Rahraw Omarzad

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Independent Artist, Curator, and Writer. His work has been exhibited worldwide, including at documenta 13.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

2025–2026: Guest Professor, HfG Offenbach

2022: Guest Professor, Städelschule

2023–present: Teaching Contemporary Arts, CCAA in EXiLe

2023–present: Conducting workshops, Albertina Academy of Fine Arts, Turin

2006–2021: Teaching Contemporary Arts, Female Artistic Center of CCAA

2004–2021: Teaching Contemporary Arts, Center for Contemporary Art Afghanistan

2002–present: Teaching Contemporary Arts, Art History, Painting, and Drawing, Faculty of Fine Arts, Kabul University

1997–2002: Teaching Drawing, Painting, and Sculpture, Institute of Fine Arts, Peshawar, Pakistan

1993–1996: Teaching drawing and painting to the hearing impaired, SERVE office

1991–1993: Teaching drawing to the hearing impaired, ILO, Kabul

1985–1987: Teaching drawing and painting, Ministry of Culture and Information Artistic Center “Maimanagi”

FOUNDER

2021: Founding member and chairperson, CCAA in EXiLe e.V.

2018: Founder, Contemporary Art Studio, Faculty of Fine Arts

2006: Founder and Director, Women Art Center

2004: Founder and Director, Center for Contemporary Arts Afghanistan (CCAA)

1999: Founding Editor, art magazine “Ghanama-e-Hunar”

1995: Founding Editor, “Ayar” magazine

EDUCATION

2015–2017: MA, Oslo National Academy of Arts

1981–1985: Faculty of Fine Arts, Kabul University

1978–1980: Ghulam Mohammad Maimanagi Art Center, Painting Department, Ministry of Culture and Information

FELLOWSHIPS

Italy

One-year residency, Castello di Rivoli Museum of Contemporary Art.

2023: Creating the second part of the project Every Tiger Needs a Horse.

Workshop “Crossing the Distance,” Albertina Academy of Fine Arts, Turin.

USA

2012: ArtsLink Projects Award, Maryland Institute College of Art.

Germany

2004: Berlin, ifa – Institute for Foreign Cultural Relations.

2004: Kunsthochschule Berlin-Weissensee.

2022: Countering Fragmentation (workshop), HKW Berlin.

2024: Jury member, Afghanistan Cultural Fund, Goethe-Institut in Exile.

MEMBERSHIP

2016: Member, IKT – International Association of Curators of Contemporary Art

2014–present: Member, AFI – Artists' Film International Curators, Whitechapel Gallery, London

2012–2021: Member, HCA – High Council of Arts in Afghanistan

EXHIBITIONS

Solo Exhibitions

2013: Western Kentucky University of Arts, USA

2010: Kabul Zoo

2009: Gallery Over Photo, Naples, Italy

2006: French Cultural Center, Kabul

2006: Leonardo Cultural Center, Frankfurt, Germany

Group Exhibitions

2023: Artists in a Time of War, Castello di Rivoli Museum of Contemporary Art

2022: Video Spotlight, The Third One, Asia Society, New York

2017: Artists House, Oslo

2017: Ganges Art, Kolkata, India, "Memory Against Forgetting"

2013: Kassel documenta 13, Germany

2012: Artists' Film International, Gaining and Losing, London

2012: documenta 13, Gaining and Losing, Germany

2009: Asia Society, New York, USA

2009: Art Miami, USA

2009: New York City's First Muslim Arts Festival

2009: East of Nowhere, exhibition of rare post-Soviet Central Asian art, Italy

2008: Various exhibitions in Argentina, Germany, Hong Kong, India, Israel, Italy, Morocco, New Zealand, Norway, Poland, Serbia, Turkey, UK, US, and Vietnam

2008: The College of New Jersey, "Parable of the Garden," USA

2008: Winkleman Gallery, New York, USA

2005: Asia Society, New York, USA

COLLECTIONS

2006: Asia Society, New York

2023: Castello di Rivoli Museum of Contemporary Art, Turin

2023: Three other private collections

ORGANIZED AND CURATED EXHIBITIONS

2018: New Perspective, exhibition of ten female artists

2010: Trash art exhibition, Kabul University

2010: Exhibition on the occasion of International Women's Day

2009: Boon, the First Afghan Women Painting Exhibition

2009: Reflecting Democracy in Art, Serena Hotel, Kabul

2008: Make Art Not War, Boon, First Afghan Women Painting Exhibition

2008: Make Art Not War, Berlin, First Afghan Women Painting Exhibition

2008: Afghan women modern art exhibition, Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts

2008: Afghan women modern art exhibition, Kolkata, India

2008: First Female Painting and Modern Painting Exhibition in Kabul, Amani High School, Kabul

2008: Afghanistan at the Festival of Creativity, Florence

2008: Afghan Women Contemporary Painting Exhibition, New Delhi, India

2004–2008: Various exhibitions in Berlin, New Delhi, and other international venues

CONFERENCES AND PANEL DISCUSSIONS

2024: Talk and screening with Rahraw Omarzad, Hochschule für Gestaltung (HfG) Offenbach

2014: Congress of International Curators of Contemporary Art

2023: Panel discussion, The Years 2001–2021 and the Role of International Cultural Work, Festival Goethe-Institut in Exile Afghanistan

2023: Countering Fragmentation (workshop), curated by AVAH at HKW Berlin

2022: Talking Galleries, art world symposium, New York, with an international roster of top-level speakers

2009: Two-day symposium at Tate Britain and Tate Modern

2022: Keynote, Knowledge Sharing Workshops, research papers and advocacy on cultural relations in fragile contexts, EUNIC

2022: Cultural Centre of Belgrade, presentation

2022: Institutions and Resistance – Alliances for Art at Risk, Artists at Risk

2020: Stories from Curators around the World, IKT 2020

2016: Oslo Pilot, panel discussion, Every Tiger Needs a Horse

2013: Maryland Institute College of Art, USA

2012: University of Maryland, Baltimore

2012: Metropolitan Center for the Visual Arts, Rockville, Maryland

2012: TEDx Kabul

2012: VisArt, artistic talk and presentation

2011: CEMEM Conference, Slovenia

2011: Panel discussion on Afghan Art and Culture, Bonn, Germany

2009: 9th Istanbul International Biennial

2009: Two-day symposium at Tate Britain and Tate Modern, Contemporary Art in the Middle East

2009: Symposium "Contemporary Arts in New Silk Road Countries," Bangkok, Thailand

2009: Conference on Contemporary Arts in South Asia, New Delhi, India

AWARDS AND HONORS

2004–2006: Best Artist of Afghanistan, awarded by the Ministry of Culture and Arts

2001: Best Teacher Award, Institute of Fine Arts, Pakistan

Numerous certificates and letters of appreciation from international institutions.

WORK EXPERIENCE

2002–present: Lecturer, Faculty of Fine Arts, Kabul University

2004–present: Founder and Director, Center for Contemporary Arts Afghanistan (CCAA)

2006–present: Founder and Director, Women Art Center

2000–2007: Editor in Chief, Ghanama-e-Hunar Art Magazine

1997–2002: Lecturer, Institute of Fine Arts, Peshawar, Pakistan

PUBLICATIONS

2021: “Renaissance Academy in Connection with Classicism”

2021: “The Place of Imagination in Art Educational Institutions in Kabul”

2018: “Confrontation of the General Entrance Exam and Raising Quality in the Faculty of Fine Arts”

2018: “Video Art in Afghanistan”

2018: “The Ups and Downs of Afghan Art in the Last Century”

2017: “Every Tiger Needs a Horse,” MA essay, Oslo National Academy of Arts

2011: “The Beginning of the Third Artistic Change in Afghanistan” – focus on women’s role in Afghan contemporary art

1995–2007: “Ghanama-e-Hunar” Art Magazine

1997: Co-editor, “Payame Sulh” special youth magazine

1998: Ayar Magazine