

MARIA HASSABI

Maria Hassabi (b. 1973 Cyprus) is an artist, choreographer and performer, working with live performance, installation, sculpture, photography and video. Since the early 2000s, she has carved a unique practice that concentrates on stillness and the in-betweenness of bodies in motion, highlighting the relation of the live body to the still image and to the sculptural object. Considering conventions, hierarchies and codes existing in theatres, museums, and public spaces, her acclaimed works always reflect the given context of their presentation and are developed in dialogue with a site's unique architecture both in terms of materiality and function.

Hassabi's photographs rely on a desire for permanence. The dancer's body is presented fragmented, contorted and even blurred, yet its stillness, which is at the forefront of her performances as an attempt to invite the viewer to consider the present moment, is now the given. Looking at the objects one can sense the dancer's presence captured in time and space. These works ultimately challenge distinctions between permanence and ephemerality, presence and absence, wholeness and partialness. Her photographic and video works use material from her live performances as a departure point, while the use of technological tools and approaches are employed to override the limitations that occur within the format of liveness and realness. Maria Hassabi's photographic works are in the collections of Deutsche Bank, Onassis Foundation and Dakis Joannou, while the Walker Art Center in Minneapolis and the TATE in the UK have also added her live installations in their collections.

Her works are presented in festivals, museums, theaters, and public spaces worldwide. Solo exhibitions and presentations include Tai Kwun Contemporary, Hong Kong (2023); LUMA Arles (2022); OGR, Turin (2022); Secession, Vienna (2021); Pulitzer Arts Foundation, St. Louis (2019); MUDAM, Luxemburg (2019); Point Center for Contemporary Art, Nicosia (2018); K20, Kunstsammlung Nordrhein-Westfalen, Düsseldorf (2017-18); OCC Stegi Athens (2017); Walker Art Center, Minneapolis (2017); Museum of Modern Art, New York (2016); Hammer Museum, Los Angeles (2015); The Kitchen, New York (2019, 2016, 2013, 2011, 2006); Stedelijk Museum, Amsterdam (2015); Australian Centre for Contemporary Art, Melbourne (2014); Centre d'Art Contemporain, Geneva (2012); Performance Space 122, New York (2007, 2009).

Her works have also been featured in group exhibitions and festivals such as at Thailand Biennale, Chiang Rai (2023); FRONT Triennial, Cleveland (2022); ob/scene Festival, Seoul (2022); Museion, Bolzano (2021); River to River Festival, NY (2021, 2017, 2014, 2012); Gropius Bau, Berlin (2020); Performa, NY (2019, 2013, 2009); Serralves Museum, Porto (2019, 2015); Centre Pompidou, Paris (2018); documeta14, Kassel (2017); the 55th Venice Biennale (2013); Crossing the Line Festival, NY (2016, 2011, 2009); Kunstenfestivaldesarts, Brussels (2017, 2016, 2014) amongst others.

Hassabi was an Onassis Resident 2019-2022. She received the 2019 Performa Malcolm McClaren Award with Nairy Baghramian; 2016 New York Dance and Performance "Bessie" Award; 2015 Herb Alpert Award; 2012 President's Award for Performing Arts from LMCC; 2011 Guggenheim Fellowship; 2009 Grants to Artists Award from Foundation for Contemporary Arts. She holds a BFA from California Institute of the Arts.

