

ABBAS AKHAVAN

BORN

1977 Tehran, Iran

Lives and works in Montreal, Canada

EDUCATION

2006 Master of Fine Arts, University of British Columbia, Vancouver, Canada

2004 Bachelor of Fine Arts, Concordia University, Montreal, Canada

SELECTED SOLO EXHIBITIONS

2023 curtain call, The Glyptotek, Copenhagen, Denmark

curtain call, Copenhagen Contemporary, Copenhagen, Denmark

2022 study for a garden, Mount Stuart House, Isle of Bute, Scotland, UK

Cast for a folly, CAG Contemporary Art Gallery, Vancouver, British Columbia

2021 curtain call, variations on a folly, Chisenhale Gallery, London, UK

2019 They asked the fox, "Who is your witness?" He said, "My tail.", Catriona Jeffries, Vancouver, Canada

script for an island, Fogo Island Gallery, Fogo Island, Canada

cast for a folly, CCA Wattis Institute for Contemporary Arts, San Francisco, USA

2018 Folly, Vie d'ange, Montreal, Canada

Variations on a Landscape, The Power Plant Contemporary Art Gallery, Toronto, Canada

recently, The Third Line, Dubai, UAE

2017 Museum Villa Stuck, Munich, Germany

variations on a garden, Douglas Hyde Gallery, Dublin, Ireland

They hit a tree with an axe, SALT Galata, Istanbul, Turkey

variations on a garden, DRAF Studio, David Roberts Art Foundation, London, UK

2016 Neighbours, with Marina Roy, Dunlop Art Gallery, Regina, Canada

Singing Softly When No One's Around, Art Gallery of Ontario, Toronto, Canada

KIDS CATS AND 1 DOG, FLORA ars+natura, Bogotá, Colombia

2015 variations on a garden, Mercer Union, Toronto, Canada

Study for a Curtain, The Third Line, Dubai, United Arab Emirates

Artspeak, Vancouver, Canada

2013 Study for a Glasshouse, Peel Art Gallery, Brampton, Canada

Galeri Manâ, Istanbul, Turkey

green house, Western Front, Vancouver, Canada

- 2012 Study for a Garden, Delfina Foundation, London, UK
Fire/Fire, with Marina Roy, Centre A and Malaspina Printmakers, Vancouver, Canada
Beacon, The Darling Foundry, Montreal, Canada
- 2011 Hawkers, Images Festival, Trinity Square Video, Toronto, Canada
Correspondences, Modern Fuel, Kingston, Canada
2nd May Day, Convenience Gallery, Toronto, Canada
- 2010 Islands, The Third Line, Dubai, United Arab Emirates
- 2009 Sitings, AXENÉO7, Gatineau, Canada
Neighbours, with Marina Roy, DAÏMÕN, Gatineau, Canada
- 2008 Neighbours, with Marina Roy, VIVO Media Arts Centre, Vancouver, Canada
- 2007 Correspondences, Stratagem Pacific Consulting, Vancouver, Canada
Vacate, Storage Gallery, Vancouver, Canada

SELECTED GROUP EXHIBITIONS

- 2024 Tête-Bêche, Bortolami, New York, USA
Survival in the 21st Century, Deichtorhallen Hamburg, Germany
At the Edge of Land, Jameel Arts Center, Dubai, UAE
- 2023 Soft and Weak Like Water, Gwangju Biennale, Gwangju, South Korea
Apparition Room, Western Front, Vancouver, Canada
- 2022 Réclamer la terre, Palais de Tokyo, Paris, France
Perceptible Rhythms/Alternative Temporalities, MEI Art Gallery, Middle East Institute, Washington DC, USA
- 2021 NOTES ON HOW TO CARE FOR YOUR PLANTS, Third Line, online exhibition
Where We Go It Shall Be, Walk & Talk, Sao Miguel, Portugal
So Different, So appealing, Warehouse 421, Abu Dhabi, UAE
Sensing Nature, Momenta Biennale at Phi Foundation for Contemporary Art, Montreal, Canada
Once Upon a Time Inconceivable, Protocinema, Istanbul, Turkey
Where We Go It Shall Be, Walk & Talk, São Miguel, Portugal
live among and turn together, Galerie La Box, Ensa Bourges, Bourges, France
A Crack in Everything, Musée d'art contemporain de Montréal (online), Montreal, Canada
Inventing Nature: Pflanzen in der Kunst, Kunsthalle Karlsruhe, Karlsruhe, Germany
- 2020 A Few In Many Places, Protocinema, Parc Offsite, Montreal, Canada
9,5 Edition, Walk & Talk, São Miguel, Portugal
- 2019 Stone Witness, Nanaimo Art Gallery, Nanaimo, Canada

- The Shoreline Dilemma, Toronto Biennial of Art, Toronto, Canada
Second Hand, Jameel Arts Centre, Dubai, UAE
Desertado. Algo que aconteceu pode acontecer novamente, Galeria Municipal do Porto, Porto, Portugal
I Will See It, When I Believe It, The Third Line, Dubai, UAE
Unexplained Parade, Catriona Jeffries, Vancouver
- 2018 Hedges, Edges, Dirt, Institute for Contemporary Art at Virginia Commonwealth University, Richmond, USA
Enchanted Bodies/Fetish for Freedom, GAMEC, Bergamo, Italy
Beautiful world, where are you?, Liverpool Biennial, Liverpool, UK
A Kiss Under the Tail, Arsenal Contemporary, New York, USA
13 Ways to Summon Ghosts, Gordon Smith Gallery, North Vancouver, Canada
WHOSE LAND HAVE I LIT ON NOW?, SAVVY Contemporary, Berlin, Germany
Assemblages of Intimacy, A Tale of a Tub, Rotterdam, the Netherlands
But a Storm Is Blowing from Paradise, Galleria d'Arte Moderna Milano, Milan, Italy
To clear the ground of weeds, Hessel Museum of Art at Bard College, Annandale-on-Hudson, USA
Belonging to a Place, Art Gallery at the Embassy of Canada, Washington, DC, USA
- 2017 Vacancies, Towards Gallery, Toronto, Canada
Prospect.4: The Lotus in Spite of the Swamp, Prospect New Orleans, New Orleans, USA
A Poet*hical Wager, MOCA Cleveland, Cleveland, USA
Dream Variations, with Kristina Lee Podesva, Nuit Blanche, Toronto, Canada
STAGES, Plug In ICA, Winnipeg, Canada
Propped, Oakville Galleries, Oakville, Canada
Belonging to a Place, Scrap Metal Gallery, Toronto, Canada
Tamawuj, Sharjah Biennial 13, Sharjah, United Arab Emirates
- 2016 I stood before the source, Blackwood Gallery, Toronto, Canada
Making Nature: How we see animals, Wellcome Collection, London, UK
Food, 13th Fellbach Small Sculpture Triennial, Fellbach, Germany
Répétition, Fondation Boghossian – Villa Empain, Brussels, Belgium
But a Storm Is Blowing from Paradise, Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum, New York, USA
- 2015 Regarding Spectatorship: Revolt and Distant, Kunstraum Kreuzberg/Bethanien, Berlin, Germany
Home Works 7, Beirut Art Centre, Beirut, Lebanon
In the Land of the Blind the One-Eyed Man Loses Sight, Dittrich & Schlechtriem, Berlin, Germany
Sobey Art Award, Art Gallery of Nova Scotia, Halifax, Canada
Art Eco – Art-ivism, Cultuurcentrum Strombeek Grimbergen, Grimbergen, Belgium

- Art In The Age Of ... Asymmetrical Warfare, Witte de With, Rotterdam, the Netherlands
Blind White, Diaz Contemporary, Toronto, Canada
united nations extended – The Vienna Dialog, freiraum quartier21, Vienna, Austria
Accented, Maraya Art Center, Sharjah, United Arab Emirates
Common Grounds, Museum Villa Stuck, Munich, Germany
For Machine Use Only, Schneiderei, Vienna, Austria
- 2014 L'avenir, La Biennale de Montréal, Montreal, Canada
Furnishing Positions, Blackwood Gallery, Toronto, Canada
Burning Down the House, 10th Gwangju Biennale, Gwangju, South Korea
Résistance, Manif d'art 7, Quebec City, Canada
Utopias Constructed, Republic Gallery, Vancouver, Canada
CounterIntelligence, Justina M. Barnicke Gallery, Toronto, Canada
The Politics of Food, Delfina Foundation, London, UK
- 2013 FIAC Hors les murs, Muséum national d'histoire naturelle, Paris, France
AGORA, 4th Athens Biennale, Athens, Greece
Encyclonospace Iranica, Access Gallery, Vancouver, Canada
Ten Thousand Suns, Satellite Gallery, Vancouver, Canada
Traces of Life, Wentrup Gallery, Berlin, Germany
united nations revisited, Galerie M, Berlin, Germany
- 2012 Material Information, Art Museums of Bergen Permanenten, Bergen, Norway
Reflecting on Reflection, Galeri Manâ, Istanbul, Turkey
Tools for Conviviality, The Power Plant Contemporary Art Gallery, Toronto, Canada
Tactics for the here and now, Bucharest Biennale 5, Bucharest, Romania
GOLD, Belvedere Museum, Vienna, Austria
Videoformes 2012, Clermont-Ferrand, France
SO FAR SO GOOD, Extra Extra, Philadelphia, USA
- 2011 Iran via Video Current, Thomas Erben Gallery, New York, USA
Performa 11, New York, USA
Seeing Is Believing, KW Institute for Contemporary Art, Berlin, Germany
Changing Stakes: Contemporary Art Dialogues with Dubai, Mercer Union, Toronto, Canada
Snail Fever, The Third Line, Dubai, United Arab Emirates
Jour de Fête, LOOP Festival 2011, The Private Space Gallery, Barcelona, Spain
About painting, Art Berlin Contemporary, Berlin, Germany
The State: Uppers and Downers, Traffic Gallery, Dubai, United Arab Emirates

- 2010 On n'enchaîne pas les volcans, as part of Le Printemps de Septembre, Pavilion Projects, Montreal, Canada, at Point de Fuite, Toulouse, France
A to B, MKG127, Toronto, Canada
The Traveling Show, Botkyrka Konsthall, Stockholm, Sweden
2009 Speaking Truth to Reconciliation (a project in two parts), Artspeak, Vancouver, Canada
How Soon Is Now, Vancouver Art Gallery, Vancouver, Canada
- 2008 shrink-wrapped, Or Gallery, Vancouver, Canada
When The Mood Strikes Us, Platform Gallery, Winnipeg, Canada
Everything Should be Made as Simple as Possible, but not Simpler, Western Front, Vancouver, Canada
Orientalism and Ephemera, Centre A, Vancouver, Canada; Kenderdine Art Gallery, University of Saskatchewan, Saskatoon, Canada
- 2007 Long Distance: Between Location & Emotion, The Third Line, Dubai, UAE
About Time, II, Kunsten - Museum of Modern Art, Aalborg, Denmark
- 2006 Strange Bedfellows, Morris and Helen Belkin Art Gallery, Vancouver, Canada
Common Room, Belkin Satellite, Vancouver, Canada
RBC Canadian Painting Competition, Contemporary Art Gallery, Vancouver; Art Gallery of Calgary, Calgary; Musée d'art contemporain de Montréal, Montreal; Kitchener-Waterloo Art Gallery, Kitchener; Museum of Contemporary Canadian Art, Toronto, Canada

PUBLISHED WRITINGS BY THE ARTIST

- 2011 Abbas Akhavan, 'Makeshift Objects', Zamân 4, Winter
2010 Abbas Akhavan, 'Artist Project: what is above is as that which is below...', C Magazine 108, Winter
2007 Abbas Akhavan and Marina Roy, eds., Helen's Cookbook, Helen Pitt Gallery, Vancouver, Canada

RESIDENCIES

- 2019 Fogo Island Arts, Fogo Island, Canada
Walk&Talk, São Miguel, Portugal
Capp Street Project, CCA Wattis Institute for Contemporary Arts, San Francisco, USA
- 2017 Atelier Calder, Saché, France
- 2016 Fogo Island Arts, Fogo Island, Canada
- 2015 FLORA ars+natura, Bogotá, Colombia
- 2013 Fogo Island Arts, Fogo Island, Canada
Western Front, Vancouver, Canada

- 2012 Delfina Foundation, London, UK
- 2011 The Watermill Center, New York, USA
Delfina Foundation, Dubai, UAE
Trinity Square Video, Toronto, Canada
- 2010 Fundación Marcelino Botin, with Mona Hatoum, Santander, Spain
Point de Fuite, Toulouse, France
- 2009 The Apartment Gallery, Vancouver, Canada
AXENÉO7/DAÏMŌN, Gatineau, Canada
- 2008 VIVO Media Arts Centre, Vancouver, Canada
- 2007 Stratagem Pacific Consulting, Vancouver, Canada

AWARDS

- 2016 Fellbach Triennial Award
- 2015 Sobey Art Award, Sobey Art Foundation
- 2014 The Abraaj Group Art Prize
- 2012 Berlin Art Prize – Jubilee Foundation 1848/1948, Berlin, Germany
Artist Prize Finalist, Toronto Friends of the Visual Arts, Toronto, Canada
- 2011 Art Partners in Creative Development, Vancouver, Canada

COLLECTIONS

- The Jameel Arts Centre, Dubai, UAE
- The Solomon R. Guggenheim Foundation, New York
- The Vancouver Art Gallery, Canada
- Tate Modern, London
- UBS Investment Bank; The Farook Collection, Dubai, UAE
- Alma Mater Society: University of British Columbia, Canada