

CV Nadim Karam

Born in 1957, in Kaolack, Senegal

Lives and works in Lebanon

1982

He receives a Bachelor of Architecture from the American University of Beirut

Leaves for Japan on a Monbusho scholarship.

1982-1989

Studies under prominent professors and thinkers such as Hiroshi Hara, Fumio Maki and Tadao Ando at the University of Tokyo

He develops an interest in Japanese philosophy of space on which he bases his PHD

He created several solo art performances and exhibitions in Tokyo while completing master and doctorate degrees in architecture.

1989

He obtains a Doctor of Architecture from the Faculty of Architecture & Engineering at the University of Tokyo

1992

Teaches at the Shibaura Institute of Technology in Tokyo in 1992 with Riichi Miyake

First public art intervention in the underground advertising billboard system of selected Parisian metro stations and first occurrence of the Archaic Procession

1993-1995 and 2003-2004

He teaches architectural design at the American University of Beirut

1996

He founds Atelier Hapsitus, in Beirut, a pluri-disciplinary group and thinktank focused on the creation of an original urban vocabulary. Hapsitus-meaning the unpredictable outcome of choreographed Happenings and Situations- is usually the starting point of their projects, which reach maturity through shared ideas, research, and debate.

He starts realizing urban interventions internationally, both temporary and permanent, in cities as diverse as Melbourne, Prague, Dubai, Beirut, London, Tokyo and Nara, Japan, exploring the use of public art as an instrument of urban activation and regeneration.

1997

Installation of T-RACES PCB-137, in Prague: twenty steel sculptures, each 5m high, were placed on and around the Manes Bridge in dialogue with the baroque sculptures of the historic Charles Bridge. A lone elephant stood on the banks of the Vltava River and three 10m high giraffes overlooked the installation from the slopes of Prague Castle. Originally planned to last four months, the project was extended three months by the Czech President at the time, Vaclav Havel, who gave a press conference on the bridge and asked for a prolongation of the installation.

2000 - 2003

Dean of the Faculty of Architecture, Art, and Design at Notre Dame University in Lebanon

He is commissioned to conceive a large installation of permanent artworks to contribute to the creation of an identity for Nakameguro, a new urban complex of buildings in central Tokyo. He creates in total, around one hundred and forty different works, free-standing in stainless steel or integrated in cobblestone paving, which is one of the most extensive permanent urban art projects in Tokyo.

2002

He co-chairs in the UN/New York University conference in London for the reconstruction of Kabul and is selected as the curator for Lebanon by the first Rotterdam Biennale.

The post-civil war 1997–2000 itinerant urban art project he created for Beirut was one of five worldwide selected by the Van Alen Institute in New York for the role they played in the rejuvenation of city life and morale after a disaster.

2004

Installation of *The Three Magic Flowers of Jitchu*, in Nara, Japan, a project initiated in 1984, while still a doctorate student in architecture. After 20 years, the committee of monks of Todai-ji Temple finally gave approval for this temporary installation, the first contemporary art project to take place on temple grounds. It consisted of over seven hundred different steel sculptures, 45cm high each, scattered over the surface of Kagami Lake, and three large, 8m high, flowers, made of steel and fabric, which appeared to emerge from the lake.

2006

He's commissioned by the City of Melbourne and the Victoria State Government, to create *The Travelers*, a permanent public art intervention. He chooses to resuscitate an industrial rail bridge with large scale sculptures that cross the bridge on rails three times daily, recalling the history of immigrants to the city.

2007

He wins the Urban Design Award, and the Melbourne Prize, for *The Travelers*, in Melbourne, Australia

2016

Installation of *Stretching Thoughts, Shepherd and Thinker*, in UWC Atlantic College campus, Wales

2017

He creates *Wheels of Innovation*, a permanent art installation commissioned by Nissan for its headquarters in Yokohama, Japan

2018

Creates *The Path of Reflections*, a series of large-scale sculptures commissioned for Sheikh Abdullah al Salem museum complex in Kuwait city.

Opens A.MUSE.UM, his studio and exhibition space in Daroun

2019

Creates *Spaces In-Between*, a permanent public art installation commissioned by Boghossian Foundation for Villa Empain, Brussels

Exhibits *Politics of Dialogue: The Merry-Go-Round*, a large-scale kinetic sculpture as part of the group exhibition "Personal Structures" hosted by the European Cultural Centre (ECC) in the context of the Biennale Arte in Venice

Selected public art installations

2020 *Politics of Dialogue: The Merry-Go-Round*, Maastricht, Netherlands

On Parade, Desert X, ALULA, KSA

2019 *Spaces In-Between*, Villa Empain, Brussels

2019 *Politics of Dialogue: The Merry-Go-Round*, Venice Art Biennale, part of PERSONAL STRUCTURES 2019 exhibition, European Cultural Centre, Venice

2019 *Grasping the World* -Special Olympics World Games Abu Dhabi, UAE

2018 *The Path of Reflection*- Shaikh Abdullah Al Salam Cultural Center, Kuwait

2017 *Wheels of innovation* – Nissan Headquarters – Tokyo, Japan

Trio Elephants – Lover’s Park- Yerevan, Armenia

2016 *Stretching Thoughts: Shepherd and Thinker*- UWC Atlantic College, Wales, UK

2006 *The Travelers*- Sandridge Bridge, Melbourne, Australia

2004 *The Three Magic Flowers of Jitchu*- Kagami Lake, Todaiji Temple, Nara, Japan

- 2000-3** *Notting Hill Stories*- Notting Hill Gate, London, UK
- 2000-2** *Nakameguro*- Nakameguro complex, Tokyo, Japan
- 2001** *101 Water Sprites*- lakes of Mile End Millennium Park, London, UK
- 1997-0** *The Archaic Procession*- Beirut Central District, Beirut, Lebanon
- 1997** *T-Race's PCB-137*- Manes Bridge, Prague, Czech Republic
- 1995** *The Carrier*- National Museum, Beirut, Lebanon
- 1994** *T-Race's BSC-4971*- Sursock Museum, Beirut, Lebanon

Exhibition History - selected group exhibitions

- 2019 “Politics of Dialogue: The Merry-Go-Round”, Venice Art Biennale, part of PERSONAL STRUCTURES 2019 exhibition, European Cultural Centre, Venice
- 2018 “Art & Jewelry”- Custot Gallery, Dubai, UAE
- 2016 Art Dubai- Dubai, UAE
- 2015 Art Abu Dhabi- Abu Dhabi, UAE
- 2014 JISP Biennale 2014- Jing An Sculpture Park, Shanghai, China
- 2013 Art Dubai- Dubai, UAE
- 2012 “25 years of Arab Creativity”- Institut du Monde Arabe (IMA), Paris, France
- 2011 Abu Dhabi Art Fair- Abu Dhabi, UAE
- “Subtitled: with Narratives from Lebanon”- Royal College of Art, London, UK
- “Chatsworth Beyond Limits”- Sotheby's, London, UK
- “Dial 911 for the New Middle East”- Running Horse Contemporary Art Space, Beirut, Lebanon
- 2010 “Convergence”- American University Museum, Katzen Arts Centre, Washington, USA
- Art Hong Kong- Hong Kong, China
- Istanbul Contemporary- Istanbul, Turkey
- Miami International Art Fair- Miami, USA

- 2009 Scope Basel- Basel, Switzerland
- 2008 Art Paris Abu Dhabi- Abu Dhabi, UAE
- 2006 Independents Biennale- Liverpool, UK
- 2003 “Renewing, Rebuilding, Remembering”- The Lighthouse, Glasgow, Scotland
- 2002 “Renewing, Rebuilding, Remembering”- Van Alen Institute, New York, USA
- 2001 ST-ART, Contemporary Art Fair-Strasbourg, France
- 1996 "Looking Glass of a Nation"- South Korean pavilion at the Venice Architecture Biennale, Venice, Italy
- 1995 Kwangju Biennale of Art- Kwangju, South Korea
- 1993 Nippon International Contemporary Art Fair (NICAF)- Yokohama, Japan
“Geopolitics”- Inspiration Gallery, Tokyo, Japan
- 1992 Tokyo International Art Fair- Tokyo, Japan
- 1991 “Asian Art Road”- Korean Cultural Centre, Tokyo, Japan

Exhibition History- selected solo exhibitions

- 2017** “Compressed Thoughts”- Ayyam Gallery Dubai, Al-Serkal Avenue, UAE
- 2017** “Urban Stories” – The Fine Art Society, London, UK
- 2016** “Stretching Thoughts”- Ayyam Gallery, Beirut, Lebanon
- 2013** “99 Objects possible to find on a Cloud”- Ayyam Gallery, Dubai, UAE
“Shooting the Cloud”- Ayyam Gallery, London, UK
- 2008** “The Fisherman fishing from a Cloud”- Creek Art Fair, Dubai, UAE
“Clouds & Chairs”- Sultan Gallery, Kuwait City, Kuwait
- 2002** “101 archaic procession elements”- rooftop installation, Leeds, UK
- 2001** “The Giraffe, The Wild Cat & the apparently Digested Objects”- UNESCO, Beirut, Lebanon
“Solfeggio 101”- Portside Gallery, Yokohama, Japan

- 1998** "Hilarious Beirut"- Venice Institute of Architecture, Venice, Italy
- 1997** "Hilarious Beirut"- Berlin Technical University, Berlin, Germany
"T-Races PCB-137"- Manes Gallery, Prague, Czech Republic
- 1996** "T-Races PCB-137"- Bartlett School of Architecture, London, UK
- 1992** "Spinning Caves"- Formes Gallery, Tokyo & Kikukawa Gallery, Oita, Japan
- 1991** "The Carrier"- Marunouchi Gallery, Tokyo, Japan
- 1990** "Temple of the Obelisks"- Sagacho Exhibit Space, Tokyo, Japan
"Intercrossings"- IMA project exhibition & performance, French-Japanese Institute of Tokyo, Tokyo, Japan
- 1987** "Architectural Crisis" performance- Cealacanth House, Osaka, Japan
"Celebration of Life: The Funeral"- Spiral Garden, Tokyo, Japan
- 1986** "Micropluralism"- Striped House Museum of Art, Tokyo, Japan