BIO

Kaya Behkalam (born 1978 in Berlin, Germany) is a visual artist, curator, researcher and writer, living in Berlin. He holds a PhD in Media Art from the Bauhaus University Weimar/Germany, an MFA (Meisterschüler) in Experimental Media Design and a BFA (Diplom) in Visual Communications from the University of Arts Berlin. From 2012-2015 he served as an Assistant Professor of Time-based Media at the Art Department of the American University in Cairo and was director of the Sharjah Art Gallery at AUC. From 2021-2023 he has been an artistic expert for the reseach project SPUR.lab.

His video-, installation- and text-based works explore the entanglements of historiography, image and media politics, as in his current long term research project SEEING HISTORY – The Augmented Archive, which explores archival practices and changing medialities of the historical.

For his work he has been awarded various stipends and awards, such as the Dialogue Award of the European Media Art Festival 2012. Among other places his art works have been shown at the HKW and Martin-Gropius-Bau Berlin, Berlinische Galerie, Queens Museum, Eye Beam, and Sheila C. Johnson Design Center New York, Centre Pompidou Paris, Reina Sofia Museum Madrid, Azad Gallery Tehran, Kunstverein Heidelberg, the 3rd Guangzhou Triennial, IDFA Amsterdam and the Kurzfilmtage Oberhausen. He is the co-editor of a series of books on contemporary Egyptian artists (2015, Revolver Publishing, together with Anneka Lenssen), as well as the publication "Damascus: Tourists, Artists, Secret Agents" (2010). Since June 2018 he is the director of the non-profit art association Künstlerhof Frohnau (KHF Berlin), a studio space for artistic production in the North of Berlin, and the initiator of the Dieter Ruckhaberle Award for visual art & politics.

EDUCATION

2012-2018	PhD in Media Art at Bauhaus University Weimar (summa cum laude)
	Supervisors: Prof. Dr. Knut Ebeling,Prof. Klaus Gasteier
2004-2007	MFA Media Art, University of Arts (UdK) Berlin, Meisterschüler of Maria Vedder
2000-2006	Diploma (BFA) Visual Communications, UdK Berlin

ACADEMIC POSITIONS

2019-2020	Postdoctoral Research Fellow, Bauhaus University Weimar, Germany
2013-2015	Assistant Professor of Art at the American University Cairo, Department of the Arts
2013-2014	Director of the Sharjah Art Gallery at the American University in Cairo
2012-2013	Adjunct Professor at the American University Cairo, Department of the Arts

SCHOLARSHIPS AND AWARDS

2021	Neustart Kultur Digitale Vermittlungsformate, Deutscher Künstlerbund
2021	Präsentationsförderung, Berlin Senate (Künstlerhof Frohnau)
2020	Research grant, Berlin Senate
2019	Postdoc-stipend Bauhaus Uni Weimar
2018	Research stipend, Robert-Bosch-Foundation
2018	Doctoral degree completion scholarship, Bauhaus University Weimar
2017	Project funding for The Augmented Archive, Goethe-Institut Cairo
2016	Research scholarship IPID4all / Bauhaus University Weimar
2016	2 year PhD scholarship from the state of Thuringia, Germany
2015	Research scholarship from the Berlin Senate
2015	Conference travel grant, Bauhaus Research School
2014	Faculty research grant, The American University in Cairo
2013	DAAD (German Academic Exchange Service), 1year doctoral fellowship
2013	Fellow at the Paul-Klee-Center Bern, Switzerland, Summer Academy
2012	Dialogue Award of the German Foreign Office, European Media Art Festival Osnabrück
2011	Exhibition grant, ifa /Artist Residency Townhouse Gallery Cairo
2011	Project grant "Tandem Europe" / European Cultural Foundation
2010	Project grant, Asia Europe Foundation & Arts Network Asia
2009	International Visitor Leadership Program, Travel- and Research Grant of the US State Department, September-October 2009, USA
2008	Studio scholarship, Karl-Hofer-Foundation / University of Arts Berlin, 2008-2010
2008	Project Grants, ifa Germany, Prince Claus Fund, European Cultural Foundation, European Delegation Syria
2007	First Price German competition short film festival Oberhausen (with J.Gaussi for Three Notes)

ACTIVITIES AND PROJECTS

2021-2023	Artistic Expert in Residence at SPUR.lab. Projects on digital memory practice in Brandenburg A cooperation between Film University Babelsberg, Haus der Brandenburgisch-Preußischen Geschichte, Memorial sites Ravensbrück und Sachsenhausen. www.spurlab.de
Since 2019	Director of the art association Künstlerhof Frohnau e.V., that runs an exhibition and studio space for over 40 artists in Berlin www.kuenstlerhof-frohnau.de. Initiator of the Dieter Ruckhaberle Award and "Walden: festival for contemporary music and performance"
2013-2015	Curatorial work as the director of the Sharjah Art Gallery at the American University in Cairo. Initiator of the monographic exhibition series AUC_LAB (exhibitions with Malak Helmy, Hassan Khan, Rana ElNemr, Mohamed Abdelkarim.
2005-2007	Co-founder of the independent art space "NewYorkRioTokyo" in Berlin. Co-curator of more than 30 exhibitions and projects
2006-2012	Co-founder and artistic co-director of the art group RELOADING IMAGES. Organizer and curator of various international research projects, such as: "Reloading Images: Damascus Work in Progress 2008", 2 year workshop project in Syria, with more than 40 international artists "Reloading Images: Berlin-Tehran Work in Progress", Tehran, Iran und Berlin, Bethanien, 2007, 6 month workshop with 30 participants

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS

2019	"Image Activism After the Arab Uprisings	The Augmented Archive: History in Real Time", Published in: International Journal of Communication, ed. by Arlene Luck, USC Annenberg Press (forthcoming)
2019	"Image Activism After the Arab Uprisings: Archive as Archeology, Trauma as a Hiccup in Time: Interview with Kaya Behkalam"", Published in: International Journal of Communication, ed. by Arlene Luck, USC Annenberg Press (forthcoming)
2019	"Livestreams Of Consciousness – Gedanken zu einer Ästhetik der Übertragung im Kontext der Ägyptischen Revolution von 2011". Published in: Busch, Fleckner, Waldmann(ed.), Nähe auf Distanz: Eigendynamik und mobilisierende Kraft politischer Bilder im Internet (Hamburger Forschungen zur Kunstgeschichte, Band 12), De Gruyter, Berlin
2019	"Das Recht der Reste, Reste von Recht. Exil und Archiv bei Ludwig Borchardt und der kolonialen Archäologie" (with Knut Ebeling), published in: Asmus, Bischoff, Dogramaci(ed.), Archive und Museen des Exils (Exilforschung Bd. 37), De Gruyter Berlin
2018	Seeing History – The Augmented Archive, Bauhaus University Press Weimar
2016	"Dreams and Music: Hassan Khan / AUC_LAB 02", (ed. with Anneka Lenssen), Revolver Berlin
2015	"Lost Referents of Some Attraction - Malak Helmy / AUC_LAB 01"(ed. with Anneka Lenssen), Revolver Berlin
2013	"The Tain of Tahrir", in: "Cairo, Images of Transition, edited by Mikala Dal, Transit Verlag Berlin
2009	"Damascus: Tourists, Artists and Secret Agents", (ed. with Rifky, Sepahvand et al.) Green Box Berlin, Prince Claus Library
2009	"Das Schöne Land", Monographic DVD Edition of video works, University of the Arts Berlin

SELECTED EXHIBITIONS AND PROJECTS

2022	ArteEast Online	"Rehearsing Reality"
2022	TRAFO Trafostacja Sztuki, Szczecin	"You could be heading away...",
2021	Galeria Studio / Teatr Studio Warschau	"Rozspojone(Disjoint)"
2019	Rex Cinema Bern, Switzerland	"Komplexe Bilder", curated by Maia Gusberti
2018	Mosaic Rooms London	Egyptian Shorts
2018	Berlinale Forum Expanded	Archival Constellations
2018	MoMA New York	Doc Fortnight 2018 (Spirit Lake, with Rena Effendi)
2017	Art Souterrain Festival d'Art Contemporain	Montreal, Canada
2016	Framer Framed / Tolhuistuin Amsterdam	Voices Outside the Echo Chamber, curated by Katayoun Arian
2015	Cairo Video Festival	Medrar project space Cairo
2015	Optica Montreal	Polyphonies, curated by Veronique Leblanc
2015	Framer Framed / Tolhuistuin Amsterdam	The End Of This Story, curated by Katayoun Arian
2014	Berlinische Galerie	solo exhibition (12x12 Videolounge), curated by Anne Bitterwolf

2014	Centro Luigi Di Sarro, Rom	Declination of Community. Part III, curated by E. Meschini
2014	KW, Kunstwerke Berlin	One-Night-Stand#2
2014	Apex Art NY	UHF 42 / Wattan.tv, Ramallah, Palestina, curated by Mike Crane
2014	Kunstraum Kreuzberg/Bethanien Berlin	Kongress der Artikulation, curated by Claudia Dorfmüller
2014	Wiener Festwochen	Into the City, Ghosts of the Monument, curated by ChtoDelat?
2014	ZKU Berlin	„What's the time?", curated by Maria Vedder
2013	Maxim Gorki Theater Berlin	„Berliner Herbstsalon", curated by Shermin Langhoff
2013	Images Festival DK	„Occupy Utopia", Aalborg und Kopenhagen
2013	Hamburger Museum für Kunst und Gewerbe	„Kairo", curated by Florian Ebner
2013	Eyebeam New York	Video Dumbo / Means from an End, curated by K. Stracke
2013	Museum Folkwang, Essen	„Cairo Open City", curated by Florian Ebner
2012	Kunstverein Heidelberg	„Die Bühne", curated by Susanne Weiß
2012	Townhouse Gallery Cairo	„Liminal State", curated by Ania Szremski
2012	Europäischer Monat der Fotografie Berlin	„distURBANces", curated by Katia Reich
2012	Museum für Fotografie Braunschweig	„Cairo Open City", curated by Florian Ebner
2012	EMAF Osnabrück	Internationaler Wettbewerb European Media Art Festival
2012	Centre Pompidou Paris	„Rising Images", curated by Lowave – Label für Videokunst
2012	Kunstraum Lichtenberg	„Subtexte in Kunst und Politik", curated by Sabine Winkler
2011	IDFA Amsterdam	Paradocs, curated by Joost Damen
2010	Queens Museum NYC	„Handheld History", curated by Tamar Ettun & Katayoun Vaziri
2010	Sheila C. Johnson Design Center, NYC	„How To Do Things With Words", curated by Melanie Crean
2010	Haus der Kulturen der Welt (HKW)	"On Rage", Reloading Images, curated by Valerie Smith
2009	Martin Gropius Bau Berlin	"Istanbul Modern Berlin", curated by C. Güzelhan, J. Odenthal
2009	Kunsthalle Nikolaj Copenhagen	"Mideast Cut", curated by Khaled Ramadan
2008	3rd Guanghzhou Triennial, China	„Farewell to Postcolonialism", curated by Sarat Maharaj
2007	DOK.Leipzig	Dokumentarfilmfestival Leipzig, Dt. Wettbewerb
2007	Museu Nacional Reina Sofia, Madrid	"Sin Cobertura", curated by Berta Sichel