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# On View: ‘El Anatsui: Triumphant Scale’ at Haus der Kunst Museum, Munich

by VICTORIA L. VALENTINE on Mar 17, 2019 • 11:58 pm

1 Comment



*"In the World But Don't Know the World" (2019) by El Anatsui*

*On View presents images from noteworthy exhibitions*

OVER THE PAST TWO DECADES, **El Anatsui** has invented and perfected a unique medium. With discarded bottle caps he creates grand sculptural works that read as painted textiles. "Triumphant" and monumentally scaled examples from his bottle-cap series form the basis of this exhibition, which is described as his largest-ever survey. The works on view date back half a century and span every medium in his oeuvre—bottle-cap textiles (2000s to present); wood sculptures and wall reliefs (mid-1970s to late 1990s); ceramic sculptures (late 1970s); and drawings, prints, and books. Born in Ghana and based in Nigeria, Anatsui also produced several new works for the exhibition, including an outdoor installation on the museum's facade. **CT**

**Co-curated by Okwui Enwezor (1963-2019) and Chika Okeke-Agulu, "El Anatsui: Triumphant Scale" is on view at Haus der Kunst, Munich, Germany, March 8-July 28, 2019**

FIND MORE [about the exhibition](#)

EL ANATSUI, Installation view of "Second Wave," 2019, Haus der Kunst Facade. | Photo by Jens Weber, München, Courtesy Haus de Kunst

## CONNECT



## NEW POSTS



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Tale of Two Paintings: Ernie Barnes Made Two Versions of His Famous 'Sugar Shack' Painting. One is Owned by Eddie Murphy, The Other Sold at Auction for \$15 Million



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**ON THE RISE: 24 MUSEUM CURATORS AND ART LEADERS WHO TOOK ON NEW APPOINTMENTS IN SECOND HALF OF 2025**



**BUST OF MARTIN LUTHER KING JR., ON DISPLAY AT U.S. CAPITOL BEARS WITNESS TO POLITICS, PRESIDENTIAL HISTORY, AND CHANGING AMERICA**

EL ANATSUI, "Stressed World," 2011 (aluminum and copper wire, 174 x 234 inches / 442 x 594.4 cm). | © El Anatsui. Courtesy the artist and Jack Shainman Gallery, New York

EL ANATSUI, Installation view of "Tiled Flower Garden," 2019, Haus der Kunst | Photo by Maximilian Geuter, Courtesy Haus der Kunst

EL ANATSUI, "Gbeze," 1979 (ceramic, manganese). | © El Anatsui. Courtesy the artist and Jack Shainman Gallery, New York Courtesy



NEW APPOINTMENT: NEWARK MUSEUM OF ART IN NEW JERSEY NAMED LISA FUNDERBURKE DIRECTOR AND CEO

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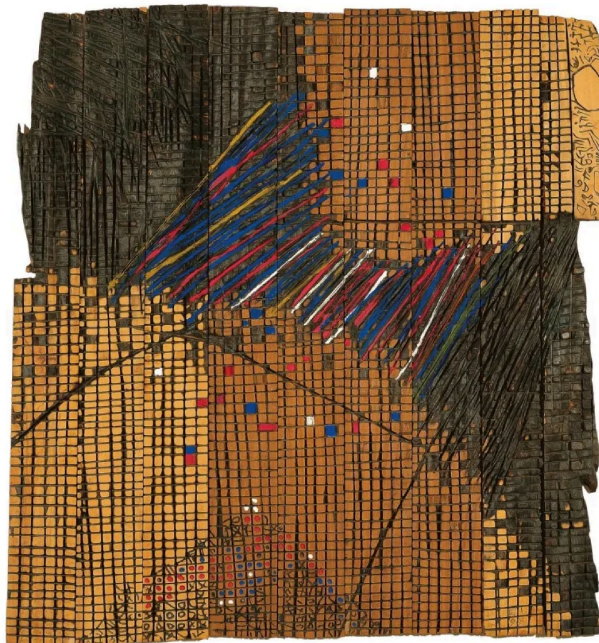
'KERRY JAMES MARSHALL: THE HISTORIES,' LARGEST-EVER UK EXHIBITION OF THE ARTIST INCLUDES NEW PAINTINGS EXPLORING ROLE OF BLACK AFRICANS IN TRANSATLANTIC SLAVE TRADE

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A YEAR OF AFRICAN AMERICAN ART: NEW 2026 WALL CALENDARS FEATURE WORKS BY FAITH RINGGOLD, ALMA THOMAS, AND MANY OTHERS

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SOLD AT PHILLIPS AUCTION: UNTITLED STUDY BY ALMA THOMAS FEATURED ON COVER OF MAJOR EXHIBITION CATALOG

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EL ANATSUI, "Earth-Moon Connexions," 1993 (wood, Tempera, 35.4 x 33.2 x 1.2 inches / 90 x 84,4 x 3 cm). | Collection of the Smithsonian National Museum of African Art, Washington, D.C., Courtesy Haus der Kunst



FASCINATING PORTRAIT BY BARKLEY L. HENDRICKS, PAIRING HIS SUBJECT WITH COCA-COLA COOLER AND PARTY BALLOONS, WENT UNSOLD AT SOTHEBY'S



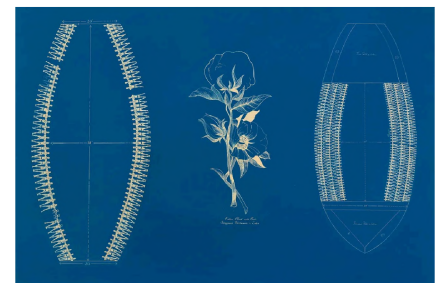
Installation view of "Triumphant Scale," 2019, Haus der Kunst, Munich. Shown from left, EL ANATSUI, "Dusasa II," 2007 (aluminum, copper wire and plastic disks), Collection of Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York; and "Man's Cloth," 2001 (aluminum and copper wire), British Museum, London © The Trustees of the British Museum | Photo by Maximilian Geuter, Courtesy Haus der Kunst

TALE OF TWO PAINTINGS: ERNIE BARNES MADE TWO VERSIONS OF HIS FAMOUS 'SUGAR SHACK' PAINTING. ONE IS OWNED BY EDDIE MURPHY, THE OTHER SOLD AT AUCTION FOR \$15 MILLION



This work inspired the title for El Anatsui's [Brooklyn Museum exhibition](#) in 2013. Shown, EL ANATSUI, Installation view of "Gravity and Grace," 2019, Haus der Kunst, Munich. | Collection of the Artist, Nsukka, Nigeria, © El Anatsui. Courtesy the artist and Jack Shainman Gallery. Photo by Maximilian Geuter, Courtesy Haus der Kunst

AMERICAN SIGN LANGUAGE VIDEOS EXPLORE WHITNEY MUSEUM'S COLLECTION, INCLUDING WORKS BY SIMONE LEIGH, ARCHIBALD MOTLEY, DIEDRICK BRACKENS, JACOB LAWRENCE & MORE



ALMA THOMAS WAY: WASHINGTON D.C., STREET WHERE FAMOUS AFRICAN



From left, EL ANATSUI, "Erosion," 1992 (wood). | Collection of the Smithsonian National Museum of African Art, Washington D.C.; and EL ANATSUI, "Leopard Cloth," 1993 (wood Relief, Mansonia, Camwood Opepe & Oyili-oji, 63.8 x 27.2 x 1.3 inches / 162 x 69 x 3 cm). | Agnes and Andrew Usill Collection, London, Courtesy October Gallery, London

AMERICAN ARTIST LIVED IS NOW NAMED IN HER HONOR



CULTURE TYPE: 16 BEST BLACK ART BOOKS OF 2024



EL ANATSUI, Detail of "Rising Sea," 2019 (aluminum and copper wire). | Photo by Maximilian Geuter, Courtesy Haus der Kunst

FROM THE ARCHIVES: BEGINNING IN LATE 1950S, AFRICAN AMERICAN PAINTERS KNOWN AS 'HIGHWAYMEN' CAPTURED FLORIDA'S NATURAL LANDSCAPES



FROM THE ARCHIVES: NATIONAL PORTRAIT GALLERY: TITUS KAPHAR AND KEN GONZALES-DAY EXPLORE 'UNSEEN' NARRATIVES IN HISTORIC PORTRAITURE

EL ANATSUI, Installation view of "Rising Sea," 2019, Haus der Kunst, Munich. | Collection of the Artist, Nsukka, Nigeria, © El Anatsui. Courtesy of the Artist and Jack Shainman Gallery, New York. Photo by Maximilian Geuter, Courtesy Haus der Kunst



ARCHIVES



*El Anatsui succinctly explains the collective power of his materials—found bottle caps. | Video by Haus der Kunst*

TOP IMAGE: EL ANATSUI, Installation view of “In the World But Don’t Know the World,” 2019, Haus der Kunst, Munich. | Photo by Maximilian Geuter, Courtesy Haus der Kunst

#### BOOKSHELF

Haus der Kunst published a [15-page booklet](#) to accompany the exhibition. Other recent publications include “[El Anatsui: New Worlds](#),” which documents the artist’s exhibition at Mount Holyoke College Art Museum. From Prestel comes “[El Anatsui: Art and Life](#).” Another volume, “[El Anatsui: When I Last Wrote to You about Africa](#)” accompanied the artist’s first career retrospective in 2011-12. “[El Anatsui at the Clark](#)” is authored by Chika Okeke-Agulu, who curated the artist’s current exhibition at Haus der Kunst. Meanwhile, “[Second Careers: Two Tributaries in African Art](#)” is forthcoming in 2020.

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**Tags:** El Anatsui, Haus der Kunst

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PAFA Receives Gift of 78 Artworks From  
Constance E. Clayton, Many by Artists with Ties to  
Philadelphia

## 1 comment



BOB L RAGLAND says:  
Mar 21, 2019

El Anatsui – Brilliant and inventive. I saw his Exhibition in the Denver Art  
Museum. Bravo!!!!

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