

"Precious Okoyomon wins 2021 Frieze Artist Award at Frieze New York," *e-flux*, March 3, 2021

e-flux

Precious Okoyomon wins 2021 Frieze Artist Award at Frieze New York

Frieze



View of Precious Okoyomon, *Earthseed* at the Museum Für Moderne Kunst, Frankfurt, 2020. Courtesy of the artist, MUSEUM MMK FÜR MODERNE KUNST, Frankfurt, and Quinn Harrelson / Current Projects. Photo: Axel Schneider.

March 3, 2021

Precious Okoyomon wins 2021 Frieze Artist Award at Frieze New York

New York-based artist **Precious Okoyomon** is the winner of the 2021 Frieze Artist Award. Supported by the **Luma Foundation**, the award presents a major opportunity for an emerging artist to debut an ambitious new commission at Frieze New York. Launched in 2018, the initiative furthers the established program of Artist Award commissions at Frieze London. Previous

recipients of the award at Frieze New York include Lauren Halsey and Kapwani Kiwanga.

Okoyomon's commission was selected by a jury chaired by **Jenny Schlenzka** (Executive Artistic Director at Performance Space New York), and featuring **Ralph Lemon** (Artistic Director, Cross Performance), **Vassilis Oikonomopoulos** (Senior Curator, Luma Arles), and **Stuart Comer** (Chief Curator of Media and Performance Art, MOMA).

Loring Randolph, Director of Programming for Frieze New York said: "In recent years, the Frieze Artist Award in New York and Luma Foundation have debuted significant large-scale sculptures by leading international artists. In 2021, we could not be more excited to work with an exceptional New Yorker, Precious Okoyomon on realizing their live project in collaboration with The Shed. It has been hugely beneficial to work with Jenny Schlenzka of Performance Space, a leading institution moving boundaries in New York, and our expert jury who are the world's tastemakers in performance art amongst much more."

Jenny Schlenzka, Executive Artistic Director at Performance Space New York added: "The jury is proud to present Precious Okoyomon with the Frieze Artist Award. Simultaneously playful and critically inquisitive, this singular artist-poet's work highlights the inevitability of change, decay, death, and rebirth. By extending poetry into the organic world, Okoyomon reminds us that apocalypse and utopia coexist and always have."

For Frieze New York 2021, Okoyomon will present a performance-activated installation conceived specifically for The Shed. Extending their practice, Okoyomon's work will aim to create what the artist describes as "a portal for a space of fragilization." Convening poetry, sensory elements, sculpture, light, and sound, the work will celebrate self-expression and champion the value of shared, collective experience. The performance will be filmed and streamed online at Frieze.com from **May 5, 2021** onwards, allowing audiences across the globe to engage with the project.

The Frieze New York commission will coincide with Okoyomon's exhibition, *FRAGMENTED BODY PERCEPTIONS AS HIGHER VIBRATION FREQUENCIES TO GOD*, an installation that uses Kudzu ash, water, algae, moss, stone to transform Performance Space New York into a site for grief, mourning, and catharsis, from March 20 through to May 9, 2021. In addition, they will debut a major commission at The Aspen Art Museum (AAM), from June 10, 2021 through to October 16, 2022.

Precious Okoyomon is a poet, chef and artist living in New York City. They make portals into new worlds. Okoyomon has had institutional solo exhibitions at the Luma Westbau in Zurich (2018), and at the MMK in Frankfurt (2020), major performances commissioned by the Serpentine Galleries, London (2019) and the Institute of Contemporary Art, London (2019), and was an artist-in-residence at Luma Arles (2020). Okoyomon's second book, *But Did U Die?*, is forthcoming from The Serpentine Galleries/Wonder Press in 2021.