

NIKUNJA TRANSMEDIA ARTIST biography/resumé(2025)

EDUCATION

Nikunja, (Chris Ebner) born in Basel, Switzerland, studied at the **ART ACADEMY OF BASEL (HKS)** from 1975 to 1979, under the **Swiss Informal Painting Masters** Professors *Werner v. Mutzenbecher*, *Marcel Schaffner* and additional support by Professor *Franz Fedier*, experimental **graphic techniques** with Professor *Dadi Wirz*, main printer of Surrealist painter *Max Ernst*, receiving his diploma in 1979.

In 1983/84 several hour-long **conversations** with **German Fluxus artist** Professor *Joseph Beuys* (*social sculpture*) on art, spirituality and perception marked the young artist.

In 2003 Nikunja was awarded the **DFG directors course at OXFORD UNIVERSITY**, project-selective and -related one to one meetings with world-renowned documentary movie directors, like *Ross Wilson (UK)*, *Henning Carlson (DK)* and supported by the **grant of the Republic of Geneva**.

RESIDENCIES, SELECTIONS AND AWARDS

1991 **Swiss Federal Art Grants** (now [Swiss Art Award](#)) in 1991 and 1991-1993 **Federal Grant for ART-EST** Swiss residency at the EUROPEAN CULTURAL CENTRE in Krakow, **Poland**.

1998 **UNESCO** , Grand Foyer, Paris Expo solo for **50th anniversary of Human Rights Declaration**

2003 **Grant of the Republic of Geneva** for DFG directors course at Oxford University, UK.

2007 **Durban IFF**, South Africa for **Comments on Life and Death**

2008 **Cannes IFF** , **Pavillon du Cinéma du Monde** for **Nama**

2009 NYIFFV **best experimental feature for NAMA** (jury pres. Abel Ferrara) New York, USA

2014 **CICAE** (Intl ArtHouseCinema) **Venise IFF** for **Xanadu the Contemporary Dream Temple**

2015 **56th Biennale Contemporary Arts Venice** "All the World's Futures" (Okwui Enwezor) for **Xanadu:: The Bastard's Dream**

2015 **SOS DADA Salon Suisse, Pro Helvetia**, Biennale Contemporary Arts Venice

2017 **TAMEEM Media Biennial**, Doha Qatar for **Interactive Matter**

2017 **iS4SI Information Science Summit**, Goeyheborg, Sweden for **Interactive Matter**

2022 **ITAC Biennale Oslo**, Norway for **art:re:public**

Further residencies allowed him to work and exhibit in

China, Beijing, (1997, Arts Academy)

Zimbabwe (1996, Swiss Embassy),

Japan (1996, Goethe Institute, Germany),

French Reunion Island (1998, ART ACADEMY ESBA Le Port; 2000, CONTEMPORARY ART CENTER JAP, Saint Denis; 2007-2009 CENTRE D'IMAGES ESBA, Le Port; 2013-2014 THEATER LECONTE DE LISLE, Saint Paul),

Netherlands (2003-2004 KUNST&KOMPLEX, 2005-2006 SKAR atelier, Rotterdam),

Mauritius (2011 Port Chambly),

Madagascar (2014, CONTEMPORARY ART CENTER IS'ART , Antananarivo).

CURRENT MAIN WORKS IN PROGRESS

art:re:public : Art-Science-Activist performance-installation based on Interactive Matter as creative research forum as art process for new democratic expansion staged in the dedicated nomadic Transmedia Art Dome (since 2022)

last supper : transmedia art performance installation dedicated to a new perception of death (since 2025)

the greater yjing : 720 small format square paintings associated to sound frequencies installed

in a nomadic interactive panorama exhibition setting exploring the ancient Chinese bone oracle and the relation between individual/collective/cosmic destiny between determination and hasard (since 2025)

transposed heads 2:: reinterpretation of Nikunja's transmedia performance of 2009 inspired by Thomas Mann's novel and the 11th century Indian legend, expanding it to human-humanoid live interaction

2025

THE LAST SUPPER — 24-hour transmedia art-performance-installation — SANKT PAULUS CULTURAL CHURCH, BASEL, 18–19 June (midnight concert UNCOPPEN SAW).

THE GREATER YJING — 720 paintings + sound-frequencies, panoramic installation (Work in Progress)

TRANPOSED HEADS 2 — re-interpretation of 2009 performance, expanded to human–humanoid interaction (Work in Progress).

DOLPHIN INTERSPECIES INTERPLAY — underwater art-science project (work in progress)

TENKI: CONVERSATION WITH THE DEAD — UNCOPPEN SAW – Digital Art Movie — STUDIO NIKUNJA, collab *Mannee & Alain Perret*.

NOBU: THE LEGEND — UNCOPPEN SAW digital album (Bandcamp, 9 Mar 2025).

HIROSHI — UNCOPPEN SAW digital album (Bandcamp, Jan 2025) & music-video.

2024

VENUS HOT BREEZE — UNCOPPEN SAW digital album (Bandcamp, 15 Sep 2024) & music-video.

MANGLIK — UNCOPPEN SAW digital album (Bandcamp, 17 Feb 2024) & musiSc-video.
ATELIERS OUVERTS GRAND EST — STUDIO NIKUNJA live performances

2023

CELL #4 + NEURONAL GLITCH + SOUL CONCENTRATION — UNCOPPEN SAW - Digital art movie - digital album (Bandcamp, 19 Nov 2023).

LOLA — UNCOPPEN SAW Digital art movie and digital album (Bandcamp, 20 Aug 2023)

KURO CHAPTER 4 — UNCOPPEN SAW Digital art movie (Bandcamp, 30 May 2023).

SPLIT HORIZONS — short movie / direction — STUDIO NIKUNJA.

NEEDRA NAR MADA — experimental sound-video / composition-direction — Vimeo + Bandcamp.

COSMICAL DRAW: SUMMER-WIND — experimental short / direction.

2022

MOÏKA — UNCOPPEN SAW digital track (Bandcamp, 13 Jul 2022).

TIME CRYSTAL: KAIROS.CHRONOS.LOGOS — experimental / writing-direction — ART BASEL '22 OFF, *WHAT THE LAB*, OLD UNIVERSITY BASEL, curated by *Roland Fischer & Isabella Maund*.

ART:RE:PUBLIC — performance-lecture **SEANSE ART CENTER, OSLO** (ITAC6 Biennale).
Launch of **Art-Science-Activist Forum** in nomadic **Transmedia Art Dome**.

2021

BANQUISE — UNCOPPEN SAW digital track (Bandcamp, 12 Dec 2021). **LOTUS** — writing / feature-documentary research.

2020

UNCOPPEN SAW live sound-performance — WURM, BASEL with *Mathieu Sylvestre, Tarab* (Australia), *Yvan Etienne* (France).

2019

UNGEMÜTLICH VI — **BERLIN KULTUR FORUM FACTORY**, curated by *Frédéric Krauke* (11 Feb 2019).

DADA MUSEUM CABARET VOLTAIRE, ZURICH — *Moïka* live performance with *Mannee & Alain Perret*.

TIME CRYSTAL: BEN WAGIN / ANGELA DAVIS / JUAN BRANCO — **THE POST-CAPITALIST CIVILIZATION** — writing, directing, pre-production.

SOOMA – SAMI — interactive acrylic-glass sculpture, German environmental relay-run.

2018

OEDIPUS @EX — writing-directing-editing-camera-sound — 120 min installation movie.

2017

NAMA — live film-performance excerpt — **PAF PERFORMANCE ART FESTIVAL BERLIN**, *Kindl Center for Contemporary Arts*. **BEN WAGIN: ERDE WERDE ERDE** — documentary feature, pre-production, coproduction *Filmband*, Berlin.

2016

THE RECONSTRUCTION OF THE TOWER OF BABEL — interactive evolving sculpture — **PROJEKTRAUM M54**, BASEL.

2015

XANADU: THE BASTARD'S DREAM — 78 min HDD/HD transmedia installation — **56TH VENICE BIENNALE DI ARTE**, *collateral event*, curated by *Okwui Enwezor*

ISTITUTO SANTA MARIA DELLA PIETÀ. UNTITLED — interactive performance — **SALON SUISSE**, **PALAZZO TREVISAN DEGLI ULIVI**, Venice Biennale, curated by *Juri Steiner & Stefan Zweifel*.

XANADU: THE CONTEMPORARY DREAM TEMPLE — mobile bamboo exhibition space, 4K UHD 2-channel installation, ongoing.

2014

LIBERTALIA — installation — **IS'ART GALLERY**, **ANTANANARIVO**, **MADAGASCAR**. **THE RECONSTRUCTION OF THE TOWER OF BABEL** —

L'ARTOTHÈQUE DE SAINT-DENIS, **RÉUNION ISLAND**. **350TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION** — installation, **DÉBARCADÈRE DE SAINT-PAUL**, **RÉUNION ISLAND**

WHISPERS OF THE ANCIENT SUN — paintings & installations — **SALLE D'ART CONTEMPORAIN BEAUDEMOULIN**, **TAMPON**, **RÉUNION ISLAND**

2013

LA GENESE SELON LILITH — 42 min HDD dance-video; five theatre projections **RÉUNION ISLAND**. Residency: **THÉÂTRE LECONTE DE LISLE**, **SAINT-PAUL**, **RÉUNION ISLAND** (2013–2014).

2011

MEASURE OF MAN — 44 min loop HD/DV installation, **FRENCH INSTITUTE MAURITIUS**, projection on milk.

THE BROKEN CIRCLE - exhibition - **FRENCH INSTITUTE MAURITIUS**, curated by *Elise Mignot*. **NIKUNJA WORKS** — paintings, video, installations — **IMAAYA GALLERY**, **MAURITIUS**. Residency: **PORT CHAMBLY**, **MAURITIUS**.

2010

THE JOURNEY — 80 min docu-fiction (Nyau secret society, Malawi) — **ALEFA PROD / FIREWORX MEDIA SA**, supported by **RÉGION RÉUNION. CHIAMAKA, THE BATTLE OF GRAND PORT 1810** — 120 min feature script. **CHEIKH ANTA DIOP** — 81 min educational documentary; selected **DAKAR INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL 2011**. Conference-film **CHEIKH ANTA DIOP — PARLIAMENT, RÉUNION ISLAND**, patronage *Paul Vergès*.

2009

TRANPOSED HEADS — 76 min HD/DV documentary-performance; **HANGAR D2, LE PORT, RÉUNION ISLAND**, performers *Nadjani Bulin, Emmanuelle Tatel*, live music *Alain Perret, Nikunja*.

2008

NAMA — 84 min HD/DV feature — **WILD CINEMA WINDHOEK, CANNES PAVILLON CINÉMAS DU MONDE**; awards **NYIFVF NEW YORK / LOS ANGELES 2009**. **EAGLE FLIGHT II** — interdisciplinary performance — **FESTIVAL INTERNATIONAL DE DANSE, SAINT-DENIS, PALAXA, RÉUNION ISLAND**. **EAGLE FLIGHT I** — **MUSÉE LÉON DIERX, SAINT-DENIS, RÉUNION ISLAND**. **NIKUNJA WORKS** — **CENTRE D'IMAGE, LE PORT, RÉUNION ISLAND**.

2007

COMMENTS ON LIFE & DEATH — 52 min DV — **DURBAN IFF, CANNES PAVILLON DU CINÉMA DU MONDE**. **TRYING PARADISE** — 7 min 49 sec DV sampling — **KINOKABARET ST DENIS, ILE COURTS SHORT FILM FESTIVAL MAURITIUS**. **SHIVA'S DREAM** — 4 min 34 sec short — **MGI MAURITIUS INTERNATIONAL KINO**. **ART:RE:PUBLIQUE** — interdisciplinary performance — **MUSÉE LÉON DIERX, SAINT-DENIS, RÉUNION ISLAND**, curated by *Laurence Madeline*.

2006

TIES (9 min 50 sec), **WOVEN: THE NET** (3 min 08 sec), **THE KING AND THE FOOL** (20 min) — all DV, **RÉUNION ISLAND / ROTTERDAM**.

2005

TESTAMENT OF THE WIND — performance documentation — **MUIDERPOORT THEATRE, AMSTERDAM**. **FELLINI NOW!** — loop DV installation, **TENT / MUSEUM WITTE DE WITH, ROTTERDAM**, curated by *Thomas Meijer zu Schlochtern*. **THE KING AND THE FOOL** — interdisciplinary performance — **TRIENNIAL OF CONTEMPORARY ART, PORT LOUIS, MAURITIUS**. **SALVATION** — installation — **ALLIANCE FRANÇAISE, ROTTERDAM**.

2004

BETTSTATT (32 min), **FLUIDIMPULS** (16 min), **BAGDAD SUNSET** — exhibitions **KUNST &**

KOMPLEX, ROTTERDAM.

2003

DFG Directors Course — OXFORD UNIVERSITY, supported by Republic & Canton of Geneva Grant. Workshop & lecture — ART ACADEMY GRONINGEN.

2002

EAGLE FLIGHT (42 min DV) — projection MARSEILLE PICASSO: ORGAZ performance.

2001

THE SKY ABOVE MY HOUSE — interdisciplinary performance — **UNIVERSITY OF GENEVA**, organised by *Prof. Jean Ziegler & Dr. Raoul Ouedraogo*. Installation-exhibition **UNIVERSITY MAIL, GENEVA** (objects painted with performers' bodies). **THE SKY ABOVE MY HOUSE** — outdoor installation **CENTRAL HALL BIG PLAZA, GENEVA**.

2000

TRANSFORMING BUDDHA — 6 min TV / 28 min DV, TSR L'AUTRE TÉLÉ, GENEVA, segment *Dave Tucker*.

RESURRECTION, MARIA, INSIDE OUT AND UPSIDE DOWN, VISION:VIDEO — DV productions, RÉUNION ISLAND.

1999

AWAKE AND RETURN (8 min DV), edited by *Jean-Lou Steinmann*.

1998

PEOPLE BEGIN TO FLY — interactive installation — UNESCO GRAND FOYER, PARIS for 50th Human Rights Anniversary, patronage *Federico Mayor*. Exhibition of large UNO paintings.

1997

ONENESS – WORLD VISION – REALITY — interactive installation & exhibition — PALAIS DES NATIONS, GENEVA, patronage *Vladimir Petrovsky*, 300 volunteers; Swiss TV DRS documentary. UNO GENEVA — TV news segment, TSR SCHWEIZER FERNSEHEN.

1996

JAPANESE FLAG — interactive painting performance — GOETHE INSTITUTE KYOTO, 19 Japanese dancers, supported by KYOTO MUSEUM OF CONTEMPORARY ART. NIKUNJA —

70 works — NATIONAL GALLERY BULAWAYO, ZIMBABWE (now in collection).
Residencies: SWISS EMBASSY, ZIMBABWE & GOETHE INSTITUTE, JAPAN.

1995

CZECH FLAG — 4.2 × 7 m interactive flag — REPUBLIC SQUARE, PRAGUE, confiscated, later exhibited UN GENEVA 1997, TV reports CZECH TV NOVA.

1994

EUROPEAN ONENESS VISION REALITY — EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT FOYER DES MINISTRES, STRASBOURG, patronage *Catherine Lalumière*, video-opening *Michal Kováč*.

1992–1993

SWISS FEDERAL ART-EST GRANT — residency EUROPEAN CULTURAL CENTRE, KRAKOW, POLAND. Exhibitions: AARGAUER KUNSTHAUS, KUNSTMUSEUM ST. GALLEN, KUNSTMUSEUM SOLOTHURN, NATIONAL MUSEUM GDANSK.

1991

SWISS FEDERAL ART GRANT (Swiss Art Award).

1985

Lecture — BASEL UNIVERSITY, Theological Faculty — *Art & Spirituality*.

1983

HEART STREAM — 150 m Rhine installation, BASEL, commissioned by City of Basel (parallel to ART'83 BASEL).

HEART FLAMES — flag-paintings, ENTRANCE ART'83 BASEL, participatory street- painting with 23 children.

1982

NIKUNJA — solo exhibition — KULTURHAUS PALAZZO LIESTAL.

1981

50 JUNGE SCHWEIZER MALER — KUNSTHALLE BASEL, curated by *Jean-Christophe Ammann*. SEEDAM KULTURZENTRUM group show.