

MAZEN KERBAJ

Mazen Kerbaj is a Lebanese visual artist, comics author, and musician born in Beirut in 1975. He is the author of 15 books translated into more than ten languages and his work has been shown in galleries, museums and art fairs around the world.

Kerbaj is widely considered as one of the initiators and key players of the Lebanese free improvisation and experimental music scene. As a trumpet player, he pushes the boundaries of the instrument beyond recognition.

Mazen Kerbaj is the co-founder of Irtijal festival and Al Maslakh record label, as well as Graphème, a publication for experimental music scores.

In 2015, Kerbaj was the recipient of a DAAD one-year artist in residency in Berlin. He lives and works in the German capital since.

EDUCATION

1994 – 1999 ALBA (Lebanese academy of fine arts, Beirut, LB)
Master degree in graphic arts
First of the promotion (Mounir Takchi award 1999)

SOLO EXHIBITIONS

2020 *In the Presence / Absence of Mazen Kerbaj*, ifa Galerie, Berlin, DE
2019 *Correspondance(s)*, Sursock Museum, Beirut, LB
2018 *Toi et Moi*, La Criée, Rennes, FR
2017 *Drunken Masters*, Musée Abderrahman Slaoui Casablanca, MA
Noise on Paper, Musée Abderrahman Slaoui Casablanca, MA
One Year, Fylkingen – Stockholm, SE
2016 *One Year or So*, Griesbad Galerie, Ulm, DE
One Year or So, Studio Alta, Prague, CZ
Before the war it was the war, after the war it is still the war, Maerz Musik, Berlin, DE
2015 *Un an et des poussière*, La Nef, Dijon, FR
L'Abécédaire, Galerie Janine Rubeiz, Beirut, LB
2014 *Medio Occidente*, La Mostra d'Oltremare, Naples, IT
Cheap Prints, Plan Bey, Beirut, LB
2013 *2012*, BIEL, Beirut, LB
Lettre à la mère, Beirut Art Center, Beirut, LB
NOW!, Galerie Janine Rubeiz, Beirut, LB
Plus Jamais, Festival International de la Bande Dessinée d'Angoulême, FR
2012 *Dessins, Sérigraphies, Livres*, touring exhibition in Toulon, Barjols, Marseille, FR
Don't Feed the Artist, Abu Dhabi Art Fair, Abu Dhabi, UAE
2011 *Carnets*, GALERIE 1[52], La Seyne-sur-Mer, FR
Gens de Beyrouth, Gens de Paris, Théâtre du Rond-Point, Paris, FR
85 Km, Nawfal Palace, Tripoli, LB
2010 *Toi et moi et le papier peint*, Galerie Janine Rubeiz, Beirut, LB
2009 *Don't Feed the Artist*, Les Halles de Schaerbeek, Brussels, BE

- 2008 *Untitled*, Union Gallery, University of Maryland in Baltimore, USA
Untitled, Petronas gallery, Kuala Lumpur, MY
Untitled, Contemporary Art Center of South Australia (CACSA, South Adelaide, AU
Untitled, A4, Bratislava, SK
- 2007 *Untitled*, Sophiensæle, Berlin, DE
- 2005 *Gens de Beyrouth*, Espace SD, Beirut, LB
- 2002 *Untitled*, BIEL, Beirut, LB

SELECTED GROUP EXHIBITIONS AND PRESENTATIONS

- 2024 *Intimate Garden Scene (in Beirut)*, Sursock Museum, Beirut, LB
- 2023 *Broken Music*, Hamburger Bahnhof Museum, Berlin, DE
- 2022 *Maerz Musik*, Silent Green, Berlin, DE
- 2021 *Lumières du Liban*, Institut du Monde Arabe, FR
Images de héros, IMA Tourcoing, FR
The New Arab Comics Today, Amercian University of Beirut, LB
Maerz Musik, Berliner Festspiele/SAVVY, Berlin, DE
Arter Museum, Istanbul, TR
- 2020 *Santiago a Mil*, Santiago de Chile, CL
Maerz Musik, Berlin, DE
- 2019 *BEIRÚT, BEYRUT, BEYROUTH, BEYROUT*, Oslo Kunstforening, NO
BEIRÚT, BEYRUT, BEYROUTH, BEYROUT, National Gallery of Iceland, IS
Borborygmus, Walker Art Center, Minneapolis, USA
Borborygmus, HAU theatre, Berlin, DE
Wien Festwochen, Vienna, AT
The Long Now, Kraftwerk, Berlin, DE
Ruhrtriennale, Essen, DE
- 2018 *The Long Now*, Kraftwerk, Berlin, DE
BEIRÚT, BEYRUT, BEYROUTH, BEYROUT, Ystad Art Museum, SE
Ultima Festival, Oslo, NO
The New Arab Comics Today, Angoulême Festival, FR
PULP, La Ferme du Buisson, Paris, FR
- 2017 *Home Beirut*, MAXXI Museum, Rome, IT
Uncertain States, Akademie Der Kunst, Berlin, DE
Ten Years Later, AFAC at Beyt Beirut, Beirut, LB
Beirut Noise, La Colonie, Paris, FR
Venice Biennale, Venice, IT
Centre Dürrenmatt, Neuchatel, CH
CTM Festival, Berlin, DE
Masnaa Festival, Casablanca, MR
Outernational Days 2, Bucharest, RO
Borderline Festival, Onassis Cultural Centre, Athens, GR
- 2016 *Gong Tomorrow Festival*, Copenhagen, DK
Klangspuren Festival, Schwaz, AT
Vs Interpretations Festival, Prague, CZ
- 2015 *Maerz Musik*, Berliner Festspiele, Berlin, DE
Kontakte, Akademie der Künste, Berlin, DE

- DAAD new artists presentation*, Hamburger Bahnhof Museum, Berlin, DE
Mikromusik, Villa Elisabeth, Berlin, DE
Here and Elsewhere, New Museum, New York, USA
- 2014 *Donaueschingen Musiktage*, Alte Hofbibliothek, Donaueschingen, DE
Home Sweet Home, Dazibao, Montreal, CA
Journeys through our Heritage, Beirut Exhibition Center, Beirut, LB
- 2013 *Al Comix al Arabi*, Fumetto Festival, Luzern, CH
Maerz Musik, Berliner Festspiele, Berlin, DE
Villa Romana, Florence, IT
 MAMCO Museum, Geneva, CH
- 2012 *Illustration of History*, International Comic Salon, Erlangen, DE
Abu Dhabi Art Fair 2012, Abu Dhabi, UAE
Beirut Art Fair 2012, Beirut, LB
Art Dubai – Contemporary art fair, galerie Janine Rubeiz – Dubai, UAE
Abu Dhabi Art Fair 2011, Abu Dhabi, UAE
- 2011 *Rebirth*, Beirut Exhibition Center, Beirut, LB
Sharjah Biennial, Sharjah, UAE
Moukhtarat, Ministry of Culture, Doha, QA
- 2010 *Theater of Peace*, NGBK, Berlin, DE
Les Halles de Schaerbeek, Brussels, BE
New World Music Days Festival, Vaxjö, SE
Estivales, Deir el Qamar, LB
Human Body Forms, American University for Science and Technology, Beirut, LB
Art Dubai, Dubai, UAE
Contemporabia, Radio City, Beirut, LB
Embedded Realities, Kunstraum Düsseldorf, DE
- 2009 *Beauty Is the Beast*, Artos Foundation, Nicosia, CY
Salon d'Automne of the Sursock Museum (Winner of the Jury Prize, LB
Babel Festival, Athens, GR
A mains libres, Villa Bernasconi, Genève, CH
- 2008 *Art now in Lebanon*, Darat al Funun - Amman, JO
 Northwestern University School of Music, Evanston IL, USA
 Dock11, Berlin, DE
Dansescenen, Copenhagen, DK
The resilient landscape, Ivan Dougherty Gallery, Sydney, AU
- 2007 Renaissance Society, Chicago University, Chicago, USA
 Chicago Cultural Center – Cassidy Theater, Chicago, USA
L'Association au Point Ephémère, Paris, FR
 Kennedy Center, Washington D.C., USA
 Slought Foundation, Philadelphia, USA
 Klangraum Krems, AT
Transmediale festival, Berlin, DE
Skanu Mezs, Riga, LV
 Steim, Amsterdam, NL
Tasten Festival, Berlin, DE
 Ystad Art Museum, Ystad, SE
- 2006 *Al Maslakh Festival*, at the Reithalle, Bern, CH
Melkweg, Amsterdam, NL
- 2005 *Eye and Ear*, Corbett & Dempsey gallery Chicago, USA
- 2004 *Trasonic*, Haus Der Kulturen Der Welt, Berlin, DE

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS

- 1997 - 2022 Collaboration to various Lebanese and international magazines (Le Monde Diplomatique, L'Orient-Express, Internazionale, Lapin, Courrier International, L'Orient-littéraire, Manières de Voir, Samandal, Sound American, Femme Magazine, Al Akhbar...)
- 2022 *Antoine – Ch5: Le père perdu*, Samandal, LB
- 2021 *Antoine – Ch4 : Vive le roi !*, Samandal, LB
Learning Deutsch, Headache Comics, LB
- 2020 *Antoine – Ch3: Les évènements*, Samandal, LB
- 2019 *Antoine – Ch2: rue Hamra*, Samandal, LB
Politique, Actes Sud & Arte Editions, FR
Antoine – Ch1: Le destin arabe, Samandal, LB
- 2018 *L'Abécédaire de Laure Ghorayeb et Mazen Kerbaj*, Headache Comics, LB
Short story in collaboration with Alex Baladi in the 2018 Samandal anthology, LB
Cola, Headache Comics, LB
- 2017 *Beirut Won't Cry*, Fantagraphics, USA
Short story in collaboration with Hatem Imam in the 2017 Samandal anthology, LB
My Cloud and *Letter to the Mother*, Headache Comics, LB
- 2015 Short story in the 2015 Samandal anthology, LB
- 2014 Short story in collaboration with Laure Ghorayeb in 2014 Samandal anthology, LB
Un an, journal d'une année comme les autres, Tamyras, LB
- 2013 *Lettre à la mere*, L'Apocalypse, FR
- 2011 *Cette histoire se passe*, Tamyras, LB
- 2010 *Hazihi al Qossa Tajri*, Dar el Adab, LB
- 2007 *Beyrouth, juillet – août 2006*, L'Association, FR
- 2006 *Kerblog*, visual and sonic blog documenting the day-to-day life under the Israeli July's war on Lebanon (drawings from this blog were published by various newspapers and magazine around the world)
- 2005 *Une semaine sans la voix de Samir*: visual diary printed and distributed in the streets of Beirut, one week after the assassination of Lebanese journalist, historian and friend Samir Kassir
- 2004 *24 poèmes*, La Cd-thèque, LB
Une partie de Scrabble, La Cd-thèque, LB
Une enfance heureuse, Jade, FR
- 2002 *Achèvement*, with Laure Ghorayeb, self-published, LB
Tênh-Tênh, self-published, LB
- 2001 *Le pique-nique*, self-published, LB
Le point noir, self-published, LB
Le bout du tunnel, self-published, LB
- 2000 *Journal 1999*, self-published, LB

GRANTS, RESIDENCIES AND PRIZES

- 2023 Research grant from Gwaertler Foundation, CH
- 2023 Visual art grant from the Berlin Senate, DE
- 2023 Research grant from Musikfonds, DE

2022 Fellowship from the Stiftung Àrvore, CH
Musikfonds scholarship with the group Sawt Out, DE

2021 Sonderstipendium INITIAL der Akademie der Künste, DE
Recherchestipendium Bildende Kunst, DE
Musikfonds scholarship with the group Das B., DE
Musikfonds scholarship with the group "A" Trio, DE
Arbeit und Recherche Stipendium Jazz with the group Das B., DE
Recherchestipendium Ernste Musik und Klangkunst, DE

2020 Musikfonds scholarship for the project *Sampler/Sampled*, DE
Comics Stipendium from Berlin Senate, DE

2019 Rosa Luxembourg fund for the theater play *Borborygmus*, DE

2017 Grant from CNL to work on a graphic novel, FR

2015 One year artist in residency in Berlin from the DAAD, DE

2014 One month fellowship at Klangraum Krems, AT
Grant from AFAC for a visual and sound installation, LB

2012 Grant from CNL to work on a graphic novel, FR

2011 Two months fellowship in Paris from ASSABIL, LB/FR

2008 Jury prize at Sursock Museum's Salon d'Automne, Beirut, LB

2006 One year residency in Amsterdam as artistic director of STEIM institute, NL

2004 Two weeks fellowship at OMI Music – New York, USA

1999 Mounir Takchi award, Beirut, LB

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

2012 – 2015 Instructor at AUB (American University of Beirut, LB)

2005 – 2008 Instructor at AUB (American University of Beirut, LB)

2002 – 2005 Instructor at USEK, LB

2002 Instructor at USJ (Université Saint-Joseph IESAV, LB)

2002 Instructor at LAU (Lebanese-American University, LB)

MUSIC RELEASES

2022 *Folk – "A" Trio*, Al Maslakh, LB
The Binding Third – "A" Trio, Unrock, DE
Machine LEarning – Sawt Out with Tony Elieh, Bocian, PL
Döner Kebab – Duo with Axel Dörner, Al Maslakh, LB
Sampler/Sampled – Trumpet solo #3, Morphine Records, DE

2021 *Outside-Inside – w/ M. Doneda, J. Grip, J. Gerigk, S.Roth*, Monstera Tapes, DE
Al Azraqayn – Karkhana, Karl Records, DE

2020 *Bitter Balls – Karkhana*, Unrock and Annihaya, DE/LB
MOT – w/ Ingebrigt Håker Flaten, Tony Buck, Catalytic Artist, USA
Canopy – Das B., Tonot, RU

2019 *Carte Blanche – Karkhana w/ Nadah el Shazly*, Unrock, DE
Cuts, Overdubbing, Use Of Electronics (Trumpet Solo Vol. 2.2), Discrepant, UK

- 2018 *No Cuts, No Overdubbing, No Use Of Electronics (Trumpet Solo Vol. 2.1*, Discrepant, UK
25.9.19 – w/ Angharad Davies & Sholto Dobie, Takuroku, UK
Anthology of contemporary music from Middle East, Unexplained Sounds Group, IT
- 2017 *Walls Will Fall: The 49 Trumpets Of Jericho*, Bohemian Drips, DE
Sawt Out (debut album), Herbal Records, MY
AAMM – "A" Trio & AMM, Al Maslakh/Unrock, LB/DE
For Seun Matta – Karkhana, Holidays Records, IT
- 2016 *Al Dar Al Hamra – Karkhana*, Unkorck, DE
- 2015 *Funkhaus – with Mike Bullock and Andrew Lafkas*, Fine Noise and Light, USA
East Of Where? with Toshimaru Nakamura, Ftarri, JP
Nafas/Nefes – Karkhana, Omlott, SE
Live At Metro Al-Madina – Karkhana, Sagittarius, IT
- 2014 *Burj Al Imam – "A" Trio + Alan Bishop*, Annihaya and Unrock, LB/DE
Ariha Brass Quartet – w/ A. Dörner, F. Hautzinger & K. L. Hübsch, Al Maslakh, LB
- 2013 *Johnny Kafta Anti-Vegetarian Orchestra*, Discrepant, UK
- 2012 *Live in Nickelsdorf – "A" Trio*, Roaratorio, USA
Blue Rain – w/ E. Rodrigues, G. Rodrigues, C. Santos & S. Sehnaoui, Creative Sources, PT
- 2010 *Sonic Traces from the Arab World – Compiation*, Norient, CH
Music to Our Ears – "A" Trio, Al Maslakh, LB
Below the Radar Vol. 8 – Compiation, Wire Magazine, UK
Beach Party At Mirna El Chalouhi – Scrambled Eggs & "A" Trio, Johnny Kafta, LB
- 2009 *Scrambled Eggs & Friends*, Johnny Kafta, LB
- 2008 *Below the Radar Vol. 2 – Compiation*, Wire Magazine, UK
- 2007 *The Ruptured Sessions Vol. 2 – Compiation*, Ruptured, LB
Thoughts from Screeching Lake – Compiation, Singing Knives, UK
3 : 1 – w/ Birgit Ulher and Sharif Sehnaoui, Creative Sources, PT
MAWJA, Studio One – w/ Mike Bullock and Vic Rawlings, Al Maslakh, LB
MAWJA, Live One – w/ Mike Bullock and Vic Rawlings, Chloë, USA
- 2005 *Cedarhead – w/ Michael Zerang, compilation*, Al Maslakh, LB
Beirut/Ystad – w/ various artists, Olof Bright, SE
Periférico – Compilation, Sonic Arts Network, UK
BRT VRT ZRT KRT – Trumpet solo, Al Maslakh, LB
- 2004 *Rouba3i –w/ S. Sehnaoui, C. Sehnaoui & I. Zach*, Al MASlakh, LB
BAO – w/ Charbel Haber and Jad Balaben, Those Kids Must Choke, LB
- 2003 *Palatially Palpable – w/ Scott Moore, compilation*, Recorded, USA
- 2002 *Oriental Space – w/ F. Hautzinger, H. Hinteregger, S. Sehnaoui*, Artonal, AU
Abu Tarek – with Franz Hautzinger, Creative Sources, PT
A – "A" Trio, La CD-Thèque, LB
Jazz is Alive – Compilation, La CD-Thèque, LB
Beirut Incognito – Compilation, La CD-Thèque, LB