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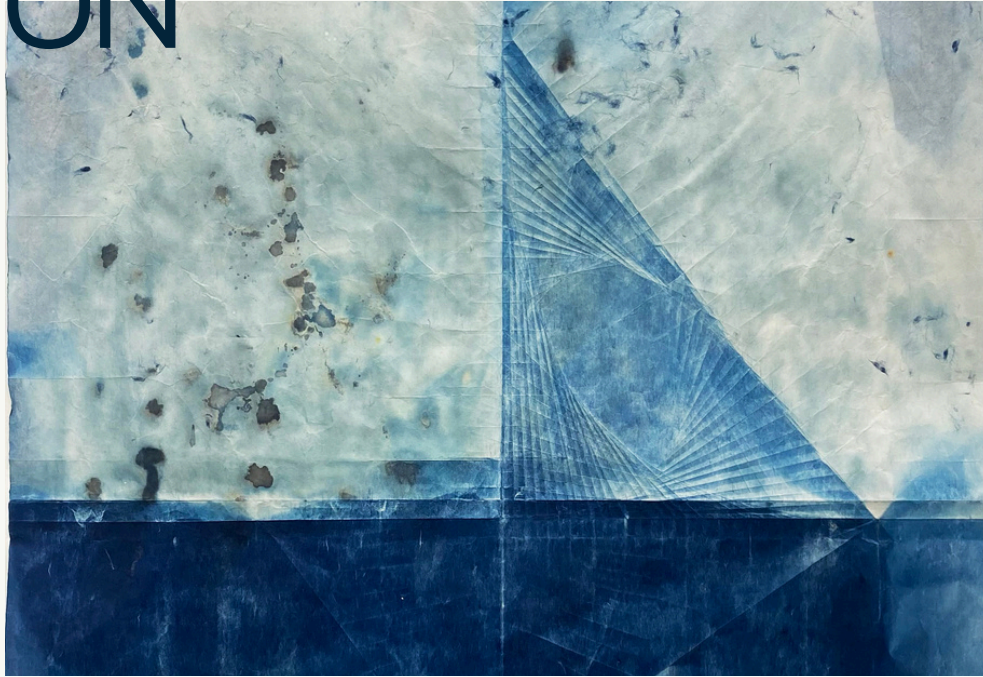
WORK BY IBRAHIM MAHAMA

VISITING ARTIST SERIES

COLUMBIA | MESAAS
MIDDLE EASTERN · SOUTH ASIAN · AND AFRICAN STUDIES

WORK BY KHALED JARRAR

VISION



WORK BY YASI ALIPOUR

The MESAAS Visiting Artist Series offers a vital space for artists and scholars working across the Middle East, South Asia, and Africa to engage in meaningful dialogue. This initiative aims to open cross-regional conversations that take art seriously as a critical tool, lens, and method for understanding complex social and political contexts. Through a combination of discussions, screenings, and workshops, the series encourages deep exchanges between diverse perspectives, creating an intellectual bridge between artists and scholars.

Previous speakers have included Khaled Jarrar (Palestine/USA), Ibrahim Mahama (Ghana), Tali Keren (Israel/USA), and Yasi Alipour (Iran), with upcoming events featuring Binta Diaw (Senegal/Italy) and Younes Baba-Ali (Morocco/Belgium). Discussions are also ongoing for this and the next academic year, with artists such as Mariam Ghani (Afghanistan/USA), Sammy Baloji (DR Congo/Belgium), Aziz Hazara (Afghanistan/Germany), and Sohrab Hura (India), among others, to be confirmed. The series has attracted a varied audience, including faculty, students, art critics, curators, and professionals from local institutions, making it an invaluable part of the department's mission to foster cross-cultural understanding and critical engagement with contemporary art, both in and outside of the university.

INVITED ARTISTS

Previous speakers have included Khaled Jarrar (Palestine/USA), Ibrahim Mahama (Ghana), Tali Keren (Israel/USA), and Yasi Alipour (Iran), with upcoming events featuring Binta Diaw (Senegal/Italy) and Younes Baba-Ali (Morocco/Belgium). Discussions are also ongoing for this and the next academic year, with artists such as Mariam Ghani (Afghanistan/USA), Sammy Baloji (DR Congo/Belgium), Aziz Hazara (Afghanistan/Germany), and Sohrab Hura (India), among others, to be confirmed.



KHALED JARRAR

3/27/2024



IBRAHIM MAHAMA

11/20/2024



TALI KEREN

12/8/2024



YASI ALIPOUR

1/28/2025



BINTA DIAW

2/12/2025



YOUNES BABA-ALI

3/4/2025

EVENTS

MESAAS Hosting Middle Eastern, South Asian, and African Artists Series



Speak, O Stone

Join us for the first event in a series of talks/performances curated by Gil Hochberg.

Artist Khaled Jarrar

A child's dream to be a pilot, making little objects from stones with a knowledge that he learned from an ex Palestinian prisoner. Reflections on militarism, bodies, masculinity, performance art, space, time, childhood, dreaming, home seeking and death.

MARCH 27, 2024 | 4-6 PM
KNOX HALL, ROOM 403

COLUMBIA | MESAAS

VISITING ARTIST SERIES
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MIDDLE EASTERN SOUTH ASIAN AND AFRICAN STUDIES



Ibrahim



Mahama

ARTIST TALK // KNOWN FOR HIS COMMUNITY-DRIVEN PRACTICE, MAHAMA CREATES LARGE-SCALE INSTALLATIONS FROM RECYCLED TEXTILES AND FOUND OBJECTS, ENCOURAGING REFLECTION ON THE SOCIAL HISTORIES EMBEDDED IN MATERIALS. HIS COLLABORATIVE APPROACH INVOLVES GATHERING AND TRANSFORMING THESE MATERIALS ALONGSIDE COMMUNITY MEMBERS, AND HE BENEFITS PROCEEDS FROM HIS WORK TO ESTABLISH INTERDISCIPLINARY INSTITUTIONS IN HIS HOMETOWN, TAMALE, GHANA, FOSTERING CULTURAL AND SOCIAL RENEWAL THROUGH A CIRCULAR ECONOMY.

20 NOVEMBER
11:00 AM - 9:00 PM
403 KNOX HALL
606 W 122ND ST, NY 10027

VISITING ARTIST SERIES
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MIDDLE EASTERN SOUTH ASIAN AND AFRICAN STUDIES



Tali



Keren

SCREENING & ARTIST TALK // UN-CHARTING (2023) CRITICALLY INVESTIGATES SETTLER-COLONIAL IMAGINATION, LAYERING HISTORICAL AND CONTEMPORARY FOOTAGE. IT EXAMINES THE IDEOLOGICAL AMBIGUITY - PAST AND PRESENT - OF CONSERVATIVE AMERICAN EVANGELISM, BRITISH IMPERIALISM, AND ZIONISM. THE PROJECT EXPLORES HOW MESSIANIC MYTHS TRAVEL ACROSS TIME AND GEOGRAPHY, MANIFESTING IN STATE-SANCTIONED VIOLENCE AND ATTEMPTS AT PALESTINIAN ERASURE, FOLLOWED BY AN OPEN DISCUSSION WITH TAL KEREN AND MESAAS CHAIR GIL HOCHBERG.

03 DECEMBER
4:00 PM - 6:00 PM
403 KNOX HALL
606 W 122ND ST, NY 10027

VISITING ARTIST SERIES
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Yasi



Alipour

ARTIST TALK // YASI ALIPOUR IS AN IRANIAN ARTIST/WRITER WHOSE TACTILE WORKS ON PAPER USE FOLDING TO EXPLORE MATHEMATICS AS A LANGUAGE, WITH ALL THE HISTORICAL, SOCIAL, POLITICAL, AND EMBROIDERED IMPLICATIONS ANY LANGUAGE HOLDS. IN HER WRITING, RESEARCH, AND PEDAGOGICAL APPROACH, ALIPOUR FOCUSES ON INTERGENERATIONAL CONVERSATIONS THAT HAPPEN THROUGH AND WITHIN HISTORIES OF ERASURE. ALIPOUR CURRENTLY LIVES IN BROOKLYN AND WONDERS ABOUT PAPER, COUNTING, AND SILENCE.

28 JANUARY
4:00 PM - 6:00 PM
403 KNOX HALL
606 W 122ND ST, NY 10027

VISITING ARTIST SERIES
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Binta




Diaw


ARTIST TALK // BINTA DIAW, AN ITALIAN-SENEGALISE ARTIST, EXPLORES MIGRATION, BELONGING, HISTORY, AND GENDER THROUGH HER INSTALLATIONS AND SITE-SPECIFIC PROJECTS. INFLUENCED BY INTERSECTIONALITY AND ECO-FEMINISM, DIAW CHALLENGES EUROCENTRIC NARRATIVES, REINTERPRETING HISTORY THROUGH HER ARTS' SENSORY AND CONCEPTUAL LAYERS.

12 FEBRUARY
5:00 PM - 6:30 PM
403 KNOX HALL
606 W 122ND ST, NY 10027

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Younes



Baba-Ali

ARTIST TALK // YOUNES BABA-ALI, A MOROCCAN-BORN ARTIST, CREATES UNCONVENTIONAL, CRITICAL ART IN PUBLIC SPACES BY BLENDING TECHNOLOGY, SOUND, VIDEO, AND PHOTOGRAPHY WITH POLITICAL, SOCIAL, AND ECOLOGICAL THEMES. DESCRIBING HIMSELF AS A "DOUBLE MIGRANT," HE OBSERVES THE WORLD OBLIQUELY, NAVIGATING RECIPROCAL PROCESSES OF ADAPTATION AND ACCULTURATION THROUGH METAPHORS AND POETIC EXPRESSIONS THAT DISRUPT POWER DYNAMICS AND CHALLENGE AUTHORITATIVE DISCOURSE.

04 MARCH
4:10 PM - 6:00 PM
403 KNOX HALL
606 W 122ND ST, NY 10027