

FAISAL SAMRA (SAUDI ARABIA, B. 1956)

Education

1980 BA (Hons), L'École National Supérieure des Beaux Arts, Paris, France

Professional Experience

2017 **Founder**, "The Box," Creative Collective Group, Bahrain

2016 Opening Europe studio in Andalucía, Spain

2014 **Jury**, Alexandria Biennale, Cairo, Egypt

2005 **Jury**, Alexandria Biennale, Cairo, Egypt

1995-00 **Founder**, Vision Gallery, Manama, Bahrain

1992-94 **Founder**, Islamic & Artisan Design Company, Morocco; Saudi Arabia

1987-92 **Consultant**, Fine Arts & Graphics, Institut du Monde Arabe, Paris, France

1983-85 **Founder**, Interior Design Company, Dammam, Saudi Arabia

1982-83 **Senior Graphic Designer**, Arabian Bechtel Co., Jubail, Saudi Arabia

1980-81 **Stage Designer**, Saudi TV, Saudi Arabia

Selected Solo Exhibitions

2024 *Immortal Moment II - Coping with the Shock*, Ayyam Gallery, Al Quoz, Dubai, UAE

2019 *Thriving Emotions - Immortal Moment*, Ayyam Gallery, Al Quoz, Dubai, UAE

2017 *Distorted Reality revisited*, Ayyam Gallery, DIFC, Dubai, UAE

2016 15/15 project, a site specific interactive installation (SMS to Mohamed bin Faris), Ministry of Culture, Bahrain

2015 *Global Warming*, Bin Matter House, Muharraq, Bahrain

2014 39, Ayyam Gallery, Al Quoz, Dubai, UAE

C.D.R. (Construction, Deconstruction & Reconstruction), Ayyam Gallery, London, UK

2013 *Majaz (Metaphor)*, Ayyam Gallery, Jeddah, Saudi Arabia

- 2012 *Shanty*, Albareh Art Gallery, Manama, Bahrain
Shanty, Galerie HD, Casablanca, Morocco
- 2011 *Resistance*, Traffic Gallery, Dubai, UAE
- 2010 *Distorted Reality 4*, Albareh Art Gallery, Manama, Bahrain
- 2009 *Distorted Reality 3*, Galerie Natalie Obadia, Paris, France
- 2008 *The Other Body 03*, XVA Gallery, Dubai, UAE
- 2007 *Distorted Reality 2*, Darat Al Funun, Amman, Jordan
Distorted Reality 1, XVA Gallery, Dubai, UAE
Absent Heads, Sultan Gallery, Kuwait City, Kuwait
- 2005 *People*, XVA Gallery, Dubai, UAE
Other Body 2, Green Art Gallery, Dubai, UAE
- 2003 *Works on Paper*, Agial Gallery, Beirut, Lebanon
Third World Citizen, Fennel Gallery, Beirut, Lebanon
Art Center, Manama, Bahrain
- 2002 *The Ultimate Fire*, Grass Gallery, Kuwait City, Kuwait
- 2000 Rochan Gallery, Jeddah, Saudi Arabia
- 1999 *Repeated & Different*, Galerie Epreuve d'Artiste, Beirut, Lebanon
Other Body, Al Riwaq Art Space, Manama, Bahrain
- 1998 *Icon*, Masafa Gallery, Kuwait City, Kuwait
- 1996 Masafa Gallery, Kuwait City, Kuwait
Art Center, Manama, Bahrain
Contemporary Miniatures, Vision Gallery, Manama, Bahrain
Nabatiyats, Darat Al Funun, Amman, Jordan
- 1995 *Trace of Angels*, Masafa Gallery, Kuwait City, Kuwait

- 1994 *Nostalgia*, Art Center, Manama, Bahrain
- 1992 *Sensation Plastique*, Galerie Seltzer Lejeune, Paris, France
- 1991 *Le Pli*, Institut du Monde Arabe, Paris, France
- 1990 Rochan Gallery, London, UK
- 1989 *Acte Nomade*, Galerie Etienne Dinet, Paris, France
- Signs*, Sultan Gallery, Kuwait City, Kuwait
- 1987 *Moualqaat*, Sultan Gallery, Kuwait City, Kuwait
- 1985 Rochan Gallery, Jeddah, Saudi Arabia
- 1974 Culture & Arts Association, Riyadh, Saudi Arabia

Selected Group Exhibitions

- 2024 *Desert X Alula 2024*, AlUla, Saudi Arabia
- Supermarket Independent Art Fair*, Stockholm, Sweden
- 2023 Asia NOW, Ayyam Gallery booth, Monnaie de Pairs, Paris, France
- 2020 *Echoes & Perceptions*, Ayyam Gallery, Dubai, UAE
- 2019 *21/39 Event*, Jeddah, KSA, Annual Exhibition, Bahrain
- Bienalsur*, Buenos Aires, Argentina
- 2018 Off Biennale Cairo (Something else), Cairo, Egypt
- 2017 Group Show, Musee Lambinet, Versailles, France
- An Ode to Life*, Public Art Installation, Bahrain Forte, Bahrain
- 2016 *Borderland*, Low Gallery, San Diego, USA
- Shapeshifters and Transformations*, Ayyam Gallery, DIFC, Dubai, UAE
- 2015 **Screening:** *Ya Hussain, Something Else*, OFF Biennale Cairo, Cairo, Egypt
- View From Inside: Contemporary Arab Photography, Video and Mixed Media Art*, Abu Dhabi Festival, Abu Dhabi, UAE (Curators: Wendy Watriss and Karin Adrian von Roques)

- 2014 *Insubordination*, Musée de la Palmeraie, Marrakech, Morocco (Curator: Mahi Binebine)
Fluid Forms II, Samsung Blue Square, Seoul, South Korea; Busan Museum of Art, Busan, South Korea (Curator: Yu Yeon Kim)
- View from Inside*, FotoFest Biennial, Houston, Texas, USA (Curators: Wendy Watriss and Karin Adrian von Roques)
- 2014 *Contemporary Kingdom*, Ayyam Gallery, Jeddah, Saudi Arabia
- 2013 *Edition #1*, Edge of Arabia Gallery, London, UK
- Silk Highway*, Yallay Gallery, Wong Chuk Hang, Hong Kong
- 2012 *#COMETOGETHER*, Edge of Arabia, Old Truman Brewery, London, UK
- Arab Express*, Mori Art Museum, Minato, Japan
- 2011 Haeinsa Art Project, Haeinsa Temple – Hapcheon County, South Korea
- 2010 *Transition*, Edge of Arabia, Istanbul, Turkey
- 6th Berlin Biennale, Berlin, Germany
- Video Biennale, Maraya Art Center, Sharjah, UAE
- Grey Borders / Grey Frontiers*, Edge of Arabia, Berlin, Germany
- Fluid Forms I*, K.F.C.C., Seoul, South Korea
- 2009 53rd International Venice Biennale, Venice, Italy
- Traversées (Crossings)*, Galerie Bab Rouah, Rabat, Morocco; Darb 1718, Cairo, Egypt; Grand Palais, Paris, France
- 2008 Edge of Arabia, London, UK
- 2nd Singapore Biennale, Singapore
- 11th International Cairo Biennale, Cairo, Egypt
- 2007 *Languages of the Desert*, The Abu Dhabi Cultural Foundation, Abu Dhabi, UAE
- Galerie Enrico Navarra Project, Paris, France
- 2006 *Languages of the Desert*, Institut du Monde Arabe, Paris, France
Word Into Art: Artists of the Modern Middle East, British Museum, London, UK (Curator: Venetia Porter)
- 2005 Mairie de Neuilly sur Seine, Paris, France

- 2004 *Languages of the Desert*, Kunstmuseum, Bonn, Germany
 Museum der Arbeit, Hamburg, Germany
- Video Art*, Overgarden Museum, Copenhagen, Denmark
- 2003 *The Arabian Canvas*, Sheraton Hotel, Dubai, UAE (Curator: Saleh Barakat)
- 2002 *Kinda Collection*, Institut du Monde Arabe, Paris, France
- 2001 8th International Cairo Biennale, Cairo, Egypt
- World Museum, Rotterdam, Netherlands
- Egizio's Project Gallery, New York City, New York, USA
- 1999 *Beyond the Image*, National Museum of Fine Arts, Amman, Jordan
- 1998 French Embassy, Riyadh, Saudi Arabia
- Egee Art Gallery, London, UK
- 1997 *Sixty Arab Artists*, Darat Al Funun, Amman, Jordan
- 1992 Poitier Modern Art Museum, Poitier, France
- Contemporary Arab Art - Hope & Optimism*, Magdalene College, UK
- 1991 Seoul International Festival of Art, Seoul, South Korea
- 1990 *Racines* - Annual Concourse, Suresnes, France
- 1987 *Arab Graphic Arts*, Maison de la Culture, Le Havre, France
- 1986 Baghdad International Festival, Baghdad, Iraq
- 1985 Rochan Gallery, Jeddah, Saudi Arabia
- 1983 Salon de Mai-Espace - Pierre Cardin, Paris, France
- 1982 UNESCO, Paris, France

Presentations

- 2019 **Artist Talk**, 2139 Event, Jeddah, Saudi Arabia
- 2017 **Artist Talk**, Bin Mattar House, Moharaq, Bahrain

- 2015 **Artist Talk**, Culturunners Project, Omaha, Nebraska, USA
- 2014 **Artist Talk**, 39, Ayyam Gallery, Al Quoz, Dubai, UAE
- 2012 Shanty Project Presentation, CAP, Kuwait City, Kuwait
- Albareh Gallery, Manama, Bahrain
- 2010 **Panel Discussion**, Grey Borders/Grey Frontiers, EOA, Berlin, Germany
- 2008 **Panel Discussion**, Traversées (Crossings), Grand Palais, Paris, France
- 2007 **Artist Talk**, Distorted Reality 2, Darat Al Funun, Amman, Jordan
- 1996 **Artist Talk**, Nabatiyats, Darat Al Funun, Amman, Jordan
- 1994 **Artist Talk**, Nostalgia, Art Centre, Manama , Bahrain

Awards

- 1998 **Award**, Liberty 98, New York, USA
- 1995 **Award**, *Dialogues of Peace* - 50th Anniversary of UN, Geneva, Switzerland
- 1978 **Award**, *Drawing Masters*, St. Remy les Chevereuses, France
- 1977 **Award**, Concours David Vaill, Paris, France
- Award**, Maison des Beaux-Arts, Paris, France
- 1975 **Three Awards**, Annual Drawing Collective Exhibitions, Beaux-Arts, Paris, France

Residencies and Workshops

- 2012 **Residency**, Cite Internationale des Arts, Paris, France
- 2010 **Residency**, Cite Internationale des Arts, Paris, France
- 2005 **Residency**, Cite Internationale des Arts, Paris, France
- 2003-04 **Courses & Workshops**, Drawing and Painting, College of Fine Arts, Amman, Jordon; Faisal Samra Studio, Bahrain

Commissions

2014	New International Airport, Jeddah, Saudi Arabia
1997	Sh. Huda Al-Sabah, Kuwait City, Kuwait
1992	King Fahad Airport, Dammam, Saudi Arabia
1981	Royal Commission, Jubail, Saudi Arabia

Collections

Aljafali Art Collection, Jeddah, Saudi Arabia

Almansouria Foundation, Jeddah, Saudi Arabia

ARAMCO, Dhahran, Saudi Arabia

Abdurrahman Al-Awais Foundation, UAE

Bahrain Financial Harbor Project, Zayed House, Bahrain

Bahrain National Museum, Manama, Bahrain

British Museum, London, UK

BuchDruckKunst e.V. Art book Museum, Hamburg, Germany

Darat Al Funun, Amman, Jordan

Dr Anwar Gargash (Gargash Enterprises), Dubai, UAE

Farjam Collection, Dubai, UAE

Farook Collection, Dubai, UAE

Haeinsa Temple Museum, Hapcheon County, South Korea

Institut du Monde Arabe, Paris, France

The Jameel Art Foundation, Jeddah, Saudi Arabia

Kinda Collection, Riyadh, Saudi Arabia

The Khalid Shoman Foundation, Amman, Jordan

Ministry of Finance, Kuwait City, Kuwait

Modern Art Museum, Cairo, Egypt

National Methanol Co., Jubail, Saudi Arabia
National Museum, Mexico City, Mexico

National Museum of Fine Arts, Amman, Jordan

Pontifical Catholic University, Buenos Aires, Argentina

Regency International Hotel, Manama, Bahrain

Mr. Saeb Eigner, London, UK

Sh. Abdullah Al-Sabah, Kuwait City, Kuwait

Sh. Iman Al-Sabah, Kuwait City, Kuwait

Sh. Iqbal Al-Sabah, Kuwait City, Kuwait

Sh. Majed Al-Sabah, Kuwait City, Kuwait

Sh. Polla Al-Sabah, Kuwait City, Kuwait

The Samawi Collection, Dubai, UAE

Weng Fine Art, Krefeld, Germany

Publications

- 2014 *View From Inside*, Schilt Publishing, FotoFest 2014 Biennial, Amsterdam, Netherlands
- 2012 *Faisal Samra*, Skira, Milan, Italy (Author: Roxane Azimi)
- 2010 *Art of the Middle East: Modern and Contemporary Arab World and Iran*, Edited by Saeb Eigner, Merrell Publishers Limited, London, UK
- 2009 *Contemporary Art in the Middle East*, Black Dog Publishing, London, UK (Authors: Suzanne Cotter, Lindsey Moore, Nat Muller)
- 2008 *In the Arab World Now*, Galerie Enrico Navarra, Paris, France
- 2006 *Word Into Art: Artists of the Modern Middle East*, Edited by Venetia Porter, British Museum, London, UK
- 2005 *Languages of the Desert: Contemporary Arab Art from the Gulf States*, Edited by Karin Adrian von Roques and Dieter Ronte, DuMont Literatur und Kunst Verlag, Cologne, Germany