

## 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

2025 *Black Earth Rising*, by Ekow Eshun, published by Thames and Hudson, New York, US

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

*Immortal Swirls Cradling a Fallen Sun*, SMAC gallery, Cape Town, South Africa

2025 *Apophenia*, 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

2026 *61st International Art Exhibition of La Biennale di Venezia, In Minor Keys* – curated by Koyo Kouoh, Venice, Italy

*In Frequencies We Cannot Name: Language, Sound, Silence. Een blik in de collectie van Mu.ZEE* – curated by Rita Ouédraogo, de Brakke Grond, Amsterdam, the Netherlands

*Investec* (with SMAC gallery), Cape Town Art Fair, Cape Town, South Africa

*Insistent Presence: Contemporary African Art from the Chazen Collection*, Palmer Museum of Arts, Pennsylvania, US

- 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

- 2026 *La Mamounia* (screening *Tales from The Source*) during 1-54 Marrakesh with a Q&A by Julien Jourdes, CEO of Plena Productions, Marrakesh, Maroc
- 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

The Ekard Collection  
 Cera Collection, housed at M Leuven, Leuven, Belgium  
 KANAL – Centre Pompidou, Brussels, Belgium  
 FOMU via the collection of the Flemish Community, Antwerp, Belgium  
 Mu.ZEE, Ostend, Belgium  
 The Chazen Museum of Art, Wisconsin, US  
 Sindika Dokolo Foundation, Angola  
 Fondation H, Madagascar / France  
 Defise Foundation, UK