wani toaishara | Artist CV

Congolese-born, Melbourne-based visual artist working across performance, moving image, installation, and photography. Toaishara's practice is auto-ethnographic and collaborative, deeply informed by Black African and Diaspora cultural histories. Known for projects that foreground collective participation, site-responsiveness, relational memory, and materiality. Exhibited and awarded nationally and internationally.

Education

2024 Doctor of Philosophy (PhD), Monash University, Melbourne
2019 Master of Arts and Community Practice, VCA, University of Melbourne
2017 Decolonial Summer School, University of South Africa, Pretoria

Selected Exhibitions

2026 Everyday Raptures and Repairs, Fiona and Sidney Myer Gallery, Melbourne
Through Our Eyes, BLAKDOT Gallery, Melbourne, Victoria (curator)
2025 On Country: Photography from Australia, Les Rencontres de la Photographie, Arles, France
A Most Beautiful Experiment, National Portrait Gallery, Canberra
EXCHANGE, BLAKDOT Gallery, Melbourne, Victoria
We Are Eagles, TarraWarra Biennial, Victoria
2024 This Spirit is No Citizen, National Gallery of Victoria (NGV), Melbourne, Victoria
A Most Beautiful Experiment (PHOTO 24), WESTSPACE, Melbourne, Victoria
The Uncanny and the Magnificent, Hayden's Gallery, Melbourne 2023
The Uncanny and the Magnificent, Wyndham Art Gallery, Melbourne 2022 Nexus, BLAKDOT Gallery, Melbourne

Key Projects & Commissions

2025 Critical Fabulations in the Imminence of Death (Video installation), TarraWarra Biennial
Garçon, Darebin Arts, Northcote Townhall
2023 Sapologie, Footscray Community Arts Centre, Melbourne
Semi Permanent Festival, Sydney
2022 Memoirs of a Future Past, Mechanics Institute, Melbourne
2021 do black boys go to heaven, Artbank Collection
2019 STOLEN/WEALTH, Wyndham Art Gallery, Victoria
Final Solution, Victorian Collection
Garçon, Arts Centre Melbourne
Jana, The Bowery Theatre
2017 Tales of an Afronaut, Arts House, Melbourne & Griffin Theatre, Sydney

Awards & Honours

2024 Bowness Photography Prize (Finalist), Melbourne
National Portrait Prize (Finalist), Canberra
2022 Josephine Ulrick and Win Schubert Photography Award, HOTA, Gold Coast
2021 Darebin Art Prize (Winner), Wyndham Art Gallery
2020 Wyndham Art Prize (LEAP Award), Wyndham Art Gallery
2019 Wyndham Art Prize (winner), Wyndham Art Gallery
Australian Poetry Slam Champion
2018 Greenroom Award (Visual/Performance)

Publications & Reviews

On Country: Photography from Australia, 2025 Exposure by Amber Creswell

Solid Air Australian and New Zealand Spoken Word Art Collector Magazine

'We are note chickens: The cry that inspired a show of defiance,' Tiarney Miekus, 4 April 2025, SMH

'Flying high at the TarraWarra Biennial,' Giselle Au-Nhien Nguyen, 28 May 2025, ArtGuide

Review of On Country: Photography from Australia | Rencontres D'Arles, Amy Wei, 8 July 2025, Musee Magazine

'Announcing 'On Country: Photography from Australia'', a new exhibition in partnership with the Rencontres d'Arles 2025', 21 March 2025, PHOTO26

wani toaishara shares his process and practice of art making, Art Works, 2023, ABC Arts