

Mariana Seiko Sakurada

International development & public art director

Architect by training. I develop international cultural projects and see them through: public art masterplans, artworks, exhibitions and residencies, in France and the Middle East.

Paris, France
contact@marianasakurada.com
marianasakurada.com
linkedin.com/in/mariana-sakurada-7093b43b

8 yrs	*82*	*300+*	*20*
at Manifesto, Paris & Riyadh, from coordinator to co-director	artworks, 40 sites, a team of 17 · Noor Riyadh 2022	artworks planned in a public art masterplan · Red Sea Global	artists and curators in residence over 4 cycles · Intermix POUSH

My strength is range. I am technical, thanks to my training as an architect; strategic, from developing international projects and complex public art masterplans; and operational, from producing exhibitions and running residency programmes. Over eight years at Manifesto, in Paris and Riyadh, I have led project management and direction, represented the company with clients such as the Saudi Ministry of Culture, the Royal Commission for AlUla and Red Sea Global, and managed teams on demanding, high-stakes projects. I now co-direct Manifesto Studio in Paris.

SELECTED PROJECTS

2022 · RIYADH — LIGHT FESTIVAL

Noor Riyadh 2022

Riyadh Art, with Havas Events

TEAM LEAD, ARTIST LIAISON & PRODUCTION

Led a team of 17 artist liaisons and production managers delivering 82 monumental artworks in 40 locations, for a festival of over €30M.

2023–2025 · PARIS — RESIDENCY

Intermix POUSH Residency

Visual Arts Commission, Saudi Ministry of Culture × POUSH

STRATEGY & COORDINATION

Designed and ran four cycles of a three-month residency in Paris, hosting 20 Saudi artists and curators: selection, programme, studio life at POUSH and closing exhibitions.

2022–2023 · ALULA — RESIDENCY & EXHIBITION

AlUla Artist Residency: Palimpsest of Time

Royal Commission for AlUla & Afalula

EXHIBITION PRODUCTION & COORDINATION

Coordinated and managed the production of the residency exhibition with the artists, within Manifesto's artistic direction of the programme.

2024–2025 · ALULA — RESEARCH & DESIGN

Aesthetics of AlUla

Royal Commission for AlUla

PROJECT DIRECTION

A year of research into the visual language of AlUla, delivered as a book, a film and a material toolkit with Hall Haus, to guide future artists, designers and architects.

SAUDI ARABIA — PERMANENT PUBLIC ART

Art on the Move

Riyadh Art

PROJECT DIRECTION

Permanent public artworks by four prominent French artists. Led the project from the competition onwards: artist liaison and production with the artists and the fabricator Armetal.

AMAALA · SAUDI ARABIA — MASTERPLANNING

Public Art Masterplan, Al Numan island

Red Sea Global, Amaala

PROJECT DIRECTOR

Curatorial strategy for more than 300 artworks across public spaces and hospitality venues on an island destination.

ALSO

OnE, Eiffel Tower site
Cultural programming, winning team led by Gustafson Porter + Bowman · City of Paris · 2018–2019

Réinventer le Patrimoine
Cultural strategy and positioning for heritage sites · French Ministries of Culture and Territories

***Parcours d'œuvres d'art*, Seine-Saint-Denis**
Art trails, including Maya Inès Touam's trail for the Angela Davis secondary school in Bobigny

POUSH
Feasibility and phasing studies for the artist hub in Clichy and Aubervilliers

EXPERIENCE

2026 – now

Director of Production & Programming, co-director

Manifesto Studio, Paris

- Co-direct the studio with two partners and lead the production team in France: project steering, budgets, client relations.
- Projects include Canopia for Apsys, with works by internationally renowned artists such as Daniel Buren; the Échappée d'Art festival in Angers; and *Parcours d'œuvres d'art* in Seine-Saint-Denis.
- James Turrell pavilion, Centre national des arts plastiques (CNAP): supporting the project's development and the search for a sponsor to rebuild this pavilion from the national collection.
- Business development: public tenders and partnerships.

2023 – 2026

Head of Operations

Manifesto Middle East, Riyadh & Paris

- Ran operations for the Saudi office: project management and direction, client representation and team management on highly complex art projects.
- Managed ad-hoc teams of up to 17 people (Noor Riyadh) and coordinated Saudi and international artists, curators and producers.
- Clients included the Saudi Ministry of Culture, the Royal Commission for AlUla, the Royal Commission for Riyadh City, Red Sea Global, Riyadh Art and the Misk Art Institute.

2020 – 2023

International Projects Manager

Manifesto, Paris & Riyadh

- Developed projects in Saudi Arabia and France; built bids for major Saudi public institutions.
- Helped set up the Riyadh office and trained a team of three there over the long run, transferring know-how from the Paris office to the Saudi branch.
- Phasing and feasibility studies for POUSH Aubervilliers.

2018 – 2019

Project Coordinator

Manifesto, Paris

- OnE, Eiffel Tower site: cultural programming and stakeholder management in the winning team led by Gustafson Porter + Bowman.
- Réinventer le Patrimoine: cultural strategy and positioning for heritage sites selected in a national call for projects.
- POUSH Clichy: feasibility study for the artist hub.

2015 – 2024

Founder, Architect & Scenographer

Mariana Seiko Projetos, São Paulo · occasional side work from 2018

- Exhibition design and art direction: São Paulo International Book Biennial 2016, Comic Con Experience 2016; brand activations for Mitsubishi Electric, Lipton and Natura.
- Scenography for Ismael Ivo's *Das Tripas Coração*, São Paulo State Culture Secretariat (2015).

2013 – 2015

Architect, cultural venues

Solé Associados, São Paulo

- Theatres and cultural centres from feasibility to construction drawings: SESC JK Belo Horizonte, Teatro Villa Lobos, Teatro Santos Augusta (Isay Weinfeld), Teatro Matarazzo (Philippe Starck & Triptyque).

EXPERTISE

International development · bids and public tenders, partnerships, client representation with ministries and royal commissions, feasibility studies

Public art programming · curatorial narratives, artist commissioning, residencies, public art masterplans

Production · artworks and exhibitions, technical studies, logistics, installation, safety rules for public venues

Management · budgets, contracts, schedules, multicultural teams, institutional clients

EDUCATION

Post-master degree (DSA), Architectural and Urban Project Management

Maîtrise d'ouvrage architecturale et urbaine · ENSA Paris-Belleville · 2017–2018

Degree in Architecture and Urbanism

University of São Paulo (USP) · 2007–2013

Including an exchange year in architecture in France, 2009–2010

LANGUAGES

Portuguese · native | English · fluent | French · fluent | Japanese · intermediate

TOOLS

AutoCAD | SketchUp | Adobe Suite | MS Project | Airtable | Claude (AI)

INTERESTS

Watercolour drawing