

MERI HELMI SÄRKKÄ
(Formerly known as Mariam Haji)
www.merihelmisarkka.com

UPCOMING

2023 Solo at Suomenlinna Cathedral (UNESCO world heritage site), Helsinki, Finland

Founded:

2021 - Ongoing 'Here I am' Collective

2019 - 2020 'Roihu studios' Arts, Performance and Dance studio in Helsinki, Finland

Education:

2006 - 2008 BA Fine Art (Drawing), RMIT University, Melbourne, Australia

2004 – 2005 Visual Arts Diploma, TAFE, RMIT University, Melbourne, Australia

2002 – 2003 Introductory Course in Art and Design, Dundee College, Dundee, Scotland

Solo Exhibitions:

2022 Solo show, Luckan – Center for Finnish-Swedish Culture, Helsinki, Finland

2022 'UNTIL' Helsinki Cathedral, Helsinki, Finland

2019 'Taking a chance on Love', Le Pave D'orsay, Paris, France

2016 'Hummus Reflections', Third Space Gallery, Helsinki, Finland

2012 'Premonition', Bin Mattar House Museum, Muharraq, Bahrain

2009 'Army of Mariam', Spring of Culture Festival, El Bareh Gallery, Bahrain

2008 'The Unlovely', First Site Gallery, Melbourne, Australia

Selected Group Exhibitions:

2022 'Baytuna' National Museum of Finland, Publics, Gloria, Museum of Central Finland (Traveling Pop up)

2022 'As we gaze upon her' Banat collective, Warehouse421, Abu Dhabi

2021 'To Err is Human', Mänttä XXV Art Festival, Finland

2020 'Becoming a Target', Myymälä2 Gallery, Helsinki, Finland

2020 'Becoming a Target', Casa della Musica di Cervignano del Friuli, Italy

2019 'Square' STOA cultural center, Helsinki, Finland

2018 'Rasi637' Kouta Gallery - Kouvola Art Museum Poikilo, Kouvola, Finland

2018 'KHAHLIL GIBRAN: A Guide for Our Times', Sotheby's, London, UK

2018 'Liberty' Gallery Kruetz, Porvoo, Finland

2017 'Femme' Exhibition on Bahraini female artists, UNESCO, Paris

2016 'RCA secret', Royal College Of Art, London, UK

2015 'Göteborg poetry festival', Sweden

2015 'Women On Walls – WOW Unchained' American University Cairo, Cairo, Egypt

2015 'Postlude Vol.1: The Post Oriental Odyssey, The Mine Gallery, Dubai, UAE

2015 '41st Annual Fine Art Exhibition Bahrain', Bahrain National Theater, Bahrain

2014 'She Views Her Self', Gallery 6 Mandeln, Paris, France

2014 'Women On Walls' Ras Al Ain Gallery, Amman, Jordan

2012 'Bahrain 38th Annual Fine Art Exhibition', Bahrain National Museum, Bahrain 2012

2011 'Spaces and the in-between', Riwaq gallery, Bahrain 2010

2010 'Dekakeen' Manama Souq, Spring of Culture Festival, Bahrain

2010 'The View from Here – 19 Perspectives on feminism', Next Wave Festival, Melbourne, Australia

2010 'As the Land Expands', Riwaq Gallery, Bahrain

2009 'Scattered in a Monument' Elham Arts Festival, Bahrain National Museum, Bahrain

2008 'Humming a New Dysphonia' Blind Side Gallery, Melbourne, Australia

Awards:

2012 First Prize in the 38th Bahrain Annual Fine Art Award, Bahrain National Museum, Bahrain

2008 Prize Finalist of '6 Degrees' for 'Human Landscape: The Cult of Personality' Frankston Art Centre, Melbourne, Australia

International Art Biennials:

2013 'A world of your own' Kingdom of Bahrain Pavilion, Venice Biennale, Curator Melissa Enders Bhatia, Venice, Italy

2009 'Across the Gulf' Curator Dr. Irene Barberis, Brisbane Arc Biennial, Australia

Grants & Scholarships:

2013 Research, production and travel grant for the Bahrain Pavilion, Venice Biennale, Ministry Of Culture, Bahrain.

2012 Shaikh Ebrahim Center for Culture and Research grant for the exhibition 'Premonition' at the Bin Mattar House Museum, Bahrain

2008 –

2009 Scholarship for research, Metasenta Projects, Melbourne, Australia

Publications:

- 2023 "As we gaze upon her" Banat collective in collaboration with Warehouse421
2015 "33 Artists...33 IslandsA Kingdom of Art" written by French author and art critic Mr. Renaud Siegmann
2013 "A world of your own" Pavilion of the Kingdom of Bahrain, Venice biennale. Issued by the Ministry of Culture, Kingdom of Bahrain.
2010 "the view from here 19 perspectives on Feminism" Victoria Bennet and Claire Rae
2009 "Across the Gulf" Written and produced by Irene Barberis and Keith Winter

Collections:

- 2019 "Davanti al Trono" Private collection of AG Behbehani, Kuwait
2015 "Voice of Rain" Permanent collection of the Ministry of Culture, Beijing, China
2013 "Victory" Personal collection of her Excellency Shaikha Mai Al Khalifa, Minister of Culture, The Kingdom of Bahrain and a permanent display at the National Theater of Bahrain.
2012 "Freedom from the Muse" Permanent Collection at the National Museum of Bahrain

Presentations / Artist Talks:

- 2022 Children's literature mediation workshop in the Arabic Language, National Museum of Finland, Helsinki, Finland
2022 Children's literature mediation workshop in the Arabic Language, Oodi Library, Helsinki, Finland
2022 Christian Art History in Europe and it's influence on the UNTIL Exhibit - Art tour, Helsinki Cathedral, Helsinki, Finland
2021 Podcast interview, Intercult, Helsinki, FI
2019 "Nationalism" Migration Memory Encounters, Museum of Movement, Malmo, Sweden
2015 "Artist Encounters – What it means to be a Gulf Artist" Mathaf: Arab Museum of Modern Art, Doha, Qatar
2014 "The Business of Art in the Arabian Gulf" Third Space Gallery, Helsinki, Finland
2014 "What is Contemporary Art in the Arabian Gulf?" Corner College, Zurich, Switzerland
2010 "What is feminism in western art and how do Middle Eastern feminists incorporate Western ideas in to their practice", Royal University for Women, Bahrain.
2010 "Introduction to current Middle Eastern contemporary practices", Macgregor State High School, Brisbane, Australia.
2009 'Differences between Western art history & Middle Eastern art history and its current effects on contemporary art in the Middle East', Riwaq Gallery, Bahrain
2009 'Across the Gulf' Brisbane Arc Biennale, Pecha Kucha, Powerhouse, Brisbane, Australia
2009 'Army of Mariam' Tashkeel, Dubai, UAE

Teacher / Instructor:

- 2022 'Navigating emotions with paints' Art workshop, HIV Point, Helsinki, Finland
2021 'Performative Drawing' HIV Point, Helsinki, Finland
2020 'Colour theory', Africa Care, Helsinki, Finland
2015 'Mentorship program – Artist Encounters', Mathaf: Arab Museum of Modern Art, Doha, Qatar
2015 'Mathaf Education: Idea development' Qatar Academy, Doha, Qatar
2015 'Life Drawing', Redbull Creative Space, Amwaj, Bahrain
2014 'Contemporary Drawing', Anamil Gallery, Bahrain
2012 'Drawing for adults', Ministry of Culture, Bahrain
2012 'Drawing for children', Ministry of Culture, Bahrain
2010 Teacher Intensive Drawing Workshop, Riwaq Gallery, Bahrain
2010 Studio Assistant and Ceramic Painting Instructor, Studio Ceramic, Bahrain

Membership with Artist Associations:

- HIAA Helsinki International Artist Association, Finland
SKJL Suomen Kuvataidejärjestöjen Liito, Finland
Catalysti Transcultural Artist Association of Finland
GAP Global Art Point Finland
BAS Bahrain Art society
BCAS Bahrain Contemporary Art society