



K R I S T I A N E
B A C K E R



Art Consultant / Public speaker

Place of birth: Hamburg, Germany

Residence: London, UK

Language skills

Bilingual: English-German,

Conversational: French

Basic: Arabic, Italian

PROFILE

I am a London based art consultant facilitating private sales of blue- chip 19th and 20th century paintings – modern, impressionist and postwar art which is off market. I have an extensive international network of art market professionals, private collectors, museums, auction houses, galleries, art lawyers, conservators, and other specialists.

I studied art history and art business at Christies, Sotheby's and City Lit for a few years after my career as a TV presenter.

I have always had a strong interest in arts, culture and music and have curated amongst others a major art exhibition by the Egyptian Calligraphy Artist, Ahmed Moustafa, and a multi culture multi faith concert in Sarajevo in 1998. The shows were opened by the former President of Bosnia, the American Ambassador.

I was the leading presenter on MTV - and NBC Europe for nine years in the 1990s, created and hosted my own youth show in Germany for which I won several TV awards, including the prestigious Golden Camera Award. I also presented a travel show for Travel Channel and an Interfaith Show for Ebru TV.

I hosted a great number of music shows, corporate and cultural events as well as fundraisers and conferences.

In 2012 I published my best- selling memoir *From MTV to Mecca* in the UK with Arcadia and Awakening. Ullstein Verlag published the original German edition in 2009. Dutch, Arabic, Indonesian, Malaysian and Urdu translations are available as well.

I became a public speaker on topics such as Islam and the West, interfaith and Brexit.

Through my personal journey I have long standing friendships and contacts in Pakistan but also in the Middle East.

Professional achievements:

- 2020 I am focusing on my art advisory service. During Ramadan Al Manaar Mosque in London asked me to give regular talks on Facebook aimed at New Muslims and we created a weekly zoom support group with guest speakers to talk on relevant topics and to answer questions and generally provide a support platform.
- 2019 I spoke at a number of interfaith events from a European Muslim perspective and gave a speech about Prophet Muhammad's compassion and mercy to a charity in West London.
- I brought a business delegation to Pakistan sourcing investment and cooperation opportunities and arranged high level meetings with government and private sector decision makers in Karachi, Islamabad and Lahore. I have been engaged in the development of those projects till the covid pandemic and look forward to be picking up again afterwards.
- 2018 I was honoured to conduct the Opening Ceremony of the Global Donor's Forum 2018 in London with HRH Sheikha Aisha Al Thani and presented the Award Ceremony at Mansion House in the presence of Alderman Alison Gowman and the First Lady of Turkey, HE Ermine Erdogan.
- I spoke at the IOD Lord Mayor's *'Business of Trust'* event at Mansion House on the Islamic perspective of ethics in business.
- The Media Ministry of Saudi Arabia generously invited me to perform the Hajj and give media interviews to channels around the world and post on social media throughout. They kindly chose me as the only female keynote speaker during the Hajj Closing Ceremony in Jeddah, which was broadcast around the

Muslim world. I was also selected to address the Emir of Mecca during a press conference. A video we produced in Mecca featuring me at the Holy Mosque, the Haram Sharif, went viral and surprisingly received over 13m clicks within days.

I was honoured to be the keynote speaker at the City of London Eid event at London's prestigious Guild Hall and also at Interfaith Iftar Events at Harrow and Hounslow Mosque.

I spoke at the Convert Circle at Central London Mosque, which I helped creating a few years previously and at another event to inspire the youth. I also chaired the Telegraph conference on Institutional Sexual Harassment – *Are Institutions Silent Witnesses?* for a #metoo campaign. The German Embassy UK asked me to interview the artists of the art exhibition HUMAN.

2017 At the German Embassy I moderated '*In Conversation*' with the British Abstract Artist Frances Blane and Syrian artist Darin Ahmad, hosted by the Ambassador. I also interviewed Artist Kimberley Gundle at the German Embassy. Mrs Ammon, the ambassador's wife, kindly invited me to present my book at the German Embassy to a group of Ambassador's wives. I also enjoyed speaking to students at Eton College, followed by a lengthy Q n A.

2016 I spoke at the Global Donors Forum in Istanbul on behalf of the American Media Production Company SoundVision and presented my book at several functions throughout the UK.

In April I was invited to co-host the opening of the Diyanet Centre of America in presence of President Recep Tayyip Erdogan which was broadcast live on Turkish and international TV

2015 With the charity organisation Muslim Hands I went to Pakistan to support their *Honouring our Mothers* campaign. We visited hospitals and other projects in Lahore and Karachi and on our return, participated in TV and live fund-raising events back in the UK I hosted numerous charity fundraising events and spoke to different Muslim communities especially throughout Ramadan.

In June I enjoyed speaking at the international law firm ‘Herbert Smith Freehills’ Diversity Event. In May I was the keynote speaker in Chicago at the Sound Vision Conference. In April I chaired a number of sessions at the Prestel and Partner Family Office Forum in Wiesbaden. I also performed at the Southbank as part of the Immigrant Diaries- Changing Britain Shows. I chaired the LISA Islam on Trial – Islamophobia conference in London where I was also one of the keynote speakers. I enjoyed visiting Pakistan’s Rahim Yar Khan and its surrounding areas with the charity Save an Orphan where I helped distributing food, spoke to various communities and back in London participated in TV fundraising throughout Ramadan.

In March I spoke at the House of Commons in London in front of various MPs and community leaders on ‘British values and Islam’. In February I was part of a panel at SOAS discussing ‘Pakistan beyond the Headlines and Homeland’. SoundVision asked me to be the key note speaker at fundraising events in Chicago, Dallas, Houston and Dayton speaking about the qualities of Mercy and Compassion exhibited by Prophet Muhammad when attacked.

2014

In December 2014 I was honoured to tell my journey to Islam to 9000 people at the MAS Conference in Chicago. I also joined a SoundVision fundraising tour through several US cities as key note speaker. In October I was invited to the House of Lords conference in London about the plight of the IDPs in Pakistan, and I moderated the Prestel and Partner Family Office Forum at the Dorchester Hotel. I moderated the Sami Yusuf album launch with a q n a session in London’s Cadogan Hall in September. I presented my book in Pakistan at *the Iqbal e Dagestan* hall in Lahore, LUMS University and other venues across Pakistan. In February, I was humbled to be honorary speaker at North Eastern University, Boston and in January I toured South East Asia, speaking to sell out audiences in Borneo, Singapore and at the University of Hong Kong where I joined the was speakers at a conference exploring Religion and Power.

2013

I had the opportunity to present my book at several UK

Universities: Cambridge, Oxford, SOAS, Liverpool and Portsmouth and I gave key note speeches at several interfaith events throughout the country. I chaired the Cambridge University launch of the '*Narratives of Conversion to Islam*' Report in London at SOAS and hosted several Mawlid events and Graduation Ceremonies.

2012 My book *From MTV to Mecca* was published in English by Arcadia and Awakenig in September and I did a great number of book talks throughout London and the rest of the UK. In December 2012 I was humbled to speak in front of 16,000 people at the RIS Convention, Canada. I gave the key note speech at the '*Legacy of the Torch*' Event held at Eton College and chaired a discussion at the House of Lords on the Arab Spring with Prof Tariq Ramadan. I spoke at the Congress of Leaders Of World and Traditional Religions in Kazakhstan, gave the opening speech at the think tank FIRD in London before the US First secretary as a 'friend of Pakistan' and also addressed FIRDS's student body about '*How to achieve success and awaken the inner giant*'. I spoke at several University ISOC events about Muslim issues. I also hosted an event for Takeda in Budapest.

2011 I presented the '*Reise*' show on Travel Channel Germany for three years. I chaired the '*Hier and There*' Cultural Event for the German Embassy in London as well as a panel discussion on '*Euro Islam*' with Prof Tariq Ramadan for the Conference *Beyond Multiculturalism- Islam in Europe* at the University of Westminster (Konrad Adenauer Stiftung). I was invited to speak at the Progressive Muslims Forum and chaired the Launch of *Missing Pages EIF* event at the House of Lords. I also hosted *The London Initiative* business networking dinner at London's Park Plaza, Westminster and was the keynote speaker at the international accountancy firm Auren on 'Self Development'

2010 I was invited by the Royal family of Sharjah to meet HRH Sheikh Sultan and speak at Her Highness's Sheikha Jawahar's Conference on Self Development about my journey to Islam, hosted by the Sharjah International Forum for Muslim Women.

The revised paperback edition of my book *From MTV to Mecca* was published by Allegria Verlag in Germany under the title, *Der Islam als Weg des Herzens*.

As Global Ambassador for the Exploring Islam Foundation I was one of the faces of the *Inspired by Muhammad* campaign in the UK and engaged with local and international media including BBC Question Time, Sky News, Al Jazeera and Die Welt, Die Zeit, Bild Zeitung, in order to challenge existing stereotypes and build bridges of understanding between Islam and the West. I spoke to interfaith groups around the UK and Germany, hosted the Pakistan Achievement Awards in London, chaired a Radical Middle Way debate on *Islam and the environment*, launched the Muslim/ Swarovski fusion artist Nurjan at the Mica Gallery in London, and hosted the EMWI Awards in Madrid. I spoke on Muhammad's environmental teachings at Warwick University and on a Common Identity at an Integration Conference at the German Reichstag as well as moderating the Allegria Festival in Hamburg amongst others.

- 2009 I became the presenter of the travel program 'Reise' for Travel Channel, and of the interfaith magazine 'Matters of Faith' for Ebru TV. My autobiography: *From MTV to Mecca* was published in Germany by Ullstein Verlag.
- 2007 - 2008 I presented and co- produced a news analyses program and a chat show for Press TV, UK
- since 2005 I was a reporter for German TV ARD, ZDF, Premiere, for UK events and became a guest speaker at various international events and a commentator on health issues for BBC Radio and Sky TV. As guest presenter I promoted a range of food supplements on QVC UK, Spirulina and BlackCumin Seed based products by the German company Natura Vitalis. I presented a number of international live events, conferences, award ceremonies, galas, debates, cultural festivals and was also guest speaker on many occasions.
- 2002 Voice over broadcast on Islam Channel every Ramadan

Presenter:

- 2004 - 2018 Inflight show for Emirates Airlines
- 2004 Weekly health slot on RTL TV giving natural health tips
- 2003 News Anchor for ATV, international satellite TV channel, London
- 2001 Now.com internet TV, London
- 1996 - 1998 'The Ticket NBC' on NBC Europe, a daily guide to culture and entertainment. I arranged and interviewed international artists including Placido Domingo, Yehudi Menuhin, Peter Gabriel, Ute Lemper, Ben Kingsley, Gary Glitter, film directors Michael Radford and Peter Greenaway
- 1995- 2010 Voice -overs including BBC, Virgin Radio, MTV networks, Ufa, VW, Landrover, Tempo, Palm phones
- 1992 - 1995 Presenter of the youth show '*Bravo TV*', Germany on RTL 2
- 1989 - 1996 Presenter and reporter for MTV Europe, presenting a variety of shows within the channel including the '*MTV Coca Cola Report*', '*Braun European Top 20*', '*MTV at the Movies*'. I met and interviewed a great number of major artists of the time including the Rolling Stones, Prince, U2, Simple Minds, Bryan Ferry, Duran Duran, Peter Gabriel, Bob Geldof, Dave Steward, Sinnead O Connor, Seal, Neneh Cherry, Take That, Chrissy Hynde, Guns n Roses, Lenny Kravitz, Die Toten Hosen, Heino, Nina Hagen and many more.

Affiliations & Charities

- 2020 Al Manaar – New Muslim support network
- 2017 – NOW Charity Begins @ Home support and strategy
- 2018 Articulation – The Roche Court Education Trust
Speaker trainer for art students

2015	London central Mosque – New Muslim circle
2014	Save an Orphan Ramadan 2014 Campaign
2012	Patron TellMama Campaign, Faith Matters
2011	Ambassador Progressive Muslims Forum, Faith Matters
2010	Global Ambassador for Exploring Islam Foundation. Honorary advisor of CEDAR
1998	Chief Organizer of a multicultural concert and art exhibition in Sarajevo as part of the political and cultural project ‘ <i>The Bridge</i> ’ in association with Bosnia’s UN ambassador Muhammed Sacirbey.
1996 – 2002	Executive member of the charity ‘ <i>Learning for Life</i> ’ producer and organizer of fundraising events and shows

Awards

- Sharjah International Forum for Muslim Women, 2010
- Presidential Medal of the Sciences and the Arts from Egypt
- Progressive Muslims Forum Award
- Golden Camera, 1995
- 2 x Golden Otto

Lecturer Guest lecturer at several colleges in the UK including the Foundation for International Education, the Cambridge Muslim College and the London Academy of Media, Film and TV

Interests Arts and culture, natural health, spirituality, travel, charity, current affairs, the Middle East and the Subcontinent, human interest, inter faith dialogue, ecology, cooking

Training

- 2018 Christie's Education Art Business
- 2017- 2018 City Lit Art History- Art Evolutions – Modernism, German Expressionism, what makes a Masterpiece
- 2016- 2017 Sotheby's Institute of Art, Art and Business, Art Law, Caring for one's Collection, Art History
- 1999 - 2002 I studied natural medicine at Westminster University in conjunction with Neal's Yard and specialized in homeopathy, studying for another three years with Lakeland College of Homeopathy in London.
- 1987 - 1989 Education radio journalist and producer, Radio Hamburg. First major interview: graffiti artist Keith Haring

OTHER BRANDS I WORKED WITH:



For more information:
www.barakaconsultants.com
www.kristianebacker.com