

Ali Akbar Mehta  
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Department of Art and Media  
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## **Education**

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

## **MA Visual Cultures, Curating, and Contemporary Art**

Taitteen maisteri  
Award Date: 17 Dec 2018

## **Awards**

**State Art Prize**  
Mehta, Ali Akbar (Recipient), 24 Nov 2020

**Tutkijaliitto-palkinto**  
Mehta, Ali Akbar (Recipient) & Savallampi, Marianne (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**

Mehta, A. A. & 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**  
Mehta, A., Saumya, V. & varialambo, 2020

**Central Park Archives: Keskuspuisto Arkistot**  
Mehta, A. & Ånas, S., 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., Ennser-Kananen, J., Sadatizarrini (Rahaa), S., Petäjäniemi, M., Khalimzoda, I. & Masoud, A. (eds.). Siirtolaisuusinstituutti , p. 179-210 (Tutkimus / Siirtolaisinstituutti; 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 kulttuuritutannon haasteet**  
Savallampi, M. & Mehta, A., 2021, *Rasismi, Valta ja Vastarinta*. Keskinen, S., Seikkula, M. & Mkvesha, 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. (ed.), Savallampi, M. (ed.), 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 Hospitalites; vol. 1).

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

Ali Akbar Mehta (Invited speaker), Orlan Ohtonen (Invited speaker), Paola Jalili Villarroel (Invited speaker) & Sonya Lindfors (Speaker)  
18 May 2022

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

Ali Akbar Mehta (Invited speaker), Monica Gathuo (Speaker), Carol Ann Dixon (Invited speaker) & Neicia Marsh (Contributor)  
13 Oct 2021

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

Ali Akbar Mehta (Speaker)  
27 May 2021

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

Ali Akbar Mehta (Speaker)  
1 Mar 2021

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

Ali Akbar Mehta (Speaker)  
2021

**CreaTures Panel Discussion**

Ali Mehta (Speaker)  
9 Sept 2020

**New Standards**

Ali Akbar Mehta (Speaker)  
2020

**Rehearsing Hospitalities Companion 2 Readings**

Ali Akbar Mehta (Speaker), Annet Dekker (Speaker) & Susanna Ånas (Speaker)  
2020

**Notes for Radical Diversity**

Ali Akbar Mehta (Speaker)  
2019

**Resistance & Reimagining Alternatives**

Ali Akbar Mehta (Speaker)

2019

**Congratulations, the space has been invaded: WHAT NOW?**  
Ali Akbar Mehta (Speaker)  
2018

**Maunula Remix**  
Ali Akbar Mehta (Speaker)  
2018

**Re: Musing the Museum, Part II**  
Ali Akbar Mehta (Speaker)  
2018

**Decolonial Dreaming**  
Ali Akbar Mehta (Speaker)  
2017

## Select Teaching, Lectures and Workshops

### TOUCHING/TRANSFORMING

Rebecca Close (Organiser), Sepideh Sadatizarrini (Organiser), Freja Bäckman (Organiser), Mira Kallio-Tavin (Organiser), Abdullah Qureshi (Organiser), Marie-Andrée Godin (Organiser) & Ali Akbar Mehta (Organiser)  
3 Jun 2021

**Is there a room with just a colour?**  
Ali Akbar Mehta (Member)  
16 Apr 2020 → 9 May 2020

## Curatorial Work

### TOUCHING/TRANSFORMING

Rebecca Close (Organiser), Sepideh Sadatizarrini (Organiser), Freja Bäckman (Organiser), Mira Kallio-Tavin (Organiser), Abdullah Qureshi (Organiser), Marie-Andrée Godin (Organiser) & Ali Akbar Mehta (Organiser)  
3 Jun 2021

**Is there a room with just a colour?**  
Ali Akbar Mehta (Member)  
16 Apr 2020 → 9 May 2020

## Memberships and Positions of Trust

**Frame Contemporary Art Finland (External organisation)**  
Ali Akbar Mehta (Member)  
1 Jan 2021 → 31 Dec 2023

**Kila (External organisation)**  
Ali Akbar Mehta (Chair)  
1 Jan 2021 → 31 Dec 2021

**Museum of Impossible Forms (External organisation)**  
Ali Akbar Mehta (Member)  
1 Jan 2021 → 31 Dec 2021

**Catalysti (External organisation)**

Ali Akbar Mehta (Member)

2021 → ...

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

Ali Akbar Mehta (Member)

2021 → 2024

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

Ali Akbar Mehta (Reviewer)

15 Aug 2018 → 31 Dec 2020

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

Ali Akbar Mehta (Member)

2016 → ...

## Press/Media

**Makkaraa pitelevä koira herättää Pariisin-ikävän Mäntässä**

Ali Akbar Mehta

18/06/2021

1 item of Media coverage

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

Ali Akbar Mehta

28/07/2021

1 item of Media coverage