

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 Lucia 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

2023 *Silent Voices in a Palm Grove*, Dortmunder Kunstverein, Dortmund, Germany
2022 *Le Lait du palmier et le souffle des yeux*, Goethe Institut & La Friche Belle de Mai Marseille, France
Delicious Monster, Ruttkowski68, Düsseldorf, Germany

- 2021 *Corps (In)Visibles*, Institut français Berlin, Germany
- 2020 *Between Bodies*, Gallery Isabelle van den Eynde, Dubai, UAE
- 2019 *Immaculate*, Galerie im Marstall, Ahrensburg, Germany
- 2018 *When the Dates Turn Red*, Gallery Isabelle van den Eynde, Dubai, UAE
- 2014 *Incommunicado*, Sfeir-Semler gallery, Hamburg *Le palais des concubines*, Palais für aktuelle Kunst (PAK), Glückstadt, Germany
- 2011 *Harem*, Sfeir-Semler gallery, Hamburg, Germany
Behind the window, Sfeir-Semler gallery, Beirut, Lebanon
Membrane, Produzentengalerie, Hamburg, Germany
- 2010 *Inside out*, Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer, Hamburg, Germany
Hoda Tawakol, Galerie Conradi, Hamburg, Germany

SELECTED GROUP EXHIBITIONS

- 2025 Chemnitz European Capital of Culture (Upcoming)
- 2024 *Cities Under Quarantine*, Mathaf, Doha, Qatar (Upcoming)
Carpet Mapping, Schloss Britz, Berlin, Germany (Upcoming)
HEADS, masked, transformed, Museum für Neue Kunst, Freiburg, Germany
- 2023 *GEGENWARTSGESELLSCHAFT / 50 years Produzentengalerie Hamburg*, Produzentengalerie Hamburg, Germany
Köpfe - maskiert, verwandelt, Museum für Neue Kunst, Freiburg, Germany
Seeing through Space, Museum for Art in Wood, Philadelphia, USA
You, too. Take care. Gallery Mathias Güntner, Berlin, Germany
Collective Healing, Metro Han İstanbul, İstanbul, Turkey
Mixed Pickles 12, Ruttkowski;68, New York, USA
- 2022 *HOME SWEET HOME II*, Ingeborg Wiensowski, Germany
- 2021 *Cities Under Quarantine - The Mailbox Project*, Villa Romana, Florence, Italy
Easterfield Festival, Hamburger Kunstverein, Hamburg, Germany
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
- 2020 *Either he's dead or my watch has stopped: Groucho Marx (while getting the patient's pulse)*, Schirn Kunsthalle Frankfurt, Germany
Seeking a now that can breed futures, Âme Nue, Hamburg, Germany
Gartendergegenwart, Rothenbaumchaussee, Hamburg Germany
- 2019 *Home Sweet Home*, Wiensowski, Hamburg Germany
Hi Ventilation, Harburger Bahnhof Kunstverein, Hamburg Abu Dhabi Art Fair, Manarat Al Saadiyat, Abu Dhabi, UAE
- 2018 *Kontiki*, Künstlerhaus Lauenburg, Lauenburg, Germany
- 2017 *Between departure and arrival*, Schloss Agathenburg, Agathenburg, Germany
Highball, Wiensowski & Harbord Salon, Berlin, Germany
Wunsch- und Wunderkammer, University of Fine Arts (HfbK), Hamburg, Germany
- 2015 *Vom Grossen und Ganzen II*, Collection Haus N in the Gerisch foundation, Neumünster, Germany
On Remote Control, Lothringer 13 Hall, Munich, Germany
- 2014 *Nullpunkt aller Orte*, Sohst-Brennenstuhl Collection, Museum of Modern Art in Bremen, Germany
Archaea, Beton Art Space, Artist Run Festival, Copenhagen, Denmark
Something Magic, Petersburger Salon at Level One, Hamburg, Germany
- 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, Germany
Hiding & Revealing, diploma exhibition, University of Fine Arts (HfbK), Hamburg, Germany
- 2010 *The freedom of choice*, the Kunstverein, Hamburg, Germany
Index 10, Kunsthhaus Hamburg, Hamburg, Germany
About her, DCORM temporary exhibition space, Dortmund, Germany
Group show, Ph-Projects gallery, Berlin, Germany
The Andreas Slominski Class Show, Meanwhile it shows, Velada Santa Lucia Contemporary Art Festival, Maracaibo,

GALLERY ISABELLE VAN DEN EYNDE

- Venezuela
- 2009 *Die Katze – Seismographin der Gesellschaft*, Ulrike Horst gallery, Hamburg, Germany
Index 09, Kunsthaus, Hamburg, Germany
All about something, Galerie Hafenrand, Hamburg, Germany
Lost & Found, Museum of Art & Ideas, Hamburg, Germany
Baahlsaahm Knochen #1, Vandel, Berlin, Germany
Dreams that money can't buy, Westwerk, Hamburg, Germany
- 2008 *Schönheit ist unser Metier*, Andreas Slominski class exhibition, University of Fine Arts (HfbK), Hamburg, Germany

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
Weserburg Museum of Modern Art, Bremen, 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

2022 Artist in residence at the Goethe Institut Marseille and at La Friche Belle de Mai Marseille