

# 50 GOLBORNE

## EMAN ALI | BIOGRAPHY OCT 2024

### ABOUT

Eman Ali (b. 1986) is an Omani-Bahraini visual artist based between Bahrain, Oman, and Kenya. After graduating from Central Saint Martins College of Art and Design, she received an MA in Photography from the Royal College of Art in London.

Her practice combines photography, text, sound, and installations. She explores the interplay between gender, religion, and socio-political ideologies in the Arab Gulf. In parallel, she is investigating contemporary Swahili culture in Kenya, examining the past and present of multiple, fluid identities in the Western Indian Ocean.

The ongoing photographic project *Utendi*, which the artist is developing through residencies supported by 50 Golborne in the Lamu Archipelago, focuses on the expressions and interpretations of the female gender within the inherited, syncretic culture—seen in rituals, architecture, nature, and poetry—and how they are perceived by women in a rapidly changing society.

Ali's work has been exhibited at institutions such as *the Institut du Monde Arabe* (Paris), *The Middle East Institute* (Washington, D.C.), and the *Pinakothek der Moderne & ZIRKA* (Munich). She is currently a resident at Tokyo Arts and Space (TOKAS) in Japan, where her residency will culminate in a solo exhibition in Tokyo.

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## EMAN ALI | CV

### EDUCATION

- 2017 Royal College of Art, MA Photography (UK)  
2008 Central Saint Martins College of Art and Design, BA Graphic Design (UK)

### SELECTED EXHIBITIONS & SPECIAL PROJECTS

- 2024 Reminders Photography Stronghold (Tokyo), Solo show  
*1-54 Contemporary African Art Fair* (London)
- 2023: *Female in Focus*: Bridge and Tunnel Gallery (NYC), Group show  
*Parfums d'Orient*, The Institut du Monde Arabe (Paris), Group show  
*Elevison x Hunna Art*, Dubai International Financial Center (Dubai), Group show  
*Huna x Hunna Art*, Takhassusi (KSA), Group show  
*Millon Auction House*, Salons du Trocadero (Paris), Group show  
*Der Greif: Past & Present*, Pinakothek der Moderne & ZIRKA, H (Munich) Group show  
*Taipei Blockchain Week* (Taiwan), Group Show  
Project: "Banat Al Fi'9a (The Silver Girls)" with Hunna Art  
Commission: APAX project: Belgrave Bloom with poet Ali Al-Jamri  
*MENA Art Fair* (Brussels)
- 2022 *Female in Focus 2022, Photofusion* (London), Group Show  
*The World Today*, Madz Gallery (Florida), Group Show  
*More Than Your Eyes Can See: Contemporary Photography from the Arab World*, Middle East Institute (Washington D.C), Group Show  
*NFT LA*, SuperChief Gallery (LA), Group Show  
*Vellum LA X Obscura: 'WHO WE ARE'* Outdoor Billboard Exhibition, LA  
Group Show: Project with Fish Eye Magazine: *The Earth Would Die If The Sun Stopped Kissing Her*, *Paris Photo Fair* (France)  
*Serendipity*, MIA Art Collection (Dubai), Group Show  
*Pathways*, Raffles The Palm (Dubai), Group Show
- 2020 *1-54 Contemporary African Art Fair* (London)  
Succession ; *Ffotogallery The Place I Call Home*, Touring exhibition (UK)

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- + GCC), Group Show  
*1-54 Contemporary African Art Fair*, New York (Online)
- 2019 *Utendi*, 50 Golborne Gallery (London), Solo Show  
*Lagos Biennial 2nd Edition* (Nigeria)
- 2017 *Behind The Portrait*, Gulf Photo Plus (Dubai), Group Show
- 2016 *Future Narratives*, La Ira de Dios (Buenos Aires), Group Show
- 2015 *The Devil May Care*, The Noorderlicht Photogallery (The Hague),  
Group Show
- 2014 *Recreational Purpose*, Bahrain National Museum (Bahrain), Group  
Show  
*SCHAU Festival* (Dortmund), Group Show
- 2013 *I Bought This For The Cover*, Cob Gallery (London), Group Show  
*Alwan 338*, Al Riwaq Art Space (Bahrain)
- 2011 *Documenting Muharraq*, Bin Mattar House (Bahrain)

## RESIDENCIES & TALKS

- 2024 *Tokyo Arts and Space (TOKAS)*, Tokyo
- 2019 Artist Talk | Baraza, Swahili Studies Conference, School of Oriental  
and African Studies (SOAS) University, London  
Gallery Talk | 50 Golborne Gallery, London
- 2018 Plat(t)form, Fotomuseum Winterthur (Switzerland)
- 2016 *Future Narratives curated by Juliana Gontijo*, La Ira de Dios, Buenos  
Aires

## PUBLICATIONS

- 2023 Pictures & Songs published by Booooooom
- 2022 Who We Are 200 - Special Edition published by Setanta Books.
- 2022 Kinfolk Travel: Slower Ways to See the World
- 2019 Succession (Artist Book)
- 2016 The Next 100: BMW Group book
- 2014 Recreational Purpose: Exhibition catalogue. Bahrain National Museum
- 2012 Background: Exhibition catalogue. Bahrain's National Participation in  
the 13th international architecture exhibition at the La Biennale de

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Venezia

## AWARDS + NOMINATIONS

- 2023 Nominated, C/O Berlin Talent Award 2024
- 2022 Shortlisted, PRIX BMW ART MAKERS 2023
- 2020 Winner (Single Image), Female in Focus Award, British Journal of Photography
- 2018 Shortlisted, Taylor Wessing Photographic Portrait Prize
- 2016 Shortlisted, European Photo Award
- 2013 Nominated, Foam Paul Huf Award

## PRESS

LVL3  
Khamsa  
Artsy  
Booooooom  
It's Nice That  
Der Greif Artist Feature & Artist Blog  
Booooooom  
Fish Eye Magazine, Part 1 & Part 2  
CNN Style  
The Guardian  
AnOther Magazine  
Harper's Bazaar Arabia  
L'OEil de la Photographie  
PhMuseum