

Nermine Hammam

Biography

Egyptian photo artist | Cairo and London | PDF for curators and institutions

Nermine Hammam (b. 1967, Cairo) is an Egyptian photo artist working between Cairo and London. Trained as a filmmaker at New York University's Tisch School of the Arts, she worked on Spike Lee's *Malcolm X* during its Egyptian shoot before turning to photography in the late 1990s.

Hammam's practice begins with the photograph and moves through digital manipulation, painting, collage and archival layering. Across series including *Upekkha*, *Cairo Year One*, *Metanoia*, *Wétiko*: *Cowboys and Indigenes*, *Ma'at* and *A'aru*, she stages familiar images — the soldier, the icon, the wounded body — and works them until they stop obeying their original meanings. The cinematic foundation persists: her images operate as suspended frames, holding the tension of something just outside view.

She has exhibited at the Mosaic Rooms, London; Rose Issa Projects, London; Townhouse Gallery, Cairo; Safarkhan Gallery, Cairo; Tintera Gallery, Cairo; Hôtel des Arts, Toulon; Gypsum Gallery, Cairo; the Institut des Cultures d'Islam, Paris; and the Jordan National Gallery of Fine Arts, Amman. Her work has been shown in over one hundred group exhibitions internationally, including *Light from the Middle East* at the Victoria and Albert Museum, London; *She Who Tells a Story: Women Photographers from Iran and the Arab World* at the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston and the National Museum of Women in the Arts, Washington, D.C.; *Arab Contemporary* at the Louisiana Museum of Modern Art, Humlebæk; *In Rebellion* at IVAM, Valencia; *Human.Kind: Prix Pictet* at the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Museum, Geneva; *Social Calligraphies* at the Zachęta National Gallery of Art, Warsaw; the *X Bienal de Cuenca*, Ecuador; *Rencontres de Bamako*; *Photoquai* at the Musée du quai Branly, Paris; and the *Jaou Tunis Biennial*.

Her work is held in the public collections of the Victoria and Albert Museum, London; the Tropenmuseum, Amsterdam; the Museo d'Arte Contemporanea Horcynus Orca, Messina; and Durham University, UK. She received the Freedom to Create First Prize in 2011, and her work has been recognised by the Julia Margaret Cameron Award and the Worldwide Photography Gala Awards.

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