

Erkan Affan (b. London, UK) is a curator, researcher and audio-visual artist based between London and İskenderun. Having received a BA and MSc from SOAS and UCL respectively in the fields of politics and migration, Erkan's multidisciplinary approach uses research methodologies and artistic mediums to explore the intersections of migration, human rights, sexuality, and Indigenous identity.

Between 2019 and 2021 in Berlin, Affan completed a research residency funded by the European Commission, co-founded the nightlife and performance collective Queer Arab Barty, and was thereafter appointed by the City District Office of Mitte in Berlin to take over the creative commissioning of the Bärenzwinger Museum for a season; collaborating with the likes of Tewa Barnosa, Gabriel Massan, Furmaan Ahmed, Sanni Est, and Danielle Brathwaite-Shirley to present new works.

After returning to London, Erkan co-founded the arts and culture collective MOU716 and curated workshops for young creative practitioners from the Eastern Mediterranean and North Africa in collaboration with the Live Art Development Agency (LADA) and the Arab British Centre.

Recently, Affan worked as an associate programmer on the 2023 Transpose programme at the Barbican Centre, and similarly commissioned a three-day festival at the Institute of Contemporary Arts titled 'LUBUNYA Dispatches'. Currently, Affan co-curates the talks programme at FOLD in east London and is working on the upcoming season of Futur Shock.

He is concurrently a member of this year's Curators' Circle for the CIRCA PRIZE and will soon be joining the mentorship programme initiated by Collectuers - the Museum of Private Collections.

Affan similarly works as an independent academic researcher, having completed policy reports for the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) and Goethe Institute, the Migration Research Unit at University College London, and the IISA. He has published works with Michigan State University Press and the Funambulist, and has a forthcoming chapter in a Routledge book alongside two pieces to be published by the International Migration Review and the Berlin Club Commission.

Whilst having produced various works of fiction- and non-fiction based text for the likes of Where the Leaves Fall, since 2023 he has been experimenting more definitively with audio-visual mediums. In March 2023, he released a 1-hour sound composition with field recordings and folk music from Hatay province that premiered on NTS. Between April and June he collaborated with New York-based producer 8ULENTINA on their "An Ode to Hatay Province" compilation for which he composed an original track titled "Oyna (Leute)"; and most recently, he exhibited a short audiovisual piece at the Institute of Contemporary Art in June 2023 titled "A Qasida to Memory, a Qasida to Dreams".