

Ayan Farah

born 1978 in Sharjah, UAE, lives and works in Stockholm, Sweden

Education

- 2010–2012 Master of Arts Painting, Royal College of Art, London, UK
2006–2007 Post Graduate Degree, Fine Art, Central Saint Martins College of Art and Design, London, UK
2000–2003 Bachelor of Arts Fashion Design, Middlesex University, London, UK

Residences

- 2022-2023 Black Rock Senegal, Dakar, Senegal
2013 Eilean Shona, Scotland, UK
Royal Institute of Art, Stockholm, SE
2009 The University Centre in Svalbard, Svalbard, NO
2007 Creative Collaboration, Reykjavik, IS

Institutional Collections

Moderna Museet Stockholm, SWE
The Kadist Foundation, Paris, FR
Kunstpalast, Düsseldorf, DE
David Roberts Art Foundation, London, UK
Saatchi Gallery, London, UK
Sammlung zeitgenössischer Kunst der Bundesrepublik Deutschland, DE
Public Art Agency Sweden
The Hill Collection New York, US
El Espacio 23, Miami, US
The David and Indré Roberts Collection, London, UK
Klein Art Foundation, DE
Statens konstråd / Public Art Agency Sweden, SWE

Solo Exhibitions

- 2026 „SADDEXLEEY“, First National Pavilion of the Federal Republic of Somalia La Biennale di Venezia 2026, Venice, IT
„Ghost River“, Kadel Willborn, Düsseldorf, DE
2024 „The Heliacal Rising“, Kadel Willborn, Düsseldorf, DE
„Seeds“, Galerie Nordhake, Berlin, DE
2022 „Peradam“, Galerie Nordhake, Stockholm, SWE
„Kasbah“, Kadel Willborn, Düsseldorf, DE
2020 Pippy Houldsworth Gallery, London, UK
2019 „Between two lands“, Kadel Willborn, Düsseldorf, DE
„Hängung #19“, Sammlung Klein, Eberdingen-Nussdorf, DE
2016 „Ayan Farah“, Kadel Willborn, Düsseldorf, DE
„Maps“, Pippy Houldsworth Gallery, London, UK
2014 „Notes on Running Water“, Almine Rech Gallery, Brussels, BE

- 2012 „Ayan Farah“, Vigo Gallery, London, UK
2009 „Flash Herring (Observatory for Northern Light)“, University Centre in Svalbard, NO

Group Exhibitions

- 2026 „Sadaxleey“, First National Pavilion of the Federal Republic of Somalia | La Biennale di Venezia 2026, Venice, IT
„AMEFRICA. Diasporic connections in the Jorge M. Pérez Collection.“, organized by the Jorge M. Pérez collection and El Espacio 23, CAAC—Centro Andaluz de Arte Contemporáneo, Sevilla, ESP
- 2025 „The Art of Collecting“, Moderna Museet Stockholm, Stockholm, SWE
„We Grown-Ups Can Also Be Afraid: Creativity in Times of Crisis“, Attenborough Arts Centre, Leicester, UK
- 2024 „The Stockholm Cosmology“, Liljevalchs Konsthall, Stockholm, SE
Dak'art Biennale / Black Rock Sénégal, Dakar, SEN
- 2023 „To Weave the Sky: Textile Abstractions, El Espacio twenty three, Miami, US
„The Stuff of Life | The Life of Stuff“, Sainsbury Centre, Norwich, UK
„EVERYBODY TALKS ABOUT THE WEATHER“, Fondazione Prada, Milano, Italy
- 2022 „IDENTITÄT NICHT NACHGEWIESEN - Neuerwerbungen der Sammlung des Bundes“, Bundeskunsthalle, Bonn, DE
- 2022 „Flesh Arranges Itself Differently with The Hunterian, Glasgow“, The Roberts Institute of Art, London, UK
- 2020 „Common Thread“, New Art Centre Salisbury, UK
„Silence is so accurate“, Geukens & De Vil, Antwerp, BE
- 2018 „In the Eye of the Beholder“, Tarble Arts Center, Charleston, US
„The London Open“, Whitechapel Gallery, London, UK
„Ravelled Threads“, Sean Kelly Gallery, New York, US
„Abstracción textil“, Casas Riegner, Bogota, CO
- 2017 „How It's Made“, Carl Kostyal, Stockholm, SE
„Adjustment“, Malmö, SE
„From a distance“, Pippy Houldsworth Gallery, London, UK
- 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, BE
- 2014 „Le musée d'une nuit (script for leaving traces)“, Fondation Hippocrène, Paris, FR
„Dans un intérieur, meubles, oeuvres murales et textiles d'artistes“, Almine Rech Gallery, Paris, FR
„Infinitude“, Roberts & Tilton, Los Angeles, US
„Proxima“, Museo Británico Americano, Mexico City, MX
„Shakti“, Brand New Gallery, Milan, IT
„The Figure in the Carpet“, Bugada & Cargnel, Paris, FR
„Girlfriend material“, Soho House, Berlin, DE
Robert Blumenthal Gallery, New York, US
- 2013 „RA“, UNTITLED, Miami, US
„All that remains is here“, Galleri Mejan, Stockholm, SE
„Xtraction“, The Hole, New York, US
„Alchemy“, The Arts Club, London, UK
„Wanderlust“, Contemporary Art Society, London, UK
„Girlfriend material“, The Standard, Los Angeles, US
- 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

Bibliography

- 2022 Natasha Marie Llorens: „Ayan Farah, Critic's Picks“, Artforum

- 2020 Elvira Lopez: „Ayan Farah. Notes on Runninf Water“, Odalisque Magazin, No 9, A/W 2020.
- 2018 Alex Bacon: „Ayan Farah’s Alchemical Research“, catalogue, „Hängung #19“, Kunstwerk | Sammlung Klein, Eberdingen-Nussdorf.
Maria A. Lovina: „Ayan Farah“, catalogue, „Abstracción textil“, Bogota, 2018, p 54 - 77.
Rebecca Anne Proctor: „Art Basel Hongkong 2018. A preview“, Harper’s Bazaar, 2018.
Emma Crichton-Miller: „How the art world learned to love tapestry“, The Financial Times, March 2018.
- 2016 Tom Morris: „Raw Talent“, Cultured Magazine, January 2016, p 106.
„London artist Ayan Farah paints using all corners of the world“, londonlive.co.uk, 22nd June.
Anneka French: „Ayan Farah: Maps“, thisistomorrow.info, October 2016.
„Ayan Farah“, BBC World News, 12th July 2016.
„DC Open“, Monopol, September 2016.
- 2015 Ayan Farah in Conversation with Aryana Hessami, Foundations Magazine, p 40-47.
Emily Sharpe: „Friends of the earth“, The Art Newspaper, December 2015, p 9-10.
- 2014 Scott Indrisek: „6 Must-see Gallery Shows in Brussels“, Blouin Artinfo, October 22nd.
„Ayan Farah’s soft, light and transparent self recording“, Conceptual Fine Arts, February 10th.
„Ayan Farah“, Copenhagen Contemporary, January 21st.
Seth, Carmichael: „25 Artists to Watch in 2014“, Complex, January 6th.
Sara Ingemann Holm-Nielsen: „Touching nature“, Trend Tablet.
- 2013 Amanda Jakubik: „Ayan Farah’s Site Specific Installations“, Trendland, April 22nd.