

MARWA BENHALIM (b.1992, Egypt)

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Education

- 2015 - 2017 Masters of Fine Arts, Studio Art (Summa Cum Laude), Southern Methodist University, USA.
2011 - 2014 Bachelor of Arts, Visual Arts with Highest Honors (Summa Cum Laude),
The American University in Cairo, Egypt.
2009 - 2010 Foundation Diploma in Art and Design, Camberwell College of Arts, University
of the Arts London, UK.

Solo Exhibition

- 2021 *Fluctuations*, B'sarya for Arts, Alexandria, Egypt
2020 *THE COOKBOOK*, Medrar For Contemporary Art, Cairo, Egypt
2019 *The Devil's Recipe - La Receta del Diablo*, Héctor Escandón DF, Mexico City, Mexico
2011 *Features*, Cairo Atelier, Cairo, Egypt

Selected Group Exhibitions (Selected)

- 2021 *Bedoun Neqat*, organized by Virtual Vibes, Swiss Club, Cairo, Egypt
2021 *Roznama 8, CIC*, organized by Medrar for Contemporary Art, Cairo, Egypt
2021 *Extraction*, SOMA art gallery, Cairo, Egypt
2019 *How to reappear: Through the quivering leaves of independent publishing*, Beirut Art Center, Lebanon
2018 *Cairo Art Fair III*, Art-smart Gallery, Cairo, Egypt
2017 *Temporary Collectives*, 500 Singleton, Texas, USA
2017 *MFA Qualifying Exhibition Special Edition*, Pollock Gallery, Texas, USA
2017 *8th Cairo Video Festival*, Institute Français, organized by Medrar for Contemporary Art, Cairo, Egypt
2017 *Roznama 5, CIC*, organized by Medrar for Contemporary Art, Cairo, Egypt
2016 *Image Festival*, Made in Gallery, Venice, Italy
2016 *MADATAC 07*, Festival of Digital Audiovisual Art & Contemporary Technologies, Madrid, Spain
2015 *Roznama 4, CIC*, organized by Medrar for Contemporary Art, Cairo, Egypt
2015 *Beyond Classifications*, Watkins College of Art and Design, and The University of the South, USA
2015 *Beyond Classifications*, Second Street Gallery, Charlottesville, VA, USA
2015 *Cairo Video Festival: 6th Edition Highlights*, DUCTAC – Gallery of Light, Dubai, UAE
2015 *Detour*, Nabta Art Center, Organized in collaboration with Videonale, e.v.
2014 *6th Cairo International Video Festival*, Gezira Art Center, Cairo, Egypt
2014 *Hydrogen*, Sharjah Art Gallery/ The American University in Cairo, Egypt
2013 *Appropriation*, Sharjah Art Gallery/ The American University In Cairo, Egypt
2012 *Revolution*, Palace of Arts, Cairo Opera House, Egypt

Curatorial Projects

- 2022 Cairo Art Book Fair, Egypt. Co-Founder and Co-Director.
(Ongoing) The Cairo Art Book Fair is a gathering space for those who create and publish printed material that engages with and is part of the contemporary artistic and cultural field. It is a fair for independent publishers, self-publishers, zinesters, artists, writers, and curators to sell their publications and interact with one another and with an audience. CABF has exhibited in Athens Art Book Fair, September 2022 and soon will be in FOCAL Point, Sharjah Art Foundation Art Book Fair, November 2022. CABF Edition #1 will take place in Cairo, Egypt from the 8th till 10th of December, 2022.
- 2022 *Switchboard Project*, Cairo, Egypt. Founder and curator.
(Ongoing) The Switchboard Project is an experiment in radical care, comraderie, and collaboration. A space accesible for cultural practitioners to practise "rest", engage with subjects outside of their periphery

and share work in progress. It entails two parts; *The Gatherings* and the *Artist Rehab Center - Residency Program*. In *The Gatherings* invited artists, curators, designers and cultural producers present an idea, in progress or completed work to a group of 15 attendees, with the intention for constructive criticism and fruitful dialogue along the presented topic. *The Artist Rehab Center* is a curated one-month residency programme for local and international artists to rest, rejuvenate and explore their practise without the pressures of production.

- 2022 *Where Do We Go From Here?* Conference and Exhibition, TASAWAR Collective, Tunisia. Co-Curator.
- 2021 *TOKEN*, Kodak Passage, Cairo, Egypt. Curator
Solo painting and digital NFT paintings exhibition by artist Aya Tarek. Produced by B'sarya for Arts.
- 2021 *Scaffolding a Familiar Epoch*, Stephenson Pharmacy, Downtown Cairo, Egypt. Curator
Performative intervention and alternative pharmaceutical museum in Stephenson Pharmacy in Downtown Cairo by artist Yasmine El Meleegy.
- 2020 (Ongoing) *Attempting Abla Nazira* (collaboration with Moza Almatrooshi), Co-Founder and Co-researcher.
A research platform that engages women working in creative and intellectual fields through cooking, writing, and reflecting on food in relation to cultural production, gender politics, and regional socio-economics. Included a self-directed residency and leading a workshop at Warehouse421, UAE.
- 2018 *Villa Champollion - Residency Program*, Townhouse Gallery, Egypt.
A residency program dedicated to providing a safe, open, and collaborating studio environment to local and visiting artists. Developed and initiated the program and curated talks and open-studio events.

Work Experience

- 2021 Senior Research Assistant - Painting and Printmaking, Virginia Commonwealth University, Qatar.
- 2021 Senior Research Assistant - Graphic Design - Working on *Paul Rand: The Idealist/Realist Book*, The American University Cairo, Egypt.
- 2018 - 2019 Residency and Program Manager, Townhouse Gallery, Egypt.
- 2017 Projects Manager, Medrar for Contemporary Art, Egypt.
- 2016 - 2017 Gallery and Curatorial Research Assistant, Pollock Gallery, Dallas, TX.
- 2014 - 2015 Artistic Co-Director, Fayoum Art Center, Fayoum, Egypt.
- 2014 - 2015 Office and Programs Manager, ASCII Foundation for Contemporary Art Education, Egypt.
- 2013 - 2014 Curatorial and Project Coordinator, Medrar for Contemporary Art, Egypt.

Teaching Experience

- 2019 The Practice of Text; Developed and conducted a two-day Workshop for Senior Fine arts students at StudioKhana for Contemporary Art and Cultural Development, Egypt.
- 2018 Artist as Writer | Writer as Artist; Developed and conducted two 3-day workshops at CILAS - Cairo Institute of Liberal Arts and Sciences, Egypt.
- 2015 - 2017 Teaching Assistant, BFA and BA Courses; Introduction to Video Art, BFA Graduation Qualification, Foundation Observation, Foundation Narrative, and Foundation Spaces. Southern Methodist University, Dallas, USA.
- 2014 - 2015 Teaching Assistant, BA Courses; Senior Art Project I and Senior Art Project II. The American University in Cairo, Egypt.

Residencies and Workshops

- 2022 "Revolution" International Thematic Residency Program [3 Months] at the Santa Fe Art Institute (SFAI), The USA.

2021 - 2022 TASAWAR Curatorial Studios, Program Fellow, Goethe Tunis.
 2021 BAV Lab, B'sarya for Arts, Alexandria, Egypt.
 2019 SOMA Summer Program [2 Months], SOMA, Mexico City, Mexico.
 2017 Work in Common Residency, Collaboration between UK Young Artists, BJCEM and Primary, UK.
 2015 Laundry - Collaborative Residency, Ambassador of Belgium to Egypt Residence, Egypt
 2015 North and South Residency, coordinated by Bibliotheca Alexandrina, Funded by The EU, Egypt 2012
 Former West Art Conference, Haus der Kulturen der Welt, Berlin, Germany
 2011 Firefly Tunnel Project, Resident Artist, USA, and Egypt.
 2011 Winter Academy Residency, Fayoum Art Center, Fayoum, Egypt

Selected Grants and Awards

2018 FFAI Research Grant, Visual Art
 2018 Al Mawred Production Award, Visual Arts
 2016 Ignite Arts Grant, Southern Methodist University
 2015-2017 Meadows Artistic Fellowship Award, Southern Methodist University
 2013-2014 Advanced Achievement Scholarship Award, The American University in Cairo

Selected Writings, Publications, and Essays

2021 "On Laughter," 10th Cairo Video Festival Publication, Medrar for Contemporary Art, Egypt.
 2020 No ISBN (Artworks Included) by Bernhard Cella, curated by kayfa-ta, Cairo, Egypt.
 2019 X. SOMA, Mexico City, Mexico.
 2014 Hydrogen - Exhibition Catalog and Research Publication, American University in Cairo, Egypt.

Featured In

2021 *Roznama 8 - Art at the end of the world*, Mada Masr, written by Ismail Fayed [Link](#)
 2020 "THE COOKBOOK Exhibition, complex scenes and videos in our age," by Yasser Sultan, Independent Arabic, [Link](#)
 2020 "Marwa Benhalim - Political Corruption with the kitchen's vocabulary," by Mahmoud Atef, Al Araby, [Link](#)
 2020 *Marwa Benhalim - THE COOKBOOK*, video by CairoWhat, [Link](#)
 2017 *Spotlight on Meadows MFA Art Student Marwa Benhalim*, by Kellie Spano for SMU, [Link](#)
 2017 "2017 Best of the Arts" by Lee Escobedo, PATRON Magazine, [Link](#)
 2015 "Roznama 4 Exhibition", Mada Masr, [Link](#)

Language Native in Arabic and English