

SADIK KWAISH ALFRAJI (IRAQ, B. 1960)

Education

2000	Graphic Design Diploma, Constantijn Huygens, Kampen, Netherlands
1995	Philosophy Postgraduate Diploma, Jordan University, Amman, Jordan.
1987	BA, Plastic Art and Painting, Academy of Fine Arts, Baghdad, Iraq
1982	Plastic Art and Painting Diploma, Institute of Fine Arts, Baghdad, Iraq

Selected Solo Exhibitions

2024	<i>Charcoal, Ink and a Donkey</i> , Galerie Tanit, Beirut, Lebanon
	<i>The Art of Dining: Food Culture in the Islamic World</i> , Detroit Institute of Arts Museum in Detroit, Michigan
2023	<i>Those Houses Behind the Army Canal</i> , Ayyam Gallery, Dubai, UAE
2021	<i>A Language Under My Skin</i> , Artgenève, Ayyam Gallery Booth, Palexpo, Geneve, Switzerland
	<i>A Language Under My Skin</i> , W139, Amsterdam, The Netherlands
2020	<i>Bagdad - Amersfoort</i> , Museum Flehite, Amersfoort, The Netherlands
2019	Kunsthal KAdE, Amersfoort, The Netherlands
2018	<i>City</i> , L'appartement 22 art, Rabat, Morocco
2017	<i>We Scream, But Nothing Changes</i> , Naves Matadero–International Living Arts Centre, Madrid, Spain
	<i>The River that was in the South</i> , Ayyam Gallery Al Quoz, Dubai, UAE
	<i>Dark is the Tone of My History</i> , Curated by Mayssa Fattouh, Casa Arabe, Madrid, Spain.
	<i>Once Upon A Time: Hadiqat Al Umma</i> , Maraya Art Centre, Sharjah, UAE
	<i>Seasons of Lost Baghdad</i> , Art Dubai 2017, Ayyam Gallery Booth, Madinat Jumeriah, Dubai, UAE
2016	<i>War Scraps</i> At Lemvig Museum, Bunkermuseum, part of Meetings Symposium, Rom, Denmark.
	<i>Ali's Boat</i> , Red Star Line Museum, Antwerp, Belgium (Curator: Niels Van Tomme)

2015	<i>A Dream Within a Dream</i> , Galerie Tanit, Munich, Germany
	<i>Driven By Storms (The Notebooks)</i> , Ayyam Gallery, Beirut, Lebanon
2014	<i>Driven By Storms (Ali's Boat)</i> , Ayyam Gallery, London, UK; Ayyam Gallery, Al Quoz, Dubai, UAE
2013	<i>Ali's Boat</i> , Ayyam Gallery, London, UK.
	<i>Biography of a Head</i> , Beirut Exhibition Center, Beirut, Lebanon
2011	<i>Godot to Come Yesterday</i> , Ayyam Gallery, Jeddah, Saudi Arabia
	<i>I Do Not Feel That I Am Free</i> , Ayyam Gallery, London, UK
2010	<i>Waiting for Godot</i> , Ayyam Gallery, Damascus, Syria
	<i>Nothing, Nobody</i> , Ayyam Gallery, DIFC, Dubai, UAE
	<i>An Introduction to the Philosophy of Freedom</i> , Stadsgalerij, Amersfoort, Netherlands
2008-09	<i>For the Love of Zainab</i> , Art Singel 100, Amsterdam, Netherlands
2008	<i>A Cup of Coffee with Kafka</i> , 't Hoogt, Utrecht, Netherlands
	<i>Born April 9th</i> , Station Museum, Houston, Texas, USA
2007-08	<i>Dear Rilke we are all Travellers</i> , Gallery Majke Husstege, Hertogenbosch, Netherlands
2007	Art Singel 100, Amsterdam, Netherlands
2006	<i>Born April 9th</i> , Stedelijk Museum's-Hertogenbosch, Hertogenbosch, Netherlands
	<i>Keeping Clear of Socrates</i> , Seasons Gallery, The Hague, Netherlands
2005	Collect-Art Gallery, Amersfoort, Netherlands
2004	<i>Human Miniatures</i> , Gallery Witteveen, Amsterdam, Netherlands
2000	<i>Papers of a Rational Being</i> , 4 Walls Gallery, Amman, Jordan
1999	<i>Memories of a Golden City: Baghdad</i> , Aya Gallery, London
1994	<i>In Between Project</i> , Cultural Centre Ter Dilft, Bornem, Belgium
1993	Gallery Felix, Kampen, Netherlands

1992	French Cultural Center, Amman, Jordan
1989	<i>Talisman</i> , Baladna Gallery, Amman, Jordan
1989	Baladna Gallery, Amman, Jordan
	<i>Miniatures Wood Cut</i> , Al-Rawaq Gallery, Baghdad, Iraq
	<i>Artist Books: Enuma Elish, the Babylonian Creation Myth</i> , Al-Rashid Theater Hall, Baghdad, Iraq

Selected Group Exhibitions

2024	Art Dubai, Ayyam Gallery booth, Madinat Jumeirah, Dubai, UAE
	Artgenève, Ayyam Gallery Booth, Palexpo, Geneve, Switzerland
	PaltzBiënnale, Soest, Netherlands
	The Drawing Biennale, London, England
	Jameel Prize: Moving Images, V&A South Kensington, London
	<i>Beneath the Gaze of the Palms</i> , Riyadh, Saudi Arabia
2023	Artgenève, Ayyam Gallery Booth, Palexpo, Geneve, Switzerland
	<i>Kiss My Soul</i> , Dordrechts Museum, Netherlands
	<i>Dining with the Sultan: The Fine Art of Feasting</i> , LACMA, Los Angeles, California, US
	<i>Something Else at the Citadel</i> , Salah al-Din Citadel, Cairo, Egypt
	<i>35th Ljubljana Biennial</i> , Ljubljana, Slovenia
	<i>Outside the Text</i> , POST, Netherlands
2022	<i>Landscape of Memory: Seven Installations from the Barjeel Art Foundation</i> , McMullen Museum of Art, Boston, Massachusetts, USA
	<i>Baghdad: Eye's Delight</i> , Museum of Islamic Art, Doha, Qatar
2020	<i>Amakin</i> , 21,39, Jeddah, KSA
	<i>In the Footsteps of Cai Lun II, Selected Works on Paper</i> , Ayyam Gallery, Dubai, UAE
	<i>In the Presence of Absence</i> , Stedelijk Museum, Amsterdam, Netherlands
2020-19	<i>Echoes & Perceptions</i> , Ayyam Gallery, Al Quoz, Dubai, UAE

In the Presence of Absence, Stedelijk Museum, Amsterdam, Netherlands

2019 *Imagined Communities*, 21st Contemporary Art Biennial Sesc_ Videobrasil, curated by Solange Farkas, São Paulo, Brazil

Theater of Operations, The Gulf War 1991-2011, MoMA PS1, New York, USA

Contemporary Art, Asia, Australia and the Pacific, CCPLM, Centro Cultural La Moneda, Santiago, Chile

2019-18 *Eyes East Bound*, 13th Cairo International Biennale, chosen by artistic director Ehab EL-Labban, Cairo, Egypt
9th Asia Pacific Triennial of Contemporary Art (APT9), Queensland, Gallery of Modern Art

2018 (QAGOMA), Brisbane, Australia

The Arrangements of the Soul in the Universe, Langgeng Art Foundation, Yogyakarta, Indonesia

Salon-18 Amersfoort–Utrecht: contemporary art, Rietveld Museum, Amersfoort, Netherlands

you + topia, Ayyam Gallery, Al Quoz, Dubai, UAE

2017 *Tribe: Contemporary Photography from the Arab World*, American University Museum, Washington DC, USA
 Abu Dhabi Art, Ayyam Gallery Booth, Abu Dhabi, UAE

Between two rounds of fire, the exile of the sea, Katzen Art Center, American University Museum, Washington DC, USA

Our Night is Long, Ayyam Gallery, Al Quoz, Dubai, UAE

I am the Hunter/I am the Prey, 57th Venice Biennale, Venice, Italy
Moving Stories: Three Journeys, The British Museum, London, UK

2016 *Time, Site & Lore*, Lemvig Museum, Denmark

Archaic, 57th Venice Biennale, Venice, Italy (Curator: Martina Corgnati)

Imperfect Chronology: Mapping the Contemporary II, drawn from the Barjeel Art Foundation, (Curated by Omar Kholeif), Whitechapel Gallery, London.

2015 **Screening**, *Ali's Boat* (2015), International Film Festival Rotterdam (IFFR), Rotterdam, Netherlands

Who said tomorrow doesn't exist?, TRIO Biennial, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

Autonomy of Self: Rejecting violence with the lens in former Ottoman territories, P21 Gallery, London, UK

From the figurative to the abstract – modern art from the Arab World, British Museum, London, UK

Screening, *Ali's Boat, Disappearing Cities of the Arab World*, British Museum, London, UK

Eye of the Thunderstorm: Effervescent Practices from the Arab World, 56th Venice Biennale, Venice, Italy (Curator: Martina Corgnati)

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)

aide-mémoire, Maraya Art Centre – Barjeel Art Foundation, Sharjah, UAE

2014 *Islamic Art Now: Contemporary Art of the Middle East*, LACMA, Los Angeles, California, USA

LA Art Show, Ayyam Gallery Booth, Los Angeles, CA, USA

The Future Yesterday, Aspen Art Museum, Aspen, Colorado, USA.

Fluid Forms II, Samsung Blue Square, Seoul, South Korea; Busan Museum of Art, Busan, South Korea (Curator: Yu Yeon Kim)

View from Inside, 15th FotoFest Biennale, Houston, Texas, USA (Curator: Karin Adrian von Roques)

2013 *Contemporary Uprising: Art from the Middle East*, Nest Gallery, Geneva, Switzerland (Curators: Khaled and Hisham Samawi, in collaboration with Stefania Nazzari)

R-Evolution, Ayyam Gallery, Al Quoz, Dubai, UAE

25 Years of Arab Creativity, Abu Dhabi Festival in partnership with Institut du Monde Arabe, The Gallery at Emirates Palace, Abu Dhabi, UAE (Curator: Ehab El Labban)

UNITEXT, 9th Kaunas Biennial, M. K. Ciurlionis National Museum of Art, Kaunas, Lithuania

2012 **Screening**, *Bienal de la Imagen en Movimiento*, Centro Cultural General San Martín, Buenos Aires, Argentina

25 Years of Arab Creativity, Institut du Monde Arabe, Paris, France (Curator: Ehab El Labban)

Arab Express: The Latest Art from the Arab World, Mori Art Museum, Tokyo, Japan (Curator: Nanjo Fumio and Kondo Kenichi)

2011 *The Samawi Collection II*, Ayyam Gallery, Al Quoz, Dubai, UAE

International Festival of Contemporary Art, Museum of Modern and Contemporary Art, Algiers, Algeria

- 2008 *Told / Untold / Retold*, Mathaf: Arab Museum of Modern Art, Doha, Qatar (Curators: Sam Bardaouil and Till Fellrath)
- 12 *Tekenaars*, Gallery Witteveen, Amsterdam, Netherlands
- Old Friends & New Faces*, Seasons Gallery, The Hague, Netherlands
- Arttransit Gallery, Amersfoort, Netherlands
- 2007 *New Salon: Identity has a Face with No Features*, CBKU & Central Museum, Utrecht, Netherlands (Curator: Robbert Roos)
- 8th International Biennial of Engraving, Premio Acqui, Acqui Terme, Italy
- Rabbit and House*, Seoul International Book Arts Fair, Seoul, South Korea (Curator: Kestutis Vasiliunas)
- 2006 *Rabbit and House*, Leipzig Book Fair, Leipzig, Germany (Curator: Kestutis Vasiliunas)
- Intervisie IV*, Seasons Gallery, The Hague, Netherlands
- International Book - Art Project, Artetica, Roma, Italy
- 2005 *Rabbit and House*, 4th International Artist's Book Triennial, ARKA Gallery, Vilnius, Lithuania (Curator: Kestutis Vasiliunas)
- Vers van de Pers*, Utrecht Graphic Atelier, Utrecht, Netherlands
- Power in Print*, Southern Graphics Council International, Washington D.C., USA
- Daftar: Contemporary Iraqi Book Art*, University of North Texas Art Gallery, Houston, Texas, USA
- 4th International Biennial of Contemporary Graphic Arts, Novosibirsk State Art Museum, Novosibirsk, Russia
- 5th International Mini - Print Biennial Cluj, Cluj-Napoca Art Museum, Cluj-Napoca, Romania
- 4th LESSEDRA World Art Print Annual - Mini Print, Lessedra Art Gallery, Sofia, Bulgaria
- Re-Interpreting the Middle East: Beyond The Historical Stereotype*, Sisson Gallery - MacKenzie Fine Arts Center - Henry Ford Community College, Dearborn, Michigan, USA
- Meent Art Gallery, Hilversum, Netherlands
- 2004 Galerie Covalenco, Geldrop, Netherlands
- Best of Inkt*, Inkt Gallery, The Hague, Netherlands

The Iowa Biennial of Contemporary Miniature Prints, University of Iowa, Iowa City, Iowa, USA

1st International Collage Exhibition, Kaire Desine Gallery, Vilnius, Lithuania

26th International Hollfeld Art Exhibition, Hollfeld Museum, Hollfeld Germany

3rd LESSEDRA World Art Print Annual - Mini Print, Lessedra Art Gallery, Sofia, Bulgaria

2003 *Op Format*, Inkt Gallery, The Hague, Netherlands

2002 *Expressions of Hope*, Aya Gallery, London, UK

2001 *1001 Reasons to Love the Earth*, Foundation 2000, Seoul, South Korea

Inkt Graphic Calendar, Inkt Gallery, The Hague, Netherlands

2000 *The Outside of the Inside*, Manege St. Petersburg Art Hall, St. Petersburg, Russia

Op Format, Inkt Gallery, The Hague, Netherlands

Strokes of Genius, The Brunei Gallery, London, UK

In Between Project, Cultural Centre Ter Dilft, Bornem, Belgium

Participation, Kaapelitehdas, Helsinki, Finland

1999 Utrecht Graphic Atelier, Utrecht, Netherlands

1999 Graphic Atelier, Kampen, Netherlands

Op Format, Inkt Gallery, The Hague, Netherlands

1998 Gallery Felix, Kampen, Netherlands

1997 International Exhibition for Modern Art, Granada, Spain

Utrecht Graphic Atelier, Utrecht, Netherlands

1996 Musée Les Metiers De Mercure, Rochefort, France

1993 Darat Al Funun, Amman, Jordan

1988 Baghdad International Festival of Arts, Art Center, Baghdad, Iraq

1987 Al Wasiti Festival, Art Center, Baghdad, Iraq

17th International Biennial Graphic Art, Ljubljana, Yugoslavia

8th Norwegian International Print Biennial, Fredrikstad, Norway

1985 The National and International Graphic Exhibition, Istanbul,

Contemporary Iraqi Graphic Art, Al Orfali Gallery, Baghdad, Iraq

5th Seoul International Miniature Prints Biennial, Seoul, South Korea

Filmography

2018 *The River That Was in the South*, (5:05 minutes), Sound.

2017 *Once Upon A Time, Hadiqat Al Umma*, 9 video channel installation (08:10 minutes), Sound.

I Am the Hunter, I Am the Prey (04:37 minutes), Sound.

War Scraps At Lemvig Museum, (08:14 minutes), Sound.

2016 *Seasons of Lost Baghdad*, (23:15 minutes), Sound.

2015 *Ali's Boat* (06:37 minutes), Sound.

Flying over Baghdad (05:28 minutes), Silent.

2014 *A Letter* (05:04 minutes), Silent.

2013 *Biography of a Head* (23:15 minutes), Silent.

2012 *Godot to Come Yesterday* (13 minutes), Sound.

2011 *Sisyphus Goes on Demonstration* (3 minutes, loop), Sound.

2009 *The House that My Father Built* (6:12 minutes), Sound.

2007 *Seven Days in Baghdad* (23 minutes), Sound.

2005 *Born April 9th* (15 minutes, loop), Sound.

An Introduction to the Philosophy of Freedom (Basic Notes) (14:34 minutes), Sound.

Presentations

2024 **Artist Talk**, *A Taste of Home*, in conversation with Diana Abouali, Detroit, Michigan

2017 **Artist Talk**, *Once Upon A Time: Hadiqat Al Umma*, in conversation with Mandy Merzaban, Maraya Art Centre, Sharjah, UAE.

- 2016 **Symposium, *Time, site & lore***, hosted by ET4U, Lemvig Museum, Denmark
- 2015 **Symposium**, hosted by Photography and The Archive Research Centre, chaired by Max Houghton, The Swedenborg Society Hall, London, UK
- Artist Talk, *Driven By Storms (Ali's Boat)***, in conversation with Venetia Porter, Ayyam Gallery, London, UK
- Artist Talk, *Driven by Storms (Ali's Boat)***, in conversation with Wael Hattar, Ayyam Gallery, Al Qouz, Dubai, UAE

- 2011 **Artist Talk, *The House that My Father Built***, AIGA Design Conference, Phoenix, Arizona, USA
- 2010 **Panel Discussion, "On Artists and Curators' Discourse"**, *Encounters between the Modern & the Contemporary: In Conversation with Artists from 'Interventions' and 'Told/Untold/Retold'*, Panel

Awards

- 2024 Nomination for the seventh Jameel Prize
- 2017 The 13th Cairo Biennale prize, Cairo, Egypt.
- 2015 Grant, *Driven By Storms (Ali's Boat)*, Mondriaan Fund, Amsterdam, Netherlands
- 2014 The Rockefeller Foundation Bellagio Center, Bellagio Italy
- 2012 Artist of the Year at the Esquire Middle East Awards. Dubai, UAE.

Residencies and Workshops

- 2017 **Workshop, *Moving stories: three journeys***: British Museum, London, UK
- The Rockefeller Foundation, Bellagio Center Residency, Bellagio, Italy.
- 2011 **Workshop, *My First Animation***, Mathaf: Arab Museum of Modern Art, Doha, Qatar
- Workshop, *My Father***, Mathaf: Arab Museum of Modern Art, Doha, Qatar

Collections

- Art Center, Baghdad, Iraq
- Barjeel Art Foundation, Sharjah, UAE
- The British Museum, London, UK
- The Cluj-Napoca Art Museum, Cluj-Napoca, Romania

French Cultural Centre, Amman, Jordan

Jordan National Gallery of Fine Arts, Amman,
Jordan

The Khalid Shoman Foundation, Amman, Jordan

Los Angeles County Museum of Art, Los Angeles,
California, USA

Mathaf: Arab Museum of Modern Art, Doha,
Qatar

Museum of Fine Arts, Houston, Texas, USA

The National Museum of Modern Art, Baghdad,
Iraq

Novosibirsk State Art Museum, Novosibirsk,
Russia

The Samawi, Collection, Dubai, UAE

Stedelijk Museum, Amsterdam, Netherlands

Publications

2021 *Sadik Kwaish Alfraji, In Search of Lost Baghdad*, written by Phillippe Van Cauteren, DR. Sarah Johnson, Nat Muller and Dr. Venetia Porter

2015 *Sadik Kwaish Alfraji*, Edited by Nat Muller, Schilt Publishing, Amsterdam, Netherlands