

Iman Issa



Iman Issa, Masks for a Multiple-Role Actor, 2020, from the series Surrogates  
3d prints, wood, steel, thread, metal wire, acrylic, epoxy, paint, text panel  
Exhibition view at Taxispalais Kunsthalle Tirol, Innsbruck, Austria, 2020



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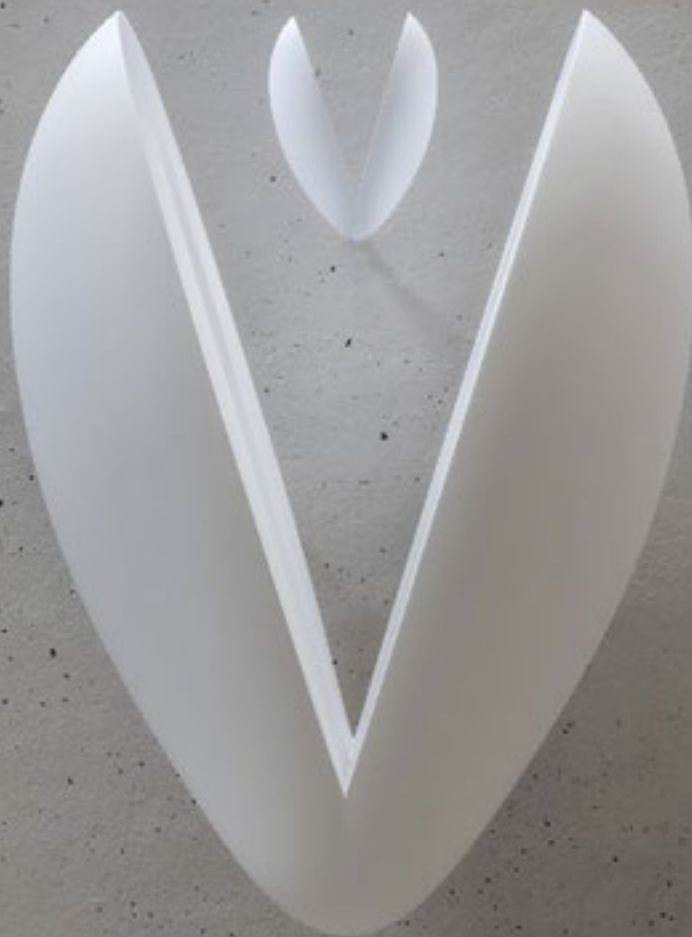


Iman Issa, from the series Proxies, with a Life of Their Own

left: Self-Portrait (Self as Alenka Zupančič), 2020  
3d prints, epoxy, acrylic, paint, metal poles, text panel

right: Self-Portrait (Self as Taha Hussein), 2020  
3d prints, epoxy, acrylic, paint, metal poles, text panel

Exhibition view at Taxispalais Kunsthalle Tirol, Innsbruck, Austria, 2020



Iman Issa, Self-Portrait (Self as Alenka Zupančič), 2020  
from the series Proxies, with a Life of Their Own  
3d prints, epoxy, acrylic, paint, metal poles, text panel  
Exhibition view at Taxispalais Kunsthalle Tirol, Innsbruck, Austria, 2020





Iman Issa  
Self-Portrait (Self as Taha Hussein)  
2020  
3d prints, epoxy, acrylic, paint, metal poles, text panel  
Exhibition view at Taxispalais Kunsthalle Tirol,  
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## *HERITAGE STUDIES*

*Heritage Studies* is an ongoing series, initiated in 2015, which looks to artworks, objects, and structures from the past in an attempt to understand their relevance to the present and possibly the future. It consists of multiple original displays each of which is based is on an existing museum object or element. Each display is further accompanied by a caption identifying its source. The sources span different regions and cultural lineages but all belong to the past. The term “Heritage Studies” is employed in so far as it signifies a return to the past but one carried out with an idea of a practical end to the present and future. Following is a selection of documentation of displays from the project, along with their accompanying captions.



Iman Issa, from the series Heritage Studies  
Exhibition view at Taxispalais Kunsthalle Tirol, Innsbruck, Austria, 2020

Iman Issa  
Heritage Studies #7, 2015  
Wood, metal, vinyl text  
198 x 60 x 48 cm

Exhibition view at Taxispalais Kunsthalle Tirol,  
Innsbruck, Austria, 2020

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**HS7**

**Statue of King Ahmose**

Unifier of the land who established the country's national borders,  
which it retains to this day.

The National Art Museum Collection

Quartzite

73.5 x 31 cm

1549 B.C.

Iman Issa, Heritage Studies #7, 2015

Wood, painted wood, vinyl text, 198 x 60 x 48 cm | edition of 3 + 2 AP  
vinyl text on the wall

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Iman Issa, Heritage Studies # 38, 2020

Wood, vinyl text

Exhibition view at Taxispalais Kunsthalle Tirol, Innsbruck, Austria, 2020

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Iman Issa  
Heritage Studies #26, 2017  
Brass, wood, vinyl text

Exhibition view at Taxispalais Kunsthalle Tirol,  
Innsbruck, Austria, 2020

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HS26

**Pair of Winged Dragons on a Candlestick Shaft**

Symbolizing both the hell of destruction and the light of the divine, dragons had multiple meanings which made them one of the most popular subjects during the Seljuk period.

The National Museum of Global Art Collection

Copper alloy

27 x 45 cm

A.D. 1271

Iman Issa, Heritage Studies #26, 2017

Brass, white wooden plinth, 176 x 20 x 161,5 cm, vinyl text, edition of 3 + 2 AP  
vinyl text on the wall

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Iman Issa, from the series Heritage Studies  
Exhibition view at Taxispalais Kunsthalle Tirol, Innsbruck, Austria, 2020

Iman Issa  
Heritage Studies #10, 2015  
Copper, aluminum, vinyl text

background:  
Heritage Studies #25, 2020  
Walnut, vinyl text

Exhibition view at Taxispalais Kunsthalle Tirol,  
Innsbruck, Austria, 2020

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Iman Issa  
Heritage Studies #25, 2020  
Walnut, vinyl text

Exhibition view at Taxispalais Kunsthalle Tirol,  
Innsbruck, Austria, 2020

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Iman Issa, from the series Heritage Studies  
Exhibition view at Taxispalais Kunsthalle Tirol, Innsbruck, Austria, 2020





Iman Issa, Heritage Studies # 39, 2020

Wood, vinyl text

Exhibition view at Taxispalais Kunsthalle Tirol, Innsbruck, Austria, 2020

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Iman Issa  
Heritage Studies #27, 2017  
painted wood, vinyl text  
70 x 73 x 85 cm

Exhibition view at Taxispalais Kunsthalle Tirol,  
Innsbruck, Austria, 2020

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**HS27**

**Dome**

Restored to its original style by the Commission for the Conservation of Arab Monuments in 1939.

The Regional Museum of Arts and Culture Collection

Stone

230 x 355 cm

A.D. 1279 (built) / A.D. 1303 (rebuilt)

Iman Issa, Heritage Studies #27, 2017  
Wood, painted wood, vinyl text, framed  
70 x 73 x 85 cm, edition of 3 + 2 AP  
vinyl text on the wall

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# *LEXICON*

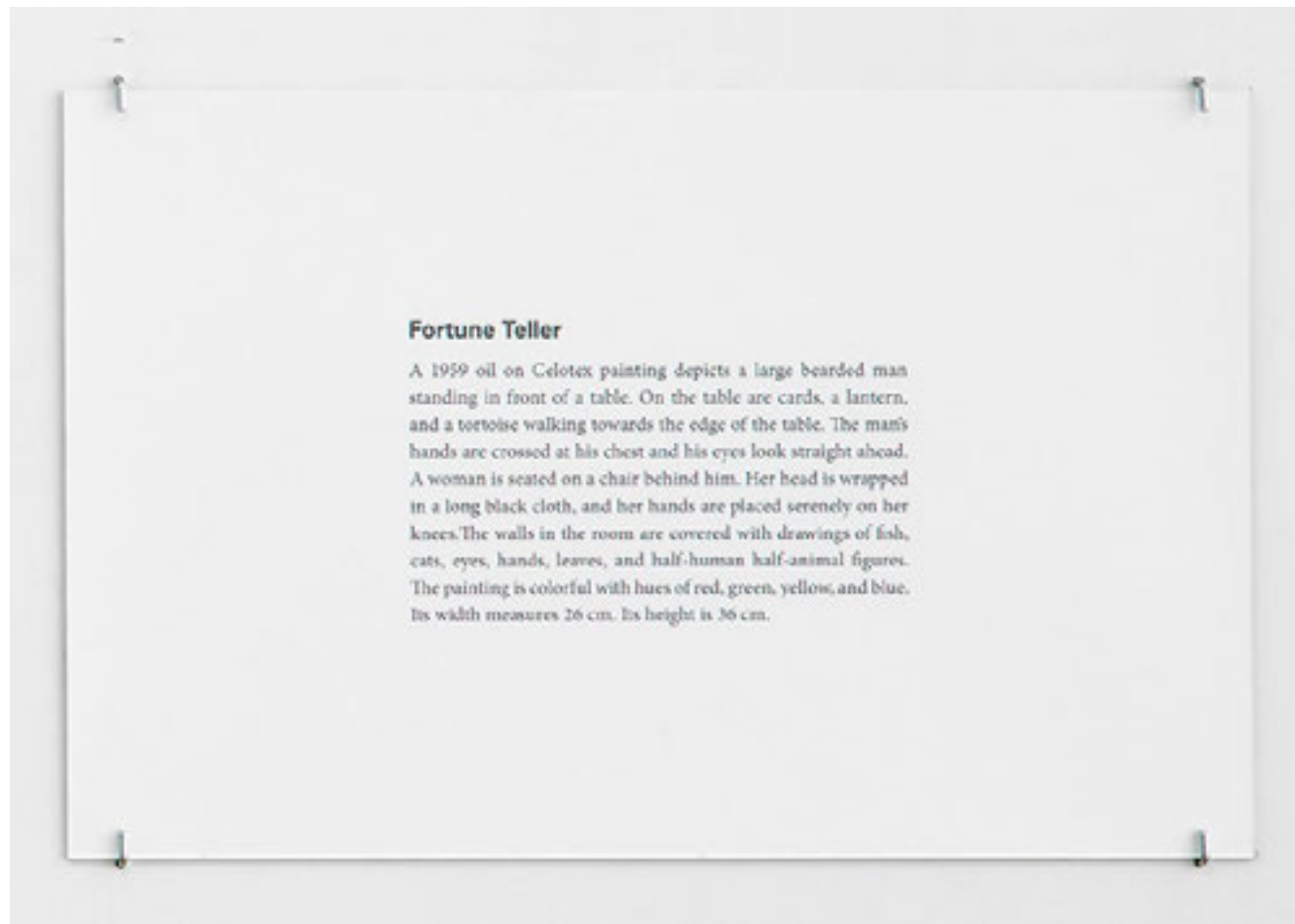
*Lexicon* is an ongoing project comprising a range of displays, each of which is presented as a contemporary remake of an existing artwork—albeit one that looks nothing like the original. With video, sculpture, photography, and audio elements, it offers a visual lexicon for a variety of terms such as *Laboring*, *Destiny*, *Mourning*, *Dancer*, *Devotees*, *Monologist* among others. An accompanying text panel to each display provides a secondary narrative describing the content of the original artworks on which the remakes are based. Following is a selection of images documenting a number of displays from the project along with the text panels.



Iman Issa, from the series Lexicon  
Exhibition view at Taxispalais Kunsthalle Tirol, Innsbruck, Austria, 2020



Iman Issa, Fortune Teller (Study for 2013), 2013, from the series Lexicon  
Framed c-print, 54,3 x 80,7 cm, text panel under glass  
Exhibition view at Taxispalais Kunsthalle Tirol, Innsbruck, Austria, 2020



Iman Issa, Fortune Teller (Study for 2013) - detail, 2013, from the series Lexicon  
Framed c-print, 54,3 x 80,7 cm, text panel under glass



Iman Issa  
Carnival (Study for 2019), 2019  
from the series Lexicon  
copper, paint, 83 x 83 cm

Exhibition view at Taxispalais Kunsthalle Tirol,  
Innsbruck, Austria, 2020

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## Carnival

A 1956 oil painting on cardboard depicts a mass of human figures. Some are holding metal torches. Some are playing drums. Others are swinging lanterns. Most have their arms raised in dancing motions. One figure claps on top of a donkey. Another can be seen holding a peep show from a golden makeshift structure. Everyone is colorfully dressed and adorned with heavy makeup and jewelry. Many are wearing decorative headdresses. The figures at the lower edge of the painting have clear features, while those at the top are largely abstract. The painting shows a variety of yellow, red, orange, green, pink, blue, and purple hues, with strong black undertones. It is square, measuring 70 cm on each side.

Iman Issa, Carnival (Study for 2019), 2019  
from the series Lexicon  
copper, paint, 83 x 83 x 181 cm  
text panel under glass  
edition of 4 + 2 AP

Iman Issa  
Dialogue (Study for 2019), 2019  
from the series Lexicon  
Steel, paint, white shelves, 25 x 65 x 142 cm  
text panel under glass

Exhibition view at Taxispalais Kunsthalle Tirol,  
Innsbruck, Austria, 2020

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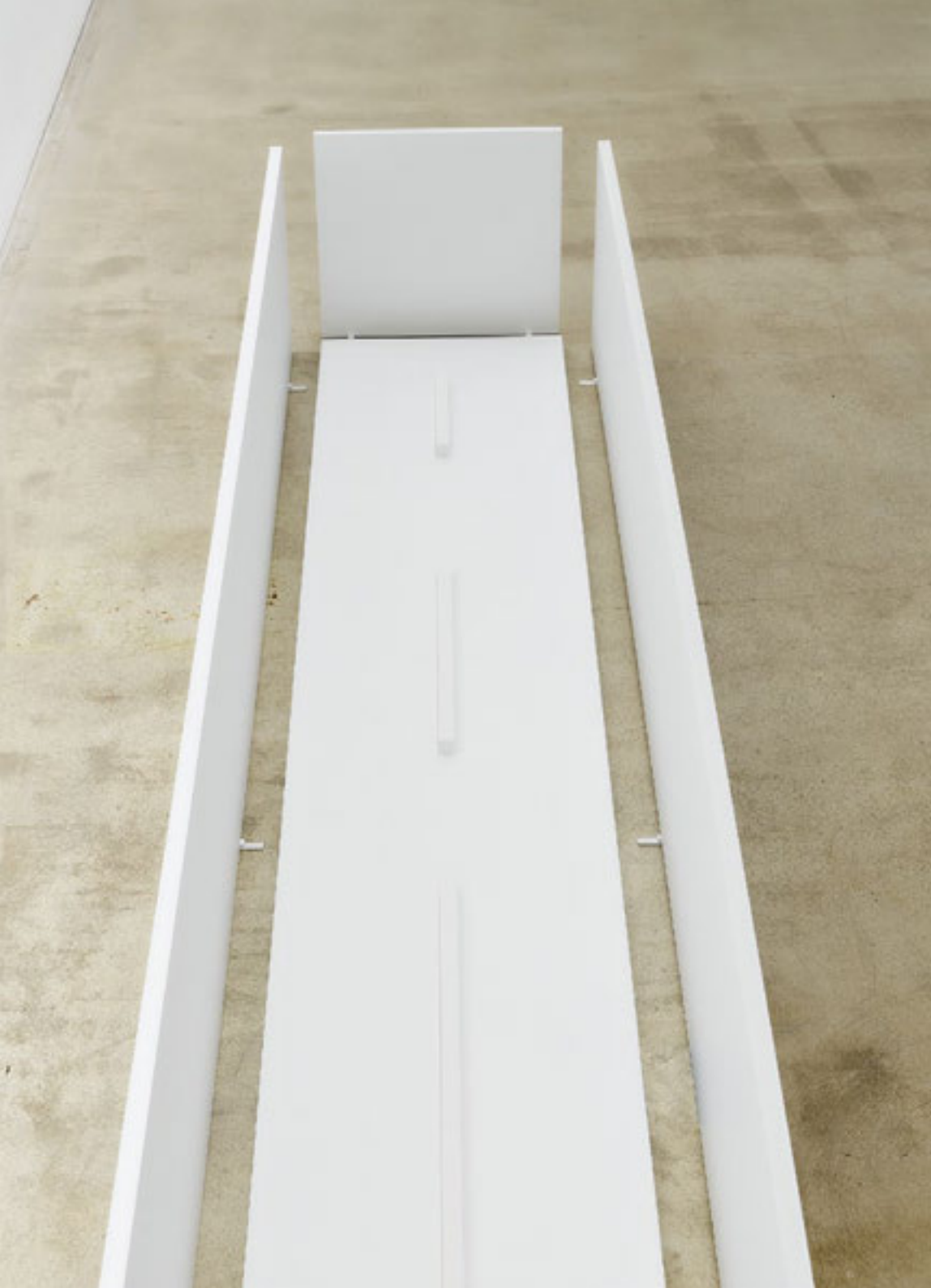
## Dialogue

A 1979 oil painting on canvas depicts two brown naked figures: a male and a female, sitting opposite each other, against an off-white background. The woman is pointing her thumb to her mouth while looking directly into the eyes of the man, who in turn looks at her. Both figures have deformed features, with large heads and slim bodies. In the background are faint outlines of buildings, a rooster, a crocodile, a horse, and another woman lying on her back. The painting has large empty spaces with pronounced, thick brushstrokes. Its colors are limited to soft hues of yellow, green, orange and brown. It measures 55 cm in width and 75 cm in height.

Iman Issa  
Dialogue (Study for 2019), 2019  
from the series Lexicon  
aluminum, paint, white shelves  
25 x 65 x 142 cm  
text panel under glass  
edition of 4 + 2 AP



Iman Issa, Road To Damascus (Study for 2019), 2019, from the series Lexicon  
wood, paint, 323 x 64 x 34 cm, text panel under glass, edition of 4 + 2 AP  
Exhibition view at Taxispalais Kunsthalle Tirol, Innsbruck, Austria, 2020



## Road to Damascus

A 1933 oil painting on canvas depicts an open desert landscape surrounded by mountains. Rectangular houses line the side of the scape, forming the impression of a road. They are the same color as the desert and cast strong shadows onto it. Two figures, walking alone towards mountains straight ahead, are pictured in the distance. They, too, cast strong diagonal shadows onto the otherwise empty landscape. Aside from the blue sky, which occupies the upper quadrant of the painting, the painting is light yellow in color. Its width is 64 cm. Its height is 53 cm.

Iman Issa  
Road To Damascus (Study for 2019) - details, 2019  
from the series Lexicon  
wood, paint, 323 x 64 x 34 cm  
text panel under glass  
edition of 4 + 2 AP



Iman Issa, Proposal for an Iraq War Memorial, 2007

Single-channel video, 5.25 min.

<https://vimeo.com/103080733>

Exhibition view at Taxispalais Kunsthalle Tirol, Innsbruck, Austria, 2020





Iman Issa, Skyline, 2006  
HD-Video, 6 min.

<https://vimeo.com/362529987> password: Issa

Exhibition view at Taxispalais Kunsthalle Tirol, Innsbruck, Austria, 2020

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Iman Issa, Car Wash, 2006

HD-Video, 13 min.

<https://vimeo.com/359343640> password: Issa

Exhibition view at Taxispalais Kunsthalle Tirol, Innsbruck, Austria, 2020

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Fig. 52

"I came to the world naked, but in types and images." From one of the Gnostic gospels of the third century. It was believed that this specific gospel had been lost when a farmer accidentally discovered a copy buried in a cave near the Egyptian village of Hamadi.

Fig. 53

Iman Issa, Book of Facts: A Proposition, 2017  
 Book, reading display of white table with stool  
 Exhibition view at Taxispalais Kunsthalle Tirol, Innsbruck, Austria, 2020

Exhibition view at Taxispalais Kunsthalle Tirol  
Innsbruck, Austria, 2020