



Nadim Karam

Born in 1957, in Kaolack, Senegal.
Lives and works in Lebanon.

● 1982

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.

Develops an interest in Japanese philosophy of space on which he bases his PHD.

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

● 1989

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

Teaches architectural design at the American University of Beirut.

● 1996

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 Hap-penings and Situ-ations- is usually the starting point of their projects, which reach maturity through shared ideas, research, and debate.

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 The Encounter of Kafka and Kandinsky, 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

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

Co-chairs 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

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

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

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.

● 2021

Unveils The Gesture, a large-scale temporary sculpture created in response to the 2020 August 4th blast that destroyed the port of Beirut and its surroundings, killing hundreds of people and leaving more than 300 000 homeless. Installed on ground zero, the work was put together over nine months using the scrap metal of wrecked hangars retrieved from the port area: the work stands 25 meters high, and weighs approximately 35 tons.

Selected Public Art Installations

● 2021

The Gesture, Beirut Port, Beirut Lebanon

● 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

Selected Public Art Installations

● 1997

The Encounter of Kafka and Kandinsky- 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

Exhibition History - Selected Group Exhibitions

● 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

● 2019

“Shorthand: Nadim Karam, Notes from the Archive”- A.MUSE.UM, Daroun, Lebanon

● 2018

“A.MUSE.UM: Traces of A Rhizomatic Dream”- A.MUSE.UM, Daroun, Lebanon

“Memory Lapse”-Anima Gallery, Doha, Qatar

● 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

Exhibition History- Selected Solo Exhibitions

● 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