editor-In-Chief" of wall labels, text panels, and exhibition brochure entries.

Selected Exhibitions

(Forthcoming) *Visible Man: Art and Black Male Subjectivity*, Fine Arts Center Galleries, Bowling Green State University, Bowling Green, Ohio, September – November 2021

Clarion Call: Poems and Paintings by Danny Simmons; Angels of 17 Years Boy by Imo Nse Imeh, Mariposa Museum, Oaks Bluff, MA, May – October 2021

We Are For Freedoms, University Museum of Contemporary Art, Umass Amherst, Amherst, MA, March 2021

Noir, Noir: Meditations on African Cinema and its Influence on Visual Art, Prizm Art Fair, November – December 2020

Ten Little ~~Nigger~~ Girls, Solo Exhibition, Rush Arts Gallery, Philadelphia, PA, January – February 2020

Breaching the Margins, Urban Institute for Contemporary Art, Grand rapids, MI, May – August 2019

17 Years Boy: Epilogue, Readywipe Gallery, Holyoke, MA, January – March 2019

Suicide Girl and Her Nine Sisters, Solo Exhibition, Western New England University Art Gallery, Springfield, MA, February 2019

Forgotten Girls: Black Heroines on the Edge of Darkness and Hope, Solo Exhibition, Von Auersperg Gallery, Deerfield, MA, January – February 2018

Ten Little ~~Nigger~~ Girls, Solo Exhibition, Arno Maris Gallery, Westfield State University, Westfield, MA, February 2016

Ten Little Nigger Girls: Works-In-Progress Exhibition, Solo Exhibition, Art For The Soul Gallery, Springfield, MA, Solo Exhibition, November—January 2016

Emefre: "You Have Forgotten," Solo Exhibition, Amy H. Carberry Fine Art Gallery, Springfield MA, Solo Exhibition, February 2015

The Catatonia Anthologies, African American Heritage Museum of Southern New Jersey, Solo Exhibition of recent projects, Atlantic City, NJ, August– September 2014

5 Narratives: Art at the MassMutual Center, MassMutual Center Gallery, Springfield, MA, April – October 2014

I Dreamed My People Were Calling But I Couldn't Find My Way Home, Rush Arts Gallery, NYC (Chelsea). Curated by Danny Simmons, the founder of Rush Arts, November 2012 – January 2013

Cadence: Narratives of Yesterday/ Tomorrow in Bride Residue, Solo Exhibition. Sisson Gallery, Mackenzie Fine Arts Center, Henry Ford Community College, Dearborn, MI., October – November 2010

Wearing Spirit: Aesthetically Personifying the Feminine in African Sacred Traditions, Caribbean Cultural Center of the African Diaspora Institute (CCCADI), New York, NY., February – May 2010

Converging Aesthetics: Counterpoint in Image & Text, Works by Imo Nse Imeh, Poetry by David Ragland, Solo Exhibition, Toledo Museum of Art & University of Toledo, Toledo, OH., February – March 2009

Selected Presentations/ Lectures:

"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, 2018

"Ten Little Nigger Girls, New Works by Imo Nse Imeh," Brown University, 2017

"Ten Little Nigger Girls, New Works by Imo Nse Imeh," American International College, 2016

"Igbo Maiden Spirit Masks: Considering *Agbogho Mmuo* and the persistence of the 'Maiden Spirit' in Southern Nigeria," Art Institute of Chicago, 2014

"Mechanisms in Uyai: Rewriting Her Body with Accoutrements of Beauty and Power," Panel: The Arts of Africa, Recent Issues and Trends, CAA 2010, 98th Annual Conference, Chicago, 2010

"Mechanisms in Uyai: Rewriting Her Body with Accoutrements of Beauty and Power," History of Art Department, Works In Progress (WIP) lecture, Yale University, 2009