

# Muslim\*Present in Cologne

Intervention in Public Space by  
Asma Aiad, curated by Simone Pfeifer

**Venue:**  
Social Media and billboards in  
the city of Cologne  
**Date:**  
10 June–20 July 2023

As part of »Muslim\*Present«, Asma Aiad will realize two works in Cologne in the period from 10 June to 20 July 2023: »This is not a headscarf« and »[Un]seen Mosques«.

**THIS IS NOT A HEADSCARF**  
In her work »This is not a headscarf«, Asma Aiad deals with the recurring debates about the so-called Muslim »headscarf« and the interpretative sovereignty over the female body. What is a head covering? When and by whom is a head covering read as Muslim and when is it not? What is this head covering for the women who wear it, and what foreign attributions and demonstrations of power do women have to deal with? The nine portraits of a young woman with different head coverings playfully show how different forms of discrimination are connected and negotiated in society.

In Cologne, the work will be shown on billboards in public spaces at three locations. Passers-by are invited to learn more about the work in the digital space and to react to it. The locations can be displayed on a map using the QR code.

Ebertplatz, Gummersbacher Str.  
(Kalk) & Kalker Hauptstr.:  
09–19 June 2023  
Turiner Str.:  
19–29 June 2023

**[UN]SEEN MOSQUES**  
With »[Un]seen Mosques«, Asma Aiad extends an already existing work to Cologne, which she will develop during her stay in Cologne. In the photographic documentation of selected mosques in Cologne, she deals with the visibility and invisibility of religious buildings in Cologne. [In]visibility is not only considered as a pair of opposites here, but points to the multi-layered levels of meaning.

**TALK UND READING**  
In conversation with author, podcaster and moderator Fatima Remli, the artist Asma Aiad (Vienna) and the Palestinian scholar and activist Dr. Lana Sirri address Islamic feminist perspectives on current debates in post-migrant society. They bring different activist and artistic positions to the discussion about the »headscarf«, patriarchal structures and being queer and Muslim. The starting point for the discussion is Asma Aiad's work »This is not a headscarf« which is exhibited on a billboard at Ebertplatz, and the reading from Dr. Lana Sirri's book *Introduction to Islamic Feminisms* (w\_orten & meer, 2022, in German).

## BIOGRAPHIES

Asma Aiad is an artist and activist. Her artistic work deals with racism, sexism, classism, representation and the deconstruction of stereotypes. Asma completed her Master's degree at the Institute of Gender Studies, University of Vienna, on the topic of Islamic feminism and is currently doing her PhD at the Academy of Fine Arts Vienna.

Dr. Lana Sirri is a researcher and activist whose work focuses on the intersections of religion, gender and sexuality. Her book *Introduction to Islamic Feminisms* aims to make different perspectives of Islamic feminism accessible to lay people.

Fatima Remli works as a freelance writer, moderator and podcaster. She is active in the field of refugees, feminism and the visibility of the Maghreb Diaspora and is politically active in the city of Cologne. Fatima publishes texts that she herself likes to call political poetry.

## PROGRAM

*Talk & Reading with Asma Aiad and Dr. Lana Sirri, moderated by Fatima Remli (in German)*

Sa., 10 June 2023,  
7–8:30 pm,  
Ebertplatz (Passage),  
50668 Köln

The event *Muslim\*Present in Cologne* takes place in the context of the exhibition *The Entire Story Starts Where* of the DFG Research Training Group »connecting-excluding«.

Link to the map  
with the locations  
of the billboards:

