KRISTOF DE CLERCQ
GALLERY

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
2026 *Frontier Garamba National Park: The Struggle for Nature at the Edge of the State*, photography by Léonard Pongo and texts by Kristof Titeca and Patrick Edmond, published by The Eriskay Connection, the Netherlands

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 Paris Photo 2026, solo presentation with Kristof De Clercq gallery, Paris, France
Dialogue with the Source, 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 *Un équilibre temporaire*, MACS Grand-Hornu, Boussu, Belgium
Beeldenstroom, CERA, Leuven, Belgium
61st International Art Exhibition of La Biennale di Venezia, In Minor Keys (curated by Koyo Kouoh), Arsenale, Venice, Italy
Simba Moto ! Seize the Fire ! Saisis le feu ! (curated by Nadia Yala Kisukidi), DR Congo Pavilion in the Antico Refettorio, Scuola Grande di San Marco, 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 Bienniale 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

National Bank of Belgium, Brussels, Belgium
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