

Michael Rakowitz bio

Michael Rakowitz (b. 1973, Great Neck, New York, USA) is an Iraqi-American artist working at the intersection of problem-solving and troublemaking. Rakowitz explores the displacement of communities and cultural heritage caused by war and imperialism, activating everyday objects and employing unconventional approaches. His work has appeared in venues worldwide including dOCUMENTA (13); P.S.1; MoMA; MassMOCA; Castello di Rivoli Museo d'Arte Contemporanea; Palais de Tokyo; the 16th Biennale of Sydney; the 10th and 14th Istanbul Biennials; Sharjah Biennial 8; Tirana Biennale; National Design Triennial at the Cooper-Hewitt; Transmediale 05; FRONT Triennial in Cleveland; and CURRENT:LA Public Art Triennial. He has had solo projects and exhibitions with Creative Time; Tate Modern; Baltic Centre for Contemporary Art; Mead Art Museum; The Wellin Museum of Art; MCA Chicago; Lombard Freid Gallery and Jane Lombard Gallery in New York; Barakat Gallery; SITE Santa Fe; Galerie Barbara Wien in Berlin; Rhona Hoffman Gallery in Chicago; Malmö Konsthall; Tensta Konsthall; and Kunstraum Innsbruck; and Waterfronts - England's Creative Coast. He is the recipient of the Nasher Prize (2020); Herb Alpert Award in the Arts (2018); Tiffany Foundation Award (2012); Creative Capital Grant (2008); Sharjah Biennial Jury Award; New York Foundation for the Arts Fellowship Grant in Architecture and Environmental Structures (2006); Dena Foundation Award (2003), and the Design 21 Grand Prix from UNESCO (2002). He was awarded the 2018-2020 Fourth Plinth commission in London's Trafalgar Square. From 2019-2020, a survey of Rakowitz's work traveled from Whitechapel Gallery in London, to Castello di Rivoli Museo d'Arte Contemporanea in Torino, to the Jameel Arts Centre in Dubai. He was recently granted a commission on the topic of Archaeology and Migration Flows for the Municipality of The Hague. He lives and works in Chicago.