



## JOSEPH SASSOON SEMAH

Joseph Semah (24.02.1948) was born in Baghdad, Iraq. From 1950 he grew up in Tel Aviv, Israel. After finishing gymnasium, Semah studied at the University of Tel Aviv. At the same time he was developing his artistic venue.

Joseph Semah's grandfather, Hacham/Rabbi Sassoon Kadoori was the president of the Jewish community in Baghdad, who preached tolerance between the various religious denominations. As a Babylonian Jew who emigrated to the West (Amsterdam), he is part of GaLUT (Exile), an endless cycle of diaspora and return. You long for your country of birth and search for a way to relate to your cultural heritage and traditions. Heritage reminds us of our history.

### SOLO EXHIBITIONS SINCE 2010 (SELECTION)

**2023** - In preparation

De Domijnen, 16 december 2023-

On Friendship / (Collateral Damage) V - Between Graveyard and Museum's Sphere

Joseph Sassoon Semah

Literarisches Colloquium Berlin, Freies Universität Berlin, 2 - 5 March 2023

Transformations of Celan in Contemporary Art, Joseph Sassoon Semah and Alexander Polzin

**2021/ 23**

On Friendship / (Collateral Damage) IV -How to Explain Hare Hunting to a Dead German Artist- [The usefulness of continuous measurement of the distance between Nostalgia and Melancholia] (12 September 2021- February 2023) with 11 exhibitions, 7 performances, 8 debates, 8 video's

**2020/2021**

Over Vriendschap ... About Friendship ... Kunstmuseum Den Haag, October 2020 - 29 Augustus 2021  
Aul Celan-Gerhard-Marcks-Haus (Bremen), Galerie Ohnesorghe (Bremen)

**2019/2020**

Retrospective 'Being Touched by an Angel Just Before Birth De Domijnen (all spaces)- Sittard, October 2019- February 2020

On Friendship / (Collateral Damage) III - The Third GaLUT-Baghdad, Jerusalem, Amsterdam, September 2019- January 2020- 36 places

**2017/18**

On Friendship / (Collateral Damage) II- The Guardians of the Door

(Stedelijk Museum Amsterdam- lecture and 5 performances), De Nieuwe Kerk,

openingsperformance and artistic intervention, Joods Historisch Museum - exhibition and Gallery talk, Goethe-Institut, exhibition and debate

Art Market Budapest, exhibition and openings performance

**2015**

Being

touched by an angel just before birth- Galerie Nouvelles Images, Den Haag



**2015**

Canakale Biennial, Turkey In Memory of a sacred Tree

**2013**

72 Privileges [.....]: 'It is precisely this balance between exile and the emotion of the privileged which forms the unique originality of our Breathing in Reverse. As will be clear already, there is no past or future in Exile, only an immediate present, Kochi-Muziris Biennale, Kochi, India

**2011**

Tracing Martin Heidegger's Hut and Paul Celan's Clouds [...],, Gemak, Den Haag

**2010**

After Paul Celan. Tango and Fugue. Goethe Institut, Rotterdam; Maison Descartes, Amsterdam

**2009**

Ich bin, der ich bin EHYeH ASheR EHYeH, Bremen, Gerhard-Marcks-Haus

**2007**

Next Year in Jerusalem, a project in 12 churches and 12 cities, Niedersachsen, Germany

**2006**

Read Full Text, Museum van Bommel van Dam, Venlo

## **PERFORMANCES/INSTALLATIONS**

**2021-2023**

On Friendship / (Collateral Damage) IV -How to Explain Hare Hunting to a Dead German Artist- [The usefulness of continuous measurement of the distance between Nostalgia and Melancholia]

**2019/2020.**

Performances On Friendship / (Collateral Damage) III - The Third GaLUT: Baghdad, Jerusalem, Amsterdam

**2018**

Performance "Corridors:"- Castle Groeneveld

**2017**

Performances On Friendship / (Collateral Damage) II - The Guardians of the Door in Stedelijk Museum in Amsterdam

**2017**

Art Market Budapest- Opening performance On Friendship / (Collateral Damage) II - The Guardians of the Door

**2015**

Kunst und Judentum: "Hebräische" Fussnoten zur zeitgenössischen Kunst mit Joseph Semah. Bode-Museum, Berlijn.

**2012**

Performance with 72 children, Kochi-Muziris Biennale, Kochi, India

**2010**

Amsterdam van boven- Amsterdam van beneden, 4 May solo-performance on The roof of the oldest Observatorium of West-Europe, Felix Meritis

**2008**

Performance Breathing in reverse, Hannover

**GROUP EXHIBITIONS SINCE 2005 (SELECTION)****2022**

Kunstmuseum Den Haag, Exhibition Lurie & Vostell, Art after Auschwitz, april mei 2022

**2021**

Art Market Budapest

**2021**

NATURE AND AESTHETICS, REDEFINED Landgoed Nardinclant- Amsetrdamgarden 12 September-24 oktober 2021

**2021**

PULCHRI-Studio

**2021**

UIT<>ZICHT, Povinciehuis Haarlem

**2020/2021**

Joods Historisch Museum : Een graf in de wolken, December 2020- May 2021

**2019**

Lumen Travo- 26 January 2019-

**2019**

SEGRETE Traccedi Memoria, curated by Virginia Monteverde, Genua, 24 January-9 February 2019

**2018**

Fondazione Prada- Venetië- Machines à Penser- curated by Dieter Roelstraete,- Biennale Architecture, 26 May-25 November 2018

**2017**

Galerie Nouvelles Images, 1 juli-26 augustus 2017

**2016 -2017**

Heilig Schrift-Tanach, Bijbel, Koran- Museum Catharijneconvent, Utrecht,

**2015**

On War and Peace, o.a. Joseph Semah, Armando, Jef Diederer, Ger Lataster, Thom Puckey, Ton Slits, Shinkichi Jajiri, Museum Bommel van Dam

**2014**

Disasters of War, Joseph Semah, David Bade, Reinier Lucassen, Ilya Rabinovich, Ibrahim Quraishi, Kers Gallery, Amsterdam

**2013**

Flesh and Blood, Museum on the Seam, Socio-Polical Contemporay Art Museum, Jerusalem



## 2011

Een wereld vol verhalen, De Nieuwe Kerk i.s.m. Joods Historisch Museum

## 2009/2010

Martin- Gropius-Bau Berlijn Taswir islamitische bildwelten und moderne

## 2008

Dessins contemporains des Pays-Bas. Signifiants mourants: Joseph Semah, Hadassah Emmerich, Ni Haifeng. Parijs, Institut Neerlandais

## 2005

Den Haag Sculptuur, The garden oft he Palace, De Paleistuin Den Haag

## 2005

Respect! Forms of community, Contemporary art from the Netherlands, Marrakech

## PUBLICATIONS SINCE 2006

### - *Joseph Sassoon Semah: On Friendship / (Collateral Damage) IV* -

How to Explain Hare Hunting to a Dead German Artist, production Metropool International Art Projects, 2023

[The usefulness of continuous measurement of the distance between Nostalgia and Melancholia]

### - *Joseph Sassoon Semah: On Friendship / (Collateral Damage) III* -

The Third GaLUT : Baghdad, Jerusalem, Amsterdam,  
production Metropool International Art Projects, Amsterdam 2020

### - *Joseph Sassoon Semah: On Friendship / (Collateral Damage) II* -

The Guardians of the Door, production Metropool International Art Projects, Amsterdam 2017

- *Joseph Semah On Friendship / (Collateral Damage)* -, production Metropool International Art Projects, Amsterdam 2015

- *Joseph Semah Tracing Martin Heidegger's hut and Paul Celan's clouds [...]* , Den Haag 2011

- *Ich bin, der ich bin EHYeH ASheR EHYeH*, Bremen 2009

- *Next Year in Jerusalem*, Bremen 2009

- *Ulco Mes, Joseph Semah (eds.) Joseph Semah. A Journey into PaRDeS*, Venlo 2006

## COLLECTIONS (SELECTION)

- Kunstmuseum Den Haag,
- Stedelijk Museum, Amsterdam;
- Joods Historisch Museum,
- Rijksmuseum Twenthe, Enschede;
- Israel Museum, Jerusalem;
- Victoria and Albert Museum, Londen;
- Jewish Museum, New York;
- Museum Jan Cunen, Oss;
- Stedelijk Museum, Schiedam;



- Albertina, Vienna ,
- Collectie G+W nederland,
- Roel Arkesteijn Antwerpen
- Museum De Domijnen, Sittard