



DIANA LUI (b. 1968)

Diana Lui is an artist and filmmaker of Chinese and Sikh origins from Malaysia. She was sent in the 1980's at age 14 to further her studies in Los Angeles, California. After 12 years in the United States, Lui moved to Europe, first to Belgium and finally to France in 1998. Lui's transient life between three different continents has developed in her a heightened sense of "rootlessness". This "loss of self" became later the center from which her art took shape. Consequently, her work for the last 30 years questions the changing definition of cross-cultural identities, past, present, future identities, hybrid identities as well as non-identities.

Diana Lui's early art education was influenced by teachers Robert Heinecken and Jan Stüssy, prominent artists of the 1960's Post-Modernist period. Lui specialized in photogravure and platinum/palladium printing under the guidance of Los Angeles master printmaker Anthony Zepeda, Rauschenberg's former printer.

Based in Paris for almost 20 years, Lui works between Europe, North Africa and Asia. A master with the 8x10 inch view camera, Diana Lui develops projects over several years. Diana Lui's large format photographic portraits have been compared to August Sander's portraits of the German people. However, Lui takes off from August Sander's objectivity with a lyricism and sensitivity of her own interpretation.

Her project since 2009 explores the veil and traditional costume and their universal semantics in Northern Africa, Asia and Europe. Recent exhibitions include a series of striking portraits on women in traditional costume from Tunisia at the Institut du Monde Arabe (Arab World Institute) in Paris, portraits of Moroccan women in traditional veiled costumes at the Obscura Festival of Photography in Penang, portraits on Malaysian women's contemporary identity at the George Town Festival in Penang and portraits of women in traditional costume from the Occitane region in southwestern France (150 km from the Mediterranean sea) at the contemporary art museum Les Abattoirs and Musée Paul Dupuy, both in Toulouse. Lui is collected by public institutions and private collectors worldwide. Recent collectors included King Mohammed VI from Morocco and the new Mandarin Oriental in Marrakech.

Lui's latest experimental project involves our identification with the universe through astronomy and astrophysics where she collaborated with scientists who are working on planet Mars at the Institut de Recherche en Astrophysique et Planétologie, IRAP (Research Institute for Astrophysics and Planetology) in Toulouse, capital of the European aerospace industry.



EDUCATION

Bachelor of Fine Arts

- University of California, Los Angeles
- Art Center College of Design, Pasadena, California, USA

SELECTED SOLO EXHIBITIONS

- 2016 **Museum of Contemporary Art Les Abattoirs, Toulouse, France – *Les Etoiles de Diana (Diana's Stars), Résidence 1+2*** - exhibition and photography book under the same title, 80 pages, edited by Editions Filigranes, Paris
Galerie Carole Decombe, Los Angeles, California – photography exhibition in new gallery
- 2015 **George Town Festival, Penang Island, Malaysia – *Totem*** – a photographic exploration on women's contemporary and traditional identities in multicultural and multiracial Malaysia
Obscura Festival of Photography, Penang Island, Malaysia – *The Essential Veil* – photographs on the diverse and rich symbolic meanings of the traditional costume in Moroccan culture
Alliance Française de Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia & Alliance Française de Singapour – *Totem* – travelling exhibition, a photographic exploration on women's contemporary and traditional identities in multicultural and multiracial Malaysia, accompanied by talks and conferences
Wei Ling Gallery, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia – *The Feminine Beyond* - nude portraits of women and portraits of women in traditional Moroccan costumes
- 2013-2014 **Institut du Monde Arabe, Paris - *L'Envers des Corps*** – between tradition and revolution, a contemporary portrait on Tunisian women
Galerie Carole Decombe, Paris - *Cities of the Immortals* – photogravures - photographs from the Trans-Mongolian, Trans-Tibetan and China
Galerie Carole Decombe, Paris – *Carrément Audacieux (Squarely Audacious)* – black and white portraits from the *Intimate Portraits* series
- 2012 **Galerija Fotografija, Ljubljana - *The Feminine Beyond*** - nude portraits of women and portraits of women in traditional Moroccan costumes
Galerie Carole Decombe, Paris - *Sensations*
MIA Art Fair, Superstudio Più, Milan - Galerija Fotografija
- 2011 **Institut Français, Fez, Morocco - *Le Voile Essentiel - II*** - photos & on site installation - continuing series on the semantics of veiled and traditional costumes in Morocco
- 2010 **Galerie 127, Marrakesh – *Le Voile Essentiel*** - photo, video & installation - research on traditional Moroccan costumes
Château Maisons-Laffitte – *Pur Sang* - photos & installation, catalogue 75 pages, Editions Filigranes



Wei-Ling Gallery

Sentier du Rhône - *Rivière Infinie* - artist residence and outdoor installation - 15-meter long mirror installed at the entrance of an 18th century bridge, Pont Rochemaure, in the Ardèche region.

Galerie Sponte, Paris - *Intemporel*

2009 **Galerie Sponte, Paris - *Photographe sous influences***

2008 **Galerie Sinitude, Paris - *Femmes, Arbres et Hommes***

2007 **Guangdong Museum of Art, China - *Cities of the Immortals*** - 86 pg. hardcover catalogue

HOP Gallery, Tallinn, Estonia - *Merimetsan Alchemy* - social art therapy project & photo exhibition

Conservatoire du Cap Corse, Canari, Corsica – photos & short film - portraits of Corsicans in 18th century costumes – permanent exhibition

2006 **Galerija Fotografija, Ljubljana - *Trees, Individuals, & Sexuality***

Aura Gallery, Shanghai - *Trees, Individuals, and Sexuality* - 86 pg. catalogue

2005 **Museo de Bellas Artes, Caracas, Venezuela – *Retratos Intimos*** - 76 pg. catalogue

2004 **Fototeca & Cineteca of Monterrey, Mexico – *Sensations*** - color portraits, short film

2003 **Galerie Cathay, Paris – *Portraits Intimes***

SELECTED GROUP EXHIBITIONS

2017 **KL BIENNALE - National Visual Arts Gallery, Kuala Lumpur**, first art biennale of Malaysia, over 100 local and overseas artists exhibiting - ***Totem, an artist book in 8 triptychs***, with photographs and text all hand-bound, gold embossed with hand-woven *songket* from Borneo

Through Rose-Tinted Glasses, Wei-Ling Contemporary, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

Musée Paul Dupuy, Toulouse, France – *Les Etoiles de Diana, Résidence 1+2* - group exhibition from a multi-disciplinary artist residence, Résidence 1+2 Toulouse

ARTS ELYSEES/Paris, AKA/Paris(Also Known As Africa) - contemporary art fairs

Galerie Carole Decombe, Paris – *Des Femmes en Or* - this year's annual theme organised by Paris' antiquarian and art district Carré Rive Gauche is dedicated to everything “Gold” from photography, painting, furniture, decorative objects to designer lights

2016 **Galerie Huit, Arles, France - *WUNDERKAMMER III*** - artist book ***Totem***, presented during Rencontres d'Arles Festival, a limited edition artist book handmade by artisans from Malaysian Borneo and Paris, with portraits of Malaysian women, handwoven silk and gold fabric, hand-bound and title embossed with gold



Wei-Ling Gallery

- Galerie Carole Decombe, Paris – *Femmes! Femmes! Femmes!*** - this year's annual theme organised by Paris' antiquarian and art district Carré Rive Gauche is dedicated to “Women”, sculptures, photography and signed vintage designer lights and furniture from Denmark.
- 2015 **Black Box Gallery, MAP Publika, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia - *PERSON(A)*** - “AUM #0”, a life-size photogram of the artist presented in a large light-box installation, is part of 20 Malaysian artists works on the “self”, images of Malaysian personas, through personal inquiries shaped by social, political, geographical and technological states
- 2014 **Mois de la Photo à Paris, Espace Photographique de l'Hôtel de Sauroy - *Un Maroc raconté autrement – Photographie Méditerranéenne*** (A Different Tale of Morocco – Mediterranean Photography) organised by Galerie 127, Morocco
- 2013 **Fotopub Festival, Slovenia**
- 2012 **Fotofever, Tour & Taxis, Bruxelles – Galerie 127**
- Marsio Fine Art Gallery, Jakarta, Indonesia - *When East Meets East*** - photographs by Diana Lui and Klavdij Sluban
- Dali International Photography Exhibition, Yunnan Province, China – *Vu de France***
- 2011 **Paris Photo, Grand Palais – Galerija Fotografija** - presentation of 2 portfolios edited by Editions Chez Higgins, *Les Méduses* (D.Lui) and *Chez Robert Frank* (D.Lui & K.Sluban)
- Fotofever, Espace Pierre Cardin – Galerie 127**
- Marrakech Art Fair, Palace Es Saadi – Galerie 127**
- 2009 **Valentine Willie Fine Art gallery, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia - *Cut 09*** - the photographic body in S.E. Asia (photographers include Manit Sriwanichpoom, I-Lann Yee, David Linggar)
- Valentine Willie Fine Art gallery , Singapore - *Cut 09***
- PhotoBeijing/ArtBeijing Fair, China**
- Galerie Lipao Huang, Paris – *Paris-Pékin*** - photographs by Marc Riboud, Klavdij Sluban & Diana Lui
- Art Show/AVIFF Film Festival, Cannes, France**
- 2008 **Shanghai Art Museum, China - *Another Voice... We*** - first exhibit in a major Chinese museum by int'l contemporary women artists, 144 pg. catalogue
- Huachen Auctions, Beijing, China**
- ArtBeijing Fair, China**
- Dashanbao Art Festival, Yunnan Province, China**



2007 **ArtCurial Auctions, Paris**

Tallinn Art Hall, Tallinn, Estonia - *Sex Market* - int'l exhibit on the rise of prostitution in Eastern Europe

2006 **Agnès B. , London - *Chance - a curatorial exercise*** - curated by art magazine *Chance* **Jerwood Space, London - *Blurred Certainty*** - the photographic image and digital manipulation **Musée de la Photographie à Charleroi, Belgium - *15ème Prix Nationale Photographie Ouverte***

Lianzhou International Photo Festival, China

2004 **Beijing's Millenium Museum for Contemporary Art - 3rd Ping Yao Int'l Festival of Photography**

2003 **The 3rd Ping Yao International Festival of Photography, China**

La Bourse du Talent - Espace Picto Montparnasse, Paris - exhibition of the winners' work

AWARDS, SCHOLARSHIPS, COMMISSIONS, ARTIST RESIDENCES

2016 **1+2 Toulouse** – first edition, artist residence in Toulouse centered on mentorship and creation between 3 photographers, a renowned photographer and two young budding photographers, a large exhibition will culminate in the 6-week residence between Toulouse, Brussels and Barcelona

2015 **Alliances Françaises de Kuala Lumpur & de Singapour** – part funding & artist residence for photography project and exhibition ***Totem***

2011 **Dar Batha, French Institute, Fez, Morocco** - artist in residence

2010 **Château Maisons-Laffitte – *Pur Sang*** - photos & installation, artist residence, catalogue 75pages, Editions Filigranes

Sentier du Rhône – artist residence and outdoor installation: *Rivière Infinie* - 15 meter long wavy mirror installed at the entrance of an 18th century bridge, Pont Rochemaure, in the Ardeche region.

2009 **Rimbun Dahan, Center for traditional & contemporary art forms, Malaysia** - artist in residence

Riad Denise Masson, French Institute, Marrakesh, Morocco - artist in residence

2008 **Concours du Consulat Général de France, Shanghai, China** - artist residence/scholarship for art installation projet (***Another Voice*** exhibit) in situ at the Shanghai Art Museum

Fondation HSBC pour la Photographie, Paris, France - finalist

2007 **Bourse du Centre Culturel Français, Tallinn, Estonia** - scholarship for exhibition and art as therapy project ***Merimetsan Alchemy***



- 18th **Conservatoire du Cap Corse, Canari, Corsica** - portraits of Corsicans in costumes from the century, commissioned by the museum for its permanent exhibition
- 2006 **15ème Prix National Photographie Ouverte organised by the Musée de la Photographie à Charleroi(Belgium)** - winner for black & white nude portraits
- 2005 **Prix FNAC Européen de la Photographie 2005(Belgium)** - finalist
- 2003 **Prix Kodak de la Critique Photographique 2003(France)** - second place
- Winner of LA 20ÈME BOURSE DU TALENT (France)** - on the theme *Portraits dans tous les états*
- 2000 **SEARCH FOR ART (Europe) - Mandarina Duck Competition** - semi-finalist and published together with 100 young international contemporary artists
- 1999 **LA 5ÈME BOURSE DU TALENT(France)** - finalist
- 1994 **FESTIVAL INTERNATIONAL DE LA PHOTO DE MODE (Carrousel du Louvre, Paris) Winner of Best Young Talent - Kaleidoscope [Kodak & Nikon Prize]**
- 1989 **UCLA CULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMISSION – *Altered States of Ambiguity***, nude photography triptych, mixed media

PERMANENT PUBLIC COLLECTION (non-exhaustive)

CEDIM Design and Visual Arts Institute, Monterrey, Nuevo Leon, Mexico
King Mohammed VI from Morocco
Mandarin Oriental Hotel,
Marrakech Bibliothèque Nationale
de France, Paris Guangdong
Museum of Art, China
Musée de la Photographie à Charleroi,
Belgium Museo de Bellas Artes, Caracas,
Venezuela Fototeca de Monterrey, Nuevo
Leon, Mexico Conservatoire du Cap Corse
de Canari, France
University of California, Los Angeles, USA

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Retratos Intimos, text by Tomás Rodríguez Soto (curator) and Adam Beinash (Art & Auction, New York), 76 pages. Museo de Bellas Artes de Caracas, Venezuela, 2005

Trees, Individuals & Sexuality, 86 pages. Aura Gallery, Shanghai, 2006

Cities of the Immortals, text by Richard Vine (Managing Editor, Art in America, New York) and Jean Loh (curator), 86 pages, hardcover. Guangdong Museum of Art, Beaugeste Editions, Shanghai, 2007

Another Voice, We..., text by Xiao Xiao Lan (curator), 144 pages. Shanghai Art Museum, 2008



Pur-Sang, Diana Lui & Klavdij Sluban, text by Thierry Dumanoir (curator), 70 pages, hardcover. Centre des Monuments Nationaux/Editions Filigranes, Hors Collection, Paris 2010

Les Méduses, text by Anne Biroleau-Lemagny (general curator, Bibliothèque National de France), collectors' portfolio of 15 original prints, Editions Chez Higgins, Collection Vanités, Paris 2011

Chez Robert Frank, photos and text by Diana Lui & Klavdij Sluban, collectors' portfolio of 15 original prints, Editions Chez Higgins, Collection Témoignages, Paris 2011

Les Etoiles de Diana (Diana's Stars), photos and text by Diana Lui, 80 pages, softcover, in collaboration with artist residence Résidence 1+2 Toulouse, Editions Filigranes, Paris 2016

Totem, an artist book - 8 triptychs, photographs and text printed on Japanese kozo paper, hand-bound, gold embossed with hand-woven silk, gold and metallic threads called *songket* from Borneo, self-published, Paris and Malaysia 2016

PRESS (selection)

Asian Geographic(Singapore)-*Diana, a totem of her generation*, Issue°3, N°44, 2016; **Sunday Star 2**(Malaysia)-*Search for Identity*, 16th August, 2015; **Télématin France 2**-*L'envers des corps, à travers la Tunisie d'hier et d'aujourd'hui*, présenté par Thomas Hervé, émission (30/01/2014); **En Sol Majeur RFI**-*Diana Lui*, présenté par Yasmine Chouaki, émission (02/04/2013); **Mladina**(Slovénie)-*Diana Lui - priznana fotografinja*,..(weekly news magazine, N°29, 19/07/2013); **L'OFFICEL**(Maroc) – *Portraits (Dé)voiles*, portfolio – avril 2011; **Réponses Photo**(France) – Hors Série N°9 *Les Mystères du Portrait*, 2010; **MANGAZINE**(Chine)-*Another Voice, We...*, Septembre 2008; **VISION**(Chine) - *Roots* - portraits - November 2007; **EL UNIVERSAL**(Venezuela)/janvier 2005, **EL NACIONAL**(Venezuela)/février 2005, **ARTE AL DIA**(Venezuela)/mars 2005 - journaux nationaux et magazines culturels, articles & critiques sur l'exposition au Museo de Bellas Artes, Caracas

FILMOGRAPHY

2009-2010 **MISS HOMELESS** – long experimental film on a controversial "beauty" contest for the homeless that took place in Belgium in 2009 (in the making)

2004 – 2006 **AN ISLAND FOR MONKEYS** – Short film (16mm b&w, color, 30 minutes) exploring the poetic and rational minds of mental patients abandoned on an island

2001 **FOUR PLAY** – Short film (16 mm b&w, color, 8 minutes), reveals how social and sexual hierarchies are established through the capoeira, a Brazilian martial art/dance - **official selection at the 2002**

International Women Film Festival Créteil (Paris) France, 2009 Art Show/AVIFF Film Festival, Cannes, France



WORKSHOPS & CONFERENCES (selection)

2008 - 2017

FRANCE

Festival des Rencontres de la Photographie d'Arles, France - photography workshop on "The Intimate and the Invisible" the many experimental ways of representing the "self" or "other"

2016

Toulouse - conferences, workshops

- Espace Saint-Cyprien - photo workshop, organised by Résidence 1+2
- Espace Saint-Cyprien - conference, organised by ETPA, Ecole de Photographie et Game Design
- Centre Culturel de Bellegarde, video and photography workshop "Autoportrait & the New Narrative"
- Musée les Abattoirs - conferences & seminars, organised by Résidence 1+2

2015

Metz - conference and photo workshop at Photo-Forum

2015

MALAYSIA

Obscura Festival of Photography – **The New Narrative** – storytelling in the 21st Century, an experimental workshop that looks at other forms of the visual and oral narrative, namely the moving image and sound to find new ways to tell stories

Alliance Française de Kuala Lumpur – artist talk **Seeing Beyond the "I"**, panel discussion **Women in Malaysia Today** with Marion D'Cruz (renown educator and choreographer in Malaysia), Colin Nicholas (activist and director of COAC, Center for Orang Asli Concerns, January Low (dancer of traditional Indian dance Odissi), Laura Fan (art historian and art critic)

INDONESIA

Workshop at OKTAGON, Jakarta

SLOVENIA

Fotopub festival - photography workshop

Galerija Fotografija - **Defining your photographic identity**, workshop

2004 – 2007

CHINA

Guangdong Museum of Art - artist talk, conference

MEXICO - workshops at CEDIM Design and Visual Arts Institute, Monterrey

Images from our Daily Life, deciphering and developing a higher consciousness of images from the advertising world today

The Intuitive Eye, developing and trusting our intuition through the camera in different environmental and emotional conditions

ESTONIA



Wei-Ling Gallery

photo workshop at Merimetsa Rehabilitation Center, Tallinn, photo exhibition

VENEZUELA

artist talk, conference & portfolio review workshop- Museo de Bellas Artes, Caracas, and
ONG(Nelson Garrido Art Institute), Caracas

INDONESIA

artist talk, workshop & portfolio review - Cemeti Art House, Yogyakarta

1988, 1994, 2009, 2011

MALAYSIA

artist talk, Malaysian Institute of Arts(MIA), Kuala Lumpur