

## 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

2025 *Apophenia* (part of Non-couché/Uncoated series), published by Maison CFC x ISELP, Brussels, Belgium

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 exhibition*, FOMU (Fotomuseum), Antwerp, Belgium

2025 *Solo exhibition*, Project LOOP, London, UK

*Solo installation at 1-54 Contemporary African Art Fair*, Somerset House, London, UK (with Project LOOP)

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 *Living Earth Festival*, Brussels, Belgium

*The Armory Show*, New York, US (with Retro Africa)

*Kunst & Zwalm 2025*, Zwalm region, Belgium

*Mirages* (duo show with Mégane Likin), Maison CFC, Brussels, Belgium

*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 *Lusinga* (screening *Tales from The Source*), Upemba National Park, Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC)  
*Bozar* (screening *Tales from The Source*), organised by Centre Vidéo de Bruxelles – CVB, Brussels, Belgium  
*Festival Rencontres Internationales Paris/Berlin* (screening *Tales from The Source*), Musée de la Chasse et de la Nature, Paris, France  
*Film Africa Festival* (screening *Tales from The Source*), London, UK  
*Art Cinema OFFoff* (screening *Tales from The Source*), Balatkas greenhouse - Plantentuin Meise, Meise, Belgium  
*The Screen at Art Brussels* (screening *Tales from The Source*), Brussels, Belgium  
*Lumière cinema at FOMU* (screening *Tales from The Source*), Antwerp, Belgium  
*Festival en ville* (screening *Tales from The Source*), Brussels, Belgium  
*Afropolitan Festival* (screening *Tales from The Source*), Bozar, 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

- 2025 Project LOOP, London, UK
- 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

- Cera Collection (M Leuven), Leuven, Belgium
- KANAL – Centre Pompidou, Brussels, Belgium
- The Flemish Community (FOMU), Antwerp, Belgium
- Mu.ZEE, Ostend, Belgium
- The Chazen Museum of Art, Wisconsin, US
- Sindika Dokolo Foundation (Angola/Portugal)