THANA FAROQ

My body of work is always about making my way home, but sometimes I walk to the unfamiliar, and by doing so I get lost in other lives too. My work for the past two years has been about settling myself myself in the unfamiliar
Thana Faroq is een Jemenitisch-Nederlandse beeldend kunstenaar, fotograaf en schrijver, gevestigd in Den Haag. In haar praktijk werkt zij met fotografie, tekst, bewegend beeld, geluid en archiefmateriaal. Haar werk vertrekt vanuit thema's als herinnering, migratie, ontheemding en de nasleep van conflict. Veel van haar werk begint vanuit persoonlijke ervaringen, maar ontwikkelt zich tot bredere vragen over hoe geschiedenissen worden herinnerd, doorgegeven en verbeeld. Ze is in het bijzonder geïnteresseerd in familiearchieven en alledaagse, persoonlijke fotografie: wat zulke beelden bewaren, wat ze verbergen en hoe hun betekenis verandert wanneer ze opnieuw worden bekeken vanuit afstand, ballingschap en over verschillende generaties heen. De levens van vrouwen, en de manieren waarop zij zichtbaar worden, verdwijnen of naamloos blijven binnen persoonlijke en publieke geschiedenissen, vormen een belangrijke rode draad in haar werk. Haar recente werk Imagine Me Like a Country of Love brengt familiefoto's uit Jemen samen met archiefbeelden uit de jaren zestig tot en met tachtig, hedendaagse opnames uit Jemen en Nederland, tekst, geluid en animatie. Het werk ontstond na haar terugkeer naar Jemen, bijna tien jaar nadat zij het land had verlaten, en vanuit haar poging zich opnieuw te verhouden tot een plek die in de tussentijd vooral was blijven bestaan via foto's, verhalen en gefragmenteerde herinneringen. In plaats van het archief uitsluitend als historisch bewijs te benaderen, behandelt Faroq het als iets instabiels, intiems en voortdurend veranderlijks. Deze benadering loopt ook door haar fotoboeken I Don't Recognize Me in the Shadows en How Shall We Greet the Sun, waarin fotografie wordt gecombineerd met handgeschreven teksten, documenten, gesprekken en alledaagse gebaren. In haar werk onderzoekt Faroq hoe persoonlijke verhalen naast officiële geschiedenissen kunnen bestaan zonder daartoe te worden gereduceerd, en hoe beelden ruimte kunnen bieden aan ambiguïteit, verdriet, intimiteit en het voortdurende proces van ergens thuishoren.

WEBSITES

Personal Website

thanafaroq.com

SOCIAL MEDIA

www.linkedin.com/in/thanafaroq/
twitter.com/Thanafaroq
www.instagram.com/thanafaroq7/

PLATFORM

Women Photograph, Native Agency, The Everyday Projects ,

MEMBER OF A PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATION/ARTISTS' ASSOCIATION

Pulchri Studio

EDUCATION

2019 - 2021 Photography and Society Den Haag, Koninklijke Academie van Beeldende Kunsten diploma

2016 - 2017 Documentary photography and Photojournalism University of Westminster, London diploma

EXHIBITIONS

2026 International Film Festival Rotterdam (IFFR) Rotterdam, Netherlands world premier for imagine me like a country of love
Solo

2025 How Shall We Greet the Sun (Video installation) FORMAT International Photography Festival Derby, United Kingdom
Group

2025 How Shall We Greet the Sun Tasweer Photo Festival Doha , Qatar

PROJECTS

2026 Imagine me like a country of love (the film) The Hague and Sana'a Yemen , Yemen
iffr.com/en/iffr/2026/films/imagine-me-like-a-country-of-love Thana Faroq returns to Yemen after a decade of geographical and emotional separation. Oscillating between personal drawings, intimate voice recordings and footage from the streets of Yemen, her thoughts about home take on new forms. As photographs from the past reawaken old memories, this fragmented journey slowly transforms itself into a gentle, personal reflection on absence, belonging and the power of

Group

2025 How Shall We Greet the Sun Photoville Festival, Brooklyn Bridge Park NY, United States
Group

2025 Imagine Me Like a Country of Love FUTURES Residency Amsterdam , Netherlands Open studio
Group

2025 Aden – Marseille. D'un port à l'autre Centre de la Vieille Charité Marseille, France Exhibiting ' imagine me like a country of love '
Group

2024 Mondriaan Fonds, Art Rotterdam Art Rotterdam Rotterdam , Netherlands
Group

2024 Louder Than Hearts: Women Photographers from the Arab World and Iran Middle East Institute Washington, DC, United States
Group

2024 Grounding – Stories of Migration FOTODOK × BredaPhoto Breda, Netherlands
Group

2024 How Shall We Greet the Sun BredaPhoto Festival Breda
Solo

2024 How Shall We Greet the Sun Rotlicht Festival Austria
Group

2023 For Those Who Couldn't Cross the Sea The Nordic House Reykjavík, Iceland
Group

2022 Verbeelding Netherlands photo museum Rotterdam , Netherlands
Group

2021 Displacements, Yemen Diasporas PhotoEspaña festival Madrid , Spain
Group

2019 Moving walls 25: Another way Home Open Society Foundations NewYork, United States
Group

2019 I don't recognize me in the shadows Pulchri studio Den Haag , Netherlands
Solo

INTERNATIONAL EXCHANGES/RESIDENCIES

2025 Futures Photography Amsterdam , Netherlands

memory when conflict reshapes a place forever.

2022 How shall we greet the sun Den Haag , Netherlands www.futures-photography.com/projects/there-is-a-blue-sky-today-and-no-rain How shall we greet the sun (ongoing) explores the personal narratives and complex emotional landscape of the lives of a small group of young women living in exile in the Netherlands. Many of these women, including Thana Faroq are in phases in life where they are challenged to construct identities within new cultural contexts and geographies of power, as well as within their memories and the nostalgic representations of the past they possess. The artist's goal is to explore the emotional interior landscape in light of the changes that the women, including herself, go through, shaping their sense of belonging both in the countries of origin and the Netherlands. She creates a memory archive of feelings that are often lost in histories of migration and displacement, including nostalgia, loneliness, anger, happiness, joy or not feeling much at all.

2021 I don't recognize me in the shadows Various cities in the Netherlands , Netherlands lecturis.nl/product/i-dont-recognize-me-in-the-shadow/ Het boek verkent Thana's reis die het door oorlog verscheurde Jemen verlaat en asiel krijgt in Nederland. Ze besloot dit boek te maken om erachter te komen hoe alles gebeurde – om de oorlog, de ontsnapping, de overgang en het onbekende te achterhalen.

COMMISSIONS

2020 Meet some of the millions of women who migrated recently, risking everything National Geographic Magazine NewYork, United States I was part of a team of eight women photographers from The Everyday Projects (a global community of visual storytellers - documentary photographers, journalists, and artists). We documented how modern migration impacts women around the world. The project culminated in a traveling exhibition coupled with social impact initiatives. From Singapore and Honduras, to South Africa and Yemen, our project spanned nearly 15 migrant communities around the globe and reflected the massive scope of how social, economic, political, and climate issues are driving women from the places they call home. Through photography,

text, and social media, we provided a layered portrait of how women of varying ages, races, ethnicities, socio-economic classes are navigating the challenges of migration. www.nationalgeographic.com/magazine/article/meet-some-of-the-millions-of-women-who-migrated-recently-risking-everything-feature finished

2019 Zenith magazine Djbouti , Germany finished

2018 #Show Us Getty images and Dove United States www.gettyimages.nl/showus finished

SALES/WORKS IN COLLECTIONS

2026 Imagine me like a country of love (the film) Eye Filmmuseum Collection Amsterdam , Nederland Experimental short film added to the collection of Eye Filmmuseum in 2026.

2018 Moving Walls 25: Another Way Home Moving Walls Collection, Open Society Foundations NY, Verenigde Staten Photographic project included in the Moving Walls Collection of Open Society Foundations as part of Moving Walls 25: Another Way Home.

PUBLICATIONS

2020 I Don't Recognize Me in the Shadows Book Lecturis Publishers Thana Faroq Netherlands lecturis.nl/en/product/i-dont-recognize-me-in-the-shadow-2/

-- How shall we greet the sun Lecturis Publishers Netherlands lecturis.nl/en/product/how-shall-we-greet-the-sun/

-- Verbeelding Catalog FW:, Nederlands Fotomuseum Rotterdam Rotterdam , Netherlands www.nederlandsfotomuseum.nl/tentoonstelling/verbeelding/ Group exhibition

-- THANA FAROQ, I WAS YOUNGER YESTERDAY Monograph Musee magazine Maggie Boccella NewYork, United States museemagazine.com/features/2021/3/29/thana-faroq-i-was-younger-yesterday

REVIEWS

2026 Magazine The New York Times Style Magazine MENA Dubai, United Arab Emirates Review and profile by Samantha Jensen on Imagine Me Like a Country of Love, discussing return, memory, family archives and Faroq's development from photography into moving image.

2026 Thana Faroq cartographie l'altération de la mémoire Magazine Fisheye Magazine Paris , France

2025 Thana Faroq: Collecting the Fragments of Statelessness Magazine Dazed MENA Dubi , United Arab Emirates

2022 Magazine Julia Krantz Amsterdam , Netherlands www.thefeministclub.nl/2022/05/05/the-complexities-in-representations-of-women-refugees/ The Complexities in Representations of Women Refugees

2021 I Don't Recognize Me in the Shadows" Magazine Jörg M. Colberg Berlin , Germany cphmag.com/i-dont-recognize-me/ book review to my book "I Don't Recognize Me in the Shadows"

AWARDS AND GRANTS

2024 Artist Basic, Mondriaan Fonds, Amsterdam,Netherlands. Netherlands

2023 Kunstenaar Start, Mondriaan Fonds Netherlands

2022 Winner institution Vianna, Austria Photobook award

2021 shortlisted institution United States Lucie Photobook Prize,

2021 Ones to Watch British jounal of photography London, United Kingdom I was selected among the artists to watch in 2020

2021 grant recipient institution Beirut, Lebanon World Press Joop Swart Masterclass-visual arts grant recipient

2019 grant recipient British journal of photography NY, United States National Geographic Society —

2019 grant recipient insituation Germany Zenith Magazine-reporting grant recipien

2019 Nominated World Press Photo, NL Amsterdam , Netherlands World Press Joop Swart Masterclass

-- Imagine me like a country of love Amarte Fonds Grant Rotterdam , Netherlands

-- Imagine Me Like a Country of Love Doha Film Institute Grant Qatar

-- Imagine me like a country of love (the film) Arab Documentary Photography Lebanon

-- Global Peace Photo Award shortlisted Global Peace Foundation United States

-- New York Portfolio Review New York Portfolio Review United States

-- grant recipient Beruit/ Amsterdam/NY, Lebanon The Arab Documentary Fund , grant recipient supported by the Prince Claus fund and Magnum Foundation

SECONDARY ART-RELATED ACTIVITIES

2026 - 2026 Jury Member, 3rd NEU Commission, Page Not Found, The Hague, NL

2025 - 2025 Masterclass Instructor, Qissa, The Hague, NL

2025 - 2025 Masterclass Instructor, Misk Art Institute, Riyadh, SA

2025 - 2025 Jury Member, 28th Luis Valtueña International Humanitarian Photography Award, Madrid, ES

2021 - -- art educational work/ teaching On-going

2021 - -- board membership On-going

2021 - 2022 curator of exhibitions/projects/events

2020 - -- consultancy On-going

2017 - -- commission On-going

2014 - -- lecturer at the Royal academy of Art (KABK) On-going





A bathroom of her own , 2022
3 mins

Imagine me like a country of love (trailer), 2026
1:40 min



untitled , 2022
Photographic print , 3024×2005



untitled , 2022
Photographic print , 3024×2005



Marwa, 2022
Photographic print



Marwa , 2022
Photographic print , 1500×1500



Sara, 2021
Photographic print , 6000x6000



untitled , 2021
Photographic print , 1500×1500



Rebirth , 2021
Photographic print , 1500×1500



Rebirth , 2021
Photographic print , 1500×1500