

BACK TO ARTISTS



# AHMED MATER



ARTIFICIAL LIGHT / DESERT OF PHARAN

2012

"Like few cities on earth, Makkah bristles under the weight of its own dramatic symbolism. It is a hallowed site revered by millions and at the same time a point of perpetual immigration. This has been the case for centuries. Yet over the last few years the city has begun to be recast, reworked and ultimately reconfigured. Makkah is being given a makeover. With this comes a new set of concerns. There is a dissonance today among many of those who live in the city or maintain an emotional stake in its future regarding what this place is, what it could be or what it should be, all of which provides a contextual background to Mater's urban exploration."

HENRY HEMMING

EXHIBITED IN

BIOGRAPHY | FILMS | PRESS



1979 born in Abha, lives in Jeddah.

2017 - US CULTURAL LEADERS TO SAUDI ARABIA  
 2016 - PHANTOM PUNCH: CONTEMPORARY SAUDI ART IN LEWISTON  
 2016 - AHMED MATER: SYMBOLIC CITIES  
 2015 - THE ARMORY SHOW, FOCUS: MENAM  
 2014 - CULTURUNNERS AT MIT  
 2014 - CULTURUNNERS LAUNCH AT ROTHKO CHAPEL, HOUSTON  
 2014 - FOTOFEST 2014 BIENNIAL, HOUSTON  
 2012 - EDGE OF ARABIA EAST LONDON: #COMETOGETHER  
 2012 - EDGE OF ARABIA JEDDAH: WE NEED TO TALK  
 2011 - THE FUTURE OF A PROMISE: 54TH VENICE BIENNALE  
 2011 - EDGE OF ARABIA DUBAI: TERMINAL  
 2010 - EDGE OF ARABIA ISTANBUL: TRANSITION  
 2010 - AHMED MATER: VINYL FACTORY  
 2010 - EDGE OF ARABIA BERLIN: GREY BORDERS / GREY FRONTIERS  
 2009 - EDGE OF ARABIA: 53RD VENICE BIENNALE  
 2008 - EDGE OF ARABIA LONDON  
 - EDGE OF ARABIA: VIENNA  
 - CULTURUNNERS US TOUR 2014 - 2017

Ahmed Mater works as an artist and medical doctor and splits his time between Abha, Jeddah and Makkah in Saudi Arabia. He has attracted international attention for his groundbreaking work, which encompasses photography, calligraphy, painting, installation, performance and video. His work explores the narratives and aesthetics of Islamic culture in an era of globalization, consumerism and transformation. His recent work increasingly uses image and video to explore local collective memory and unofficial histories behind contemporary Saudi Arabian sociopolitical life.

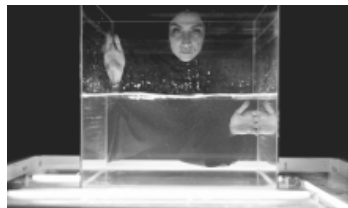
Mater is one of the founders of the Al-Meftaha Arts Village in Abha and in 2003 co-founded the Edge of Arabia collective which connected a new generation of Saudi artists with international audiences.

[www.ahmedmater.com](http://www.ahmedmater.com)

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[MARWAH ALMUGAIT](#)



[SARA OUHADDOU](#)



[NUGAMSHI](#)

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