

2023 04 18

Letter of Recommendation for Ihsan Saad Ihsan Tahir

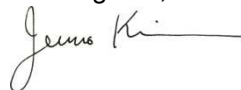
I came to know Ihsan Tahir as his teacher and advisor in the BFA school at The Royal Danish Academy of Fine Arts, where we worked together for 2 years that culminated in his BFA3 exam project. Ihsan was a focused, dedicated, and prolific young artist who had an ambitious exam project, which he executed systematicall.

Ihsan was a positive input in the class, generous with his classmates during critiques, coming with valuable insight and attentiveness. He also took on key tasks on behalf of the class, that was indispensable in the process of executing the BFA exam show, that requires the students to collaborate on curating and executing the exhibition together. While Ihsan and I sometimes had disagreements regarding issues such as freedom of expression and politics of appropriation, Ihsan learned to uphold his end of the argument in a discursive manner which I saw as a strong potential for him to grow and develop as an artist.

Ihsan embarks upon his Masters studies that will require him to expand upon the foundational methods, tools, and research frameworks that he acquired in the BFA education, and burgeon his artistic research trajectories and inquiries that will allow him to further develop and mature as a visual artist. This is why I support his decision to apply for studies outside of Denmark, since I wish for him to acquire wider conceptual, theoretical, and representational awareness in regard to the politics of art-making and the economy of who and what gets to be seen. I wish for Ihsan to be exposed to wider visual vocabularies and the politics of representation, that will further his ability for dialectical thinking, and to understand paradoxes.

Ihsan has an enormous capacity for learning and is bold in his ability to give form to an idea, working with questions that are multi-layered in terms of personal and collective histories, and the intricacies of visual story telling. It is exciting to witness his artistic and intellectual development, and I hope he will be given further opportunities to study and realize projects that will be crucial to his understanding of the social, political, and contextual specificities of what it means to be making art at this time and history.

Best regards,



Jeuno Kim

Studieleder, BFA School

Pro rector, Kunstakademiet



Copenhagen 20.12.2023

Letter of Recommendation

Ihsan Tahir is currently in his second year of the 3-year Masters course at the School of Sculpture at the Royal Danish Academy of Fine Arts in Copenhagen.

Ihsan is a dedicated and ambitious student and has already demonstrated a deep commitment to his artistic practice. His use of a wide range of media, from text to sculpture to painting, combined with his diverse field of experience, make him an outstanding contributor to the department's discussion.

Ihsan's practice links personal memory with larger aesthetic and political histories. A child of working-class parents from the Iraqi diaspora in Scandinavia, Ihsan navigates complex historical, cultural and socio-political concerns, often negotiating complex discussions of class, loyalty and belonging.

Ihsan has an enormous capacity for learning and a great will to develop. I look forward to following his future artistic and intellectual development and hope that he will be given further opportunities to study and realise projects; to engage with what it means to make art at this time in history.

Professor Simon Dybbroe Møller

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