

AYAN FARAH

Born in 1978, Sharjah, UAE

Lives and works in Stockholm, Sweden

Education

MA Painting, Royal College of Art, London, UK, 2012

Post Graduate Degree, Fine Art, Central Saint Martins College of Art and Design, London, UK, 2006

BA Fashion Design, Middlesex University, London, UK, 2003

Selected Solo Exhibitions

2026

National Pavillion of the Federal Republic of Somalia, 61st Venice Biennale (with Asmaa Jama and Warsan Shire)

Ghost River, Kadel Willborg, Düsseldorf, Germany

2025

How to Watch the Sky, Galerie Nordenhake, Stockholm, Sweden

2024

Seeds, Galerie Nordenhake, Berlin, Germany

Heliacal Rising, Kadel Willborn, Düsseldorf, Germany

2022

Peradam, Galerie Nordenhake, Stockholm, Sweden

Kasbah, Galerie Kadel Willborn, Dusseldorf, Germany

2020

Pippy Houldsworth Gallery, London, UK

2019

Between Two Lands, Galerie Kadel Willborn, Dusseldorf, Germany

2018

Hanging #19, Sammlung Klein, Eberdingen-Nussdorf, Germany

2016

Maps, Pippy Houldsworth Gallery, London, UK

Ayan Farah, Galerie Kadel Willborn, Dusseldorf, Germany

2014

Notes on running water, Almine Rech Gallery, Brussels, Belgium

2012

Ayan Farah, Vigo Gallery, London, UK

2009

Flash Herring (Observatory for Northern Light), Svalbard University Centre, Norway

Selected Group Exhibitions

2026

The Art of Collecting, Moderna Museet, Stockholm, Sweden

América, Centro Andaluz de Arte Contemporáneo (CAAC), Sevilla, Spain

2025

Desert Seeds, Unlimited, Art Basel, Basel Switzerland

We Grown-Ups Can Also Be Afraid, the Attenborough Arts Centre, Leicester, England

Konsten att samla (The Art of Collecting), Nytt i Moderna Museets samling, Moderna Museet, Stockholm, Sweden

2024

Group show, Stockholm Cosmology, Liljevalchs konsthall, Stockholm, SE

Black Rock Sénégal / Dak'art Biennale, Dakar, Senegal

2023

To Weave the Sky: Textile Abstractions, El Espacio 23, Miami, US

Close Looking: Collection Studies from the Roberts Institute of Art, Cromwell Place, London, UK

The Stuff of Life, The Life of Stuff, Sainsbury Centre, Norwich, UK

A Meeting with Eldfell, Safnahús Vestmannaeyja, ISL

Stockholm art visits Liljevalchs+, Liljevalchs+, Stockholm, SE

Everybody Talks About the Weather, Fondazione Prada, Venice, IT

ENVIRONMENT, Blue Knowledge Art Collection, Amsterdam, NE

Stockholm art visits Liljevalchs+, Liljevalchs+, Stockholm, Sweden

2022

Flesh Arranges Itself Differently, The Hunterian, Glasgow, UK

IDENTITÄT NICHT NACHGEWIESEN - Neuerwerbungen der Sammlung des Bundes, Bundeskunsthalle, Bonn, Germany

2020

Common Thread, New Art Centre, Salisbury, UK

Silence is so accurate, curated by Lien Craps, Geukens & de Vil, Antwerp, Belgium

2018

The London Open 2018, Whitechapel Gallery, London, UK

Ravelled Threads, Sean Kelly Gallery, New York, USA
In the Eye of the Beholder, Tarble Arts Center, Charleston, USA
Textile Abstraction, Casas Riegner, Bogota, Colombia

2017-18

How It's Made, Carl Kostyál, Stockholm, Sweden

2017

From a distance, Pippy Houldsworth Gallery, London, UK
Adjustment, Malmo, Sweden

2015

Ayan Farah, Max Lamb, Chris Succo, Almine Rech Gallery, London, UK
Dans un Intérieur. Meubles, oeuvres murales et textiles d'artistes, Almine Rech Gallery, Brussels, Belgium

2014

Le musée d'une nuit (script for leaving traces), Fondation Hippocrène, Paris, France
Dans un Intérieur. Meubles, oeuvres murales et textiles d'artistes, Almine Rech Gallery, Paris, France
Infinitude, Roberts & Tilton, Los Angeles, USA
Proxima, Museo Británico Americano, Mexico City, Mexico
Shakti, Brand New Gallery, Milan, Italy
The Figure in the Carpet, Bugada & Cargnel, Paris, France
Girlfriend material, Soho House, Berlin, Germany
Robert Blumenthal Gallery, New York, USA

2013

All that remains is here, Galleri Mejan, Stockholm, Sweden
Xtraction, The Hole, New York, USA
Alchemy, The Arts Club, London, UK
Wanderlust, Contemporary Art Society, London, UK
Girlfriend material, The Standard, Los Angeles, USA
RA, UNTITLED, Miami, USA

2012

Ululation, Vigo Gallery, London, UK
Summer Show, Patrick Heide Contemporary Art, London, UK
MA Degree show, Royal College of Art, London, UK
The Constance Fairness Award, The Constance Fairness Foundation, London UK
The Alchemist's day out, Park Central Hotel, New York, USA

Residencies

The Roberts Institute of Art Residency, Scotland, 2023
Black Rock, Dakar, Senegal, 2022

Eilean Shona, Scotland, UK, 2013
Royal Institute of Art, Stockholm, Sweden, 2012-13
The University Centre in Svalbard, Svalbard, Norway, 2009
Creative Collaboration, Reykjavík, Iceland, 2007

Collections

Instituto Bernardo Paz, Brumadinho, BR
Moderna Museet, Stockholm, SE
The Hill Collection, NY, US
El Espacio 23, Miami, US
Stockholm konst, SE
Public Art Agency Sweden, SE
Roberts Institute of Art, UK
Kunstpalaat, Düsseldorf, DE
Contemporary Art Collection of the Federal Estate of Germany, DE
HSBC Art Collection, UK
Kadist Foundation, FR
Sammlung Klein, Eberdingen-Nussdorf, DE
Saatchi Gallery, London, UK