

**AMAL LAALA** born Melbourne, 1979, works between countries of her ancestry and birth: Australia, Finland and Morocco. Laala is a socially engaged artist interacting with public space and communities to creatively activate dialogues around socio-political and cultural issues. Laala artistically expresses her stories, and those from diverse public's by creating platforms and encounters for people to participate and share, as a form of empowerment. Stories are explored through, performance, installations, artist publications, interventions, videos and photographs. Producing work in Australia, Finland, Jordan, Macedonia, Morocco, UK and the U.S, in institutions such as Helsinki Art Museum, Design Museum Helsinki, Kiasma, Tate Britain, South London Gallery and V&A Museum.

### Education

2010-15 Masters in Environmental Art, Aalto School of Art, Design and Architecture Helsinki, FI  
2008 Cultural Management workshop, (Melopee #5), Amuni, France  
2006 Gallery Education Training Course, Tate Modern, London, UK  
2003-04 Diploma of Art in Public Space, RMIT, Melbourne, Aus  
1998-00 Bachelor of Arts Photography, Charles Sturt University, NSW, Aus

### Public Collaborations/Projects

2019 WOMENS RIGHTS - RECLAIM THE NIGHT Workshop/Public intervention, COGG, Geelong, AUS  
2019 MY HOME – MY PRODUCE Photographs, Stories and Illustrations, Hobsons Bay Council, Melbourne AUS  
2019 SUMMER OF STREET ART, Collaborative Mural, City of Melton, Melbourne AUS  
2018 WOMENS RIGHTS - RECLAIM THE NIGHT Workshop/Public intervention, Diversitat, Geelong, AUS  
2015 OUR CUISINE = OUR STORIES Community Art workshop. Pixelache Festival, Helsinki, FI  
2015 TASTE EXCHANGE: AN EVENT intervention/exchange. CaisaFest, Caisa Cultural Centre, FI  
2015 CALLIGRAFFITI Collaborative Workshop and installation. Caisa Cultural Centre, Helsinki, FI  
2015 OUR CUISINE = OUR STORIES, video, 'The month of a hundred languages' *Stoa Cultural Centre*, FI  
2014 3TENI L'KHOBZ (give me the bread) 'Public Space' *KULTE Gallery & Editions*, Rabat MAROC  
2014 OUR CUISINE = OUR STORIES Community Art. Workshops/intervention, Horisontti, Helsinki FI  
2014 TASTE EXCHANGE: AN EVENT Public intervention/exchange. Galleria KONE, Hämeenlinna, FI  
2014 MUUTTAA MUOTI! Community Art. Six workshops at *Design Museum*, Helsinki FI  
2014 OUR CUISINE = OUR STORIES Community Art. Workshops with Makuprojecti, Hämeenlinna, FI  
2013 TASTE EXCHANGE: AN EVENT Public intervention/exchange. Art Häme, Granitin Aukio, Riihimäki, FI  
2013 TASTE EXCHANGE: AN EVENT Public intervention/exchange. Kauppatori, Helsinki, FI  
2013 OUR CUISINE = OUR STORIES Community Art. Workshops at STOA cultural centre, Helsinki FI  
2013 OUR CUISINE = OUR STORIES Publication launch/Taste exchange. STOA cultural centre, Helsinki FI  
2012 WHAT WOULD YOU CHANGE? Workshop and Intervention. Helsinki Art Museum/STOA, Helsinki, FI  
2012 OUR CUISINE = OUR STORIES Community Art. Ten workshops at STOA cultural centre, Helsinki FI  
2011 TELL ME WHAT I THINK ABOUT... Collaborative intervention. Performanssifesta, Hirvitalo, Tampere FI  
2009 CALLIGRAFFITI XIV *Biennale of Young Artists from Europe and the Mediterranean*, Skopje, MACEDONIA  
2006 CALLIGRAFFITI Collaborative Workshop. Tate Loud: Conflict and Resolution, Tate Britain, UK

### Personal Work

2019 SHuSH Poetry reading/performance. Geelong writers club, Geelong AUS  
2013 IF I WERE... Performance. Art and cross cultural dialogue seminar, Suomenlinna, FI  
2012-13 FATHER, FATHER, FATHER 'Moroccan Mix', Sudan Radio Deutsche Bank KunstHalle, Centrale for contemporary art, Bruxelles, 30<sup>th</sup> Sao Paulo Biennial, Friday Late: Record, Reframe, Resist. V&A Museum  
2010 LIVE FROM HELSINKI SLUMS Planet of Slums, Mason Gross Galleries, NJ. U.S.A  
2010 ARE WE IN OZ YET? 1959 Kultur Cirkus, Malakta art factory, Malax, FI  
2010 THE NEXT MAN WHO WALKS THROUGH THAT DOOR, I WILL MARRY Kunsti Museum of Art, Vaasa FI  
2009 FATHER, FATHER, FATHER Art Omi, NY, U.S.A  
2008 A LETTER TO MY LOVER Fusion Rebuild. Zagora, MAROC  
2004 CORPORATIONS MAKE ME SICK Public Intervention. Melbourne, AUS  
2004 RESISTANCE THROUGH RITUALS Westspace Inc, Melbourne, AUS; group show  
2003-04 SALAAM NOT WAR Aerosol Art Produced up to 40 graffiti pieces in various public spaces. AUS  
2003 MORNING NEWS Intervention, Platform Art Gallery. Flinders Street Station, Melbourne AUS  
2003 ALL IS NOT WHAT IT SEEMS Photo Intervention. Homeless Gallery, Fringe Festival, Melbourne, AUS  
2000 F20, Albury Regional Art Gallery and local shop fronts, Albury, AUS; group show  
1998 STARTING OUT: VCE Top CATs. National Gallery of Victoria; La Trobe Regional Gallery, AUS; group show

### Group/Artist Collaborations

2019 MATERIAL INSANITY, Limited Edition Tote bag, Museum of African Contemporary Art (MAACAL), MAROC  
2019 LABUAN SQUARE, Community art event in a public shopping strip, Urban Badlands Collective, Geelong AUS  
2014 CATALYSTI CAFÉ (CatCa) A series of gatherings for transcultural artists, Helsinki, FI  
2013 CONVERSATION PIECE Weekly interactive performances. Stoa Cultural Centre, FI  
2013 KONTAINING13: TRACES Process orientated events in a shipping container, Helsinki, FI  
2012 KONTAINING Takeover of a shipping container, Helsinki, FI  
2011 DURATIONAL RELATIONAL, Performance XL Art Space, FI  
2010-11 SHuSH Temporary art events in abandoned spaces in Melbourne, Vaasa and Helsinki

2003 FOUND ON NICHOLSON ST Public Installation: aerosol panels/ doors. Big West Fest, Mel, AUS  
2003-04 THE THIRD DEGREE Monthly art night satirising social and political issues. Bar Open, Melbourne, AUS

### **Residencies**

2014 New National Museum, Gullö, FI  
2010 Platform, Vaasa, FI  
2009 Art Omi - International Artist Residency, Ghent, New York, USA  
2008 Terre Sans Frontier – Fusion Rebuild, Zagora, MAROC  
2008 Triangle Arts Trust and Makan – Shatana International Artist workshop, Jordan  
2005 City of Whittlesea – Artist in schools, Whittlesea, AUS

### **Workshops & facilitation in cultural contexts**

2017 WATERCOLOUR AND WINE for beginners, The Presentation Place, Williamstown, AUS  
2015 DESIGN YOUR OPINION! *Caisa Cultural Centre*, FI  
2014 WHAT'S AN ARAB? *Helenä Rautavaara Museum & Finnish/French High school* FI  
2014 DESIGN YOUR OPINION! *Kiasma Museum of Contemporary Art*, FI  
2011- 12 YOUTH PROGRAMME COORDINATOR/PROJECT MANAGER *Helsinki Art Museum*, FI  
2012 How to make trouble and influence people in Helsinki II. Transition Hall 14, Taidekoulu maa, Helsinki FI  
2012 How to make trouble and influence people in Helsinki. Kaiku-galleria, Academy of Fine Arts, Helsinki FI.  
2006 -07 PROJECT ARTIST *South London Gallery*, UK  
2006 -07 PROJECT ARTIST *National Portrait Gallery*, UK  
2006 LEAD ARTIST *Victoria and Albert Museum*, UK  
2006 WORKSHOP LEADER. *Victoria and Albert Museum*, UK

### **Artist talks/panels**

2019 Soup and Socially Engaged Art, Talk and discussion group, Kaffila Bokvilla, Helsinki FI  
2018 Artist Talk Platform space, Vaasa, FI  
2015 A Cookbook to Art and Integration in Finland, Aalto School of Art, Design and Architecture Helsinki, FI  
2013 Our Cuisine = Our Stories, Ptarmigan, Estonia  
2013 Our Cuisine = Our Stories, foodycle, Pixelache, Helsinki, FI  
2012 Multicultural Forum: cultural diversity in Finnish art institutions? Museum of Cultures, Helsinki, FI  
2011 Activity Not Passivity, International Conference & Festival for Live Art and Performance studies, Helsinki, FI  
2010 Artist Talk, Kunsti Museum of Modern Art, Vaasa, FI

### **Media Coverage/ Reviews**

2M, Interview on my work in the Public Space exhibition. News broadcast. 1<sup>st</sup> Nov, 2014  
Yle Areena, TV1 Channel News broadcast, July 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2013  
Yle Uutiset, Finland's interest in foreign artists, July 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2013  
Sunday Arts, Art Scandals-Terrorism, March 11<sup>th</sup> 2007  
Channel 31, The Sessions, Artist interview, Feb 2005  
The Times, Amal sick of vomit, July 27<sup>th</sup> 2004  
Mondo Thingy ABC TV, Discussion on arts practice, July 15<sup>th</sup> 2004  
The Herald Sun, Street artist painted into corner, July 2<sup>nd</sup> 2004 page 6  
The Age, Absolutely Spewing, July 3<sup>rd</sup> 2004 A2 page 3  
SBS radio Alchemy program, Corporations make me sick, live performance, June 2004  
Spinach 7, Gut Reaction Autumn/Winter 2004 Page 11  
Arts 21, Top Marks, Top CATs, Volume 4, Number 1, Autumn 1998 page 15  
Herald Sun, Teens bare art and soul, March 10<sup>th</sup> 1998, Page 33

### **Professional Affiliations / Associations**

2012 -15 CATALYSTI OY – Transcultural Artist Association. Founding Member and Treasurer  
2011 -14 PTARMIGAN OY Cultural Activator of Situations/ Secretary

### **Grants**

2020 New Work Grant, (Urban Badlands Collective) Geelong After Dark.  
2018 Project Grant, Hobsons Bay City Council.  
2015 Project Grant, Arts Promotion Centre Finland.  
2014 Residency Grant. (Group), Kone Foundation.  
Project Grant, Arts Promotion Centre Finland.  
2013 Project Grant, (Group) Kone Foundation.  
Project Grant, Arts Promotion Centre Finland.  
2012 Project Grant, Arts Promotion Centre Finland.

### **Awards and Commissions**

2019 Summer of Street Art, commissioned by Melton City Council  
2015 Helsinki City, Artist award