

MICHAEL RAKOWITZ

b. 1973, Great Neck, NY; lives and works in Chicago, IL

ARTIST BIOGRAPHY

Michael Rakowitz's work is deeply informed by his Iraqi-Jewish heritage and the long history of conflict between the West and the Middle East. He utilizes extensive research to create sculptures, installations, participatory workshops, films, and architectural interventions that intertwine complex histories and unexpected symbols. Rakowitz critiques ongoing colonial forces, highlighting the loss, looting, and destruction of cultural artifacts, and drawing attention to the human suffering resulting from persistent violence.

EDUCATION

- 1998 Master of Science in Visual Studies, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Cambridge, MA
1995 Bachelor's of Art, Purchase College SUNY, Purchase, NY

SELECTED SOLO EXHIBITIONS

- 2023 *The Monument, the Monster and the Maquette*, Jane Lombard Gallery, New York, NY
The Waiting Gardens of the North, The Baltic Centre for Contemporary Art, Gateshead, United Kingdom
I'm good at love, I'm good at hate, it's in between I freeze, Galerie Barbara Wien, Berlin, Germany
The invisible enemy should not exist (Northwest Palace of Kalhu, Room F, Southeast Entrance; Room S, Southwest Entrance), Barakat Contemporary, Seoul, South Korea
- 2022 *Reappearitions*, Frac Lorraine, Metz, France
The invisible enemy should not exist (Room S, section 1, Northwest Palace of Nimrud), Green Art Gallery, Dubai, United Arab Emirates
The Monument, The Monster, and The Maquette, Rhona Hoffman Gallery, Chicago, IL
- 2021 *The invisible enemy should not exist (Room C, section 1, Northwest Palace of Nimrud)*, Pi Artworks, Istanbul, Turkey
April is the cruellest month, England's Creative Coast: Turner Contemporary, Margate, United Kingdom
- 2020 *Michael Rakowitz: Nimrud — The invisible enemy should not exist (Room H, Northwest Palace of Nimrud)*, Wellin Museum of Art, New York City, New York
The invisible enemy should not exist (Room G, Northwest Palace of Nimrud), Radvilas Palace, Vilnius, Lithuania
Return, Contemporary Art Centre, Vilnius, Lithuania
The invisible enemy should not exist (Room F, section 1, Northwest Palace of Nimrud), Nasher Prize Laureate Exhibition, Nasher Sculpture Center, Dallas, TX
Michael Rakowitz (traveling survey) Jameel Arts Center, Dubai, United Arab Emirates
The invisible enemy should not exist (Room F, section 1, Northwest Palace of Nimrud), Jane Lombard Gallery, New York, NY
The invisible enemy should not exist (Room G, Northwest Palace of Nimrud), Tensta Konsthall, Sweden
- 2019 *Imperfect Binding (traveling survey)*, Castello di Rivoli Museo d'Arte Contemporanea, Turin, Italy
Michael Rakowitz (traveling survey), Whitechapel Gallery, London, United Kingdom
The invisible enemy should not exist (Room G, Northwest Palace of Nimrud), Malmo Konsthall, Sweden
The invisible enemy should not exist (Room Z, Northwest Palace of Nimrud), Williams College Museum of Art, Williamstown, MA
Beneath the Date Palms, CURRENT: LA Public Art Triennial, Los Angeles, CA
Dispute Between the Tamarisk and the Date Palm, REDCAT, Los Angeles, CA
- 2018 *The invisible enemy should not exist (Room Z, Northwest Palace of Nimrud)*, Rhona Hoffman Gallery, Chicago, IL

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- A Color Removed*, Front Triennial, Cleveland, OH
The Ballad of Special Ops Cody and Other Stories, Galerie Barbara Wien, Berlin, Germany
 The invisible enemy should not exist, Trafalgar Square, London, United Kingdom
- 2017 *Backstroke of the West*, Museum of Contemporary Art, Chicago, IL
 Art Gallery of Ontario, Toronto, CA
- 2016 *Radio Silence* performance, Mural Arts Philadelphia, Philadelphia, PA
The flesh is yours, the bones are ours, Rhona Hoffman Gallery, Chicago, IL
The flesh is yours, the bones are ours, Graham Foundation, Chicago, IL
The invisible enemy should not exist, Barbara Wien Galerie, Berlin, Germany
The invisible enemy should not exist, George Mason School of Art, in conjunction with Al Mutanabbi Street Starts Here DC 2016, Washington, DC
 Galerie Wien Lukatsch, Berlin, Germany
 Albright Knox Gallery, Buffalo, NY
- 2015 *The Artist's Experiment Series*, Museum of Modern Art, New York City, NY
- 2014 *Every Weapon is a Tool if You Hold it Right* performance, in conjunction with "A Proximity of Consciousness", Sullivan Galleries and Expo Chicago, Chicago, IL
 Milani Gallery, Brisbane, Australia
 Peabody Essex Museum, Salem, Massachusetts
 Arizona State University Art Museum, Phoenix, AZ
 BAK (basis voor actuele kunst), Utrecht
 Van Abbemuseum, Eindhoven, Netherlands
The Breakup, Rhona Hoffman Gallery, Chicago, IL
- 2013 *Dar Al Sulh*, Traffic, Dubai, United Arab Emirates
- 2012 *The Breakup*, Lombard Freid Gallery, New York City
- 2011 *Spoils* Park Avenue Restaurant, presented by Creative Time
I'm good at love, I'm good at hate, it's in between I freeze, BAK, basis voor actuele kunst, Utrecht, Netherlands (postponed until 2014 due to my wife's illness)
- 2010 *Secondary School*, Percent for Art Commission, permanent installation at Midwood High School, Brooklyn
The worst condition is to pass under a sword which is not one's own, Galerie Sfeir Semler, Beirut, Lebanon November, 2010 (postponed indefinitely due to my wife's illness)
The worst condition is to pass under a sword which is not one's own, Tate Modern, London, U
- 2009 *Michael Rakowitz: Recent Projects on Baghdad and Montreal*, SBC Gallery of Contemporary Art, Montreal, Canada
The worst condition is to pass under a sword which is not one's own, Lombard-Freid Projects, New York, NY
- 2007 *The invisible enemy should not exist*, Lombard-Freid Projects, New York, NY
- 2006 *Return*, 529 Atlantic Avenue, presented by Creative Time, Brooklyn, NY
Enemy Kitchen, ongoing public project; with high school students from Hudson Guild Community Center, presented by More Art, New York, NY, 2006; with students from Saratoga High School, presented by Montalvo Arts Center, CA, 2007; with members of Vietnam Veterans Against the War (VVAW) and Iraq Veterans Against the War (IVAW), presented by IVAW at the Vietnam Veterans Art Museum, Chicago, IL, Memorial Day, May 25, 2009
The Visionaries, Trafo Gallery, Budapest, Hungary
Endgames, Galleria Alberto Peola, Torino, Italy
- 2005 *Dull Roar*, Lombard-Freid Projects, New York, NY
Return (shipping center), Longwood Art Gallery, City University of New York, Bronx, NY
- 2004 *Greetings from Stowe, Vermont*, Kunstraum Innsbruck/Stadtturmgalerie, Austria
Test Ballot, public project, Kunstraum Innsbruck/Stadtturmgalerie, Austria; MUMOK, Vienna; and various public sites in cities throughout Europe including Stockholm, Sweden; Milan, Italy; Ljubljana, Slovenia
- 2002 *Romanticized All Out Of Proportion*, Special Project on the Panorama of the City of New York, Queens Museum of Art, Queens, NY
- 2002 *Breach*, Lower East Side Tenement Museum, New York, NY
- 2000 *Postcard Views*, lobby of Cesar Pelli's residential City Lights skyscraper, Long Island City, Queens, NY
- 2001 *Minaret*, ongoing performance, Clocktower Gallery, New York, NY, 2001 and 2003; MDR Skyscraper and Battle of the Nations Monument, Leipzig, Germany, 2003; Station Building, Baltimore, MD, 2003; Enver Hoxha Pyramid, Tirana, Albania, 2005
- 2000 *Climate Control*, Special Project, P.S.1 Contemporary Art Center, Queens, NY
Guard, permanent commission, Pratt Institute Sculpture Park, Brooklyn, NY, 2000
- 1998 *paraSITE*, ongoing public intervention, Boston and Cambridge, MA; New

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York City, NY; Baltimore, MD; Berlin, Germany; Ljubljana, Slovenia; Montreal, Quebec
1997 *Hubuz*, homes of participants and grocery stores, Amman, Jordan

SELECTED GROUP EXHIBITIONS

- 2024 *Palimpsest*, Mariane Ibrahim, Chicago, IL
- 2023 *BeLonging: Michael Rakowitz and the Mesopotamian Collection*, Bagdad Café, Museum of Mediterranean and Near Eastern Antiquities, Stockholm, Sweden
Choosing to Portage, Tephra ICA, Reston, VA
Life Cycles, Depaul Art Museum, Chicago, IL
Surviving the Long Wars, Chicago Cultural Center, Chicago, IL
In the Heart of Another Country: The Diasporic Imagination, Sharjah Art Foundation, Sharjah, United Arab Emirates
- 2022 *ARS22*, Museum of Contemporary Art, Kiasma, Helsinki, Finland
Air, Utah Museum of Fine Art, Salt Lake City, Utah
- 2021 *Parallel Construction*, curated by Laura Poitras and Sean Vegezzi, St. George's Church, New York, NY
The invisible enemy should not exist (Room F, section 1, Northwest Palace of Nimrud), The Armory Show (Platform section), New York, NY
FOR THE PHOENIX TO FIND ITS FORM IN US. ON RESTITUTION, REHABILITATION, AND REPARATION, SAVVY Contemporary / IFA Gallery, Berlin, Germany
Unsettled Objects, Sharjah Art Foundation, Sharjah, United Arab Emirates
Portals, NEON, Athens, Greece
Les Flammes, Musée d'Art moderne de Paris, France
A Boundless Drop to A Boundless Ocean, Orlando Museum of Art, Orlando, Florida
- 2020 *Our world is burning*, Palais de Tokyo, Paris, France
Never Spoken Again, MSU Broad Museum, Lansing, MI
- 2019 *Theatre of Operations*, P.S.1, New York, NY
Assyria to America, Bowdoin College Museum of Art, Brunswick, Maine
FOOD: Bigger Than the Plate, Victoria and Albert Museum, London
Oriental Institute Centennial, Chicago, IL
Sharjah Biennial 14 (SB14): Leaving the Echo Chamber, Sharjah, United Arab Emirates
The Value of Sanctuary: Building a House Without Walls, The Cathedral of St. John the Divine, New York, NY
A Void, 601Artspace, New York, NY
I Am Ashurbanipal King Of The World, King Of Assyria, The British Museum, London
- 2018 *For Us the Living*, The Museum of Modern Art, New York, NY
Ahlan Wa Salan, For Freedoms, Sauk Centre, MN
Shanghai Biennial: Proregress, Shanghai, China
Abu Dhabi Art Fair, Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates
A Color Removed, SPACES, FRONT Triennial, Cleveland, OH
Bagdad mon amour, Institut des Cultures d'Islam, Paris, France
- 2017 *Fourth Plinth Shortlist Exhibition*, The National Gallery, London
40 Years: Part 3 POLITICAL, Rhona Hoffman Gallery, Chicago, IL
Third Space/Shifting: Conversations about Contemporary Art, Birmingham Museum of Art, Birmingham, AL
Leonard Cohen: A Crack in Everything, commissioned by the Musée d'Art Contemporain, Montréal, Canada
Traduttore, Traditore, Gallery 400, Chicago, IL
The Image of War, Bonniers Konsthall, Stockholm, Sweden
Urban Planning: Art and the City, 1967 -2017, CAM, St. Louis, MO
- 2016 *How Long is Now? Maschinenhaus*, KINDL Center for Contemporary Art, Berlin, Germany
Endless House: Intersections of Art and Architecture, MoMA, New York, NY
Barjeel Art Foundation Collection: Imperfect Chronology - Mapping the Contemporary I, Whitechapel Gallery, London, United Kingdom
- 2015 *Saltwater: 14th Istanbul Biennial*, Istanbul Foundation for Culture and Arts, Istanbul, Turkey
In Search of Matisse, Henie Onstad Kunstsenter, Oslo, Norway
Zones of Contention: Israel / Palestine, Weatherspoon Art Museum, The University of North Carolina at Greensboro
From Ancient to Modern: Archaeology and Aesthetics, Institute for the Study of the Ancient World, New York City

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- 2014 *A Proximity of Consciousness*, Sullivan Galleries, School at the Art Institute of Chicago, IL
Rocking the Casbah, Villa Empain, Brussels (to February 2015) Yokohama Triennial
Ravaged: Art and Culture in Times of Conflict Museum Leuven, Belgium
- 2013 *The Way of the Shovel*, Museum of Contemporary Art, Chicago, IL
SITE, Hiroshima City Museum of Contemporary Art, Hiroshima, Japan
Tectonics, The Moving Museum/Traffic Gallery, Dubai March-April
Palestine, Contemporary Art Centre of South Australia, Adelaide, March
- 2012 *DOCUMENTA (13)*, Kassel, Germany
Camp Out, Laumeier Sculpture Park, St. Louis, MO
FEAST: Radical Hospitality in Contemporary Art, Smart Museum of Art, University of Chicago
- 2011 *Scramble for the Past*, SALT, Istanbul, Turkey, November 2011-March 2012
Asian Art Biennial, Taiwan
Yes, We Don't, Institut d'art contemporain Villeurbanne/Rhone Alpes, Villeurbanne, France
Taking Sides, Curated by Robin and Zak Williams on Paddle8.com
Inanimate Beings, La Casa Encendida, Madrid
- 2010-11 *La Ville Mobile*, Biennale Internationale Design Saint Etienne, France
- 2010 *The Jerusalem Show IV*, Al Ma'mal Foundation for Contemporary Art, Jerusalem
The Storyteller/screening of "Return" video, Museo Nacional Centro de Arte Reina Sofia, Madrid, Spain, September 13-26, 2010
Klimakapseln/Climate Capsules, Museum für Kunst und Gewerbe, Hamburg, Germany
Über wut/On Rage, Haus der Kulturen der Welt, Berlin, Germany
- 2009-12 *The Storyteller*, organized by Independent Curators International (iCI) and traveling to various venues including Anna-Maria and Stephen Kellen Gallery, Parsons/The New School, New York, NY; Art Gallery of Ontario, Toronto, Ontario
- 2009 *There Goes The Neighbourhood*, Performance Space, Sydney, Australia
Tarjama/Translation, Queens Museum of Art, NY
Return to Function, Madison Museum of Contemporary Art, WI
Transmission Interrupted, Modern Art Oxford, United Kingdom
The Place of The Object and The Space of The Work, Sculpture Center, Queens, NY
- 2008-09 *Actions: What You Can Do With The City*, Centre Canadien d'Architecture, Montreal, Canada
Second Lives, Inaugural exhibition of the Museum of Art & Design, New York, NY
The Greenroom: Reconsidering the Documentary and Contemporary Art, Center for Curatorial Studies/Hessel Museum of Art, Bard College, Annandale-on-Hudson, NY
Heartland, Vanabbemuseum, Eindhoven, The Netherlands
- 2008 *Try again. Fail again. Fail better.* Mucszarnok Kunsthalle, Budapest, Hungary
Dissident Art, 55 Nôtre-Dame Ouest, Montreal, Canada
New Ends, Old Beginnings, Bluecoat Gallery, Liverpool, United Kingdom
Revolutions-Forms that Turn, 16th Biennale of Sydney, Sydney, Australia
Master Humphrey's Clock, Leidsche Rijn, Utrecht, The Netherlands
Home Works Forum IV, Galerie Sfeir Semler, Beirut, Lebanon
Armory Show, Lombard-Freid Projects Booth, New York, NY
Shelter X Survival - Alternative Homes for Fantastic Lives, Hiroshima City Museum of Contemporary Art, Hiroshima, Japan
Urgent Shelter, Gallery 210, University of Missouri, St. Louis, MO
Blown Away, Krannert Art Museum, Urbana, IL
- 2007-08 *Just In: Recent Acquisitions from the Collection*, MoMA, New York, NY
- 2007 *The Dotted Line*, Rotunda Gallery, Brooklyn, NY
The Other City, Hungarian Institute, New York, NY
Consuming War, Hyde Park Art Center, Chicago, IL
Gwangju Design Biennale, Gwangju, Korea
An Atlas of Events, Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation, Lisbon, Portugal
Instant Urbanism, SAM- Swiss Architecture Museum, Basel, Switzerland
10th International Istanbul Biennial, Istanbul, Turkey
Sharjah Biennial 8, Still Life: Art, Ecology and the Politics of Change, Sharjah, United Arab Emirates
- 2006 *Art in the Contested City*, Pratt Institute, Brooklyn, NY
Civic Performance, University Art Gallery at Staller Center for the Arts, SUNY Stony Brook, NY
Art Basel Miami, Lombard-Freid Projects booth, Miami, FL
Confini/Boundaries, MAN Museo d'Arte Provincia di Nuoro, Nuoro, Italy
Revisiting Home, NGBK, Berlin, Germany
Mind the Gap, Smack Mellon, Brooklyn, NY
LESS - Alternative Living Strategies, Padiglione d'Arte Contemporanea, Milano, Italy
- 2005-09 *Beyond Green: Toward a Sustainable Art*, exhibition co-organized by ICI, New York, and the Smart Museum of Art, University of Chicago, and traveled by ICI to Smart

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- Museum of Art; Museum of Art & Design, New York, NY; University Art Museum, California State University Long Beach, Long Beach, CA; Smith College Museum of Art, Northampton, MA; Contemporary Arts Center, Cincinnati, OH; Richard E. Peeler Art Center, DePauw University, Greencastle, IN; Museum of London, London, Ontario; Joseloff Gallery, Hartford Art School, University of Hartford, Hartford, CT; the Ronna and Eric Hoffman Gallery of Contemporary Art, Lewis & Clark College, Portland, OR; the DeVos Art Museum, Northern Michigan University, Marquette, MI
- 2005 *T1-Torino Triennale Tremusei: The Pantagruel Syndrome*, Castello di Rivoli Torino, Italy
Tirana Biennale 3, Tirana, Albania, 2005
SAFE: Design Takes On Risk, Museum of Modern Art, New York, NY
Atomica, Lombard-Freid Fine Arts and Esso Gallery, New York, NY
Do Not Interrupt Your Activities, Royal College of Art, London, United Kingdom
Inhabituel, Fabbrica del Vapore, Milan, Italy
Transmediale 05: BASICS, Berlin, Germany
- 2004 *Gonflables, Inflatables, Gonfiabili*, Tripostal, Lille, France
Living In Motion, Vitra Design Museum/Z33 Hasselt, Belgium
PARA SITES: when space comes into play..., Museum Moderner Kunst-Stiftung Ludwig Wien (MUMOK), Vienna, Austria
Jamaica Flux: Windows and Workspaces, Jamaica Center for Arts and Learning, NY
Subway Series, Queens Museum of Art, Queens, NY
The Interventionists, MASS MoCA, North Adams, MA
Xtreme Houses, Lothringer 13, Munich, Germany
Adaptations, Apex Art, New York, NY and Friedricianum, Kassel, Germany
Borne of Necessity, Weatherspoon Museum of Art, Greensboro, NC
Global Priority, UMass Amherst, MA
- 2003 *24/7*, Contemporary Art Centre, Vilnius, Lithuania
BQE, White Box, New York, NY
Get Rid of Yourself, ACC Galerie, Weimar & Stiftung Federkiel/Halle 14, Leipzig, Germany
Homeland, Whitney Museum of American Art Independent Curatorial Study Program, CUNY Graduate Center, New York, NY
- 2002 *Inside Design Now: 2003 National Design Triennial*, Cooper-Hewitt National Design Museum, New York, NY
Queens International, Queens Museum of Art, Queens, NY
Design 21: Continuous Connection, UNESCO, Paris, France
Und Ab Die Poste-Inside Out: 5th Annual Festival of New Art, Berlin, Germany
Submerge, Kunstbunker Nuremberg, Germany
Architecture of Emergency, FRI-ART Friburg, Switzerland
AIR, Dorsky Gallery, Queens, NY
Utopia Now!, Sonoma Museum of Contemporary Art, Sonoma, CA
Comfort Zone: Portable Living Spaces, The Fabric Workshop Museum, Philadelphia, PA
- 2001 *Utopia Now!*, CCAC Wattis Institute, Oakland, CA
Back and Forth, Vacancy Gallery, New York, NY
Ground Zero, 129 Lafayette Street, New York, NY
Building Codes, Storefront for Art and Architecture, New York, NY
- 2000 *Concerted Compassionism*, White Columns, New York, NY
Photographic imagination, Here Here Gallery, Cleveland, OH
- 1999 *Temporary Shelters*, Here Here Gallery, Cleveland, OH
1998 *A Skowhegan Decade*, David Beitzel Gallery, New York, NY
1997 *Repeat Reverse*, Yale University Art Gallery, New Haven, CT
1993 *Blast Box 1993: Remaking Civilization*, X Art Foundation, New York, NY

AWARDS, HONORS & FELLOWSHIPS

- 2022 American Academy in Rome Residency
Municipality of the Hague, Archaeology and Migration Flows commission (for 2024)
Artist-in-Residence, Vermont College of Fine Arts
- 2021 The Pommery Prize
Nominated for the Princess of Asturias Award
Nominated for the Balzan Award
- 2020 Public Art Dialogue Award for Achievement in the Field of Public Art

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- Nasher Prize, Nasher Sculpture Center
- Nominated for the American Academy of Arts and Sciences
- Nominated for the United States Artists Fellowship
- 2018 Finalist for Tamayouz Middle Eastern Architectural Personality of the Year Award
- Herb Alpert Award in Visual Arts
- 2017 Trafalgar Square Fourth Plinth Commission for 2018-2020
- 2015 Pew Center for Arts and Heritage
- Graham Foundation Grant
- 2014 Nominated for Zurich Art Prize
- 2013 Kamal Lazaar Foundation Project Grant
- Finalist for Zurich Art Prize
- Nominated for Alpert Award
- AT&T Research Fellow, Northwestern University
- 2012 Louis Comfort Tiffany Award
- 2009 University Research Grant, Northwestern University
- Finalist for The Jack Wolgin International Competition in the Arts / Wolgin Prize
- Alpert Awards Across Residency
- 2007 Nominated for United States Artists Fellowship
- Sharjah Biennial Art Prize, Jury Award
- 2005 Nominated for INDEX Design Award, Copenhagen, Denmark
- 2003 Dena Foundation of Contemporary Art Award
- 2002 UNESCO Design Laureate, Grand Prix. 2001 New York City Department of Cultural Affairs, Percent for Art Commission for Midwood High School, Brooklyn
- 1997 MIT Council for the Arts Grant
- 1996 MIT Department of Architecture Fellowship, 1996-1998
- 1995 Outstanding Achievement in Sculpture Award, International Sculpture Center

PUBLIC COLLECTIONS

Art Gallery of New South Wales, Australia
 Centre National des Arts Plastiques, Paris, France
 Fondation Galeries Lafayette, Paris, France
 Guggenheim Museum of Art, NY
 Kadist Art Foundation, San Francisco, CA
 Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York, NY
 Museum of Contemporary Art, Chicago, IL
 Museum of Modern Art, New York, NY (Architecture and Design Collection)
 National Museum of Afghanistan, Kabul, Afghanistan
 Neue Galerie, Kassel, Germany
 Princeton University Art Museum, Princeton, NJ
 Rosengård Library, Malmö, Sweden
 Sharjah Art Foundation, Sharjah, United Arab Emirates
 Smart Museum of Art, University of Chicago, Chicago, IL
 Tate Modern, London, United Kingdom
 The British Museum, London, United Kingdom
 The Lithuanian National Museum of Art, Vilnius
 Towner Eastbourne, Eastbourne, United Kingdom
 UNESCO, Paris, France
 Van Abbemuseum, Eindhoven, The Netherlands

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