

Hajer Qusay
Filmmaker



Hajer Qusay is a freelance filmmaker. First, she attended the activities of Tarkib as a visitor. In summer 2019, she became a member and presented her video-art „Enforced-Dreams“ on the occasion of „FORB-Collective Exhibition“ in Bait Tarkib.

In her art, be it film, video art, performance or installation, she depicts the feelings and thoughts of women in Iraq, on the one hand. On the other hand she is question social conventions psychology and its effect on each single individual and the Iraqi community in general. She feels she has to talk for others who have not the ability for expression. Her work is an encouragement for women and men to scrutinize and to rehtink.

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DISEASE



DISEASE

Installation
2022

“What is eating you from inside, which infects your soul and mind with disease? Isn't time to liberate and heal? Or, will you remain submissive?”

Hajer Qusay

Hajer Qusay is a filmmaker who is experimenting with performance and installation since 2019. Her topics are mainly women in Iraq from a very personal perspective as she is one of them. DISEASE is a scenography showing different elements of suffering. As an uncovered pretty lady, she is constantly exposed to criticism and insults. The floating ball with the long falling veil in the center of the scenography embodies a woman. The woman is surrounded by hanging objects, symbolizing the perception of women. The medical bottles stand for the community and are filled with green liquid. In cinema, the colour green is used to express disease. Therefore, she uses the colour green to underline how the community treats women. Instead of giving help, they do the contrary. Her scenography is anything but a reproach, it is a gentle, positive request for a different approach.



8. TARKIB Baghdad Contemporary Arts Festival,
Iraqi Artists Syndicate, 2022

BLACK OUT



BLACK OUT

Drama, Psychological Excitement

2021

11:48 min

The film follows the story of a young man who suffers from mental illness. Through his memories, we discover the reason for the formation of these diseases.



BLACK OUT – BACKSTAGE IMPRESSIONS





BAGHDAD WALK IN BERLIN

Group Exhibition

23.06.-26.06.2022

Salon am Moritzplatz, Berlin

BAGHDAD WALK is an annual group exhibitions series which takes place in public spaces across the city of Baghdad, since 2018.

The exhibition BAGHDAD WALK IN BERLIN revealed how the participating artists developed artistic strategies and narratives in Baghdad's public space and presented selected works from the last four editions. The performance EYE was one of the presented artworks.





Hajer Qusay performed EYE at Kottbusser Tor, one of Berlin's most busy places. The so-called „Kotti“ with a circular intersection and a subway station lies in the heart of the district of Kreuzberg, it is a place that attracts a divers and multi-cultural crowd.



EYE



EYE

Live Sculpture, Performance
2020

“The performance EYE had a very personal motive for me. When I walk down the street, men stare at me, which makes me feel disgusted by myself and my body, as if I have committed a sin, even though I have not. The performance was like therapy for me. When the first person drew on my body, I felt lost and I wanted to cry, but I withstood my feelings.”

Hajer Qusay

3. BAGHDAD WALK, Haifa Street, 2020



Hajer Qusay's performance EYE asked visitors: „If you look at me, draw an eye on me.“ The artist presented herself as a living sculpture and allowed the audience to draw on her white clothes. A courageous call for more tolerance and acceptance of women's feelings, her performance addresses the male behaviour of staring and laying eyes on the femal body. Confronting her own feelings of fear and pain, the performance became a tool and catalyst for her own willpower.



3. BAGHDAD WALK, Haifa Street, 2020



EYE

INFORCED DREAMS



My Brother wants me to be a housekeeper

ENFORCED DREAMS

Experimental Video
2019

"You are not only a number in a random sequence. You do not choose anything. There are always choices that were selected for you in advance without consulting you. But, it is strange to believe or believe it is your option and you do not have the opportunity to even think what you want."

Hajer Qusay

FORB - Collective Exhibition, BAIT TARKIB, 2019

