

Ali Akbar Mehta  
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Department of Art and Media  
School Common ARTS  
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## Education

### Doctoral Researcher

Doctoral Researcher  
Department of Art and Media  
Aalto University  
1 Feb 2023 → present

### Doctoral Student , School Common ARTS

Aalto University  
1 Aug 2019 → present

## MA Visual Cultures, Curating, and Contemporary Art

Taiteen maisteri  
Award Date: 17 Dec 2018

## Awards

### State Art Prize

Mehta, A. A. (Recipient), 24 Nov 2020

### Tutkijaliitto-palkinto

Mehta, A. (Recipient) & Savallampi, M. (Recipient), 2019

## Solo Exhibitions

### Is there a room with just a colour?

Mehta, A., 16 Apr 2020

### Limitations of Liability

Mehta, A. A., 2017

### 256 Million Colours of Violence

Mehta, A. A., 24 Nov 2016

### TRINITY: Godrej Legacy Park Silos

Mehta, A. A., 2015

### SITE : STAGE : STRUCTURE

Mehta, A. A., 2014

### Of Men and Supermen

Mehta, A. A., 2012

**The Ballad of The War that Never Was & other Bastardized Myths**  
Mehta, A. A., 2011

## **Performances**

**Vastavuoroisuuksia**  
varialambo, 12 Feb 2021

**Narrating WAR / Habitat 1**  
varialambo, 2021

**Glitchverse**  
Mehta, A. A., 2020

**Narrating WAR**  
varialambo, 2020

**Narrating WAR**  
Mehta, A. A., 2019

## **Select Group Exhibitions and Coproductions**

2023

**Backlight'23: Cruel Radiance**  
Mehta, A. A., 17 Jun 2023


2022

**Into the Void**  
Mehta, A. A., 23 Sept 2022

**Locus of Control**  
Mehta, A. A., 2022

2021

**Data Vitality: Soft infrastructures and Economies of Knowledge**  
Mehta, A. A., 16 Nov 2021

**Reboot Me Softly**   
Mehta, A. A., 16 Nov 2021

**Central Park Archives installation**  
Mehta, A. A., Aug 2021

**XXV Mäntän Kuvataideviikot**  
Mehta, A. A., 13 Jun 2021

**Aikakoneita ja utopioita: kaukokaipuu**

Mehta, A. A., Saumya, V., varialambo & Allen, J., 8 May 2021

**Vastavuoroisuuksia**

Mehta, A. A. & varialambo, 12 Feb 2021

**Vastavuoroisuuksia**

varialambo, 12 Feb 2021

**Narrating WAR / Habitat 1**

varialambo, 2021

2020

**A Tapestry of Time**

Mehta, A. A., 2020

**Ballad of the Lost Utopian Meadow: a Finnish food archive**

varialambo, 2020

**Central Park Archives: Keskuspuisto Arkistot**

Mehta, A. & Ánas, S. (Other), 2020

2019

**Making Space**

Mehta, A. A., 2019

2018

**Assembly of Access**

Mehta, A. A., 2018

**No Corners**

Mehta, A. A., 2018

**Select Publications****A rhythmic play of possibilities in time: Obliquo Policromo as a holder of existential potentialities**

Mehta, A. A., Nov 2023, *30 Works from the Saastamoinen Foundation*. Karttunen, P., Lappalainen, S., Lilja, E., Ruscica, J. & Tuori, A. (eds.). Saastamoinen Foundation

**A tessellated life: Space Structures as a philosophy of perseverance**

Mehta, A. A., Nov 2023, *30 Works from the Saastamoinen Foundation*. Karttunen, P., Lappalainen, S., Lilja, E., Ruscica, J. & Tuori, A. (eds.). Saastamoinen Foundation

**The Boycean double-bind: Exquisite Tension as a pedagogy of free play**

Mehta, A. A., Nov 2023, *30 Works from the Saastamoinen Foundation*. Karttunen, P., Lappalainen, S., Lilja, E., Ruscica, J. & Tuori, A. (eds.). Saastamoinen Foundation

### **On the Edge of the Re(lation)al: Between and Beyond Cyber Realities**

Mehta, A. A., Aug 2023, *Beyond Matter, Within Space*. Nolasco-Rózsás, L. (ed.). Hatje Cantz Verlag, p. 258-265 7 p.

### **The Politics of Togetherness: Beyond the integration infrastructure of state and institutional apparatus**

Mehta, A. A., 2023, *Rethinking Integration: Challenging Oppressive Practices and Pointing to Ways Forward*. Karimi, Z., Ennsner-Kananen, J., Sadatizarrini (Rahaa), S., Petäjämäki, M., Khalimzoda, I. & Masoud, A. (eds.). Siirtolaisuusinstituutti, p. 179-210 (Tutkimus / Siirtolaisuusinstituutti; no. 9).

### **Who Watches Whom? Ruminations on Power Gaze and Field through Pilvi Takala's Close Watch**

Mehta, A. A., 21 Jun 2022, In: NO NIIN. 12

### **Bearing Witness: Articulating an archival practice**

Mehta, A. A., 17 Jun 2022, In: *Tiede & edistys*. 2022, 1-2, p. 35-41 7 p.

### **The origins of performative coloniality and the caste context: Notes on evolving oppression systems and graded power hierarchies**

Mehta, A. A., 2022, (Accepted/In press) In: *Research in Arts and Education*. 2022, 4

### **Touching/Transforming: Notes Towards Collective Critical Artistic Research Practices and Processes**

Bäckman, F., Close, R., Godin, M.-A., Kallio-Tavin, M., Mehta, A. A., Qureshi, A. & Sadatizarrini, S., Dec 2021, In: *Research in Arts and Education*. 2021, 4, p. 1-18 18 p.

### **Generating (an)other economy: Working together at Museum of Impossible Forms**

Mehta, A. A., 7 Oct 2021, *How to Work Together: Seeking models of solidarity and alliance*. Aiava, E. & Aiava, R. (eds.). Helsinki: Museum of Impossible Forms, p. 149-176 27 p.

### **A longing for something written in memory: Library as Archive as Excavation Site**

Mehta, A., 15 Mar 2021, In: NO NIIN. 1

### **Museum of Impossible Forms ja antirasistisen kulttuurituotannon haasteet**

Savallampi, M. & Mehta, A., 2021, *Rasismi, Valta ja Vastarinta*. Keskinen, S., Seikkula, M. & Mkwesha, F. (eds.). Helsinki: Gaudeamus, p. 221-224 4 p.

### **Ääniä marginaalista: Museum of Impossible Forms Kontulassa**

Mehta, A. A., 2021, *Marginaaleista Museoihin*. Rastas, A. & Koivunen, L. (eds.). Tampere: Vastapaino, p. 259-265 6 p.

### **The Shape of Museums to Come**

Mehta, A., 18 Dec 2020, *Das Museum der Zukunft: 43 Neue Beiträge zur Diskussion über die Zukunft des Museums*. schnittpunkt, H. V. & Baur, J. (eds.). Transcript Verlag, p. 189-195 6 p.

### **How to Work Together: Extended Notes on collaboration**

Mehta, A. A., Dec 2020

### **In-Between**

Mehta, A. A. (Editor), Savallampi, M. (Editor), Pallasvuo, J., Bullivant, J., Tuominen, S., Che, D., Ketola, J., Tolnov Clausen, R., Norouzi, M., Rönkä, E., Kuikka, A. & Purhonen, J. A., 2020, Helsinki: Helsinki International Artist Programme (HIAP). 91 p. (In-Between)

### **SAFE{R}: Evolving the Conditions for Collaboration**

Mehta, A. A., 2020, *Six years in the Third Space*. Third Space Gallery

### **Who is Welcome? Thinking Hospitality as Museum of Impossible Forms**

Mehta, A. A. & Savallampi, M., 2020, *Rehearsing Hospitalities*. Billimore, Y. & Koitela, J. (eds.). Berlin: Archive Books, Vol. 2. p. 109-112 3 p. (Rehearsing Hospitalities Companion; vol. 2).

### **How to be hospitable without being a motel: Thinking Hospitalities**

Mehta, A. A. & Savallampi, M., 2019, *Rehearsing Hospitalities*. Billimore, Y. & Koitela, J. (eds.). Berlin: Archive Books, Vol. 1. (Rehearsing Hospitalities; vol. 1).

### **To Not Wait for the Archive: Home and Labour mired in the complications of Invisibilisation**

Mehta, A. A., 2019, In: ViCCA journal. 5

### **Cyber Archive: Archiving as sustainable counter-hegemonic practice.**

Mehta, A. A., 2018, In: Hakara : a bi-lingual journal of creative expression. 2018, 3

### **FOOD and Other Practices at the Arthouse**

Mehta, A. A., 2018, In: ViCCA journal. 3

### **The Photons of Politics: Footnotes for a New History**

Mehta, A. A., 2017, In: Rab-Rab - journal for political and formal inquiries in art. 4, 1

## **Artist Talks and Conferences**

### **How to work together – tools and practices for transgressional collective work**

Mehta, A. A. (Invited speaker), Ohtonen, O. (Invited speaker), Jalili Villarreal, P. (Invited speaker) & Lindfors, S. (Speaker)  
18 May 2022

### **In conversation with the Finnish Institutes: Decolonisation in the arts and cultural fields**

Mehta, A. A. (Invited speaker), Gathuo, M. (Speaker), Dixon, C. A. (Invited speaker) & Marsh, N. (Contributor)  
13 Oct 2021

### **Central Park Archives: Access, commons, and networks of care**

Mehta, A. A. (Speaker)  
27 May 2021

### **Mobility and its Discontents: Internationalism, Mobility, and Borders**

Mehta, A. A. (Speaker)  
1 Mar 2021

### **Mobility and its Discontents: Internationalism, Mobility & Borders**

Mehta, A. A. (Speaker)  
2021

### **Creatures Panel Discussion**

Mehta, A. (Speaker)  
9 Sept 2020

### **New Standards**

Mehta, A. A. (Speaker)  
2020

### **Rehearsing Hospitalities Companion 2 Readings**

Mehta, A. A. (Speaker), Dekker, A. (Speaker) & Ånas, S. (Speaker)  
2020

### **Notes for Radical Diversity**

Mehta, A. A. (Speaker)  
2019

### **Resistance & Reimagining Alternatives**

Mehta, A. A. (Speaker)  
2019

### **Congratulations, the space has been invaded: WHAT NOW?**

Mehta, A. A. (Speaker)  
2018

### **Maunula Remix**

Mehta, A. A. (Speaker)  
2018

### **Re: Musing the Museum, Part II**

Mehta, A. A. (Speaker)  
2018

### **Decolonial Dreaming**

Mehta, A. A. (Speaker)  
2017

## **Select Teaching, Lectures and Workshops**

### **TOUCHING/TRANSFORMING**

Close, R. (Organiser), Sadatizarrini, S. (Organiser), Bäckman, F. (Organiser), Kallio-Tavin, M. (Organiser), Qureshi, A. (Organiser), Godin, M.-A. (Organiser) & Mehta, A. A. (Organiser)  
3 Jun 2021

### **Is there a room with just a colour?**

Mehta, A. A. (Member)  
16 Apr 2020 → 9 May 2020

## **Curatorial Work**

### **TOUCHING/TRANSFORMING**

Close, R. (Organiser), Sadatizarrini, S. (Organiser), Bäckman, F. (Organiser), Kallio-Tavin, M. (Organiser), Qureshi, A. (Organiser), Godin, M.-A. (Organiser) & Mehta, A. A. (Organiser)  
3 Jun 2021

### **Is there a room with just a colour?**

Mehta, A. A. (Member)  
16 Apr 2020 → 9 May 2020

## **Memberships and Positions of Trust**

### **Frame Contemporary Art Finland (External organisation)**

Mehta, A. A. (Member)  
1 Jan 2021 → 31 Dec 2023

**Kiila (External organisation)**

Mehta, A. A. (Chair)

1 Jan 2021 → 31 Dec 2021

**Museum of Impossible Forms (External organisation)**

Mehta, A. A. (Member)

1 Jan 2021 → 31 Dec 2021

**Catalysti (External organisation)**

Mehta, A. A. (Member)

2021 → ...

**Frame Contemporary Art Finland (External organisation)**

Mehta, A. A. (Member)

2021 → 2024

**Museum of Impossible Forms (External organisation)**

Mehta, A. A. (Reviewer)

15 Aug 2018 → 31 Dec 2020

**Museum of Impossible Forms (External organisation)**

Mehta, A. A. (Member)

2016 → ...

**Press/Media****Makkaraa pitelevä koira herättää Pariisin-ikävän Mäntässä**

Mehta, A. A.

18/06/2021

1 item of Media coverage

**Mäntän kuvataideviikoilla voi antaa itsensä tekoälyn käyttöön – "Ihmisellä on samanlainen suhde tekoälyyn kuin jumalaan"**

Mehta, A. A.

28/07/2021

1 item of Media coverage