

LÉONARD PONGO

Born in 1988 in Liège, Belgium.

Lives and works in Brussels, Belgium, and, Kinshasa, Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC).

EDUCATION

BA in Political & Social Sciences

BA in Visual Arts: Photography

PUBLICATIONS

2023 *The Uncanny* (monograph), published by GOST Books, London, UK

Pongo's work has been published in The Wall Street Journal, The Guardian, The Washington Post, National Geographic, The New Yorker, Hart magazine and several other international publications.

FILMS

2024 *Tales from the Source*, 39'

2021 *Primordial Earth: Inhabiting the Landscape*, 8'26"

2013 *The Necessary Evil*, 11'19"

SOLO EXHIBITIONS

2026 *Solo show*, FOMU (Fotomuseum), Antwerp, Belgium

2023 *Solo booth at Art Brussels* (with Kristof De Clercq gallery), Brussels, Belgium

2022 *Primordial Earth – Interpretations*, Kristof De Clercq gallery, Ghent, Belgium

Enter 14: Léonard Pongo – Primordial Earth, Mu.ZEE, Ostend, Belgium

2021 *Strangely Familiar*, Foreign Agent, Lausanne, Switzerland

Primordial Earth – The Beginnings, The Agprognostic Temple, Brussels, Belgium

Léonard Pongo: Primordial Earth, Bozar, Brussels, Belgium

2015 *The Uncanny*, Contretype, Brussels, Belgium

GROUP EXHIBITIONS

2025 *BADAFF | Belgian Art & Design Affair*, Ghent, Belgium (with Kristof De Clercq gallery)

Second Nature: Photography in the Age of the Anthropocene, Cantor Arts Center at Stanford University, Stanford, US

Festival du Jeu de Paume 2e édition: Paysages Mouvants (curated by Jeanne Mercier - new commissioned work), Jeu de Paume, Paris, France

25 Arts Seconde: Soluble & Simulacrum, Centre Wallonie Bruxelles, Paris, France

2024 *Second Nature: Photography in the Age of the Anthropocene*, The Nasher Museum of Art, Duke University, Durham, US

In communion, La Septième Gallery with 31Project, Paris, France

Encounters - Black Rock Senegal Alumni cycle 3 & cycle 4 (curated by Jareh Das) for the *Dakar Biennial 'Off'*, Blaise Senghor Cultural Center, Dakar, Senegal

MK: 1-54 Art fair (special project group show with Black Rock Senegal), Marrakesh, Morocco

- 2023 *A World in Common: Contemporary African Photography* (curated by Osei Bonsu), Tate Modern, London, UK
Biennial Rencontres Photographiques de Guyane - 'Notre paysage est son propre monument', Saint-Louis, Guyana
11e Biennale De Photographie en Condroz, Marchin, Belgium
Contour Biennial of Moving Images - We Are Rooted But We Flow, Mechelen, Belgium
- 2022 *Horst Festival: The Act of Breathing*, Asiat, Vilvoorde, Belgium
Consume by, Museum Arnhem, Arnhem, the Netherlands
BredaPhoto Festival 2022: Theatre of Dreams, Breda, the Netherlands
Dak'Art 2022 Biennial: (Un)Charted Grounds, Dakar, Senegal
Je suis moi-même le soleil (curated by Liz Gomis), 31 PROJECT, Paris, France
- 2021 *PhotoVogue Festival*, Milan, Italy
My Whole Body Changed Into Something Else, Stevenson gallery, Cape Town & Johannesburg, South Africa
Presence: Five Contemporary African Photographers, The Photographers' Gallery, London, UK
Radically Naive / Naively Radical, Extra City, Antwerp, Belgium
Extractions, A Two Dogs Company, Brussels, Belgium
- 2020 *L'Afrique - Vue par les Photographes*, Patrimoine Culturel Mondial, Völklinger Hütte, Völklingen, Germany
Lagos Photo Festival: Home Museum, Lagos, Nigeria
The Photographic Collective, 1:54 African Art Fair, London, UK
Croyances : faire et défaire l'invisible, Institut des Cultures d'Islam, Paris, France
- 2019 *IncarNations* (curated by Kendell Geers & Sindika Dokolo), Bozar, Brussels, Belgium
6th Lubumbashi Biennale: Future Genealogies, Tales from the Equatorial Line, Lubumbashi, DR Congo
Rencontres de Bamako, Bamako, Mali
The New Jerusalem, VUB, Brussels, Belgium
31 Days of .TIFF - Highlighting Emerging Image Makers, FOMU, Antwerp, Belgium
- 2018 *The 3rd Beijing Photo Biennial*, CAFA Art Museum, Beijing, China
- 2017 *Rencontres d'Arles*, Arles, France
- 2016 *Lagos Photo Festival*, Lagos, Nigeria
Art Basel (with Edition POPCAP), Basel, Switzerland
Nuits de la Photo, Arles, France
- 2015 *Museum of Contemporary Art*, Rome, Italy
Noorderlicht Photo Festival, Groningen, the Netherlands
Delhi Photo Festival, Delhi, India
Fotofestiwal Łódź, Łódź, Poland
Edition POPCAP, Gallery Weekend Berlin, Kasino der Fahrbereitschaft, Berlin, Germany
- 2014 *CAP Prize 2014 winner with 'The Uncanny' in group show*, Basel, Vienna, Addis Ababa, Dublin, Lagos, Cape Town, and Mindelo

FILM SCREENINGS

- 2025 *Afropolitan Festival* (screening *Tales from The Source*), Bozar, Brussels, Belgium
Festival en ville (screening *Tales from The Source*), Brussels, Belgium
- 2024 *DOK Leipzig, Festival for Documentary and Animated Film / International Competition Documentary Film section* (screening *Tales from The Source*), Leipzig, Germany
International Film Premiere for Tales from The Source, Lisbon, Portugal

GRANTS X AWARDS

- 2025 *ArtReview's Future Greats 2025* (selected by Roger Ballen with *The Uncanny*)
- 2024 *Talia Transformation Fund for Documentary Innovation* New York, US
The Eiger African Photobook of the Year Awards (top 4 finalists), Geneva, Switzerland
- 2023 *CAP Prize for Contemporary African Photography*, Basel, Switzerland
- 2022 *Leica Oskar Barnack Award 2022* (shortlisted with *Primordial Earth*)
Film Lab, Flemish Community of Belgium, Film Production Grant
Walloon Community of Belgium, Film Production Grant
- 2021 *CAP Prize - The Contemporary African Prize* (shortlisted)
ICP/GOST First Photo Book Award, London, UK

- 2020 Meitar Award for Excellence in Photography (finalist)
Futur pour la culture, FWB
- 2019 Prix de l'OIF (Rencontres de Bamako) for innovative exhibition design and project
- 2018 Getty Reportage Grant 2018
- 2017 Visura Grant for outstanding Personal Project
NOOR agency
- 2016 PDN's 30 under 30 New and Emerging Photographers to Watch (in selection)
Vocatio Grant
- 2014 CAP Prize, Basel, Switzerland

RESIDENCIES

- 2023 Black Rock Senegal (Kehinde Wiley), Dakar, Senegal
- 2019 Le Point du Jour Art Centre, Cherbourg, France
Dokoutine, Bohicon, Benin
- 2016 KAS/Kin ArtStudio, Kinshasa, DR Congo
- 2013 Lubumbashi Art Biennale, Lubumbashi, DR Congo

COLLECTIONS

- KANAL–Centre Pompidou (Belgium)
- The Flemish Community (at FOMU in Belgium)
- Mu.ZEE (Belgium)
- The Chazen Museum of Art (US)
- Sindika Dokolo Foundation (Angola/Portugal)