

PRESS RELEASE
25 August 2016, Amsterdam

Prince Claus Fund opens exhibition of groundbreaking artist El Anatsui



Photo Courtesy El Anatsui

An exhibition of works by El Anatsui (Ghana, 1944), one of the most influential contemporary artists working today, will be presented at the Prince Claus Fund Gallery in Amsterdam this November. El Anatsui's large-scale bottle top tapestries have enthralled viewers around the world. He has received widespread acclaim including a lifetime achievement award at the 2015 Venice Biennale and the 2009 Prince Claus Award. His works are to be found in the collections of several prestigious museums worldwide.

El Anatsui's exhibition at the Prince Claus Fund Gallery is on view for the public from 24 November 2016 through 28 April 2017. The opening on Thursday, 24 November is part of Amsterdam Art Weekend and is in celebration of the 20th anniversary of the Prince Claus Fund. The exhibition is being curated by Bisi Silva, an independent curator and founding Director of the Centre for Contemporary Art, Lagos.

"El Anatsui inspires artists across the world through his work," says the Prince Claus Fund's Director Joumana El Zein Khoury, "not only with his beautiful art, but also with the way he engages his own culture and traditions and involves students and local people in the creation of his art. The Fund is delighted to present his work to a Dutch public here in our gallery."

Curator Bisi Silva says, "it is a honour to have the opportunity to work again with El Anatsui and in Amsterdam. With his scintillating sculptural installations, over the past two decades he has been able to articulate his interest in and study of African History and its post-

colonial identity. Through this exhibition I hope to highlight aspects of his artistic practice as well as his professional career of over three decades as a university professor and its impact on several generations of artists, curators and writers from Nigeria, West Africa and across the continent.”

El Anatsui was born in Ghana and has had a distinguished career in Nigeria since 1975 as a visual artist and educator. Anatsui experiments with local symbolic vocabularies, forms, artisanal processes and materials. His work is part of the collections of the Museum of Modern Art, New York, Centre Pompidou, Paris and the British Museum, London, amongst other public collections. El Anatsui is emeritus Professor of Sculpture at the Department of Fine and Applied Arts at the University of Nigeria, Nsukka where he taught for over thirty years. He has also received many accolades including most recently from such institutions as Harvard University and the University of Cape Town. In 2009 El Anatsui received the Prince Claus Award for “the outstanding aesthetic and intellectual qualities of his creations, for his innovative use of materials to highlight the dialogue between culture and nature, and for his dedicated and inspirational role in the development of the visual arts...”

El Anatsui exhibition at the Prince Claus Fund Gallery

24 November 2016 – 28 April 2017

Herengracht 603, Amsterdam

Admission is free

<http://www.princeclausfund.org/>

About the Prince Claus Fund

The Prince Claus Fund recognises, supports and protects culture worldwide. It actively seeks cultural collaborations founded on equality and trust, with partners of excellence, in spaces where resources and opportunities for cultural expression, creative production and research are limited and cultural heritage is threatened.

Links about El Anatsui

October Gallery: <http://www.octobergallery.co.uk/artists/anatsui/>

Jack Shainman Gallery: <http://www.jackshainman.com/artists/el-anatsui/>

Links about Bisi Silva

CCA: <http://www.ccalagos.org>

Bisi Silva's blog: <http://artspeakafrika.blogspot.nl>

Amsterdam Art Weekend, 24 - 27 Nov. 2016

Amsterdam Art Weekend is a yearly four day arts festival that showcases the newest developments in contemporary art. A programme of exhibitions, performances, screenings and debates is presented at more than 50 leading contemporary art venues.

www.amsterdamart.com/weekend

Note for the Editors, not for publication

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