

Hijawi, Samah

Biography

Samah Hijawi is an artist, researcher and curator. Since 2005 she collaborates in different capacities with Ola El-Khalidi and Diala Khasawneh, on the programming and management of Makan art space, an independent space dedicated to the facilitation and production of arts and culture in Amman. In 2012 the on-going curatorial platform the river has two banks was initiated with Shuruq Harb and Toleen Touq, to create and facilitate multiple occasions for discussions and presentations that address the growing distance between practitioners in Jordan and Palestine. Her visual practice and writing explore oral and visual expressions in relation to trauma and dislocation in the Levantine Arab region, with a specific focus on shifts in subject matter and aesthetics in Arab art in correlation with important political moments in the region. Her works have been shown in; Aleppo art Space - Brussels, Bureau Europa- Maastricht, MoMa and Apex Art - New York; Darat al Funun and Al Balad Theater - Amman; Beirut Art Center - Beirut; Haus Der Kulturen Der Welt, Birzeit University Museum - Ramallah; Louisiana Museum - Copenhagen; and The Onassis Center - Athens.

Education and study programs

Post-master research program, A.pass, Brussels, June 2014 - May 2015

Masters in Fine Arts, Central Saint Martins, London - 2005

Bachelors in Fine Arts, Lebanese American University - Beirut 1999

9 month Independent Study Program, Townhouse - Cairo, 2010

Relevant work experience

2015 - ongoing; contributing editor for Ibraaz.org platform for contemporary visual culture in North Africa and the Middle East

2005-ongoing: Makan Art Space, a collectively run project

2005-2008: Lecturer, University of Jordan, Department of Art and Design

2011&2013: Lecturer in AMIDEAST American University Exchange Program,

2007-2008: Lead Artist Nahnou Together: Museum Education Program for the British Council- Amman, and Tate Britain London.

Recent Exhibition and Participations

"The Wandering Singer of Tales" and "Paradise Series" for Echoes and Reverberations at The Hayward Gallery Project Space curated by Aaron Cezar from Delfina Foundation, London, June 2015.

"The wandering singer of Tales" performance, for Volver, Aleppo art space and A.Pass, Brussels, 2015

"The Dream" lecture performance at Konstpedemin, Gothenburg, Sweden, 2014.

"Where are the Arabs?" screening and artist talk, curated by Hoor Al Qasimi, MoMa PS1, New York, 2014

"Arab Unity Chorale" for Modern and Contemporary Arab Art Exhibition, Louisiana Museum, Copenhagen, 2014

"Paradise" for Real Imaginary Futures, curated by Saskia Van Stein, at Bureau Europa, Netherlands, 2014

"Chicken Scribbles and the Dove that Looks like a Frog" solo exhibition at Darat Al Funun: The Khalid Shoman Foundation, Amman 2013

"Twenty Two Years Today - 2013" collaboration with Diala Khasawnih, for Open Sesame at Apex Art, curated by Ola El Khalidi, New York, 2013

"It all Collapses in the Living Room" installation for Jericho-Beyond the Celestial and Terrestrial: 4th Cities Exhibition at Birzeit University Museum, curated by Yazid Anani, Ramallah, 2013

"Jericho: a new road map" Intervention in public space, for Jericho-Beyond the Celestial and Terrestrial: 4th Cities Exhibition curated by Yazid Anani, October 2012

"The Sexual Psychology of Hermaphrodites" for Meeting Points 6 curated by Okwui Enwezor at Haus der Kulturen der Welt, Berlin 2012, Onassis Culture Center Athens 2012; Beirut Art Center, Lebanon 2011, and Hakaya Festival at Al Balad Theater, Jordan, 2011

"This Works does not mean Anything to Me: Musings on Art and Art Discourse" intervention at the Jordan National Gallery of Fine Arts, for Sentences on the Banks and Other Activities Curated by Abdellah Karroum for Darat Al Funun: the Khalid Shoman Foundation, Amman, 2011

"Where are the Arabs?" public intervention, curated by Makan Art Space, Amman; and Ramallah city curated by Art School Palestine, 2009, and for Disorientation II, at Saadiyat Island, curated by Jack Persikian, U.A.E, 2010.

"Arab Unity Chorale" for The Other Show of the City, curated by Samar Martha, at Al Hosh Gallery, Jerusalem, 2009.

Writing

"Performativity and Public Space Interventions as Performative Gestures For Political Engagement in Jordan" Ibraaz online platform, Platform 009, , May 2015, <http://www.ibraaz.org/essays/129>

"Past Disquiet: Narratives and Ghosts from The International Art Exhibition for Palestine Exhibition Review" Ibraaz online, platform 008, April 2015, <http://www.ibraaz.org/reviews/78>

"Interview with Rasha Salti and Kristine Khoury on Narratives and Ghosts from The International Art Exhibition for Palestine" for Ibraaz platform 009 - upcoming in July 2015.

"Would you mind if you take a photo with me? Reflections on Gender Politics, Spontaneity and Social disciplining in the Public Spaces of Amman" for Makan Art space, to be published online in July 2015.

"Chicken Scribbles and the Dove that looks like a Frog" Sweet Sixties Book by Tranzit, 2014

"This work does not mean anything to me: musings on art and art discourse" Ibraaz.org, 8 May 2014

"Thoughts on Three Performances" March Meeting publication by Sharajah Art Foundation, 2013

"Wandering of a Collective" collaborative piece with Makan Collective, published by Ibraaz.org Platform 004, Nov 2012

"Untitled" Published for From Art to Life and Back, published by Paul Klee Sommerakademie 2012

"Reflections on different aspects of Contemporary Jordanian Visual Arts" in The Making of a Meeting, MER Paper Kunsthalle, 2013

"Vitrined Parks, picnics and reclaiming the city; Saba Innab's intervention at Makan" Published online, Makanhouse.net, March 21 2010

"Ammar Khammash exhibition, Landscape and Light" Published online Makanhouse.net, October 9th 2009

"Cultural Policy in Jordan" Cultural Policies in Algeria, Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco, Palestine, Syria and Tunisia – An Introduction. Cultural Resource, European Cultural Foundation,

Boekmanstudies, 2009.

"Nadim Kufi; Versatile Expression" Published in Canvas Magazine, Volume 4 Issue 1, 2008

"Politics of Home: Mona Hatoum Exhibition preview" Published November/December 2008, Canvas Magazine, Volume 4 Issue 3

"Chaos and Order" Published in Shatana International Artists Catalogue 2008.

Curatorial

The river has two banks a curatorial initiative with Toleen Touq and Shuruq Harb in Jordan and Palestine, 2012-ongoing

Collecting Architecture Territories, curatorial advisor and co-cordinator, with the Studio-X Lab Amman, Graduate School of Architecture and Planning, Columbia University and Columbia University Global Research Centers, Amman, 2013

Makan Art Space, Amman 2011-2013

Unclassified, Meeting Points 4, co-curator for the local program, 2007

Conferences, Meetings and Symposiums

"This work does not mean anything to me; musings on art and art discourse" for the conference Translating in the Mediterranean, by Anna Lindh and Transeuropeenne, Cairo 2014.

"Where Are the Arabs, Public performance" presentation for the 4th March Meeting in a session on Performing Arts: Creating New Work and New Audiences, by The Sharjah Art Foundation, Sharjah, 2012

"What about pre-revolutions? Makan's political engagement through its curatorial work" presentation for Translating Revolutions by Haus Der Kulturen Der Welt, Berlin, 2012

"Art and Civil Society" The Mediterranean: Cultural Dialogue after the Arab Spring conference organized by the Institute for Foreign Cultural Relations (IFA) in collaboration with the Charlemagne Institute for European Studies (ICEE), hosted by Universitat Internacional de Catalunya, Barcelona - Spain, 2011

"Political Influences on aesthetics in Jordan" at the conference Modern Arab Art: Objects, Histories, Methodologies for Association for Modern and Contemporary Art of the Arab World, Iran and Turkey, hosted by Mathaf: The museum of Modern Arab Art, Qatar, 2010

"You are Not An Artist" & "This work does not mean anything to me" video lecture, Art Hub New Silk Roads symposium, Thailand 2009.

Awards and Residencies

Art OMI residency for International Artists, New York, USA 2012

Hotel Maria Kapel, 3-month research residency, Hoorn, Netherlands, 2010

Art School Palestine, one month research and production residency, Palestine, 2009

Sommer Akademie Workshop at Paul Klee Museum, Bern, Switzerland, 2011

Production Grant "Chicken Scribbles and the Dove that looks like a Frog" exhibition Darat Al Funun, 2013

Production Grant "The Sexual Psychology of Hermaphrodites" Young Arab Theater Fund for Meeting Points 6, 2011

Production Grant for "Arab Unity Chorale" Art School Palestine for Other Shadow of the City, 2010
Alexandria Contemporary Arts Forum, Egypt, 2008

Production Grant "The Gas Car Project" from the European Union Amman, 2009

Production Grant "Where are the Arabs?" from Young Arab Theater Fund, Belgium, 2009