

Ali Akbar Mehta
Doctoral Researcher
Department of Art and Media
Email: ali.mehta@aalto.fi



Education

Doctoral Researcher

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

MA Visual Cultures, Curating, and Contemporary Art

Taiteen 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. & Ánas, 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., Ennsner-Kananen, J., Sadatizarrini (Rahaa), S., Petäjaniemi, 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. (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. & Koiitela, 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
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

Kiila (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