

Galeria **Francisco Fino**

Loop Barcelona 2025

Ali Kazma

INKMAN, 2025

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Ali Kazma

INKMAN, 2025

Single channel HD video with sound

00:04:35

Filmed in Nara, Japan

Ed. 1/5 + 2 AP

Video

Password: alikazma



Still of Ali Kazma's *INKMAN*, 2025

Continuing his practice of documenting hard-to-access production spaces, Ali Kзма captures the making of sumi calligraphy ink, a centuries-old craft passed down from master to apprentice at Kobaien studio in Nara, Japan.

The production of this specific calligraphy ink has continued to be practiced more or less in the same way for over five centuries in this studio after its introduction to Japan from China. Kзма's work offers a fresh perspective on the production of the world's purest black ink by highlighting the elements of time, labor, and craftsmanship. In *Inkman*, the artist concentrates on one of the older craftsmen in the studio, the remarkable Mr. Toshitsugu Okabe.

The labor-intensive process, captured by Kзма's camera and re-worked through meticulous editing, evolves into a rhythmic sequence of movements, as Okabe molds the plant and animal-based materials into ink-sticks, using the same tools and gestures that have been repeated through the centuries.

Yazın Öztürk, curator at Istanbul Modern.





Still of Ali Kazma's *INKMAN*, 2025

Ali Kazma

Born in 1971 in Istanbul, Turkey, Ali Kazma is a lensa-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 São Paulo Biennial (São 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).

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