ELISA CALDANA

Architecture, public spaces, monuments, and collective identity are recurrent themes within my work.
Elisa Caldana is an artist working primarily with sculpture, performance, film, and writing. Her works are united conceptually by the use of abstraction and imagination to draw attention to political and social issues, analysing the paradoxes and liminal spaces that generate from the coexistence of plural standpoints. Architecture, public spaces, monuments, and collective identity are recurrent themes within her work.

WEBSITES

www.elisacaldana.info

www.elisacaldana.info/elisa-caldana-biography.html

SOCIAL MEDIA

www.instagram.com/studioelisacaldana/

EDUCATION

2020 - 2021	Post-academic institute for research and production in the fields of fine art, design and art theory Maastricht, Jan van Eyck Academie
2010 - 2013	Maisterschuler in Fine Art (Simon Starling's class) Hochschule für Bildende Künste Städelschule diploma
2010 - 2010	Sculpture Workshop (Prog. Liliana Moro) International Summer Academy of Fine Arts in Salzburg
2009 - 2011	Master in Visual Arts IUAV University of Venice diploma
2005 - 2008	BA in Visual and Performing Arts IUAV University of Venice diploma

EXHIBITIONS

2026	States of Violence Platform POST Nijmegen, Netherlands www.platformpost.nl/programma/nijmegen-states-of-violence-anna-engelhardt-mark Group
2026	The Shadow of the Tree 2 – Artist film exhibition Donnaregina Contemporary Art Museum – Madre Museum Naples, Italy www.madrenapoli.it/en/exhibition/the-

INTERNATIONAL EXCHANGES/RESIDENCIES

2023	Vasl Artists' Collective, Karachi, Pakistan Karachi, Pakistan vaslart.org/the-falcon-of-karachi/
2018	Tokyo Arts and Space (Museum of Contemporary Arts Tokyo) Tokyo, Japan International Creators Residency Program www.tokyoartsandspace.jp/en/creator/index/C/138.

shadow-of-the-tree-2/
Group

2025 The Falcon of Karachi MACTE Museum of Contemporary Art Termoli, Italy www.fondazionemacte.com/en/programma/elisa-caldana-the-falcon-of-karachi
Solo

2024 The Falcon of Karachi WEST Den Haag The Hague, Netherlands www.e-flux.com/announcements/588439/elisa-caldanathe-falcon-of-karachi/
Solo

2024 The Falcon of Karachi SIC Art Space Helsinki, Finland www.sicspace.net/index.php/past/elisa-caldana--the-falcon-of-karachi/
Solo

2024 The Falcon of Karachi Vasl's Artist Association - Full Circle Gallery Karachi, Pakistan vaslart.org/the-falcon-of-karachi/
Solo

2023 FUORI TUTTO Maxxi videogallery MAXXI Museum of Contemporary Art Rome, Italy A wide selection of video works, themes and protagonists at the heart of MAXXI's Collection and its exhibition programming. With works by the artists: Jennifer Allora & Guillermo Calzadilla, Yuri Ancarani, Giorgio Andreotta Calò, Ila Bêka & Louise Lemoîne, Elisa Caldana, Cao Fei, Gea Casolaro, Chto Delat, Tomaso De Luca, Gianluca & Massimiliano De Serio, Chia-En Jao, Malik Nejmi, Vladimir Nikolic, Oliver Ressler, Mario Rizzi, Shahzia Sikander, Diego Tonus, Clemens von Wedemeyer, Wang Jianwei, Mary Zygouri. www.maxxi.art/en/events/videogallery-fuori-tutto/
Group

2022 Istituto Italiano di Cultura di Città del Messico Mexico City, Mexico Exhibition in connection with a one-month residency organized by the artist-run space ERROR proyecto in collaboration with the Italian Cultural Institute in Mexico City.
Duo

2021 Times of Crisis Villa delle Rose Bologna, Italy Promoted by MAMbo Museum of Modern Art, Bologna www.mambo-bologna.org/news/news-131/
Duo

2020 Never Again ROZENSTRAAT - a rose is a rose is a rose Amsterdam, Netherlands

2017 Acme Studio International Residency London, United Kingdom A one-year residency in London awarded by the Hessische Kulturstiftung (Wiesbaden), Germany www.hkst.de/en/maecenas/stipendiatin-elisa-caldana/

www.rozenstraat.com/
Solo

2020 Capital Fever Corridor Project Space Amsterdam, Netherlands (Upcoming) Duo-exhibition with Osaka-based artist Aki Nagasaka.
www.corridorprojectspace.com/
Duo

2019 Shutterstreet Sandretto Re Rebaudengo Foundation (Palazzo Carignano) Turin, Italy The installation "Shutterstreet" now on view within the court of Palazzo Carignano in #Turin (until January 2019). Shutterstreet is a corridor made of closed down shop-shutters. The installation establishes a symbolic and aesthetic contrast with the baroque architecture and its political, institutional past, inviting the passersby to reflect on a more recent socio-cultural inheritance. "Shutterstreet" comes from the Japanese word ☒☒☒☒☒☒☒ which refers to a shopping street of closed down shops, where small businesses appear to have ceased their activities due to failing competition against larger brands and the internet. As part of this ongoing installation, I gradually collect shop-shutters from different cities internationally, by offering shop-owners new shutters in exchange for their old ones. Taken as a symbol, the closed down shutters gathered together in this installation express the image of a global phenomenon. Presented by Fondazione Sandretto Re Rebaudengo, as part of the project "Circular Economy & Art".
fsrr.org/elisa-caldana-shutterstreet/
Solo

2019 Foreshadows Tokyo Arts and Space Hongo Tokyo, Japan
//www.tokyoartsandspace.jp/en/archive/exhibition/2019/20190413-4454.html
Group

2019 Pure Fiction Mausoleum Städelschule Frankfurt am Main, Germany
Group

2018 That's IT MAMbo Museum of Modern Art Bologna, Italy Curated by Lorenzo Balbi
www.mambo-bologna.org/en/
Group

2017 Topography of Terror (19.12.2016) ar/ge kunst Kunstverein Bozen, Italy Curated by Emanuele Guidi www.argekunst.it/
Duo

2016 Step by Step Sandretto Re Rebaudengo Foundation Turin, Italy fsrr.org/en/ Group

COMMISSIONS

2019 Monument to Nonexistent Streets Gemeente of San Vito al Tagliamento Pordenone, Italy This idea of monument celebrates the fictitious streets invented by the Italian public administration as a bureaucratic stratagem. In fact, the title of the project means 'Monument to Nonexistent Streets' and alludes to the Italian law according to which every city within the national territory can invent a fake street. These streets are not real but only exist as names in order to give a permanent address to homeless people. In this way, these citizens are given access to fundamental rights such as voting and the right to receive medical assistance.

SALES/WORKS IN COLLECTIONS

2024 The Falcon of Karachi MACTE Museum Termoli, Italië

2022 Temporarily Closed MAMbo Museum of Contemporary Art Bologna, Italië

2020 Topography of Terror MAXXI - National Museum of the 21st Century Arts Rome, Italië

2016 The Island Behind The Horizon Sandretto Re Rebaudengo Foundation Turin, Duitsland The film was shot at a point in the Mediterranean sea where the island of Lampedusa—Italy's southernmost tip and access-point for migrants to Europe—lies hidden behind the horizon. I reached this location at sea, which I identified as a meaningful limit line, in November 2015.

2012 I can't stay (edition) Portikus e.V Frankfurt am Main, Duitsland I was invited by Simon Starling to produce an Artist Edition for the Portikus e.V. collection and in support of the Staedelschule. The work consists of two texts printed on the front and back of a sheet of DIN A4. The front shows a fictitious dialogue, while on the back the situation is described that gave me inspiration for this dialogue.

PUBLICATIONS

2024 The Falcon of Karachi Book Mousse publishing Elisa Caldana Milan, Italy www.moussemagazine.it/shop/elisa-caldana-the-falcon-of-karachi/

2021 Times of Crisis Book MAMbo Museum of Modern Art Elisa Caldana, Aki Nagasaka Bologna, Italy Artist book/exhibition catalogue for Times of Crisis, in connection with ROSE Residency Program at Villa delle Rose promoted by MAMbo Museum of Modern Art, Bologna

2020 Never Again Catalog Mousse publishing Elisa Caldana, Diego Tonus Milan, Italy

REVIEWS

2026 States of Violence – Hoe te dealen met staatsterreut? Magazine Domeniek Ruyters Amsterdam, Netherlands www.metropolism.com/nl/recensie/states-of-violence-hoe-te-dealen-met-staatsterreur/ Exhibition review published in Metropolis M, 2 April 2026

2026 De staat ziet alles, maar geeft niets terug – over States of Violence in POST Nijmegen Website Josephine Broekhuizen Amsterdam, Netherlands www.mistermotley.nl/de-staat-ziet-alles-maar-geeft-niets-terug-over-states-of-violence-in-post-nijmegen/ Essay published in Mister Motley, 21 April 2026

With texts by Charles Esche, Gareth Evans, Mark von Schlegell, and Elisa Caldana in conversation with Diego Tonus and Emanuele Guidi (director of ar/ge kunst Kunstverein, Bolzano)

2018 That's IT! Catalog MAMbo Museum of Modern Art Various Authors Bologna, Italy

2016 Step by Step Catalog Sandretto re Rebaudengo Foudantion Various Turin, Italy

2015 Hamlet, mise-en-scene EXTRA TROUBLE-Jack Smith in Frankfurt Catalog Sternberg Press Various Frankfurt am Main, Germany Ed. Sophie von Olfers, Mark von Schlegell

2025 Falcons as Subjects, Not Metaphors Website Elisa Caldana, Veronica Pecile Rome, Italy www.neroeditions.com/falcons-as-subjects-not-metaphors/ Conversation between Elisa Caldana and Veronica Pecile on The Falcon of Karachi, published in NERO on 19 May 2025

2024 Magazine Elisa Caldana, Lucia Pietroiusti Milan, Italy www.moussemagazine.it/publishing/elisa-caldana-in-conversation-with-lucia-pietroiusti-the-falcon-of-karachi-book-2024/ Echoing Wildness: Elisa Caldana in Conversation with Lucia Pietroiusti

2021 Magazine Rome, Italy Artribune, Rome (online), December 5, 2021—[Review]

2020 Inside Art no. 119 - Quarterly Journal, Year 16 Magazine Fabrizia Carabelli Rome, Italy insideart.eu/ Focus on my work written by Fabrizia Carabelli - pp. 22-29 / Italian/English language

2018 Topography of Terror (19.12.2016) Website Juliet Art Magazine Trieste, Italy www.juliet-artmagazine.com/en/home-2/ Juliet Art Magazine, Year XXXVII, № 187, April–May, 2018—[Interview] p. 74

2018 Interview with Elisa Caldana Website That's Contemporary Milan, United Kingdom Interview in: That's Contemporary, Milan (online), February 10, 2018—[Interview]

2017 A Year Full of Shadows Magazine Barbara Casavecchia London, Italy FRIEZE "A Year Full of Shadows" by Barbara Casavecchia (online), December 23, 2017— [Review]

2017 INSIDE: Topography of Terror (19.12.2016) Newspaper Elisa Caldana, Diego Tonus Milan, Italy Interview in: FLASH ART ITALIA № 336, December 2017–January 2018—[Focus] pp. 42-47

2017 Topography of Terror (19.12.2016) Website Alto Adige Newspaper Bozen, Germany Interview in: Alto Adige (October 17, 2017)—Interview

2017 Website Elisa Caldana, Diego Tonus Wiesbaden, Germany www.hkst.de/en/maecenas/stipendiatin-elisa-caldana/ Interview in: Maecenas Journal, Summer Edition–Hessische KulturStiftung, June–August, 2017—[Interview]

AWARDS AND GRANTS

2025 Mondriaan Fonds Amsterdam Amsterdam, Netherlands Mondriaan Fonds, Kunstenaar Project

2024 PRO Onderzoek, Stroom Den Haag Den Haag, Netherlands

2024 Mondriaan Fonds Amsterdam Amsterdam, Netherlands Mondriaan Fonds, Publicatie

2023 Kunstenaar Project Mondriaan Fonds Amsterdam Amsterdam, Netherlands

2023 The Falcon of Karachi Italian Council XII Rome, Italy

2023 Italian Council Award Rome, Italy

2022 PRO Onderzoek (sinds 2004) Stroom, Den Haag The Hague, Italy Research grant

2022 Kunstenaar Basis Mondriaan Fonds Amsterdam Amsterdam, Italy

2020 Italian Council Award Rome, Italy

2019 MAXXI Bulgari Art Prize MAXXI Museum Rome, Japan MAXXI Bulgari Art Prize, Rome (preselected)

2019 ROSE Residency MAMbo Museum of Modern Art Bologna, Italy Residency grant for the making of an exhibition at Villa delle Rose, Bologna (2021)

2018 International Creator Residency Program Tokyo Arts and Space Tokyo, Germany Three-months production grant as part of the International Creator Residency Program “Tokyo Arts and Space” in Tokyo

2017 Travel Grant nctm e l'arte Milan, Italy

2016 London Atelier Stipendium Hessische Kulturstiftung Wiesbaden, Germany Hessische Kulturstiftung Foundation Award for Artists—[one-year production grant and international residency program in London, managed by Acme Studios]

SECONDARY ART-RELATED ACTIVITIES

2026 - 2026 Artist Talk at Madre Museum, Naple (18 June 2026)

2025 - 2025 Artist Talk and Film screening at Künstler*innenhaus Büchsenhausen, Innsbruck, Austria (3 April 2025)

2025 - 2025 Artist Talk at MACTE Museum of Contemporary Art, Termoli, Italy (15 February 2025)

2024 - 2024 Artist Talk at West Den Haag

2024 - 2024 Artist Talk at MACTE Museum of Contemporary Art, Termoli

2024 - 2024 Artist Talk at Vasl Artist Association - Full Circle Gallery, Karachi, Pakistan

2024 - 2024 Artist Talk at SIC gallery, Helsinki, Finland

2021 - 2021 Lecture as part of the seminar “Difficult Heritages: Monuments, Memories, Conflicts”, PhD program in Architecture, History and Philosophy, University of Genoa, Italy (April 15, 2021)

2021 - 2021 Two-week workshop to students of the Academy of Fine Art, Verona, Italy (November 26 to December 5, 2021) focusing on the production of their first individual moving-image artworks

2021 - 2021 Round table discussion “BLAST Aesthetics of Violence between image, video and document” University of Verona, Italy (December 14, 2021)

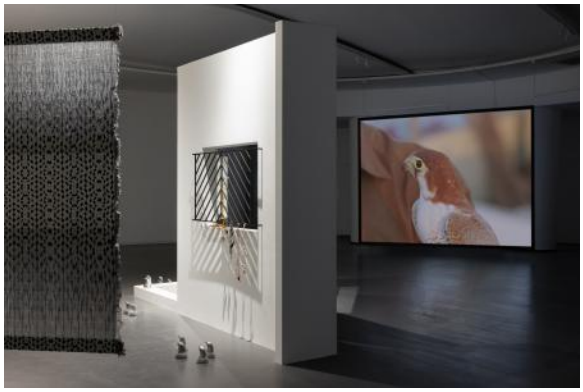
2021 - 2021 Member of a selection committee (invited by the University of Verona, Italy) selecting a winning moving-image artwork by a student for the Loop Barcelona Festival (2022)

2018 - 2019 Member of the selection committee of Nctm project grant (Milan, Italy)

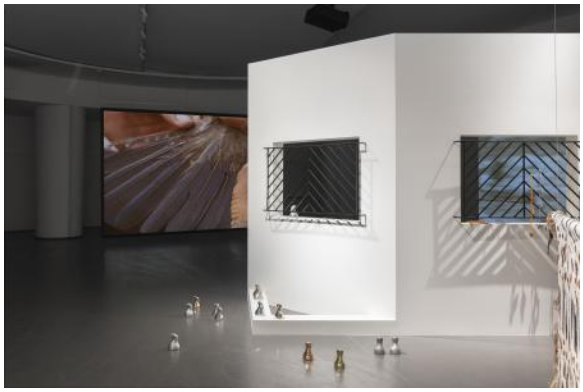
2011 - -- Founding member of Pure Fiction, a group of artists using fiction and writing as their medium, funded at the Städelschule with Mark von Schlegell On-going



The Falcon of Karachi, 2025
Video and Sculptural Installation



The Falcon of Karachi, 2025
Video and Sculptural Installation



The Falcon of Karachi, 2025
Video and Sculptural Installation



Falcon Heads, 2025
Cast sculpture (various metal alloys), Each: 11 x 9 x 15 cm



Falcon Heads, 2025
Sculpture (Red bronze, brass, copper, pewter, nickel silver, and aluminium), 18 heads. Each: 11 x 9 x 15 cm



The Falcon of Karachi, 2025
Video and Sculptural Installation



Bezubaan Janwar / Voiceless Animal (variant 5), 2024
Woven textile (Yarns: linen, bio cotton, viscose), 248 x 177 cm



Bezubaan Janwar / Voiceless Animal (variant 3), 2024
Woven textile (Yarns: linen, bio cotton, viscose, elirex, and recycled polyester), 110 x 177 cm



The Falcon of Karachi, 2024
4K video and 16mm film converted to 4K (loop), color, sound; Courtesy of the artist and MACTE—Museo di Arte Contemporanea di Termoli., Various durations (loop)



The Falcon of Karachi (still), 2024
4K video and 16mm film converted to 4K (loop), color, sound; Courtesy of the artist and MACTE—Museo di Arte Contemporanea di Termoli., (various durations), loop