

Mandy Merzaban

Artist/Researcher

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I am a London-based artist and poet whose work draws on my unique trajectory working within cultural institutions and my background in transnational curatorial work. My practice of 'poetic eavesdropping' explores diasporic longing, grief, and the hidden labour of the arts sector and archives through poetry, cyanotype, and text, tracing connections between Arab and East Asian epistemologies. My work culminates in site-responsive publications that make these intimate architectures of relationship publicly accessible.

Education

Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT)

MA History, Theory and Criticism of Architecture and Art | Cambridge, USA

American University of Paris (AUP)

MA Cultural Translation | Paris, France

University of British Columbia (UBC)

BFA Fine Arts and Anthropology | Vancouver, Canada

Residencies & Fellowships

2025 *Poet in Residence* | **John Hansard Gallery**, Southampton, UK

2024 *Artist AREVA Writer's Room* | **CVAN/Metroland Cultures**, London, UK

2022 *Fellow in Residence* | **Delfina Foundation**, London, UK

2022 *Brooks International Fellow* | **Tate Britain**, London, UK

2019 *Artist in Residence* | **YARAT Art Center**, Baku, Azerbaijan

2018 *Artist in Residence* | **Alserkal Foundation**, Dubai, UAE

Public Engagements & Selected Projects

2025 Workshop Lead: *Cyanotype Workshop* | **PageMasters Zine Fair**, London, UK

2024 Workshop Lead: *bad comms poetry workshop* (w/ Mosaic Rooms) | **The Feminist Library**, London, UK

2024 Performance: *Do Let us Destroy the Pyramid* | **CVAN/Metroland Cultures**, London, UK

2023-24 Focus Group Co-Lead: *The Archive as a Gathering Place* | **Tate Britain**, London, UK

2023 Artist Talk/Lecture Performance: *Revision Programme* | **PEER Gallery**, London, UK

2022 Research Presentation: *Tate Research Seminar* | **Tate Britain**, London, UK

2022 Conference Advisor: *Reshaping the Collectible Conference* | **Tate Britain**, London, UK

2021 Guest Lecturer: *HA6025 Fieldwork* (MA in Global Gallery Studies) | **University College Cork**, Ireland

2020 Guest Lecturer: *Unit 5: Museums and Social Responsibility* | **The College of Wooster**, OH, USA

2019 Exhibition: *On the tip of other tongues* | **YARAT Art Center**, Baku, Azerbaijan

2019 Workshop Lead: *Suminigashi Marbling workshop* | **YARAT Art Center**, Baku, Azerbaijan

2018 Performance & Exhibition: *An Unknown Lover's Discourse* | **Alserkal Project Space**, Dubai, UAE

Selected Earlier Engagements (2012-2018)

2018 Panelist: *Barjeel Art Foundation: Reflection and Retrospective* | **Alserkal Foundation**, Dubai, UAE

2017 Panelist: *Between two rounds of fire, the exile of the sea* | **Katzen Art Center**, Washington, USA

2017 Moderator: *Art and History panel, Writing/Curating the Middle East* | **Yale University**, New Haven, USA

2017 Moderator: *Suspended Histories* | **Alserkal Foundation**, Dubai, UAE

2017 Moderator: *Artist Talk: Gateway to Memories with Sadik Alfraji* | **Maraya Art Centre**, Sharjah, UAE

2016 Panelist: *Panic of the Audible* (with Karim Sultan) | **Alserkal Foundation**, Dubai, UAE

2013 Panelist: *Cultural Hubs, Incubators & Alternative Arts Spaces in Dubai* | **Institut du monde arabe**, Paris, FR

2013 Speaker: *Campus Art Dubai 1.0* | **Via Traffic**, Dubai, UAE

2013 Speaker: *Appreciating Art Lecture Series* | **Singapore Art Museum**, Singapore
2013 Panelist: *Art Week Seminar: The Non-profit sector* | **The Pavilion**, Dubai, UAE
2012 Panelist: *Gulf Art Guide launch with Mondrian Foundation* | **Cobra Museum**, Amsterdam, NL

Selected Publications

Poetry

2025 *a heart gills*, | Poetry Pamphlet, **Short Pieces That Move**, London, UK

Books, Zines & Catalogues

2024 Contributor: *Policy for Policy* | Writer's Room, **CVAN/Metroland Cultures**, London, UK
2020 Contributor: *In Under the Skin: Feminist Art and Art Histories from the Middle East and North Africa Today*, edited by Ceren Özpınar and Mary Kelly | **Oxford University Press**
2017 Contributor: "In Chronological Disorder: Revisiting Histories of Invasion." In *No to the Invasion: Breakdowns and Side Effects*, edited by Fawz Kabra and Annie Godfrey Larmon | **CCS Bard**
2017 Contributor: *Modern Art from the Middle East* | **Yale University Art Gallery**
2015 Contributor: *Imperfect Chronology: Arab Art from the Modern to the Contemporary*, by Omar Kholeif, et al
2013 *Terms and Conditions* | **Singapore Art Museum**
2013 *Re: Orient Investigating Modernism in the Arab World 1950s-70s* | **Barjeel Art Foundation**
2012 *Alienation* | **Barjeel Art Foundation**

Articles & Essays

2024 'Do let us destroy the pyramid' | **CVAN London**
2023 'Opening Weekend of Richard Bell's Embassy' | **Tate**, London, UK
2022 "Hosting Artist Residencies: Institutional tensions and accountabilities" | **Contemporary Art Society**
2020 "Walid Raad aka Suha Traboulsi: On Feminist Methodologies and the discourse of Modern Arab Art" | **Imprint, MIT Architecture**
2018 "Rustling the Archive: Revisiting Etel Adnan's Three Questions for Paul Guiragossian" | **Jadaliyya**
2016 "An Unknown Lover's Discourse" | **Ibraaz**

Academic Theses

2021 *Scripting Inclusion* | Master's Thesis, **MIT Department of Architecture**, USA
2013 *An Unknown Lover's Discourse* | Master's Thesis, **American University of Paris**, France

Selected Curatorial Projects

2018 Co-Curator: *A Century in Flux* | **Sharjah Art Museum**, UAE
2018 Curatorial Adviser: *Paul Guiragossian: Testimonies of Existence* | **Maraya Art Centre**, UAE
2017 Curator: *Beloved Bodies I & II* | **Barjeel Art Foundation**, Sharjah, UAE
2017 Co-Curator: *Modern Art of the Middle East* | **Yale University Art Gallery**, New Haven, USA
2017 Co-organiser: *Chefs-d'œuvre de l'Art Moderne et Contemporain Arabe* | **Institut du Monde Arabe**, France
2016 Curatorial Advisor: *The Sea Suspended* | **Tehran Museum of Contemporary Art**, Iran
2016 Co-organiser: *Hurufiyyah: Art and Identity* | **Bibliotheca Alexandrina**, Egypt
2013 Guest Curator: *Terms and Conditions* | **Singapore Art Museum**, Singapore
2013 Curator: *Re:Orient: Investigating modernism in the Arab world 1950s-70s* | **Barjeel Art Foundation**, UAE
2012 Curator: *Alienation* | **Barjeel Art Foundation**, UAE
2012 Curator: *Caravan* | **Barjeel Art Foundation**, UAE
2011 Curator: *Strike Oppose* | **Barjeel Art Foundation**, UAE
2011 Curator: *Residua* | **Barjeel Art Foundation**, UAE
2010 Curator: *Peripheral Vision* | **Barjeel Art Foundation**, UAE