

SAFE

Ali Kazma

Safe — Ali Kazma

AKINCI is proud to present six of Ali Kazma's films, amongst which the appraised video works 'Home' and 'Clerk', and a selection from his Resistance series, including 'Tattoo' – first exhibited at the Turkish Pavilion during the 55th Venice Biennale. We are especially excited to première Kazma's new film 'Safe', depicting the Global Seed Vault situated in the Svalbard Islands, which is designed to serve as a back-up repository for seeds in case of local or global man-made and/or natural catastrophe. The suspense in 'Safe' is so dense it is close to physically stifling. Indeed, to look at Kazma's films is to become fixated in a gaze that feels, almost compulsory, like *touching with your eyes*. This physical sensation is consequential of Kazma's close apprehension of the human body and its activity. Through his framing and montage he captures both the physical and philosophical dimension of the *condition humaine*; in labour, economy, production, social organisation, and time.

Without being documentaries, or naturalistic reports, Ali Kazma's films involve a violent relation to reality. The political dimension is never openly brought in, but it can be deduced from the choice and exposition of the images. By preferring close-ups and finished gestures, fragmented, staccato spaces—instead of developing broad, meditative shots—(...) he lends his images, as they run past us, a vibrating density and a heightened power.

Mo Gourmelon, 2009

Clerk, 2011, single screen HD video (loop), 3:09 min.
 Ali Kazma, *Safe*, overview AKINCI, Amsterdam, 2017
 (photo: Wytske van Keulen)





Ali Kazma, *Safe*, overview AKINCI, Amsterdam, 2017
(photo: Wytske van Keulen)



Home, Calligraphy, Tattoo and Crystal
Ali Kazma, *Safe*, overview AKINCI, Amsterdam, 2017
(photo: Wytske van Keulen)



Home, Calligraphy, Tattoo
Ali Kazma, *Safe*, overview AKINCI, Amsterdam, 2017
(photo: Wytske van Keulen)



Home, 2015, HD video, 4:51 min.

Ali Kazma, *Safe*, overview AKINCI, Amsterdam, 2017

(photo: Wytske van Keulen)



Home, 2015, HD video, 4:51 min.

Ali Kazma, *Safe*, overview AKINCI, Amsterdam, 2017

(photo: Wytske van Keulen)



Safe, 2016, HD video, 3:18 min.

Ali Kazma, *Safe*, overview AKINCI, Amsterdam, 2017

(photo: Wytske van Keulen)



Safe, 2016, HD video, 3:18 min.

Ali Kazma, *Safe*, overview AKINCI, Amsterdam, 2017

(photo: Wytske van Keulen)



Safe, 2016, HD video, 3:18 min.

Ali Kazma, *Safe*, overview AKINCI, Amsterdam, 2017

(photo: Wytske van Keulen)



Safe, 2016, HD video, 3:18 min.
Ali Kazma, *Safe*, overview AKINCI, Amsterdam, 2017
(photo: Wytske van Keulen)



Safe, 2016, HD video, 3:18 min.

Ali Kazma, *Safe*, overview AKINCI, Amsterdam, 2017

(photo: Wytske van Keulen)

About — Ali Kazma

Ali Kazma is a video artist whose work documents human activity in labour, raising questions about the meaning of economy, production, and social organization. His films capture the precise and particular specializations of a range of professions, performed by people who have developed a fascinating fluency in their task. With sheer and sincere imagery he explores the discourses, techniques and management tactics developed for the body today, focusing on the interventions and strategies that both release the body from its own restrictions and restrict it in order to control it. At AKINCI, Kazma will show a number of films, amongst which a selection of work that was exhibited at the Turkish Pavilion during the 55th Venice Biennale, as well as two new films.

Born in 1971, Istanbul, Ali Kazma completed his undergraduate studies in the United States in 1993. After briefly studying photography in London, he returned to the US to study film in 1995. He received his MA from The New School University in New York City where he worked as a teaching assistant. Ali Kazma was granted the 2001 UNESCO Award for the Promotion of the Arts and received the 2010 Nam June Paik Award for his 'Obstructions' series, which he has been working on since 2005. Kazma's video works question and explore the different rhythms and states of human existence and its relationship to contemporary conditions. He has exhibited his works at the Istanbul Biennial (2001, 2007, 2011), Tokyo Opera City (2001), Platform Garanti Istanbul (2004), Istanbul Modern (2004), 9th Havana Biennial (2006), San Francisco Art Institute (2006), Lyon Biennial (2007), and Venice Biennale, Pavilion of Turkey (2013), among others. Kazma has been living in Istanbul since 2000.

Clerk, 2011, single screen HD video (loop), 3:09 min.



Exhibitions

[Souterrain](#)

17 October - 21 January, 2018
Jeu de Paume, Concorde, Paris, FR

[206 Rooms of Silence: Etudes on Prinkipo Greek Orphanage](#)

9 October - 10 November, 2018
Galata Greek School, Istanbul, TR

[Safe \(2015\)](#)

19 September 2017 - 18 January 2018
Moscow Biennale of Contemporary Art

[School Square Galatasaray](#)

14 September - 25 November, 2018
Pera Museum, Istanbul, TR

[Underground Places](#)

29 June - 14 October, 2018
MUNTREF, Buenos Aires, AR
(in collaboration with Jeu de Paume)

[Reconstructing Eden - curated by Barbara Polla and Paul Ardenne](#)

19 June - 2 September, 2018
ArtMill, Szentendre, HU

Swiss Institute (filmscreening), New York, USA
14 November, 2018

[Are we human? The Design of the Species: 2 seconds, 2 days, 2 years, 200 years, 200.000 years](#)

7 November 2017 - 5 January 2018

Lewis Centre for the Arts, Princeton University, USA