

Owusu Ross Junior
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Education

- 2025** **MFA Studio Art, Ceramics candidate**, Department of Art and Art History, Wayne State University, Detroit.
- 2017** **Bachelor of Arts, Industrial Art in Ceramics**, Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology (KNUST), Kumasi, Ghana.

Teaching And Professional Experience

- 2025** **Graduate Teaching Assistant**, Ceramics Department, Department of Art and Art History, Wayne State University, Detroit.

Mentor, NCECA Student Portfolio feedback Session, Salt Lake City, Utah.

- 2023 – 2024** **Instructor of Record**, ACR 2550, Introduction to Ceramics, Wayne State University Detroit, MI
- Creating course syllabus, setting expectations, and grading criteria for Ceramics Intro
 - Leading discussions and lectures about ceramics techniques and processes
 - Demonstrating techniques in the classroom.

- 2022** **Teaching and Demo Assistant for ACR 2550, Intro to Ceramics for Jessika Edgar and Lauren Kalman at the Ceramics Department**, Department of Art and Art History, Wayne State University, Detroit, MI.
- Assisted in teaching ceramics, demonstrating techniques and introducing assignments, leading to a 15% increase in project completion rates.
 - Provided personalized support on projects, improving student project quality and increasing overall class satisfaction by 25%.

Studio Assistant, Ceramics Department, Department of Art and Art History, Wayne State University, Detroit, MI.

- Managed clay mixing and studio operations, contributing to a 25% increase in studio productivity and reducing material waste by 15%
- Ensured a safe studio environment through regular maintenance, supporting an accident- free record during my tenure.

Instructor for BFA's, Studio Forming Technics, Kwame Nkrumah University of Science & Technology (KNUST), Kumasi, Ghana. GH.

- Developed comprehensive course materials, leading to a 100% pass rate for students on final projects.
- Fostered active student engagement by providing personalized feedback, which resulted in improved project outcomes and higher student satisfaction rates.

- Coordinated thesis critiques and exhibitions, significantly enhancing students' professional portfolios and visibility in the local art community.

Internship Supervisor, Ceramics Section, Kwame Nkrumah University of Science & Technology (KNUST), Kumasi, Ghana. GH.

- Established and led the Maiden Internship Program, providing 15+ interns with hands-on experience and skill development, which helped 80% secure post-internship employment in the arts.
- Conducted regular progress evaluations, with 100% of interns achieving set learning objectives by the end of their tenure.
- Organized artist visits and exhibitions, increasing intern exposure to industry professionals and expanding their professional networks.

Course Instructor and Kiln Supervisor for Albert Essuman, Kwame Nkrumah University of Science & Technology (KNUST), Kumasi, Ghana. GH.

- Assisted in delivering lectures and demonstrations, helping students improve technical abilities, as reflected in a 30% increase in student project complexity and quality.
- Supervised kiln operations and studio management, reducing kiln firing errors by 20% and ensuring a consistent, high-quality output for student projects.
- Collaborated with faculty and staff to coordinate projects and events, increasing student participation in exhibitions by 40%.

2020-2021 Kiln Supervisor and Studio Technician, Ceramics Section, Kwame Nkrumah University of Science & Technology (KNUST), Kumasi, Ghana. GH.

- Led kiln operations, increasing efficiency by 25% through improved packing and safety practices.
- Coordinated procurement and supervised production, where I organized and was in charge of student Christmas and easter ceramic sales. Which was the second-best sales recorded in the department.

2018-2019 Instructor of record for BFA's, Studio Forming techniques, Kwame Nkrumah University of Science & Technology (KNUST), Kumasi, GH.

- I decolonized and delivered a clear syllabus, improving student project completion rates for subsequent semesters.
- Managed inventory and studio operations, enhancing class efficiency and reducing downtime.

Technical and Production Manager, Planta GH, Accra Ghana. GH.

- Managed clay processing, production and procurement leading to increase in output for planters and vases.
- Provided Gas kiln operations and event planning support, which drove a 10% growth in sales.

Solo Show

- 2025** “**Home feels far Reached from Here**”, a Solo show at the Detroit Historical Museum, Detroit, Michigan. MI.
“**The “Bye-cycles” of Home-coming**”, a Graduate Thesis Solo show at the Art Department Gallery, Wayne State University, Detroit, MI.
- 2024** “**Foreigners Here and There**”. A solo show at the Siteworks Detroit, Detroit, Michigan, MI.
- 2019** “**Made by a Man**” solo show, KNUST Gallery, Kumasi, Ghana, West Africa

Two Person Exhibition

- 2023** “**Y’akyi nnwa – Lets Have a Conversation**”: A two person show at the Daum Museum of Contemporary Art, Sedalia, MO.

Group exhibition

- 2025** (Upcoming) “**2025 Annual Scholarship Awards and Exhibition**”, at The Detroit Artist Market, Detroit, Michigan, MI.
(Upcoming) “**Merge(d)**” exhibition with The Color Network in partnership with The Hudgens Center, Duluth, Georgia, GA.
“**2025 NCECA Multicultural Fellowship Exhibition, (MCFE)**”. 59th annual conference of the National Council on Education for the Ceramic Arts, Salt Lake City, Utah.
“**Beyond....**”, a Graduate student’s final year Thesis show, at the Art Department Gallery, Wayne State University, Detroit, MI.
“**From Africa to Detroit: Exploration of the Diaspora**” Exhibition at the Norwest Gallery of Art, Detroit, Michigan, MI.
“**Diasporic Crossing**”, Exhibition at the Southside Contemporary Art Gallery, Richmond, Virginia, VA.
“**Marking Place**”, Student Juried Exhibition at the University Gallery, Eastern Michigan University, Detroit, Michigan, MI.
“**2025 MSA select, Oxford**”, an indoor Exhibition at Gallery 130, Department of Art and Art History, University of Mississippi, Mississippi, MS.
- 2024** **MFA Exhibition Online**” Annual Exhibition of MFA Artwork for Graduate Students juried Graduate students from the University of Montana, Missoula and Montana State University, Bozeman [Link](#)
“**2024 MSA Select, Birmingham**”, an indoor exhibition at Vulcan Materials Gallery at the Alabama School of Fine Arts in Birmingham, Alabama, AL.
“**Solidarity**”, an indoor exhibition held by MSA in partnership with Space One Eleven Art Center in Birmingham, Alabama, AL,
“**The 2024 Michigan Ceramic Association Biennial and competition**”, Birmingham, Michigan. MI.
“**Memento nos**”: Migration and movement in America by the Homer and Dolly Hand Art Center, Stetson university, Deland, Florida.
“**Ceramics 2024**”; Materia Gallery, Core city, Detroit. MI
- 2023** “**National Juried Art Exhibition 2023**”, Mid-South Sculpture Alliance, MTSU Todd Art Gallery Murfreesboro, Tennessee, TN.
“**Running on Flower Power**”, First ever Springtime Show & Sale; the Glastonbury Collective, Detroit, MI

“Y'akɔfa: Ruptures and Renewals in Art from Ghana and Nigeria”, Lucky Day Gallery, Fayetteville Public Library, AR

“Ross - Being Apart Together” showcased at TIME - 2023 exhibition, organized by Exhibizone, [Link](#)

2022 ***“Building Bridges”***, Ceramics Studio, Department of Industrial Arts, KNUST

2019 ***“Ahoɔden,”*** Jamestown Café, Accra, Ghana, West Africa, co-curated with Adam Posnak, Fourteen artists from Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology, Accra, Ghana, West Africa.

“This is the man from a system”: Ceramics Gallery, Ceramics Department, Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology, Accra, Ghana, West Africa.

“Final year fashion and exhibition show”, Department of art and society, KNUST mall, Kumasi, Ghana, GH.

“End of year sales and exhibition”, KNUST Gallery, Kumasi, Ghana, West Africa.

“Greenware on tables”, KNUST Gallery, Kumasi, Ghana, West Africa.

Performance Exhibition

2023 ***“The Land, the People and Migration (Oman no, Edom no Batatuo)”***. Thursday Nov. 16th at the Graduate studio, Old Main, Wayne State University, Detroit, USA.

2022 ***“If I can only be free”***. February 20th at The Ceramics Studio, Ceramics Department, KNUST.

Collaborative Projects

2025 (Ongoing) ***“Building Belonging”***, a thesis collaboration at the Department of Art, Wayne State University, Detroit, Michigan, MI.

2024 ***“The Frimpong Case: continued”***, a studio project with Vincent ‘sniper’ Frimpong at University of Arkansas, AR.

2022 ***“Building Bridges”***, a studio project with Prof. Samuel Nortey, Ceramics Studio, Department of Industrial Arts, KNUST.

Curated and Co-curated Projects

2024 ***“The Frimpong Case: continued”***, a Co-curated show with Vincent ‘sniper’ Frimpong at Hall gallery, Millsaps college, MS

2023 ***“Tiny but Mighty”***, a Curated final year exhibition with Prof. Samuel Nortey, Ceramics Studio, Department of Industrial Arts, KNUST.

2022 ***“Building Bridges”***, Co-curated final year exhibition with Prof. Samuel Nortey Ceramics Studio, Department of Industrial Arts, KNUST.

Awards & Grants

- 2025** **The Bill May Scholarship Award (\$1305)**, a full Residency scholarship award at Arrowmont School of Art and Craft, Gatlinburg, Tennessee, TN.
Thomas C. Rumble University Graduate Fellowship Award (\$20000), Department of Art and Art History, Wayne State University, Detroit, MI.
The Watershed Zenobia Award, a Full Residency Scholarship at Watershed Center for the Ceramic Arts, Edgecomb, Maine, ME.
Finalist, Detroit Artist Market Annual Scholarship Award, Detroit Artist Market in partnership with Wayne State University, Detroit, Michigan, MI.
The Penland Summer workshop Scholarship (\$1000), a Full Residency Award at Penland School of Craft, North Carolina, NC.
The Mudslinger Ceramic Scholarship Recipient (\$1000), Peters Valley School of Craft,
- 2024** **Arts and Achievement Award Pewabic Commemorative Tile (\$1500)**, Department of Art and Art History, Wayne State University, Detroit, MI.
Thomas C. Rumble University Graduate Fellowship Award (\$20000), Department of Art and Art History, Wayne State University, Detroit, MI.
The Dr. Judith Temple Scholarship (\$1350), Arrowmont School of Art and Craft, Gatlinburg, Tennessee, TN
- 2023** **Sfumato Art Gallery last Artist Open Call Winner.**
The Lynda Frank Sanders Scholarship (\$1500), Penland School of Craft, North Carolina, NC.
NCECA 2023 Multicultural Fellowship Award Recipient (\$875).
James Pearson Duffy Graduate Award (\$23000), Department of Art and Art History, Wayne State University, MI.
Graduate Art Activity Award (\$2000) (3x), Department of Art and Art History, Wayne State University, MI.
- 2022** **James Pearson Duffy Graduate Award (\$23000)**, Department of Art and Art History, Wayne State University, MI.
Graduate Art Activity Award (\$1000), Department of Art and Art History, Wayne State University, MI.

Bibliography

- 2025** The Future Materials bank Magazine, February 3rd 2025. [Link](#)
NCECA Journal, Volume 45, Page 96
NCECA Exhibitions Catalogue, Page 106 & Page 195
- 2024** The Studio Potter Magazine Stories, November 1st, [Link](#)
The creatives having coffee, [Link](#)
The Dave Chappell Foundation Artist Market Place Select. [Link](#)
The Voyage Michigan Magazine stories, May 30th 2024. [Link](#)
The Bold Magazine Stories, January 16th 2024. [Link](#)
- 2023** Critical interventions in emerging Ghanaian contemporary ceramic practice, Journal of African Art Education, Volume 3 pp. 55, Published 2023, [Link](#)
Art History Exhibition on Display at Fayetteville Public Library, University of Arkansas News, [Link](#)
Dovetail Magazine stories, [Link](#)
The canvas Rebel stories and Insights; [Link](#)
'Ross - Being Apart Together' showcased at TIME - 2023 exhibition, organized by Exhibizone, [Link](#)

Artist Talk and Presentation

- 2025** (Upcoming), **Main Speaker**, “Clay as a Common Ground” NCECA Community Conference, Salt palace Convention Center, Salt Lake City, Utah.
Guest Speaker, “From Africa to Detroit”, moderated by Yolanda Davis at the Norwest Gallery, Detroit – Michigan. MI.
Guest Speaker, Conversations and Commentaries on African/Black American Migrant Experiences, a social work class, Eastern Michigan University, Ypsilanti, Michigan, MI.
- 2024** Ceramics 2024; Materia Gallery, Core city, Detroit. MI.
- 2023** Y’akyi Nnwa – Lets Have a Conversation: A Two Person Show, Daum Museum of Contemporary Art, Sedalia, MO.
Getting it Right – Undergraduate Conference on Graduate Applications and studies, Ceramics Section, KNUST, Ghana.
- 2021** Ahocden artist talk and presentation in James town, Accra, West Africa

Residency And Workshop

- 2025** (**Upcoming**) Summer Residency workshop, the Narrative figure – stories in clay, Arrowmont school of art and craft, Gatlinburg, Tennessee, TN
(**Upcoming**) Summer Residency Session III, Watershed Center for the Ceramic Arts, Edgecomb, Maine, ME.
(**Upcoming**) Haystack 2025 summer workshop, Haystack Mountain School of Art, Deer Isle, Maine, ME.
(**Upcoming**) Summer 2025, Session 2, Reverse it; Relief and Intaglio, Penland School of Craft, North Carolina, NC.
(**Upcoming**) Summer Residency, Peters Valley School of Craft, Sandyston, New Jersey, NJ.
- 2024** Arrowmont School of Art and Craft, summer 2024, Gatlinburg, Tennessee, TN
- 2023** Penland School of Craft, Bakersville, NC
Wild Rose Farm Artist Residency and Retreat, Ontario, Canada
- 2015** Intern, Ceramica Tamakloe, Accra – Afienva, Ghana, GH.

Professional Services & Community Engagement

- 2025** Mentor Student Portfolio Review, National Council on Education for Ceramic Arts (NCECA), Salt Lake City, Utah.
- 2023** Volunteer for National Council on Education for Ceramic Arts (NCECA) in Cincinnati, OH.
• Event support staff – Badge checker
• Event support staff – Door Porter
• Conference Honored Artist’s Assistant
- 2019- 2020** Supervising Registration Officer, National Identification Authority (NIA), Ghana, GH.

2015-2017 Electoral Commissioner, Ceramics Section, Kwame Nkrumah University of Science & Technology (KNUST), Kumasi, Ghana. GH.

Summary of Principal activities & leadership experience

- Graduate Teaching Assistant, Wayne State University (2025)
- Student Portfolio Mentor (NCECA, 2025)
- Instructor of Record, Wayne State University (2023-2024)
- Teaching Assistant, Wayne State University (2022)
- Instructor & Kiln Supervisor, Kwame Nkrumah University of Science & Technology (KNUST), Ghana (2020-2021)
- Internship Supervisor, KNUST (2021)
- Electoral Commissioner & Welfare Committee Member, KNUST (2015-2017)
- Editor-in-Chief, Art Society, KNUST (2015-2017)
- Volunteer for NCECA, (2023)
- Darryl Chappell Foundation, Artist Marketplace, (2023-2024)

Awards and Honors Summary

Thomas C. Rumble Fellowship Award, Wayne State University (2025 & 2024)
The Zenobia Award, Watershed Center for the Ceramic Art (2025)
Mentor for Student Portfolio Review, NCECA, Salt Lake (2025)
Mudslinger Ceramics Scholarship, Peters School Valley of Craft (2025)
The Haystack Summer Residency Scholarship, Haystack Mountain School of Craft (2025)
James Pearson Duffy Graduate Award, Wayne State University (2023 & 2022)
NCECA 2023 Multicultural Fellowship Award Recipient
The Dr. Judith Temple Scholarship, Arrowmont School of Art and Craft (2023)
The Lynda Frank Sanders Scholarship, Penland School of Craft (2023)
Sfumato Art Gallery Artist Open Call Winner (2023)
Editor-in-Chief, Art Society, KNUST (2015-2017)

Professional Membership

2023-2024 Darryl Chappell Foundation, Artist Marketplace.
NCECA Student Membership, United States

Skills

- Pixelmator pro.
- Photoshop.
- Microsoft office suite.
- Google workspace.
- Learning Management System - Canvas
- Corel draw.
- Woodshop tools – All hand equipment.

- All studio equipment.
- Photography equipment
- Kiln operation – Gas and Electric
- Rhino

Personal Aptitude

- Values of diversity, equality and non-biased environments.
- Adaptable work ethic
- Resourceful and ability to improvise
- Advanced proficiency and efficiency in communication and interpersonal skills
- Dedicated to experimental and expansive learning practices in pursuit of knowledge and craft.
- Disciplinary Artist and educator who maintains an exploratory and sustainable course plan

References

Upon request