

## ALI KAAF (SYRIA, B. 1977)

### Education

- 2000-05 Degree in Fine Arts – supervision: Rebecca Horn and Marwan, Universität der Künste (UdK) Berlin, Germany
- 1994-98 Degree in Fine Arts, Institut des Beaux-Arts, Beirut, Lebanon

### Selected Solo Exhibitions

- 2023 *I Know the Emptiness of this House*, Darat Al Funun, Amman, Jordan
- 2021 *I AM A STRANGER. TWOFOLD A STRANGER*, Museum of Islamic Art, The Pergamon Museum, Berlin, Germany
- 2020 *Between Yes and No Flies the Soul*, C&K Galerie, Berlin, Germany
- 2018 *Dins un garbell no es pot guardar el sol*, Galeria Maior, Palma, Spain  
 “The Byzantine Corner”, C&K Galerie, Berlin, Germany
- 2016 *Box of Pain*, Kühlhaus Berlin, Germany
- The Colour of The Water is The Colour of its Vessel*, The Bumiller Collection, Studio Berlin, Germany
- Unsilenced*, Pacific Felt Factory, San Francisco, USA
- 2015 *Papier und Glas*, Kunsthaus Langenberg – Alldiekunst, Velbert, Germany
- 2014 *RISS* (with Said Baalbaki), C&K Galerie, Berlin, Germany  
*Scherben Mantra*, Bomb Gallery, Mostar, Bosnia
- 2013 *Mihrab*, Moontower Foundation, Bad König-Zell, Germany
- 2012 *Hollowing Light*, Custer County Art & Heritage Center, Miles City, USA
- 2010 *Fragile Strength*, Yellowstone Art Museum, Billings (MT), USA
- Gubar*, Gallery Rafia, Damascus, Syria
- 2009 *Eclipse*, Galleria Marie-Laure Fleisch, Roma, Italy
- 2008 *Oh nein Oh*, Gallery Naprzeciw, Poznan, Poland
- RAS RAS/Der Schwarze Garten*, Galerie Sakamoto Contemporary, Berlin, Germany
- 2007 *Schwarz*, Galerie Haus am Lützowplatz, Berlin, Germany

2006 *Ali Kaaf, Discovery Planet*, Solidere, Beirut, Lebanon  
  
*Ali Kaaf, Khan Ashad-Bacha*, in collaboration with Goethe-Institut Damascus, Syria

2004 *Aswad*, Darat al Funun, Khalid Shoman Foundation, Amman, Jordan

### Selected Group Exhibitions

2024 *Art Dubai*, Ayyam Gallery booth, Madinat Jumeirah, Dubai, UAE

2023 *Gedanken spielen Verstecken – A Contemporary Art Exhibition for Kids and Adults*, Group exhibition with Karin Sander, Olafur Eliasson, Nadia Kaabi-Linke, Tomás Saraceno, among others. Curated by: Rebecca Raue, Haus Kunst Mitte – House for Contemporary Art, Berlin, Germany

2022 *Those swept away by the waters/rose up as clouds*. Video/Sound installation Ali Kaaf with Khaled Mzher, fC\*, Documenta 15, Kassel, Germany

*Downfalls – From Dystopia to Disruption*, curated by Simon Santschi, Kunsthalle Trier, Germany

2021 *In Memory of Edith Stein*, curated by Hubert Salden, The Museum Stift Stams, Tirol, Austria

2019 *Görsel Belleğin Bilgeliği (Wisdom of Visual Memory)*, curated by Beral Madra, Tophane-i Amire Culture and Art Center, Mimar Sinan University of Fine Arts, Istanbul, Turkey

*In Weiter Ferne So Nah*, curated by Marc Wellmann, Haus am Lützow Platz, Berlin

*For Birds' Sake*, Group exhibition with Amador, Norbert Bisky, A.R. Penck, Cornelia Schleime, among others. C&K Galerie, Berlin, Germany

*A Journey of Belonging - Part II*", CAA. Group exhibition with Tammam Azzam, Rebecca Raue, Nasan Tur, among others. Bikini-Haus, Berlin, Germany

*Fourfold Positions from Berlin*, Group exhibition with Silvina Der-Meguerditchian, Ali

2018 *Caravane Culturelle Syrienne*, Kunstverlag Galerie Till Breckner, Düsseldorf, Germany  
Festival ME\_MMIX 2018"

Video Installation accompanied by *48 Variations for Two Pianos* by John McGuire, Festival ME\_MMIX 2018, Es Baluard Museum of Modern and Contemporary Art, Palma, Spain

2017 *Syria: Into the Light*, Group exhibition with Fateh Moudarres, Marwan, Louay Kayyali, Youssef Abdelke, Mohamad Al Roumi, among others

Atassi Foundation, *Concrete* - Alserkal Avenue, Dubai, UAE

- 2016 *The Red Gaze*, Group exhibition with Ahmet Elhan, Memed Erdener a.k.a. Extramücadele, Erdem Gündüz, Aisha Khalid, Şükran Moral, Erkan Özgen, Imran Qureshi, Sarkis, Arnold Schoenberg, Eşref Yıldırım. Curated by A. S. Bruckstein Çoruh, Zilberman Gallery, Berlin, Germany
- As If, At Home*, Artists in Europe, Group exhibition with Mirosław Bałka, Norbert Bisky, Michaël Borremans, Irina Botea, Valérie Favre, Lia Kazakou, Marie Lund, Šejla Kamezić, Flo Kasearu, Sean Scully, Ali Kaaf and other artists. Curated by Jurriaan Benschop. Freiraum in der Box, Berlin, Germany
- 2015 *Ortstermin mit Leoni Wirth - Modelle und Entwürfe aus dem Atelier von Leoni Wirth und zeitgenössische Positionen zu Abstraktion und Moderne*, Kunsthaus Dresden, Dresden, Germany
- Living with endangered Languages in the information age*, Root Division, San Francisco, USA
- 2013 *SyriArt*, Institut du Monde Arabe, Institut du Monde Arabe, Paris, France
- 2012 *Maribor Project - Rebecca Horn and Guests*”, Contemporary Art Museum, Maribor, Slovenia
- 2009 *Taswir – Islamische Bildwelten und Moderne*, group exhibition with Etel Adnan, Maliheh Afnan, Song Dong, Mona Hatoum, Susan Hefuna, Rebecca Horn, Idris Khan, Wolfgang Laib, ,Marwan, Walid Raad, among others. Martin-Gropius-Bau, Berlin, Germany
- 2008 *Rites of Passage*, Galería Maior, Pollença, Spain

## Presentations

- 2019 **Artist Talk**, *The Byzantine Corner*: Lecture and Artist’s talk, Kala Art Institute, Berkeley (CA), USA
- Symposium** at the British Museum — *Yemen and Syria: making art today*. Artists’ panel: Anna Wallace-Thompson, Buthayna Ali, Fadi Yazigi, Ali Kaaf and Kevork Mourad. British Museum, London, UK
- Artist’s Talk**, *Beyond the Painting*, Yellowstone Art Museum, Billings(MT), USA
- 2016 **Artist’s Talk**, Jurriaan Benschop in conversation with Ali Kaaf, Kühlhaus, Berlin, Germany
- Artist’s Talk**, with Mirosław Bałka, Valérie Favre and Ali Kaaf. Moderation by Jurriaan Benschop. Freiraum in der Box, Berlin, Germany
- 2012 - 2014 **Panel Discussion**, Working alongside the curatorial team of the exhibition *Kunststoff Syrien*, Forum Factory, Berlin, Germany
- 2015 *Intima*, visual direction & creative content, dance project in cooperation with Dawson Dance SF and choreographed by Gregory Dawson, San Francisco, USA

## Awards

- 2014 *Honorary AIR Awardees*, Kala Art Institute, Berkeley, USA

2004 *German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD). Prize for Outstanding International Students, assigned by UdK Berlin, Germany*

### Residencies and Workshops

2023 **Residency**, Darat al Funun, Amman, Jordan, NEUSTART plus Stipendium, Stiftung Kunstfonds, Bonn, Germany

2020 **Residency**, German Federal Foreign Ministry and Landesverband Berliner Galerien (lvbg), Berlin, Germany

2019 **Workshop**, with the students of MSU Billings, Montana State University Billings, Billings (MT), USA

2015 **Residency**, Kala Art Institute, Berkeley, USA

2011-2013 **Workshop**, Four blowing glass with glass artist James Mongrain, Seattle WA, USA

### Collections

The Khalid Shoman Foundation Darat Al Funun, Amman, Jordan

Kala Art Institute, Berkeley, USA

Collection Solidere Beirut, Lebanon

MAXXI - Museo nazionale delle arti del XXI secolo, Roma /  
MAXXI - Nationalmuseum für die Kunst des XXI. Jahrhunderts,  
Rome, Italy

Moontower Foundation, Frankfurt am Main, Germany

Museum für islamische Kunst/ Staatliche Museen zu Berlin,-  
Germany

Peter-Raue-Sammlung, Berlin, Germany

and other international private collections.

### Publications

2013 **Book: Ali Kaaf: *Paper and Glass***, with a poem by German artist Rebecca Horn, texts by Paris-based art historian Doris von Drathen and Robyn G. Peterson, Executive Director of Yellowstone Art Museum. Produced by Moontower Foundation and Meta Space Foundation, Leipzig, 76 pages  
Issue No. 104 of "Künstler – Kritisches Lexikon der Gegenwartskunst" features my recent glass

and paper works. The text "Ortsteilung" was written by art historian Doris von Drathen.