

Kunsthall Stavanger



Installation view, Nnena Kalu: Creations of Care, Kunsthall Stavanger. Photo credit: Erik Sæter Jørgensen.

PRESS RELEASE

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NNENA KALU NOMINATED FOR THE TURNER PRIZE

Kunsthall Stavanger congratulates Nnena Kalu for being nominated for the Turner Prize.

Established in 1984, the Turner Prize is one of most renowned awards in the world for visual art. It aims to promote public debate around new developments in contemporary British art. Each year, a jury shortlists four British artists – or artists based in Britain – for outstanding exhibitions or projects presented in the previous year.

Kunsthall Stavanger is proud to have the exhibition Nnena Kalu: Creations of Care on view through August 3. Creations of Care is Kalu's first solo exhibition outside the United Kingdom, and the artist's largest exhibition to date. The exhibition showcases a stunning array of drawings, paintings and a series of large-scale, site-specific sculptures.

In Creations of Care, Kalu's unique artistic practice takes center stage, offering viewers an opportunity to explore her dynamic creative approach. Her work—rooted in a balance of urgent energy and meticulous care—offers an intimate, personal experience with each piece. Kalu's expressive, large-scale sculptures, filled with vibrant colours, textures, and layers, fill the galleries of Kunsthall Stavanger. These striking installations, evocative of pregnant cocoons or protective forms, feature Kalu's signature use of neon pinks and yellows, interspersed with a blend of other dynamic colours.



Installation view, Nnena Kalu: *Creations of Care*, Kunsthall Stavanger. Photo credit: Erik Sæter Jørgensen.

In addition to her sculptures, the exhibition features Kalu's expressive drawings and paintings, where rhythmic, repetitive marks document moments in time. Often created with closed eyes, these pieces capture Kalu's internal rhythm and offer a meditative experience for viewers. Through subtle repetition, Kalu evokes both the comfort of the womb and explosive growth, inviting personal interpretation and introspection.

Kalu's practice speaks deeply to her own perspective as a woman with limited verbal abilities and a learning disability. Supported for over 25 years by ActionSpace, a UK-based organization that supports learning-disabled artists, Kalu's works invite us to reconsider our own perceptions and ways of navigating life. *Creations of Care* not only offers a window into Kalu's world but encourages reflection on care, self-nurturing, and how we interact with those around us.

Creations of Care offers a rare generosity: a space for participation, interpretation, and immersion. Viewers are not merely passive observers but active participants in the moment of creation, bringing their own presence into conversation with the artist.

The exhibition is curated by Senior Curator Kristina Ketola Bore and generously supported by Arts and Culture Norway, Bergesenstiftelsen, and The Norwegian Association of Art Societies. Kunsthall Stavanger would like to express their gratitude to ActionSpace for their continued support of Kalu's practice.

About Nnena Kalu

Nnena Kalu (b. 1966, Glasgow) lives and works in London, UK. Her practice is rooted in two-dimensional works, sculptures and installations. For 25 years, she has been supported by ActionSpace, a UK-based organisation that provides learning disabled artists the resources, opportunities and studio assistance to develop their work. Kalu has grown her practice at ActionSpace's studio at Studio Voltaire and is an important member of both Studio Voltaire and ActionSpace's artistic communities.

Kalu work was included in the 2024 edition of Manifesta 15. Other recent exhibitions include *Conversations*, Walker Art Gallery, Liverpool, UK (2024), *Arcadia Missa*, London (2024); *Infinite Drawing*, Deptford X, London, UK (2022);

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Nnena Kalu, *Creations of Care*

Studio Voltaire Elsewhere, London, UK (2020); Wrapping, Humber Street Gallery, East Yorkshire, UK (2019); Allied Editions, House of Voltaire, Frieze, London, UK (2022), To all the Kings who have no Crowns, Carl Freedman Gallery, Margate, UK (2022). Kalu's work is included in the collections of Tate (UK) and the Arts Council (UK). Kalu is the winner of the Mosaic Art Award 2025.

About Kunsthall Stavanger

Kunsthall Stavanger is a leading space for contemporary art located in Stavanger, Norway, committed to fostering bold artistic experimentation, critical discourse, and meaningful encounters. Since its founding in 2013, the kunsthall has emerged as a vital site for contemporary artistic production and mediation. Our trailblazing programme includes both Norwegian and international artists, and encompasses exhibitions, artwork commissions, public programmes, and initiatives for children and youth. With a program that embraces diverse voices and urgent cultural debates, the Kunsthall operates as a crucial platform for critical artistic and curatorial inquiry.

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