

HODA TAWAKOL

Hoda Tawakol's practice is built on the twin pillars of wit and criticality. Her colorful, engaging textile works—collages, sculptures, installations—ripple with vitality, while tackling compelling issues of gender and bodily control. At once captivating and disarming, the works spring from a range of media, yet focus largely on the female body, its distortions and transformations across a woman's lifecycle. The artist's hallmark fabric sculptures of date palm trees, while stemming from the plant realm, wittily probe bodily questions of gender fluidity. This is a universe of transformation: the body forever hovers between physical and ethereal, reality and abstraction, presence and absence.

Tawakol herself is culturally liminal. Egypt-born, raised in France and Germany by an interchanging trio of 'mothers,' she not only navigates an 'in-between' that percolates through her identity, she layers this suspension into her practice. Her works are spirited—boisterous, wall-filling textile collages, rambunctious fabric installations, and plump sculptures that revel in the uncanny. Yet wrapped within these vigorous creations lie deeper questions around biopower, control, and corporal manipulation.

Tawakol's practice vibrates with feminist energy. While her hand-dyed and intimately sewn textile pieces clearly signpost questions of women's labor, she also interrogates the wider yet more insidious forces (social, biological, cultural) impacting the female body. Sculptural gestures of abstraction and manipulation probe gender restrictions; superposed grids and lattices conjure sensations of confinement, concealment, repression; allusions to ancient rituals and embodied practices fathom death and procreation. While her artistic strategy is focused—stay vivacious yet critical, vaguely salacious yet deeply earnest—her material mastery is vast. A diversity of unpredictable hand-dyeing techniques—batik, spotting, painting, tie-dye—vivify her textile work. Similarly, her watercolour and ink compositions on paper are the fruit of a teetering negotiation with chance, and a surprising relinquishing of control. Her sculptures, whether assertively figurative or cryptically morphed, enlist a variety of materials with which she consistently experiments.

Hoda Tawakol's work has been exhibited in numerous institutions and galleries in Germany, including Schirn Kunsthalle in Frankfurt, Weserburg Museum of Modern Art in Bremen, Religio Westfälisches Museum für religiöse Kultur in Telgte, Kunstverein in Hamburg, Kunsthaus in Hamburg and Produzentengalerie in Hamburg and in Berlin. Internationally, she has shown at Sfeir-Semler gallery in Germany and Lebanon, Beton Art Space in Denmark, and at 10th Velada Santa Lucía in Venezuela.

Her work appears in the following collections: The Salama bint Hamdan Al Nahyan Foundation (SHF), Abu Dhabi; The Progressive Art Collection, USA; Huma Kabakci Collection, Turkey, UK; Sammlung Haus N, Germany; Sohst-Brennenstuhl Collection, Germany, among others.

EDUCATION

- 2011 Diploma of Fine Arts at the HfbK (Hochschule für bildende Künste) in Hamburg, class of Andreas Slominski
- 1993 Master of Business and Administration at ESCP Europe in Paris, Oxford and Berlin

SOLO EXHIBITIONS

- 2021 *Corps (In)Visibles*, Institut français Berlin, Germany
- 2020 *Between Bodies*, Gallery Isabelle van den Eynde, Dubai
- 2019 *Immaculate*, Galerie im Marstall, Ahrensburg, Germany
- 2018 *When the Dates Turn Red*, Gallery Isabelle van den Eynde, Dubai
- 2014 *Incommunicado*, Sfeir-Semler gallery, Hamburg
- Le palais des concubines*, Palais für aktuelle Kunst (PAK), Glückstadt, Germany

- 2011 *Harem*, Sfeir-Semler gallery, Hamburg
Behind the window, Sfeir-Semler gallery, Beirut
Membrane, Produzentengalerie, Hamburg
- 2010 *Inside out*, Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer, Hamburg
Hoda Tawakol, Galerie Conradi, Hamburg

SELECTED GROUP EXHIBITIONS

- 2021 *Cities Under Quarantine - The Mailbox Project*, Villa Romana, Florence, Italy
This Must Be the Place, Ruttkowski68 and Villa Schöningen, Potsdam, Germany
Silent Transformations, Biennale Internationale Donna, Trieste, Italy
Animal Kingdom, Âme Nue, Hamburg, Germany
Mixed Pickles #9, Ruttkowski 68 Goldberg Studio, Munich, Germany
Sexed Power, MOM Art Space, Hamburg, Germany
Lure #23, easterfield Festival, Hamburg Kunstverein, Hamburg, Germany
- 2020 *Either he's dead or my watch has stopped: Groucho Marx (while getting the patient's pulse)*, Schirn Kunsthalle Frankfurt, Germany
- 2020 *Seeking a now that can breed futures*, Âme Nue, Hamburg
Gartendergegenwart, Rothenbaumchaussee, Hamburg
- 2019 *Home Sweet Home*, Wiensowski, Hamburg
Hi Ventilation, Harburger Bahnhof Kunstverein, Hamburg
Abu Dhabi Art Fair, Manarat Al Saadiyat, Abu Dhabi
- 2018 *Kontiki*, Künstlerhaus Lauenburg, Lauenburg, Germany
- 2017 *Between departure and arrival*, Schloss Agathenburg, Agathenburg, Germany
Highball, Wiensowski & Harbord Salon, Berlin
Wunsch- und Wunderkammer, University of Fine Arts (HfbK), Hamburg
- 2015 *Vom Grossen und Ganzen II*, Collection Haus N in the Gerisch foundation, Neumünster, Germany
On Remote Control, Lothringer 13 Hall, Munich
- 2014 *Nullpunkt aller Orte. Sohst-Brennenstuhl Collection*, Weserburg | Museum of Modern Art, Bremen, Germany
Archaea, Beton Art Space, Artist Run Festival, Copenhagen
Something Magic, Petersburger Salon at Level One, Hamburg
- 2013 *Hold und mächtig? Das Bild der Mutter in den Kulturen*, RELIGIO - Museum of Religious Culture, Telgte, Germany
- 2011 *Leningrader Hängung Nr. 101*, Ph-Projects gallery, Berlin
Hiding & Revealing, diploma exhibition, University of Fine Arts (HfbK), Hamburg
- 2010 *The freedom of choice*, the Kunstverein, Hamburg
Index 10, Kunsthaus Hamburg, Hamburg
About her, DCORM temporary exhibition space, Dortmund, Germany
Group show, Ph-Projects gallery, Berlin
The Andreas Slominski Class Show, Meanwhile it shows, Velada Santa Lucia Contemporary Art Festival, Maracaibo, Venezuela
- 2009 *Die Katze – Seismographin der Gesellschaft*, Ulrike Horst gallery, Hamburg
Index 09, Kunsthaus, Hamburg
All about something, Galerie Hafenrand, Hamburg
Lost & Found, Museum of Art & Ideas, Hamburg
Baahlsaahm Knochen #1, Vandel, Berlin
Dreams that money can't buy, Westwerk, Hamburg
- 2008 *Schönheit ist unser Metier*, Andreas Slominski class exhibition, University of Fine Arts (HfbK), Hamburg

COLLECTIONS

The Salama bint Hamdan Al Nahyan Foundation, Abu Dhabi, UAE
Open Space Contemporary, Istanbul, Turkey
The Progressive Art Collection, Mayfield Village, Ohio, USA
Sammlung Haus N, Gunda & Peter Niemann Collection, Quarnbek, Germany
Sohst-Brennenstuhl Collection, Hamburg, Germany

AWARDS

2010 Achievement grant award of the Ministry of Science and Research for foreign students in Germany
 New Position Art Prize, Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer, Hamburg

RESIDENCY

2020 Artist in residence at the Goethe Institut Marseille and the Centre Photographique Marseille (postponed)