

AHMAD GHOSSEIN

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SELECTED APPOINTMENTS & GRANTS

2023- Present

Work in progress, Feature film, *The Side Effects of Trusting life*, Abbout Productions

2017-Present

Represented by Marfa Gallery, Beirut, Lebanon

2019-2022

Co- Artistic Director, Beirut Art Center (BAC), Beirut, Lebanon

2025

Service Taxi, Two Rides: Perhaps Words Ease the Burden
An improvised life performance inside a taxi in Beirut. 12 hours driving daily for 3 day

2024

Retrospective of my films on Cryptofiction, a london-Canadian based art non-profit platform

2024

Screening at *Home Works 9: A Forum on Cultural Practices*, Ashkal alwan, Beirut

2023

Solo exhibition, *Serotonin, Benzine, and a Renegade Body*, Marfa gallery, Beirut

2023

group exhibition, *Earthy Praxis*, Sursock Museum, Beirut

2023

group exhibition, *Ways of Vanishing*, the International Biennial of Contemporary Art of the South (BienalSur), Beirut

2017

Solo exhibition, *There is No Right or Wrong Here*, Marfa gallery, Beirut

2021

group exhibition, *Water*, Marfa gallery, Beirut

2018

Artist in Residence, “Inclusartiz Institute” Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

2014

Co-Artistic Director and Co-Founder, CO2 Performing Arts Festival, Beirut, Lebanon
CO2 “choreographers & composers” was an artistic platform that instigated collaborations between Lebanese and Norwegian dancers and musicians, bringing together artists from both disciplines to produce new collaborative work performed in public spaces, cultural venues, and theaters in Lebanon.

2013

Producer of Siljeholm/Ghossein/Issa: Orient the day. Ibsen in Beirut

Awarded the Ibsen Scholarship to produce and curate two Lebanese theatre productions and a seminar on Ibsen’s work.

2005-2010

Co-founder and member of Maqamat Dance Company
Participated in performances between 2005 and 2010 including at the Birmingham Theater Festival in the UK, Stadsschouwburg Theater Festival, in Amsterdam, Tanzhaus-Nrw, in Dusseldorf, Soul Dance Festival, in South Korea, Aarhus Dance Theater Festival, in Denmark, Bonlieu Scene Nationale-Annecy, Grand Theatre, Groningen, in the Netherlands, and Rotterdamse Schouwburg, in Rotterdam.

FILM AND VIDEO WORK

2023 *So your heart aches, huh?*” or “*The Pit*, video, 27 min.

In this work, I wrote a solo text about how I tried to keep myself together amid the collapse as well as my obsession with how hormones work, especially hormones that arouse feelings of joy, contentment, and satisfaction, namely dopamine and oxytocin. I was obsessed with learning how to raise their levels in my body while witnessing the chaos and madness of the country and the frenzied audacity of the media and its “news.”

2021 *Dancing with Shahrazad*, video installation, 20 min.

This video installation was commissioned by the Goethe Institute and the Museu de Arte Moderna do Rio de Janeiro for inclusion in its group exhibition *Make Yourself at Home*.

2019 *All This Victory*, feature film, 90 min.

Premiered at the Venice Film Festival, Critics Week, where it was awarded the grand prize for Best Film, the Audience Award, and the award for Best Technical Contribution. The film was screened at premiere festivals in Europe, Asia, Africa, and the Middle East, including the Cairo International Film Festival (International Competition), the Marrakech Film Festival (Special Screening), the Kerala Film Festival (International Competition), the Rotterdam Film Festival (Voices Main Programme), the Hainan International Film Festival (International Competition), Malmo Arab Film Festival (Feature Competition), Zurich Arab Film Festival (Feature Competition where it was awarded Best Director), the Adana Golden Boll Film Festival (Special Screening), the Medfilm Festival (International Competition where it was awarded the Best Artistic Expression Prize), the Cinema Mediterranean Brussels Film Festival (Special Screening) the Alfilm, Arab Film Festival Berlin (Special Screening), and the Bergen Arabic Film Festival (Special Screening). The film was also released in theaters in Canada, Egypt, France, Japan, Lebanon, Switzerland, Tunisia, and the UAE. In 2020 the film was also screened at Centre Pompidou under the Prospective Cinema Program.

2017 *White Noise*, short film, 20 min.

Premiered at the opening of the Directors' Fortnight "Quinzaine," Cannes Film Festival. The film was also screened at the BFI London Film Festival, Clermont-Ferrand Short Film Festival, 39e Festival Cinéma Méditerranéen, Freiburg Film Festival, Busan Short Film Festival, and the Festival Cinema Arab in Paris, among others.

2017 *The Last Cartographer in the Republic*, video, 15 min.

This single channel video is a part of the Solo exhibition, *There is No Right or Wrong Here*, Marfa gallery, Beirut

2015 *The Fourth Stage*, video, 37 min.

The video premiered at the opening of the Forum Expanded 2016 Edition of the Berlin film festival, Berlinale. I was awarded a grant by the Sharjah Art Foundation Production Programme to produce the video and in 2015 it was selected for inclusion in the Sharjah Biennial 12, *The Past, The Present, The Possible*. It also screened at the Fed Marseille International Film Festival (Parallel Screening) and the Ayam Beirut Film Days festival (Special Screening)

The film was also selected for inclusion in numerous biennales, museums, and galleries including, the SeMA Biennale Mediacity exhibition *Your Blazing World* in Seoul, South Korea in 2016, the art forum Produce 3's exhibition *The Game Settled into a Cagey Midfield Match* in Istanbul in 2016, Smithsonian's Freer Gallery of Art and the Arthur M. Sackler Gallery in 2017, Nam June Paik Art Center's *Undead Cinema* exhibit in 2017 in South Korea, the Centre de Création Contemporaine/Olivier Debré (CCCCOD) exhibit *Inland*, in Tours, France in 2017, and the 21st Contemporary Art Biennial Sesc_Videobrasil in 2019 in Brazil. In 2022,

The Fourth Stage was selected by the National Museum of Modern and Contemporary Art (MMCA), Sharjah Art Foundation, and ArkDes Stockholm to be included in the Watch, and Chill 2.0: Streaming Senses, Exhibition, which was screened in South Korea, Sweden, and the United Arab Emirates.

2013 *Relocating the Past, Ruins for the Future, Part Two*

Three channel video installation, 20 min, Exhibit under One Night Only program at Kunsthall Oslo, Norway.

2012 *You Have to Swim, You Have No Choice*, video installation, 10 min.

Nominated to the Sparebankstiftelsen DnB NOR, the video was exhibited in Berlin at Kunstraum Avus in 2014.

2012 *VG Panel*, video installation, 10 min.

This Single channel video was part of the solo exhibition, *yesterday's new* at Oslo Kunstforening

2011 *My Father is Still a Communist*, short film, 32 min.

The film premiered at the Doha Tribeca Film Festival in 2011 where it was awarded Best Short Film. The film was also screened in film festivals in Europe, North America, and the Middle East, including the Berlinale Film Festival (Forum Expanded); Documentaire sur Grand Écran, Visions du Réel Film Festival in Switzerland ; Sarajevo Film Festival; the Euro Mediterranean Coproduction Forum, the Kassel Video Festival, the Oberhausen Film Festival, Scrapbook Film Days in Beirut, the Toronto Film Festival (Bell Lightbox), the Arab Shorts Film Festival Days in Cairo, and the Al Kasaba Film Festival in Ramallah.

The film was also selected for inclusion in numerous biennales, museums, and galleries including, the *Mapping Subjectivity* film program at the Museum of Modern Art (MoMA) in New York in 2011, the *Museum as Hub* group exhibition at the New Museum in New York in 2011, the *Run Comrade, The Old World Is Behind You* exhibition at the Kunsthall in Oslo in 2011, the Communism Afterlives screening at the Betonsalon Gallery in Paris in 2011, Sharjah's Biennial 10, *Plot for a Biennial*, in 2011, the Institute of International Visual Arts (Iniva) in London in 2012, the *Lives in Montage, Beirut Screening* at the Casula Art Center in Sydney, Australia in 2012, the exhibit - *1814 REVISITED - The Past is Still Present*, at Akershus Kunstsenter, in Lillestrøm, Norway in 2014, Sweden's Havermagasinet Art Center's exhibit *Entry Prohibited to Foreigner* in 2015, the *Whorled Explorations* exhibit at the Kochi- Muziris Biennale in Kerala, India in 2015, and the Video Nale 15 in Bonn, Germany in 2015. In 2018, the film was also exhibited in Cologne's Akademie der Kunst der Welt/Koln.

2009 *What Does Not Resemble Me Looks Exactly Like Me*, video, 20 min.

Video interview between Ghassan Salhab and Mohammed Souid discussing the remarkable film *the last man* by Salhab.

2008 *Faces Applauding Alone*, video, 8 min.

Screened at Ashkal Alwan's Video April festival in 2009, Ayam Beirut Al Cinema'iy film festival in 2008, the Costante Cambiamento Festival in Florence in 2010, the *Sacred Fear* exhibition in 2011 at Kunsthall in Oslo, Norway, the Arsenal in Berlin in 2012, Lincoln Center, New York as part of the program *The Calm After the Storm: Making Sense of Lebanese Cinema*, "in cooperation with the group ArteEast, Goethe institute Cairo, *Arab shorts*, *Independent short film program*, 2009

2008 *An Arab Comes to Town*, documentary, 54 min.

Produced by Concern Film production company in Denmark and DR2. 500,000 viewers during the first month on DR2.

2007 *210 m*, video, 11 min.

Commissioned by the Lebanese Association for Plastic Arts, Ashkal Alwan, a non-profit organization based in Beirut, the video was screened at the Carthage Film Festival in 2008.

2006 *Faux-accord*, video, 4 min.

Part of the screening series Under Siege

2004 *Operation Nb...*, short film, 30 min.

Awarded Best Director in the short film category at the Beirut International Film Festival in 2004.

OTHER SELECTED EXHIBITIONS

2018-2019

Beirut, Beyrut, Beyrouth, group exhibition

The group exhibition was displayed at the National Gallery of Iceland, Kunstforening in Norway, and Ystad Art Museum in Sweden.

2017

DO IT Project, do It in Arabic, Sharjah Art Foundation, United Emirates

do it بالعربي includes a selection of previously published instructions and over 70 newly commissioned artist instructions that anyone can use to make a work of art. Co-curated by Sharjah Art Foundation Director Hoor Al Qasimi and Serpentine Gallery Artistic Director

Hans Ulrich Obrist, *do it بالعربي* [in Arabic] is a new iteration of the ongoing *do it* publication and exhibition project originally conceived by Christian Boltanski, Bertrand Lavier and Orbist in 1993

2015

When the Ventriloquist Came and Spoke to Me, solo lecture performance
Performed at Homeworks7, Beirut, Lebanon in 2015, the Mucem Museum in Marseilles in 2016, the Berlinale Film Festival (Forum Expanded) in 2016, at the art forum Produce 3's exhibition *The Game Settled into a Cagey Midfield Match* in Istanbul in 2016, and at the Hellerau European Center for Art's Sunrise to Sunset Festival in Dresden, Germany in 2017.

2013

Relocating the Past, Ruins for the Future, Art Project in a Public Space, Oslo, Norway
The pressure wave from the bomb that hit the government quarter on 22 July 2011 destroyed everything in its path, including VG's newspaper stand in Akersgata. For two years, the display stood untouched with readable newspaper pages from the tragic Friday behind the cracked glass. When it was to be scrapped in 2013, the artist Ahmad Ghossein started a relocation campaign to preserve the display.

2012

Yesterday's news, Solo Exhibition, Oslo Kunstforening, Oslo, Norway
Pieces from this show were later exhibited in 2016 at Entweder - Oder, Haus am Waldsee in Berlin, and at the Either-Or exhibit at the Nikolaj Contemporary Art Center in Copenhagen, and in 2017 at the MAXXI Museum's Neighbors Home Beirut exhibit in Rome.

Press and Publication

The publication of *Relocating the past, ruins for the future*, Public art project, Oslo
<https://koro.no/content/uploads/2015/01/Publikasjon-Ruins-for-the-future-eng.pdf>

Press

<https://www.artforum.com/print/reviews/201710/ahmad-ghossein-72523>

<https://redcutcollective.com/?p=2680>

<https://canvasonline.com/how-to-survive-the-collapse-of-a-nation-ahmad-ghossein-at-marfa-projects/>

<https://artasiapacific.com/issue/beirut-serotonin-benzine-and-a-renegade-body?locale=en>

<https://www.ibraaz.org/usr/library/documents/main/the-missing-link-3-a-mother-s-tongue-on-ahmad-ghossein-s-film-my-father-is-still-a-communist.pdf>

<https://asianmoviepulse.com/2021/04/film-review-all-this-victory-2019-by-ahmad-ghossein/>

<https://www.jadaliyya.com/Details/27707>

<https://www.jordannews.jo/Section-118/Entertainment/Lebanese-Film-Days-tell-stories-of-war-social-life-11725>