

Sarah Brahim

Sarah Brahim (b.1992, Riyadh) is a visual and performance artist working across many mediums to present work rooted in experiences of the body. She trained as a professional performer, teacher, and choreographer at San Francisco Conservatory of Dance, and received a BFA (Hons) from London Contemporary Dance School. Her research-based practice began while studying medicine at university, as she continued practicing and performing. The pursuit to understand the body through every possible lens-- biological, physiological, experiential, and more - led her to receive her BS from Oregon Health and Science University, with a focus on medical anthropology, naturopathic medicine, and public health. In her work, Brahim examines how gestures of the body create a language that can be used to voice grief, metamorphosis, the unseen form, and our relationship to the natural world. Transformation through movement is reflected in her works that explore questions of embodiment and cycles of connection, whether social, spatial, or spiritual.

Sarah Brahim's work has been presented at the AIUla Arts Festival (2025), AIUla; The Grand Palais (2025), Paris; MOMI New York Arab Festival, New York; The Venice Biennale (2024), Venice; Paco Imperial (2024), Rio de Janeiro; Louvre Abu Dhabi, Abu Dhabi (2024); the Islamic Biennale, Jeddah (2023); the Biennale de Lyon, Lyon (2022); the Diriyah Biennale, Diriyah (2022); and the Noor Festival Contemporary Light Art, Riyadh (2022). In 2023, she was in residence at Robert Wilson's Watermill Center in New York and received the Baroness Nina von Maltzahn Fellowship for the Performing Arts. Most recently, Brahim was awarded the 2025-2026 Pina Bausch Foundation Fellowship, also having received the Chevalier de l'Ordre des Arts et des Lettres by French Ambassador Ludovic Pouille on behalf of the French Republic and President Emmanuel Macron in 2024. Brahim was shortlisted for the Richard Mille Art Prize in 2023.

CV

Born 1992 in Riyadh, KSA

Lives and works in Riyadh, Portland, New York, and Milan

EDUCATION

2016	Professional Dance/Performance Training, Bachelor of Fine Arts in Contemporary Dance (Hons), London Contemporary Dance School, London, United Kingdom
2014	Bachelor of Science pre-med/Community Health Education, Portland State University/Oregon Health Science University, Portland, Oregon, USA
2013	Professional Dance Training, San Francisco Conservatory of Dance, San Francisco, California, USA

SOLO EXHIBITIONS

- 2024 *Sometimes We Are Eternal*, Bally Foundation, Lugano, Switzerland
- 2021 *Performance Shubbak Festival*, London, United Kingdom

SELECTED GROUP EXHIBITIONS

- 2025 *Future of Nostalgia*, Exhibition of AlUla Artist Residency Programme, Art Week Tokyo, Tokyo, Japan
- Shirin Neshat & Sarah Brahim, Cartographies of Presence*, Albion Jeune, London, UK
- Villa Hegra*, Al Ula, Saudi Arabia
- Villa Hegra*, Paris Grand Palais, Paris, France
- 2024 *Venice Biennale 2024*, Saudi Pavilion, Venice, Italy
- Between the Tides: A Gulf Quinquennial*, NYU Abu Dhabi, Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates
- Soft Machines and Far Away Engines* Paco Imperial Rio De Janeiro, Rio, Brazil
- Elegiac*, PHILIPPZOLLINGER, Zürich, Switzerland
- Locarno Film Festival*, Locarno, Switzerland
- 2023 *I Pray For the Rain*, Islamic Biennale, KSA
- 2022 *Shall Never Tire Of Finding An Escape*, XVA Gallery, Dubai, United Arab Emirates
- De Anima/Noor Light Festival/Performance Film/Projection Mapped Installation-KSA*
- 2021 *The Bridge Can Get Us There*, SAVVY Contemporary, Berlin, Germany
- Roundabout: Gulf Women and The Carnavalesque*, ATHR Gallery, Jeddah, Saudi Arabia
- Metamorphosis*, Paragon Art Gallery, NY, USA
- Distant Mirror*, Portland Art Museum, OR, USA
- Hands of Mary*, Short Film, Locarno Film Festival, Switzerland
- 2020 *The Dance of the Olive Tree and in the Wind / الريح في زيتون شجرة ر*, Saudi Film Festival, Saudi Arabia

SELECTED RESIDENCIES & AWARDS

2025	Pina Bausch Foundation 2025-2026 Fellowship
2021	Artist Residency, Misk Art Institute, Riyadh, Saudi Arabia
2020	Alembic Artist Residency, Performance Works NorthWest, Portland, Oregon, USA
	Studio Grant, American Dance Festival, Durham, North Carolina, USA
	Professional Development Grant, Regional Arts and Culture Council, Portland, Oregon, USA
	Drinking Gourd Fellowship, Nat Turner Project, Portland, Oregon, USA
	Selected Choreography for Turbulence, The Field, New York, NY, USA
	Precipice Fund Grant, Portland Institute for Contemporary Art, Portland, Oregon, USA
	Grant, Oregon Arts Commission, Portland, Oregon, USA

SELECTED VISUAL & PERFORMANCE ART

2025	Villa Hegra The Forgotten Ceremony, Grand Palais, Paris, France
	<i>The Forgotten Ceremony</i> site specific live performance, Al Ula, KSA
	<i>Soft Machines and Far Away Engines</i> , Paco Imperial, Rio De Janeiro, Brazil
	Hands of Mary, Short Film, Locarno Film Festival, Switzerland
	Flesh Memory, Richard Mille Prize, Louvre, Abu Dhabi, UAE
2024	<i>There will come soft rains</i> , live performance, Saudi Pavilion Venice Biennale, Italy
2023	He said we must forget, Noor Light Festival, Saudi Arabia
	I Pray For the Rain, Islamic Biennale, KSA
2022	De Anima, Noor Light Festival, KSA
	Soft Machines, Far Away Engines, Manifesto of Fragility, La Biennale De Lyon, Fagor Factory, Lyon, France
	Who We Are Out of the Dark, La Biennale De Lyon, macLYON, Musee Gadagne, Lyon, France
	Soft Machines, Far Away Engines, Feeling the Stones, Diriyah Biennale Foundation, KSA
2021	Intervention work with Sculpture Artist Carola Zech, Biennial Sur, KSA

2020	<i>Body Land/Back to Dust</i> , video projection Performance Works NW, Alembic Residency, OR, USA
2019	<i>American Aphrodite</i> , Mississippi Studios, MI, USA
2018	<i>Studi Aperti- Film/Imprints</i> , 33 Officina Creativa, Toffia, Italy <i>IMPRINT</i> , Spaceness Artists Residency, USA
2016	<i>Shimmer</i> , Richard Alston Dance Company, Sadler's Wells, London, UK Time Based Art Festival, Portland Institute for Contemporary Art, OR, USA Roberts Wood, London Fashion Week, London, UK <i>Hand In Glove</i> , Lea Anderson, Victoria and Albert Museum, London, UK