

ABBAS AKHAVAN

BORN

1977 Tehran, Iran

Lives and works in Montreal, Canada

EDUCATION

2006 Master of Fine Arts, University of British Columbia, Vancouver, Canada

2004 Bachelor of Fine Arts, Concordia University, Montreal, Canada

SELECTED SOLO EXHIBITIONS

2026 *Variations on a Garden*, Walker Art Center, Minneapolis, MN, USA

Canadian Pavilion, 61st La Biennale di Venezia, Venice, Italy

2025 *One Hundred Years*, Morris and Helen Belkin Art Gallery, Vancouver, Canada

2024 *Disembody*, with Rochelle Goldberg, Catriona Jeffries, Vancouver, Canada

Tête-Bêche, with Merikokeb Berhanu, Bortolami, New York, USA

2023 *Curtain Call, variations on a folly*, Copenhagen Contemporary, Copenhagen, Denmark

Cast for a folly, Ny Carlsberg Glyptotek, Copenhagen, Denmark

Omay, Djamal, Albert. hiver 1982; Lights In The City 1999, Dazibao Satellite, Montreal, Canada

2022 *study for a garden*, Mount Stuart House, Isle of Bute, Scotland, UK

Cast for a folly, CAG Contemporary Art Gallery, Vancouver, Canada

2021 *curtain call, variations on a folly*, Chisenhale Gallery, London, UK

2019 *They asked the fox, "Who is your witness?" He said, "My tail."*, Catriona Jeffries, Vancouver, Canada

script for an island, Fogo Island Gallery, Fogo Island, Canada

cast for a folly, CCA Wattis Institute for Contemporary Arts, San Francisco, CA, USA

2018 *Folly*, Vie d'ange, Montreal, Canada

Variations on a Landscape, The Power Plant Contemporary Art Gallery, Toronto, Canada

recently, The Third Line, Dubai, UAE

2017 Museum Villa Stuck, Munich, Germany

variations on a garden, Douglas Hyde Gallery, Dublin, Ireland

They hit a tree with an axe, SALT Galata, Istanbul, Turkey

variations on a garden, DRAF Studio, David Roberts Art Foundation, London, UK

- 2016 *Neighbours, with Marina Roy*, Dunlop Art Gallery, Regina, Canada
Singing Softly When No One's Around, Art Gallery of Ontario, Toronto, Canada
KIDS CATS AND 1 DOG, FLORA ars+natura, Bogotá, Colombia
- 2015 *variations on a garden*, Mercer Union, Toronto, Canada
Study for a Curtain, The Third Line, Dubai, UAE
Artspeak, Vancouver, Canada
- 2013 *Study for a Glasshouse*, Peel Art Gallery, Brampton, Canada
Galeri Manâ, Istanbul, Turkey
green house, Western Front, Vancouver, Canada
- 2012 *Study for a Garden*, Delfina Foundation, London, UK
Fire/Fire, with Marina Roy, Centre A and Malaspina Printmakers, Vancouver, Canada
Beacon, The Darling Foundry, Montreal, Canada
- 2011 *Hawkers*, Images Festival, Trinity Square Video, Toronto, Canada
Correspondences, Modern Fuel, Kingston, Canada
2nd May Day, Convenience Gallery, Toronto, Canada
- 2010 *Islands*, The Third Line, Dubai, UAE
- 2009 *Sitings*, AXENÉO7, Gatineau, Canada
Neighbours, with Marina Roy, DAÏMÕN, Gatineau, Canada
- 2008 *Neighbours, with Marina Roy*, VIVO Media Arts Centre, Vancouver, Canada
- 2007 *Correspondences*, Stratagem Pacific Consulting, Vancouver, Canada
Vacate, Storage Gallery, Vancouver, Canada

SELECTED GROUP EXHIBITIONS

- 2025 *Les Fleurs du Mal*, Oakville Galleries, Ontario, Canada
15th Shanghai Biennial: Does the flower hear the bee?, Power Station of Art, Shanghai, China
Presence, Contemporary Calgary, Calgary, Canada
Gathering Ground, Tate Modern, London, UK
- 2024 *Walk With Me*, Alserkal Arts Foundation, Dubai, United Arab Emirates
Three Tired Tigers, Jameel Arts Centre, Dubai, United Arab Emirates
As We Move Away From the Sun, apexart, Allan Gardens, Toronto, Canada
At the Edge of Land, Jameel Arts Center, Dubai, United Arab Emirates

- Survival in the 21st Century*, Deichtorhallen Hamburg, Germany
- Les Forces du Sommeil – Cohabitations des vivants*, Manif d'art, La biennale de Québec, Quebec City, Canada
- 2023 *Un Cane, Senza Guinzaglio*, Spazio Orr, Brescia, Italy
- Toward Freedom*, Projet Casa, Montreal, Canada
- Soft and Weak Like Water*, 15th Gwangju Biennale, Gwangju, South Korea
- Apparition Room*, Western Front, Vancouver, Canada
- 2022 *Perceptible Rhythms/Alternative Temporalities*, Middle East Institute, Washington DC, USA
- Mettere al mondo il mondo*, Thomas Dane Gallery, Naples, Italy
- Entangled Life*, RADIUS Center for Contemporary Art and Ecology, Delft, the Netherlands
- Scents of Movement, Scents of Place*, Art Gallery of Alberta, Edmonton
- Réclamer la terre*, Palais de Tokyo, Paris, France
- 2021 *NOTES ON HOW TO CARE FOR YOUR PLANTS*, The Third Line (Online), Dubai, United Arab Emirates
- Where We Go It Shall Be*, Walk & Talk, Sao Miguel, Portugal
- So Different, So appealing*, Warehouse 421, Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates
- Sensing Nature*, Momenta Biennale at Phi Foundation for Contemporary Art, Montreal, Canada
- Once Upon a Time Inconceivable*, Protocinema, Istanbul, Turkey
- live among and turn together*, Galerie La Box, Ensa Bourges, Bourges, France
- A Crack in Everything*, Musée d'art contemporain de Montréal (Online), Montreal, Canada
- Inventing Nature: Pflanzen in der Kunst*, Kunsthalle Karlsruhe, Karlsruhe, Germany
- 2020 *A Few In Many Places*, Protocinema, Parc Offsite, Montreal, Canada
- 9,5 Edition*, Walk & Talk, São Miguel, Portugal
- 2019 *Stone Witness*, Nanaimo Art Gallery, Nanaimo, Canada
- The Shoreline Dilemma*, Toronto Biennial of Art, Toronto, Canada
- Second Hand*, Jameel Arts Centre, Dubai, United Arab Emirates
- Desertado. Algo que aconteceu pode acontecer novamente*, Galeria Municipal do Porto, Porto, Portugal
- I Will See It, When I Believe It*, The Third Line, Dubai, United Arab Emirates
- Unexplained Parade*, Catriona Jeffries, Vancouver, Canada

- 2018 *Hedges, Edges, Dirt*, Institute for Contemporary Art at Virginia Commonwealth University, Richmond, USA
Enchanted Bodies/Fetish for Freedom, GAMEc (Bergamo Gallery of Modern and Contemporary Art), Bergamo, Italy
Beautiful world, where are you?, Liverpool Biennial, Liverpool, UK
A Kiss Under the Tail, Arsenal Contemporary, New York, USA
13 Ways to Summon Ghosts, Gordon Smith Gallery, North Vancouver, Canada
WHOSE LAND HAVE I LIT ON NOW?, SAVVY Contemporary, Berlin, Germany
Assemblages of Intimacy, A Tale of a Tub, Rotterdam, the Netherlands
But a Storm Is Blowing from Paradise, Galleria d'Arte Moderna Milano, Milan, Italy
To clear the ground of weeds, Hessel Museum of Art at Bard College, Annandale-on-Hudson, USA
Belonging to a Place, Art Gallery at the Embassy of Canada, Washington, DC, USA
- 2017 *Vacancies*, Towards Gallery, Toronto, Canada
Prospect.4: The Lotus in Spite of the Swamp, Prospect New Orleans, New Orleans, USA
*A Poet*hical Wager*, MOCA Cleveland, Cleveland, USA
Dream Variations, with Kristina Lee Podesva, Nuit Blanche, Toronto, Canada
STAGES, Plug In ICA, Winnipeg, Canada
Propped, Oakville Galleries, Oakville, Canada
Belonging to a Place, Scrap Metal Gallery, Toronto, Canada
Tamawuj, Sharjah Biennial 13, Sharjah, United Arab Emirates
- 2016 *I stood before the source*, Blackwood Gallery, Toronto, Canada
Making Nature: How we see animals, Wellcome Collection, London, UK
Food, 13th Fellbach Small Sculpture Triennial, Fellbach, Germany
Répétition, Fondation Boghossian – Villa Empain, Brussels, Belgium
But a Storm Is Blowing from Paradise, Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum, NY, USA
- 2015 *Regarding Spectatorship: Revolt and Distant*, Kunstraum Kreuzberg/Bethanien, Berlin, Germany
Home Works 7, Beirut Art Centre, Beirut, Lebanon
In the Land of the Blind the One-Eyed Man Loses Sight, Dittrich & Schlechtriem, Berlin, Germany
Sobey Art Award, Art Gallery of Nova Scotia, Halifax, Canada
Art Eco – Art-ivism, Cultuurcentrum Strombeek Grimbergen, Grimbergen, Belgium

- Art In The Age Of... Asymmetrical Warfare*, Witte de With, Rotterdam, the Netherlands
Blind White, Diaz Contemporary, Toronto, Canada
united nations extended – The Vienna Dialog, freiraum quartier21, Vienna, Austria
Accented, Maraya Art Center, Sharjah, United Arab Emirates
Common Grounds, Museum Villa Stuck, Munich, Germany
For Machine Use Only, Schneiderei, Vienna, Austria
- 2014 *L'avenir*, La Biennale de Montréal, Montreal, Canada
Furnishing Positions, Blackwood Gallery, Toronto, Canada
Burning Down the House, 10th Gwangju Biennale, Gwangju, South Korea
Résistance, Manif d'art 7, Quebec City, Canada
Utopias Constructed, Republic Gallery, Vancouver, Canada
CounterIntelligence, Justina M. Barnicke Gallery, Toronto, Canada
The Politics of Food, Delfina Foundation, London, UK
- 2013 *FIAC Hors les murs*, Muséum national d'histoire naturelle, Paris, France
AGORA, 4th Athens Biennale, Athens, Greece
Encyclonospace Iranica, Access Gallery, Vancouver, Canada
Ten Thousand Suns, Satellite Gallery, Vancouver, Canada
Traces of Life, Wentrup Gallery, Berlin, Germany
united nations revisited, Galerie M, Berlin, Germany
- 2012 *Material Information*, Art Museums of Bergen Permanenten, Bergen, Norway
Reflecting on Reflection, Galeri Manâ, Istanbul, Turkey
Tools for Conviviality, The Power Plant Contemporary Art Gallery, Toronto, Canada
Tactics for the here and now, Bucharest Biennale 5, Bucharest, Romania
GOLD, Belvedere Museum, Vienna, Austria
Videoformes 2012, Clermont-Ferrand, France
SO FAR SO GOOD, Extra Extra, Philadelphia, PA, USA
- 2011 *Iran via Video Current*, Thomas Erben Gallery, NY, USA
Performa 11, NY, USA
Seeing Is Believing, KW Institute for Contemporary Art, Berlin, Germany
Changing Stakes: Contemporary Art Dialogues with Dubai, Mercer Union, Toronto, Canada
Snail Fever, The Third Line, Dubai, United Arab Emirates

- Jour de Fête*, LOOP Festival 2011, The Private Space Gallery, Barcelona, Spain
About painting, Art Berlin Contemporary, Berlin, Germany
The State: Uppers and Downers, Traffic Gallery, Dubai, United Arab Emirates
- 2010 *On n'enchaîne pas les volcans*, as part of Le Printemps de Septembre, Pavilion Projects, Montreal, Canada, at Point de Fuite, Toulouse, France
A to B, MKG127, Toronto, Canada
The Traveling Show, Botkyrka Konsthall, Stockholm, Sweden
2009 *Speaking Truth to Reconciliation (a project in two parts)*, Artspeak, Vancouver, Canada
How Soon Is Now, Vancouver Art Gallery, Vancouver, Canada
- 2008 *shrink-wrapped*, Or Gallery, Vancouver, Canada
When The Mood Strikes Us, Platform Gallery, Winnipeg, Canada
Everything Should be Made as Simple as Possible, but not Simpler, Western Front, Vancouver, Canada
Orientalism and Ephemera, Centre A, Vancouver, Canada; Kenderdine Art Gallery, University of Saskatchewan, Saskatoon, Canada
- 2007 *Long Distance: Between Location & Emotion*, The Third Line, Dubai, United Arab Emirates
About Time, II, Kunsten - Museum of Modern Art, Aalborg, Denmark
- 2006 *Strange Bedfellows*, Morris and Helen Belkin Art Gallery, Vancouver, Canada
Common Room, Belkin Satellite, Vancouver, Canada
RBC Canadian Painting Competition, Contemporary Art Gallery, Vancouver; Art Gallery of Calgary, Calgary; Musée d'art contemporain de Montréal, Montreal; Kitchener-Waterloo Art Gallery, Kitchener; Museum of Contemporary Canadian Art, Toronto, Canada

PUBLISHED WRITINGS BY THE ARTIST

- 2011 Abbas Akhavan, 'Makeshift Objects', Zamân 4, Winter
2010 Abbas Akhavan, 'Artist Project: what is above is as that which is below...', C Magazine 108, Winter
2007 Abbas Akhavan and Marina Roy, eds., Helen's Cookbook, Helen Pitt Gallery, Vancouver, Canada

RESIDENCIES

- 2022 PRIM-Dazibao production-dissemination residency, Montreal, Canada
Thomas Dane, Naples, Italy
Mount Stuart House, Isle of Bute, Scotland
- 2019 Fogo Island Arts, Fogo Island, Canada
Walk&Talk, São Miguel, Portugal
Capp Street Project, CCA Wattis Institute for Contemporary Arts, San Francisco, CA, USA
- 2017 Atelier Calder, Saché, France
- 2016 Fogo Island Arts, Fogo Island, Canada
- 2015 FLORA ars+natura, Bogotá, Colombia
- 2013 Fogo Island Arts, Fogo Island, Canada
Western Front, Vancouver, Canada
- 2012 Delfina Foundation, London, UK
- 2011 The Watermill Center, NY, USA
Delfina Foundation, Dubai, UAE
Trinity Square Video, Toronto, Canada
- 2010 Fundación Marcelino Botin, with Mona Hatoum, Santander, Spain
Point de Fuite, Toulouse, France
- 2009 The Apartment Gallery, Vancouver, Canada
AXENÉO7/DAÏMÓN, Gatineau, Canada
- 2008 VIVO Media Arts Centre, Vancouver, Canada
- 2007 Stratagem Pacific Consulting, Vancouver, Canada

AWARDS

- 2025 The Hnatyshyn Foundation Mid-Career Award for Excellence in Visual Arts
- 2016 Fellbach Triennial Award
- 2015 Sobey Art Award, Sobey Art Foundation
- 2014 The Abraaj Group Art Prize
- 2012 Berlin Art Prize – Jubilee Foundation 1848/1948, Berlin, Germany
Artist Prize Finalist, Toronto Friends of the Visual Arts, Toronto, Canada
- 2011 Art Partners in Creative Development, Vancouver, Canada

COLLECTIONS

The Jameel Arts Centre, Dubai, United Arab Emirates

The Solomon R. Guggenheim Foundation, NY, USA

The Vancouver Art Gallery, Canada

Tate Modern, London, UK

UBS Investment Bank; The Farook Collection, Dubai, United Arab Emirates

Alma Mater Society: University of British Columbia, Canada