

ALI KAZMA | BIOGRAPHY

Ali Kazma (Istanbul, Turkey, 1971) is a lens-based media artist living and working in Paris. He has a master of arts degree from the New School in New York City.

Questioning social organisation and the value of human activity, he highlights the relationship between the visible and the invisible aspects of reality by looking closely at the management of labour, time, bodies, gestures, space and processes. Kazma's attentive eye collects specific activities in a broad range of economic, industrial, scientific, medical, social and artistic spheres.

He has an interest in spaces of social and cultural significance, places of production, in industries and handicraft, as well as in the details of machinery and ritualistic, repetitive daily tasks.

The artist, who represented Turkey at the 55th Venice Biennale - Pavilion of Turkey in 2013, had a comprehensive solo exhibition at Jeu de Paume, Paris in 2017. Ali Kazma's other solo exhibitions include Istanbul Modern Museum (2025), The Image Center (Toronto, 2025), Nouveau Musée National de Monaco (2023), MUNTREF (Buenos Aires, 2018), Arter (Istanbul, 2015), Hirshhorn Museum (Washington, 2010).

Group exhibitions and biennials include Maison Européenne de la Photographie (Paris, 2024), Lenbachhaus Museum (Munich, 2024), 6th Kuandu Biennale (Taipei, 2018), 7th Moscow International Biennale of Contemporary Art (Moscow, 2017), MAXXI (Rome, 2016), Musée d'Art Contemporaine de Lyon (Lyon, 2013), 30th Sao Paulo Biennial (Sao Paulo, 2012), Istanbul Biennial (Istanbul, 2001, 2007, 2011), Muzeum Sztuki Lodz (Lodz, 2012), Istanbul Modern (Istanbul, 2011), Museum Kunstpalast (Düsseldorf, 2010) and New Museum (New York, 2010).

He has received the UNESCO Prize for Promotion of the Arts in 2001 and the Nam June Paik Award in 2010. The artist's works have been included in a number of institutional collections including MoMA, New York, Tate Modern (London), CNAP (Paris), Istanbul Modern, MEP (Paris), Nouveau Musée National de Monaco, MONA (Tasmania), Sztuki Museum (Lodz), Fondation Cartier (Paris), TBA21 (Vienna), and VKV Foundation Collection (Istanbul).

ALI KAZMA | CV

1971 Born in Istanbul. Lives and works in Paris.

EDUCATION

1998 Master of Arts, Media Studies, The New School University, NYC, New York, USA

1993 Bachelor of Arts, Economics, University of Colorado at Boulder, Colorado, USA

AWARDS

2025 Anatolia Award for the Visual Arts, Baksı Foundation for Culture and Arts, Istanbul, Turkey

2010 Nam June Paik Award 2010, Museum Kunstpalast, Düsseldorf, Germany

1997 UNESCO Award for the Promotion in the Arts, 7th International Istanbul Biennial, Istanbul, Turkey

SOLO EXHIBITIONS

2025

Ali Kazma: North, Image Center, Toronto, curator: Gaëlle Morel. [*North*]

Landscapes of the Mind, Istanbul Modern Museum, curators: Öykü Özsoy Sağnak, Demet Yıldız Dinçer. [*A House of Ink, Sentimental, Alberto in Lisbon, Sumi, Calligraphy, Tattoo*].

Ali Kazma: Lisbon – Istanbul Two Portraits on the Edge, Francisco Fino Gallery, curator: Maurizio Bortolotti. [*A House of Ink, Alberto in Lisbon*].

2023

A House of Ink, Francesca Minini, Milan [*A House of Ink, Sentimental*].

2022

Winter Video Days, Nouveau Musée de Monaco, curator: Guillaume de Sardes [*A House of Ink, Sentimental, Top Fue*]

Time to Time, İmalat-hane, Bursa, Turkey

2021

Europeans, Kiraathane Istanbul Literature House, Istanbul, Turkey

2020

Women at Work, Analix Forever, Geneve, Switzerland

2019

Finis Terrae, Galeri Nev Istanbul, Istanbul, Turkey

2018

Souterrain, MUNTREF Centro de Arte Contemporáneo, Buenos Aires, Argentina

Mine, Albergo Diurno Venezia, Milan, Italy

5541, Bilsart, Istanbul, Turkey

2017

Souterrain, Jeu de Paume, Paris, France

Safe Home, Qbox Gallery, Athens, Greece

Tea Time, Galeri Nev Istanbul, Istanbul, Turkey

Safe, Galerie AKINCI, Amsterdam, Netherlands

2016

Crystal Seed, Şekerbank Açıkekran New Media Arts Gallery, Istanbul, Turkey

2015

Timemaker, Arter, Istanbul, Turkey

Absence, CAPRI, Düsseldorf, Germany

Care, Francesca Minini Gallery, Milan, Italy

2013

Livre/Book, Galerie Magda Danysz, Paris, France

Book, Galeri Nev Istanbul, Istanbul, Turkey

Resistance, Turkish Pavilion, 55th Venice Biennial, Curator: Emre Baykal, Venice, Italy

Ali Kazma: Videomix, La Casa Encendida, Madrid, Spain

2012

In It, C24 Gallery, New York, USA

Intimacy, Francesca Minini Gallery, Milan, Italy

Absence, Qbox Gallery, Athens, Greece

Black Box, Hirshhorn Museum, Washington, DC, USA

2011

How to Film a Poet, Analix Forever- Topographie de l'Art, Paris, France

Red Fox Must Die, Galeri Nev Istanbul, Istanbul, Turkey

2010

Savoir-faire, Galerie Villa des Tourelles, Nanterre, France

Things We Do, Tanas, Berlin, Germany

Ali Kazma, L'arc- Scène Nationale Le Creusot, Le Creusot, France

2009

Obstructions, Yapı Kredi Kazım Taşkent Art Gallery, Istanbul, Turkey

Retroprospective, Analix Forever, Geneva, Switzerland

Obstructions, Espace Croisé, Roubaix, France

Obstructions, Qbox Gallery, Athens, Greece

2008

Obstructions, Francesca Minini Gallery, Milan, Italy

2004

What Remains, Platform Garanti Contemporary Art Space, Istanbul, Turkey

GROUP EXHIBITIONS

2026

Le Mans Sonore Biennial, Le Mans, France. curator: Philippe Langlois [*Variations*]

2025

Notes for Tomorrow: Vargas Museum, Quezon City, Philippines. curators: ICI [*Safe*]

Exposition Generale: Fondation Cartier, Paris. curators Grazia Quaroni, Beatrice Grenier [*Studio Ceramist*]

Science-Fiction Une Non Histoire des Plantes, Foto Arsenal, Vienna. Curators: Morette, Aresheva [*Safe*]

Folding The Sea Into Dresses That Dissolve Like Salt, Leros, Greece [*Calligraphy*]

Prélude Eternal, Borusan Contemporary, Istanbul, curator: Necmi Sönmez

Âmes vertes – Quand l’art affronte l’anthropocène, La Friche, Marseille. curator: Ardenne. [*Safe*]

Northward, Bozlu Art Project, Istanbul. curator: Ibrahim Cansizoğlu. [*Safe*]

2024

Science-Fiction Une Non Histoire des Plantes, MEP, Paris, curators: Morette, Aresheva: [*Safe*]

Horizontes Fluidos, Havana, Cuba, curators: Seven Gravity [*Play*]

The Consolation of Objects, Dox Contemporary, Prag, curator: Michaela Šilpochová [*A House of Ink*]

Manutensions, L'ARC Scene Nationale Le Creusot, France: Clerk. curator: Elise Girardot: [*Clerk*]

212 Photography Istanbul, Photography Festival, Istanbul, Turkey [*Written*]

CAM, Gulbenkian, showing at HBOX, Lisbon, Portugal [*Taxidermist*]

FALL Festival, Dox Contemporary, Prague, Czech Republic [*Alberto in Lisbon*]

Recontemporary Art Gallery, Seven Gravity Collection, Torino [*Play*]

Notes for Tomorrow, University of Texas San Antonio Art Gallery, US curators: ICI [*Safe*]

Notes for Tomorrow, Kansas City Art Institute Gallery, US curators: ICI [*Safe*]

The Consolation of Objects, Lenbachhaus Museum, Munich, curator: Melanie Vietmeier and Matthias Mühling [*A House of Ink*]

6th Mardin Biennial, Further Away, curator: Ali Akay [*Safe, Printing Studio*]

Vertigo, The Mast Foundation, Bologna, curator: Urs Stahel [*Tea Time*]

Utopia, Keep on Moving, Akademie Der Künste, Berlin. Curator: Diana Wechsler [*House of Letters*]

2023

Babel, Historical Archive of the Ospedale Maggiore Policlinico – Video Sound Art

The Human Condition, Gallerie d'Italia, Torino, curator – Jacopo Crivelli Visconti

BienalSur

Mar del Plata, Extra/ordinary, MAR, curators: Florencia Battiti, Fernando Farina

Buenos Aires, Ficciones Reales, El Centro Cultural Kirchner, curator: Diana Wechsler, Benedetta Casini
Riyadh, Fantasies, Dreams, Utopias, SAMoCA, curator: Diana Wechsler.
Fusun Onur Retrospective, Ludwig Museum, curator – Emre Baykal
Endless, Sarkis, Arter, Istanbul curator: Emre Baykal
Notes for Tomorrow, Parallax Art Center in Portland, Oregon, US curators: ICI
This Current Between Us, Athens, Greece curators: Panos Giannikopoulos & Georgia Liapi

2022

In a Multiple Perspective, Yarat Center, Baku, Azerbaijan
Mblaha, Analix Forever, Geneve, Switzerland
Notes for Tomorrow, Pera Museum, Istanbul curators: ICI
Prospectif Cinéma, Centre Pompidou, Paris, France
Art Mill 2030, Qatar Museums, Doha, Qatar, curators: Aurélien Lemonier, Maryam Al-Thani
Petrified Dreams, Galeri Nev Istanbul, Turkey, curator: Nilüfer Şaşmaz.
A New Grammar of Images, Mixer, Istanbul, Turkey

2021

The Infallible Inter, Sidang Art Museum, Nanjing, China
At the End of the Day, OMM, Eskişehir, Turkey
Precaution, Arter, Istanbul, Turkey
Biennale d'Art Contemporain Hybride 4: Ouvrir, Paris, France

2020

Extracted Foreign Bodies, Les Moulins de Paillard, Loir en Vallée, France
Open Space 2, Galerist, Istanbul, Turkey
L'Anthropocène et Après, Cité des Arts La Réunion, Saint-Denis, Paris, France

2019

Words Are Unnecessary, Arter, Istanbul, Turkey
Pre-, Galeri Nev Istanbul, Turkey
Art et Presse: Libres Échanges, PENTHES Musée des Suisses Dans La Monde, Geneva, Switzerland

Lubricated Language, Galerie AKINCI, Amsterdam, Netherlands
Winterreise, Galerie AKINCI, Amsterdam, Netherlands

2018

206 Rooms of Silence: Etudes on Prinkipo Greek Orphanage, Galata Greek School, Istanbul, Turkey
Forgive Me, I Can Speak No Louder, Monitor, Izmir, Turkey
School Square Galatasaray, Pera Museum, Istanbul, Turkey
Frozen Moments, NUANS, Berlin, Germany
The Presence of Absence or the Catastrophe Theory, Nicosia Municipal Arts Centre (NiMAC), Lefkosia, Cyprus
Silence, Cappadox 2018, Nevşehir, Turkey
Seven Questions For Asia, 6th Kuandu Biennale, Curator: Hongjohn Lin, Taipei, Taiwan
Refusing to be Still, 21, 39 Jeddah Arts, Jeddah, Saudi Arabia
The Fabric of Felicity, Garage Museum of Contemporary Art, Moscow, Russia
A Journey to Freedom, Tasmanian Museum & Art Gallery, Hobart, Australia
Les Vitraux de Sarkis aux Pêcheries, Les Pêcheries Musée de Fécamp, Normandy
AUTOMATA, The ELEKTRA International Digital Art Festival, Montreal, Canada

2017

Doublethink-Double Vision, Pera Museum, Istanbul, Turkey
Dance With Me, La Maison Européenne de la Photographie, Paris, France
Clouds & Forests, 7th Moscow International Biennale of Contemporary Art, Curator: Yuko Hasegawa, Moscow, Russia
Murmuring, Mestna Galerija, Ljubljana, Slovenia
Ouverture: Selections From The Borusan Contemporary Art Collection, Borusan Contemporary, Istanbul, Turkey

2016

Are We Human? 3rd Istanbul Design Biennial, Curators: Beatriz Colomina & Mark Wigley, Galata Greek School, Istanbul, Turkey
Freundschaftsspiel Istanbul: Freiburg, Museum für Neue Kunst, Freiburg, Germany
The Presence of Absence or the Catastrophe Theory, IZOLYATSIA, Kiev, Ukraine
This yearning is ours!, Center of Contemporary Art Znaki Czasu in Torun, Poland
Le sens de la pain, art et prison, La Terrasse-Espace d'art de Nanterre, Nanterre, France

Hacking Habitat. Art of Control, Wolvenplein, Utrecht, Netherlands

2015

Istanbul. Passion, Joy, Fury, MAXXI - Museo Nazionale delle Arti del XXI Secolo, Rome, Italy

Memory & Oblivion, Station Beirut, Beirut, Lebanon

Body Memory, Analix Forever - Topographie de l'Art, Paris, France

2014

Unter die Haut, Rokitansky - Skoda – Zuckermandl, Die geburt der modernen medizin, Josephinum, Vienna, Austria

Puisqu'on vous dit que c'est possible, Saline Royale, Arc- et- Senans, France

La Belle Echappée, Chateau des Adhémar- Centre d'Art Contemporain, Montélimar, France

Simple Gestes, Centre George Pompidou Metz, Hors le mur: Musée du Cristal, Saint-Louis, France

FAIR PLAY - Art, sport and video beyond limits and borders, MAXXI-Museo Nazionale delle Arti del XXI Secolo, Rome, Italy

Ouverture: New Acquisitions, Borusan Contemporary, Istanbul, Turkey

Through the Looking Glass, Arter, Istanbul, Turkey

PLAYTIME, Städtische Galerie im Lenbachhaus und Kunstbau, Munich, Germany

2013

Motopoétique, MAC - Musée d'Art Contemporaine de Lyon, Lyon, France

Oeuvres de la Collection Philippe Cohen 20 ans d'Acquisitions, Passage de Retz, Paris, France

The Red Queen, MONA - Museum of Old and New Art, Hobart, Tasmania

The Unanswered Question. Iskele 2, NBK - Neuer Berliner Kunstverein, Berlin, Germany

L'eau et les rêves, Abbaye de Jumièges, Jumièges, France

Quel Travail?! Manières de Faire, Manières de Voir, Centre Photographique d'Ile de-France, Pontault, France

2012

History is Mine, Le printemps de Septembre, Toulouse, France

The Imminence of Poetics, 30th São Paulo Biennial, Curators: Luis Pérez-Oramas, André Severo, Tobi Maier, Isabela Villanueva, São Paulo, Brazil

ARSENALE – 1st Ukrainian Biennale of Contemporary Art, Curator: David Elliot, Kiev, Ukraine

A la croisée des images, MEP- Maison Européenne de la Photographie, Paris, France
For You, Muzeum Sztuki Lodz, Lodz, Poland

2011

Untitled, 12th Istanbul Biennial, Curators: Jens Hoffmann & Afriano Pedrosa, Istanbul, Turkey

Festival de Basi, Soesterberg, Netherlands

Beyond the Crisis, 6th Curitiba Biennial, Curators: Alfons Hug, Ticio Escobar, Curitiba, Brazil

Old Intersections/Make It New, 3rd Thessaloniki Biennial, Curators: Paolo Colombo, Mahita Urieta, Marina Fokidis, Thessaloniki, Greece

Orientales, Hotel Bauer, Venice, Italy

Maquinas, Galeria de Artes Visuais do Oi Futuro, Belo Horizonte, Brazil

Tactics of Invisibility, Arter, Istanbul, Turkey

Painter, Analix Forever, Geneva, Switzerland

Reality Revisited, ArtParis, Paris, France

Paradise Lost, Istanbul Modern, Istanbul, Turkey

2010

The Second Exhibition, Arter, Istanbul, Turkey

Cinéphémère, FIAC, Paris, France

City-O-Rama, Public Spaces, Hong Kong, China

Nam June Paik Award 2010, Museum Kunstpalast, Düsseldorf, Germany

Workers Leaving the Workplace, Muzeum Sztuki, Lodz, Poland

This story is not ready for its footnotes, Ex Elettronica, Rome, Italy

Tactics of Invisibility, TBA21, Vienna, Austria

H-Box Film Screenings, New Museum, New York, USA

H-Box Film Screenings, Laboratorio de Arte Alameda, Mexico City, Mexico
Not easy to save the world in 90 days, Tanas, Berlin, Germany

2009

In the Between, Passage Petit-Champs, Istanbul, Turkey

A different similarity: endgame, Alternative Space LOOP, Seoul, Korea

Art in the Auditorium, Fundación Proa, Buenos Aires, Argentina

Istanbul Traversée, Lille 3000, Lille, France

2008

Happy Corpse, Analix Forever, Geneva, Switzerland

Village: One Land Two Systems & Platform Paradise, Ein Hawd, Israel

The City Rises, Istanbul Modern, Istanbul, Turkey

Art in the Auditorium, Whitechapel Gallery, London, United Kingdom

Art in the Auditorium, Production: The Institute for the Readjustment of Clocks, Vehbi Koç Foundation, Istanbul, Turkey

Working Men, Analix Forever, Geneva, Switzerland

Shorts Program, International Film Festival Rotterdam, Rotterdam, Netherlands Last Things, Westfälischer Kunstverein, Münster, Germany

2007

The History of a Decade That Has Not Yet Been Named, 9th Lyon Biennial, Curators: Stéphanie Moisdon & Hans Ulrich Obrist, Lyon, France

Destroy Athens, 1st Athens Biennial, Athens, Greece, Curators: Xenia Kalpaktsoglou, Pako-Vio, Augustine Zenakos, Athens, Greece

Not Only Possible, But Also Necessary: Optimism in the Age of Global War, 10th Istanbul Biennial, Curator: Hou Hanru, Istanbul, Turkey

World Factory, San Francisco Art Institute, San Francisco, USA

2006

EurHope 1153, Contemporary Art from the Bosphorus, Villa Manin Centro d'arte Contemporanea, Udine, Italy

Beautiful Game, Roebling Hall, New York, USA

Human Game Winners and Losers, Fondazione Pitti, Florence, Italy

Glamour and Globalisation, Hartware MedienKunstVerein, Dortmund, Germany

Dinámicas de la Cultura Urbana, 9th Havana Biennial, Curator: Nelson Herrera Ysla, Havana, Cuba

2005

Tünel-Karaköy: Istanbul Pedestrian Exhibition 2, Istanbul, Turkey Resfest, Istanbul, Turkey

2004

Love It or Leave It, 5th Cetinje Biennial, Curators: René Block & Natasa Ilic, Cetinje, Montenegro

The Visitor, Galerist, Istanbul, Turkey

Making of Istanbul Modern, Istanbul Modern, Istanbul, Turkey

Em Jogo / On Side, Centro de Artes Visuais, Coimbra, Portugal

Love It or Leave It, A Project of 5th Cetinje Biennial, Dubrovnik, Croatia 2003 In den Schluchten des Balkan, Kunsthalle Fridericianum, Kassel, Germany

Eski Açık Sarı Desene, Turkey, Nationwide Theatrical Release, Feature Documentary, Istanbul, Turkey

Where? Here?, Museum of Modern Art, Saitama, Japan

2002

Foux/Real, Borusan Art Gallery, Istanbul, Turkey

Between the Waterfronts, Ram Gallery, Rotterdam, Netherlands

EV+A 2002- Heroes and Holies, Limerick City Gallery of Art, Limerick, Ireland Avanto

Helsinki Media Art Festival, Museum of Contemporary Art Helsinki, Helsinki, Finland

2001

Egofugal: Fugue from Ego for the Next Emergence, 7th International Istanbul Biennial, Curator: Yuko Hasegawa, Istanbul, Turkey

9e Biennale de l'image en Mouvement, Curators: Ana Axpe, Celya Larre, Andre Iten, Centre pour l'image Contemporaine, Saint Gervais, Switzerland

Egofugal, Tokyo Opera City, Tokyo, Japan

Im Zeichen der Stadt, Kunstmuseum, Bonn, Germany

Splitski New Film Festival, Split, Croatia

2000

Irish Film Institute, Dublin, Ireland

South by Southwest Film Festival, Austin, Texas, USA

Darklight Digital Film Festival, Dublin, Ireland

BOOKS

2025 Landscapes of the Mind, Aklın Manzaraları. Istanbul Modern Publications
2022 Sentimental, Empire Publications, Nouveau Musee National de Monaco
2020 Remember, Umur Publications
2017 Subterranean, Jeu de Paume, Filigranes editions
2015 Timemaker, Arter Publications
2013 Resistance, Istanbul Foundation for Culture and Arts, Venice Biennial
2013 Book, Galeri Nev İstanbul
2012 In It, C24 Gallery
2011 Works, 2005 – 2010, Galeri Nev İstanbul

INSTITUTIONAL COLLECTIONS (SEL.)

MoMA, New York
Tate Modern, London
Fondation Cartier
Borusan Contemporary, Istanbul
CNAP, Paris
Edition Block, Berlin
Istanbul Modern, Istanbul
MAST Foundation, Bologna
MEP- Maison Européenne de la Photographie, Paris
MONA- Museum of Old and New Art in Australia, Tasmania Sztuki Museum, Lodz
TBA21, Vienna
Fondation Louis Vuitton pour la Création, Paris
Vehbi Koç Foundation Collection, Istanbul