

Khaled Sabsabi

Artist Statement and Biography

Artist Statement

Mush (2012) is major work that formally presents a mediated and intensively media-based experience. It is comprised of various channels of projection and sound as well as a large sculptural element in its mode of presentation. The work comprises of two pieces: a delicate and gentle moving eight-pointed star projection and a large cubic form suspended from the gallery ceiling, seemingly floating in mid-air. Each projected surface contains a gridded network of images and ambient sounds, interlacing and combining imagery of street scenes, people, religious ceremonies and architecture from Australia, the Arab world and North Africa. The work is a kaleidoscope of earthy colours, geometric lines and amorphous shapes that prompt myriad associations, an armature on which sounds and images of my immediate environments are transformed into a cubist centrifuge of multiple perspectives that dissolve to a central vanishing point. Viewed up close the work creates a parallel perspective as if falling into the horizon of a tiny universe.

Mush also represents highly acculturated urban and suburban spaces that clash and collapse expectations regarding place and identity, past and present. By creating such spaces, I'm able to explore the parallels and points of connection between the certainties of the physical and the uncertainties of the emotional. Rather than attempt to present the authentic, the work captures sensory adaptation in action – the ebb and flow of how culture is affected and perceived over time.

Artist Biography

Khaled Sabsabi Australia

For me art making is the aesthetic resistance against the way things are, a constant movement towards pushing limits and testing perceptions and on these fringes or borders is where the creative discourse begins. We learn and find new ways of engaging, because through art it becomes expression and through expression one finds a platform for reason. I work with the moving image, audio soundscapes, found objects and site-specific installations. I work across art mediums, geographical borders, nationalities and cultures to create immersive, complete and engaging art experiences. I make work that questions; rationales and complexities of nationhood, identity and change. I also make work that is in continual transfer from the local to the global, from the physical to the philosophical and back again, to interconnect the interrelatedness and cycles of daily life.

I began my creative life over 25 years ago as a socially-engaged Hip-Hop performer and since then have artistically evolved to develop and produce numerous national and international sound art, site-specific installation, performance, film and video art presentations. I was awarded the Helen Lempriere Travelling Art Scholarship in 2010 and the 60th annual Blake Prize in 2011. I am represented by Milani Gallery, Brisbane and have 8 works in national and international collections. I have participated and presented in over 49 solo and group exhibitions in Australia, Argentina, Brazil, Canada, China, Columbia, France, Germany, Italy, Lebanon, New Zealand, Poland and Spain. I also participated in the 5th Marrakech Biennale, 18th Biennale of Sydney, 9th Shanghai Biennale and in Sharjah Biennial 11.