

Christopher Joshua Benton

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b. Virginia, 1988

Education

Massachusetts Institute of Technology

Master of Science in Art, Culture, & Technology | School of Architecture and Planning

Cambridge, USA

2023

The University of Georgia

Bachelor of Arts in English | Franklin College of Arts & Sciences

Athens, USA

2011

University of Oxford

Benjamin A. Gilman International Scholar | Keble College | Study Abroad

Oxford, UK

2010

Solo Presentations & Exhibitions

- 2023 *Mubeen, The City is Archive* | The Third Line, Dubai, UAE | Curated by Sophie Arni
- 2021 *The World Was My Garden* | Abu Dhabi Art: Beyond Emerging | Abu Dhabi, UAE | Curated by Till Felrath and Sam Bardaouil
- 2021 *Worked (So and so and on and on and so on and so on)* | Art Space, Al Ain, UAE

Group Exhibitions, Biennials & Art Fairs

- 2023 ACT Gallery, MIT, Cambridge, MA (Collab. w/ Rakan Ghresi) | Curated by Azra Aksamija
- 2023 Counteractions, MIT Museum, Cambridge, MA
- 2023 *Documentary Fictions*, Harvard Carpenter Center, Cambridge, MA
- 2023 Counteractions, Distillery Gallery, Boston, MA
- 2023 Sikka Art Fair 2023, Dubai, UAE | Curated by Zayed University

- 2022 Abu Dhabi Art 2022
- 2022 59th Venice Biennale: Offsite, Palazzo Franchetti Cavalli, Venezia, Italy | Curated by Till Felrath and Sam Bardaouil
- 2022 Frome Photo Festival, Culture Pool, Maker's Yard, Frome, UK
- 2022 Harold & Arlene Schnitzer Prize in the Visual Arts Exhibition, MIT Wiesner Art Gallery, Cambridge, MA
- 2022 *I Shout My Laughter to the Stars*, Aicon Contemporary, NY, NY

- 2021 *So Different, So Appealing*, Warehouse421, Abu Dhabi, UAE (collab. w/ Rakan Ghresi & Ashay Bhavé) | Curated by Murtaza Vali
- 2021 Garden of E-arthy delights, Sumac Space, Dubai, UAE | Curated by Ruba Al-Seel
- 2021 *East East Vol. 4: The Curio Shop Part III*, ILY Hub, Tokyo, Japan | Curated by Sophie Arni
- 2021 *East East Vol. 4: The Curio Shop Part II*, Block House, Tokyo, Japan | Curated by Sophie Arni
- 2021 *East East Vol. 4: The Curio Shop Part I*, H.B. Nezu, Tokyo, Japan | Curated by Sophie Arni

- 2020 *Al Seef Festival*, Al Seef, Dubai, UAE
- 2020 *UAE Designer's Exhibition*, Jameel Arts Centre, Dubai, UAE | Curated by Ghassan Salamat

- 2019 *Practice & Critique*, Warehouse421, Abu Dhabi, UAE
- 2019 *Localities*, Satellite Gallery, Dubai, UAE
- 2019 *001, Blue Cave Gallery, Dubai, UAE*

- 2018 Fikra Graphic Design Biennial, Sharjah, UAE | Curated by Prem Krishnamurthy & Common-Interest
- 2018 SIKKA Art Fair, Dubai, UAE
- 2017 Blue Cave Urban Art Festival, Dubai Design District, Dubai, UAE
- 2017 SIKKA Art Fair, Dubai, UAE

Art Commissions

- 2022 Lightbox Installation. "City Behind My Window." Adidas Middle East Flagship, Dubai, UAE
- 2020 Installation. "How to Be at Rest." Dubai Design Week 2020, Dubai, UAE
- 2019 Dual-channel video & installation. "Who Gets Paid for Digital Labor?" Jameel Arts Centre, Dubai, UAE
- 2018 Installation. "LLC (Beware Illegal Recruiter)," Project Warehouse, Abu Dhabi, UAE

Fellowships & Residencies

- 2023 MIT.nano Immersion Lab Residency, Cambridge, MA
- 2023 MIT ACT Research Affiliate, Cambridge, MA
- 2023 Zayed University Noshka Printmaking Residency, Abu Dhabi, UAE
- 2022 Satellite Residency, Dubai, UAE
- 2021 Abu Dhabi Cultural Foundation Art Residency, Abu Dhabi, UAE
- 2019 Salama Bint Hamdan Al Nahyan Foundation & Rhode Island School of Design Emerging Artist Fellowship

Grants & Awards

- 2023 Obermayer Prize for Academic Writing | 1,000 USD
- 2023 MIT Sandbox Grant | 1,000 USD
- 2023 MIT ACT Gallery Grant | \$1,500 USD
- 2022 Council of the Arts at MIT Grant | 2,500 USD
- 2022 Instagram / Brooklyn Museum Emerging Black Visionaries Grant | 30,000 USD
- 2022 Harold & Arlene Schnitzer Prize in the Visual Arts Prize | 5,000 USD
- 2022 MIT.nano Grant | 12,000 USD
- 2022 MIT ACT Pilot Grant
- 2021 MIT ACT Pilot Grant
- 2021 Abu Dhabi Art Emerging Artist Commissions Grant | \$27,000
- 2021 Salama Bint Hamdan Al Nahyan Foundation Emerging Artist Fellowship Scholarship
- 2021 MIT Department of Architecture Graduate Fellowship
- 2020 Art Jameel Research and Practice Platform Grant | \$2,500 USD
- 2010 Benjamin A. Gilman International Scholarship | \$10,000 USD
- 2010 UGA Incentive Scholarship
- 2010 UGA Foundation Scholarship
- 2010 International Education Week Scholarship
- 2010 Katherine John Murphy Scholarship
- 2006 – 2011 The Georgia HOPE Scholarship

Curation, Talks, & Workshops

- 2022 "Bull in an Archive." MIT List Center, Cambridge, MA. 18 May 2022, Talk
- 2021 "Tell Them Who You Are." Al Qattara Arts Centre, Workshop
- 2021 "Tell Them Who You Are." Abu Dhabi Cultural Foundation, Workshop

- 2020 "Do You See Me How I See You?" maisan15 Gallery, Curator
- 2020 "Art Collectives in the GCC." Evolve Talks, Panelist
- 2020 "Equality in Design: The need for just representation." Dubai Design Week Talks, 9 November 2020, Lecture
- 2019 "Lost and Unfound: Art-making and the Tentative Sculpture," Warehouse 421, Workshop
- 2019 "Why Who Gets to Say What Where," Warehouse 421, Moderator & Organizer
- 2018 "#ArtSELFIE: Interactive Art for the Digital Age," World Art Dubai, 20 April 2018, Dubai World Trade Center, Lecture

Teaching

Massachusetts Institute of Technology

Teaching Fellow

Cambridge, USA

Spring 2022

Teaching team with Gediminas Urbonas for the graduate level course "[Art in the Public Sphere: Choreographing the City](#)"

Guest Appearances

- 2023 Guest Critic | Massachusetts College of Art & Design
- 2022 Visiting Artist | Zayed University | Noshka Printmaking Lab | Abu Dhabi, UAE
- 2022 Guest Critic | Massachusetts Institute of Technology | Advanced Photography & Related Media | Lara Baladi
- 2022 Guest Critic | Massachusetts Institute of Technology | Artist, Tinkerer, Architect, Engineer | Judith Barry
- 2021 Guest Critic | Massachusetts Institute of Technology | Introduction to Artistic Experimentation | Marisa Moran Jahn
- 2021 Guest Critic | Massachusetts Institute of Technology | Introduction to Photography & Related Media | Lara Baladi
- 2020 Visiting Guest Lecture | American University of Dubai

Publications

- "Beyond Bean Pies and Bowties." MIT Thresholds Architecture Journal. MIT Press. [Peer reviewed essay]. Print
- "The Craft of Art: Afra Al Dhaheri." Identity Magazine. May 2021. Print. <https://bit.ly/3vJuycm>
- "I <3 Dubai." Editor. Farook International Stationary. Fall 2020.
- "Kanye Says Listen to the Kids: Reviewing the Youth Takeover." *Global Art Daily*. 13 Nov 2020. <https://bit.ly/3gsiuGc>
- "Enter the Interzone: Farah Al Qasimi." *Tribe Photo Magazine*. Spring 2019. Print. <https://bit.ly/3dA27u1>
- "All Girls Are Spicy: Hannah Bates." *Global Art Daily*. September 2018: 46-49. Print
- "Subversive," *Idea Magazine* 386, June 2019: 37. Print
- *University of Georgia: Off The Record*. Editor. Christopher Benton & Nicole Gross. Niche Media: 2012. Book

Selected Press

2023

- "CNN Stylish Moments." CNN. January 2023. <https://youtu.be/d024msvPFbY>
- "Artists To Watch." Fables Magazine. 2023. Print.

2022

- Al-Hadethi, Rand. "Christopher Joshua Benton: My Job is to Complicate the Narrative." *Khamsa*. <https://bit.ly/3OSDI6N>
- Sarup, Pratyush. "Meet Christopher Joshua Benton." *Architectural Digest*. 22 July 2022.
- Berger, Charlie. "Christopher Joshua Benton Presents a Lightbox Installation." *GQ Magazine*. 20 July 2022. <https://bit.ly/3cvqzTi>
- "7 Seating Designs Created Using Waste Materials." *Frame Magazine*. <https://bit.ly/33t2X6s>
- Jacobs, Martin. "Not Just Another Chair." *Modern Luxury Magazine*. Summer 2022. Print

2021

- "Abu Dhabi Art Fair 2021 Highlights." *Selections Arts Magazine*. 18 November 2021. <https://bit.ly/3IGJwGI>
- Angelos, Ayla. "Christopher Benton builds humble colorful bright art pieces from found objects." *It's Nice That*. 1 April 2021. <https://bit.ly/3dLYMnO>

- Arni, Sophie. "Ruba Al-Sweel Curates "Garden of e-arthly Delights" at SUMAC Space." *Global Art Daily*. 1 October 2021. <https://bit.ly/3GQQAQP>
- Bains, Devinder. "Vox Populi: Christopher Benton." *Harper's Bazaar ART BOOK*. Print.
- BBC World News. (2021, Jan 2). TV program interview. *Rethinking Design: Design Solutions for a Post-Pandemic World*. <https://bbc.in/3JQMSbd>
- Cappelletto, Niccolò Acram. "The Labor of Art and the Art of Labor: Christopher Benton on His First Exhibition in Al Ain," *Global Art Daily*. 7 Nov 2021. <https://bit.ly/3nhpbQc>
- Chaves, Alexandra. "Abu Dhabi Art not over yet as Beyond: Emerging Artists runs into next month." *The National*. 22 Nov 2021. <https://bit.ly/3ffu1Jh>
- Chaves, Alexandra. "Abu Dhabi Art 2021 promises plenty of opportunities for change after the pandemic." *The National*. 15 Nov. <https://bit.ly/3qifd2L>
- Chaves, Alexandra. "UAE Meets Japan Exhibition Takes Gulf Artist to Tokyo." *The National*. 13 July 2021. <https://bit.ly/2Valv2O>
- Conde, Adriana. "The Work that Speaks to the Working Class of Dubai." *JOIA Magazine*. <https://bit.ly/3xlmeel>
- Gaskin, Sam. Abu Dhabi Art Curators Introduces Performances and New Commissions. *Ocula*. <https://bit.ly/3r88ibG>
- Gronlund, Melissa. "Abu Dhabi Art returns with a home town feel: 'We missed this during Covid'" *The National*. 17 Nov 2021. <https://bit.ly/3K4RafK>
- Imanova, Aidan. "A cross-cultural exhibition in Tokyo features works by young artists from the Gulf." *Identity Magazine*. 15 Aug 2021. <https://bit.ly/3FiMDCE>
- NTS Radio 1. "The Last Playlist w/ Luis Farfán & Christopher Benton" 20 April 2021. <https://bit.ly/2UoALOG>
- Proctor, Rebecca Anne. "Past and future meet in UAE-based trio's 'Beyond: Emerging Artists' display." *Arab News*. 28 Nov 2021. <https://bit.ly/33dU6WB>
- Sarup, Pratyush. "Abu Dhabi Art Is Back With A Dynamic and Diverse In-Person Showcase," *Architectural Digest Middle East*. <https://bit.ly/3fgGjBa>
- Sinha, Vamika. "Young Voices from Dubai." *Canvas Magazine*, December 2021: 88-92 Print.
- Zara, Janelle. Abu Dhabi's Cultural DNA Is Evolving—Emerging Artists' Work Proves It," *Cultured Mag*. <https://bit.ly/3qrfUHn>

2020

- Arni, Sophie. "Spotlight on Dubai Design Week 2020." *Global Art Daily*, 19 Nov. 2020. <https://bit.ly/3a0LjY>
- Bernice, Anna. "An Art Exhibition in Dubai on the Meaning of Homeland," *Vice Arabia*, 4 Nov 2020. <https://bit.ly/3esAVte>
- Bernice, Anna. "Do You See Me How I See You?" *Global Art Daily*, 19 October 2020. <https://bit.ly/3qEqtop>
- Chaves, Alexandra. "Does the UAE feel like home? Art show proves that the answer is complicated." *The National*, 14 Dec. 2020: 20. Print. <https://bit.ly/3neFTNQ>
- "Dubai Design Week: Highlights." *Selections Arts Magazine*, 12 Nov. 2020. <https://bit.ly/3gqghjal>
- Dunmall, Giovanna. 10 Questions with Dubai Design Week." *Interior Design Magazine*, 16 Nov. 2020. <https://bit.ly/3qEz3TV>
- Hahn, Jennifer. "How to be at Rest installation features bricolage chairs made by migrants in the UAE," *Dezeen*, 17 Nov 2020. <https://bit.ly/3907OeE>
- Imanova, Aidan. "How to Be At Rest: Christopher Benton" *Identity Magazine*. 1 Dec 2020: Cover story. Print
- Maisey, Sarah. "Kings of Cool." *The National Luxury magazine Supplement*. Nov 2020: 45. Print
- "Rapport: Dubai." *Global Art Daily*. 1 June 2020. <https://bit.ly/3lV0tkZ>
- Saryup, Pratyush. "Meet Christopher Benton: One of UAE's Most Exciting New Art Curators," *Gulf News*, 21 Oct. 2020: 5-6. Print. <https://bit.ly/38hfObS>

2019

- Chaves, Alexandra. "The art show in Warehouse421 that represents a new wave of UAE artists." *The National*, 17 Sep. 2019: 1c. Print. <https://bit.ly/2XeK9l8>
- Drumm, Perrin. "I Have Seen the Future of Graphic Design and It Isn't Another Poster Show," *American Institute of Graphic Arts Eye on Design Magazine*, 18 Jan. 2019. <https://bit.ly/3rVl3pG>
- Gargarian, Anna. "Exhibition review: Community & Critique." *HAYP*, 23 Sep. 2019. <https://bit.ly/2JFvVXA>

2018

- Arni, Sophie. "Dubai: The New Gentrification," *Global Art Daily*, 22 May 2018. <https://bit.ly/2MBSqO7>
- Sarup, Pratyush. "Art Dubai 2018: 10 Things to Do," *Gulf News*, 12 Mar. 2018: 12. Print

- Ghanem, Khaoula. "5 Reasons To Visit Sharjah's First-Ever Fikra Graphic Design Biennial," *Vogue Arabia*, 13 Nov. 2018. <https://bit.ly/2X8M1fo>
- Lutyens, Dominic. "The Desert Blooms." *Icon Magazine*. 1 Feb 2018: 32. Print

2017

- Saryup, Pratyush. "Ghetto Cool at the Sikka Art Fair," *Gulf News*, 12 Mar. 2017: 1,7. Print. <https://bit.ly/3ot0jmQ>

Work Experience

Huawei

Creative Director

Lead 25-person creative team across Middle East, Africa, India, & Pakistan.

Dubai, UAE

April 2018 – April 2021

Collections

- The Farook Collection | Dubai, UAE
- Gallery Marco | Osaka, Japan