

Artists

Nadav Assor (b. 1979, US / Israel) lives and works in Providence, RI. Assor's work takes on systems of technological mediation that are frequently military-industrial in origin, from eye-tracking cameras to drones, telepresence-robots, and mixed-reality environments. Low-fi versions of these are critically repurposed in his work to function as a means for creating communities, connections, intimate human dialogue and visceral audio-visual-tactile experiences. Assor's videos, installations, and performances have been featured in film festivals, museums, galleries, and live venues across North America, Europe, and Asia. Recent venues include Arsenal Berlin, the Oberhausen Film Festival, Video Vortex XI at Kochi-Muziris, India, Hong-Gah Museum Taipei, La Casa Encendida Madrid, Edith-Russ Haus Oldenburg, Transmediale Festival Berlin, the Soundwave Biennial San Francisco, Residency Unlimited NYC, Julie M Gallery Toronto + Tel Aviv, Fridman Gallery NYC, and more. Assor's work has been reviewed in publications such as **Artform**, **Vice Motherboard**, **Art Monthly UK**, and **Haaretz**, and was recently featured in "Rêvolution Digitale", an overview of international digital art by CANAL's Museum TV channel. His single channel video work is distributed through Video Data Bank, Chicago. He is an Associate Professor of Expanded Media at Connecticut College's Studio Art Department and is the Director of the Ammerman Center for Arts and Technology there. He is currently a Fellow at the Open Documentary Lab at MIT.

Tirtza Even has been a documentary-maker and video artist for over twenty years and has produced both linear and interactive video work representing the less overt manifestations of complex and at times extreme social/political dynamics in specific locations (e.g., Palestine, Turkey, Spain, the U.S., and Germany). Even's work has been shown at the Museum of Modern Art (NY), the Whitney Biennial, the Johannesburg Biennial, as well as in many galleries, museums, and festivals in the US, Israel, and Europe, including the Museum of Modern Art (NY), Doc Fortnight, RIDM Festival, Montreal, Rotterdam Film Festival, San Francisco Film Festival, New York Video Festival, and Lincoln Center. Even's work has won numerous grants and awards, including 3ARTs Visual Arts and Next Level Awards, Fledgling Distribution Fund; Artadia Award, Chicago (winner of top award); Golden Gate Awards Certificate of Merit, San Francisco International Film Festival; Media Arts Award, the Jerome Foundation; Individual Artists Program Awards, NYSCA, and many others; and has been purchased for the permanent collection of the Museum of Modern Art (NY), the Jewish Museum (NY), the Israel

Museum (Jerusalem), among others. Even has been an invited guest at many conferences and university programs, including the Whitney Museum Seminar series, MIT Open Doc, the Digital Flaherty Seminar, SXSW Interactive Conference, Art Pace annual panel, ACM Multimedia, and others. Her work is distributed by Heure Exquise, France and Video Data Bank (VDB). Even is currently an Associate Professor at the School of the Art Institute of Chicago's Film, Video, New Media, and Animation department.

Participants

Morehshin Allahyari (Persian: *موره شين اللهيارى*) is a New York-based Iranian-Kurdish artist using 3-D simulation, video, sculpture, and digital fabrication as tools to refigure myth and history. Through archival practices and storytelling, her work weaves together complex counternarratives in opposition to the lasting influence of Western technological colonialism in the context of SWANA (Southwest Asia and North Africa). Allahyari has been part of numerous exhibitions, festivals, and workshops around the world including the Venice Biennale di Architettura, New Museum, Whitney Museum of American Art, Pompidou Center, Museum of Contemporary Art Montreal, Tate Modern, Queens Museum, Pori Museum, Powerhouse Museum, Dallas Museum of Art, and Museum für Angewandte Kunst. She has been an artist in residence at BANFF Centre, Carnegie Mellon University's STUDIO for Creative Inquiry, Autodesk Pier9 Workshop in San Francisco, the Vilém Flusser Residency Program for Artistic Research in association with Transmediale, Berlin, Eyebeam's one-year research residency, Pioneer Works, and Harvest Works. Her work has been featured in The New York Times, BBC, Huffington Post, Wired, National Public Radio, Parkett Art Magazine, Frieze, Rhizome, Hyperallergic, and Al Jazeera, among others. She is the recipient of The United States Artist Fellowship (2021), The Joan Mitchell Foundation Painters & Sculptors Grant (2019), The Sundance Institute New Frontier International Fellowship (2019), and the Leading Global Thinkers of 2016 award by Foreign Policy magazine. Her artworks are in the collections of the Whitney Museum of American Art, San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, and the Current Museum.

Dr. Shirly Bahar's writing and curatorial work explores the relationships between representation, politics, and the body. Shirly's first book, ***Documentary Cinema in Israel-Palestine: Performance, the Body, the Home*** is out in July 2021 with Bloomsbury/IB Tauris. Shirly has published articles about film, performance art, literature, gender and queer representation from Israel/Palestine, Turkey, and the US. Since 2013, Shirly has been curating art shows, public programs, and community events in New York City and across the US. Shirly earned her PhD from New York University (2017), MA from Brandeis University (2010), and her BFA/Ed from Hamidrasha School of Arts (2006), where she specialized in sculpture and video installation.

Juan Flores is a multidisciplinary artist born in Del Rio, TX and raised in the southeast side of San Antonio, TX. He received his BA in Art from Connecticut College in New London, CT. He was the recipient of the Mortimer Hays-Brandeis Fellowship which funded his concentration on sound art in Mexico City for over a year. His start was in the Blue Star Contemporary Art Museum's MOSAIC program, where he participated in making murals out of handmade mosaic tiles along with other high school students. He is currently an MFA candidate at the School of the Art Institute of Chicago in the Art & Technology Studies Program.

Helkin Gonzalez was born in San Felipe, Venezuela in 1988. He earned his degree in public accounting in 2005 from the Universidad de Carabobo, Valencia. He first came to Chicago in 2014 for work while he was working at Smurfitkappa, Cartón de Venezuela. In Chicago, Helkin met Raja Halwani, and, after a long-distance relationship for two years, he moved to Chicago in 2016 and they got married. He first worked for Loop Paper Recycling, but he currently occupies the position of Comptroller at 160 Driving Academy in Evanston, IL.

Raja Halwani was born in Beirut, Lebanon in 1967. He earned his Bachelor of Arts in economics from the American University of Beirut, and his Masters and Doctorate in philosophy from Syracuse University. He is currently Professor of Philosophy at the School of the Art Institute of Chicago, where he has worked since 1997. His major research interests are in philosophy of sex and love, queer philosophy, moral philosophy (especially virtue ethics), political philosophy, animal ethics, and philosophy of art. In addition to authoring numerous essays, he is the author or

editor of *Virtuous Liaisons: Care, Love, Sex, and Virtue Ethics* (2003), *Sex and Ethics: Essays on Sexuality, Virtue, and the Good Life* (2007), *The Israeli-Palestinian Conflict: Philosophical Essays on Self-Determination, Terrorism, and the One-State Solution* (2008, co-authored with Tomis Kapitan), *Love, Sex, and Marriage: A Philosophical Introduction* (2010; 2018 [2nd ed.]), *Queer Philosophy: Presentations of the Society for Lesbian and Gay Philosophy, 1998-2008* (2012), and *The Philosophy of Sex: Contemporary Readings* (6th ed. [2013]; 7th ed. [2017] and the forthcoming 8th edition). He lives with his spouse, Helkin Gonzalez, and their two cats, Aleef Armando and Fortuna Uroobah, in Chicago.

Sejake Mats'ela is a writer, film practitioner, and photographer from Lesotho, Southern Africa. Working as a writer for screen, an art director, and script supervisor, Sejake has contributed in the making of a number of films which have screened on various television stations and film festivals. For four years he lectured in the screenwriting program at Limkokwing University in Maseru, after which he moved to the United States. In 2018, he completed an MFA in Writing at the School of the Art Institute of Chicago. He was an instructor of record for a year in the Inner Voices Social Issues Theatre program at the University of Illinois Champaign. In 2019, he completed the script editing and translation for a feature film titled 'This is not a Burial, it's a Resurrection,' which premiered in Cannes in 2019 and is currently in circulation on various online platforms. He is currently a candidate in the MA in Visual Culture program at Illinois State University where he is currently completing his thesis.

Isin Öñol is a curator and writer based in New York and Vienna and has been working independently since 2009. Before that, she led the Elgiz Museum of Contemporary Art Istanbul as its director and curator (2006-2009). Her curatorial research focuses on connecting archival information with oral histories to create platforms for collective memory through collaborative art practices. She is a research scholar at the Center for the Study of Social Difference, Columbia University. She has been appointed as a guest professor and curator at the University of Applied Arts, Vienna, Austria for 2021-2022. She served as a lecturer at Montclair State University, Department of Art & Design for five years. Öñol co-founded and directs the Nesin Art Village, an independent art school in Turkey. Her recent exhibitions include *A Knot in the Throat: Foraging for Vanishing Present* (Vienna), *Thinking Food Futures* (New York), *Women Mobilizing Memory* (Istanbul, Vienna, New York, Madrid), and *When Home Won't Let You Stay* (Vienna). She co-

curated the International Sinop Biennial in 2012, 2014 and 2021. She has produced more than 50 exhibitions internationally, and has published on the intersection of social justice and art. ÖnoI holds an MFA from Sabanci University, Istanbul, a MAS from Zürich University of the Arts, and is a PhD candidate at the University of Applied Arts, Vienna. Isin ÖnoI has been elected twice to the Board of Directors of Roberto Cimetta Fund for the period 2018-2021 and 2021-2024.