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	*Charcoal, Ink and a Donkey*, Galerie Tanit, Beirut, Lebanon
2023	*Those Houses Behind the Army Canal*, Ayyam Gallery, Dubai, UAE
2021	*A Language Under My Skin*, Artgenève, Ayyam Gallery Booth, Palexpo, Geneve, Switzerland
	A Language Under My Skin, W139, Amsterdam, The Netherlands
2020	*Bagdad - Amersfoort*, Museum Flehite, Amersfoort, The Netherlands
2019	Kunsthal KAdE, Amersfoort, The Netherlands
2018	*City*, L'appartement 22 art, Rabat, Morocco
2017	*We Scream, But Nothing Changes*, Naves Matadero–International Living Arts Centre, Madrid, Spain
	The River that was in the South, Ayyam Gallery Al Quoz, Dubai, UAE
	Dark is the Tone of My History, Curated by Mayssa Fattouh, Casa Arabe, Madrid, Spain.
	Once Upon A Time: Hadiqat Al Umma, Maraya Art Centre, Sharjah, UAE
	Seasons of Lost Baghdad, Art Dubai 2017, Ayyam Gallery Booth, Madinat Jumeriah, Dubai, UAE
2016	War Scraps At Lemvig Museum, Bunkermuseum, part of Meetings Symposium, Rom, Denmark.
	Ali's Boat, Red Star Line Museum, Antwerp, Belgium (Curator: Niels Van Tomme)
2015	*A Dream Within a Dream*, Galerie Tanit, Munich, Germany

	Driven By Storms (The Notebooks), Ayyam Gallery, Beirut, Lebanon
2014	*Driven By Storms (Ali's Boat)*, Ayyam Gallery, London, UK; Ayyam Gallery, Al Quoz, Dubai, UAE
2013	*Ali's Boat*, Ayyam Gallery, London, UK.
	Biography of a Head, Beirut Exhibition Center, Beirut, Lebanon
2011	*Godot to Come Yesterday*, Ayyam Gallery, Jeddah, Saudi Arabia
	I Do Not Feel That I Am Free, Ayyam Gallery, London, UK
2010	*Waiting for Godot*, Ayyam Gallery, Damascus, Syria
	Nothing, Nobody, Ayyam Gallery, DIFC, Dubai, UAE
	An Introduction to the Philosophy of Freedom, Stadsgalerij, Amersfoort, Netherlands
2008-09	*For the Love of Zainab*, Art Singel 100, Amsterdam, Netherlands
2008	*A Cup of Coffee with Kafka*, 't Hoogt, Utrecht, Netherlands
	Born April 9th, Station Museum, Houston, Texas, USA
2007-08	*Dear Rilke we are all Travellers*, Gallery Majke Husstege, Hertogenbosch, Netherlands
2007	Art Singel 100, Amsterdam, Netherlands
2006	*Born April 9th*, Stedelijk Museum's-Hertogenbosch, Hertogenbosch, Netherlands
	Keeping Clear of Socrates, Seasons Gallery, The Hague, Netherlands
2005	Collect-Art Gallery, Amersfoort, Netherlands
2004	*Human Miniatures*, Gallery Witteveen, Amsterdam, Netherlands
2000	*Papers of a Rational Being*, 4 Walls Gallery, Amman, Jordan
1999	*Memories of a Golden City*: Baghdad, Aya Gallery, London
1994	*In Between Project*, Cultural Centre Ter Dilft, Bornem, Belgium
1993	Gallery Felix, Kampen, Netherlands
1992	French Cultural Center, Amman, Jordan
1989	*Talisman*, Baladna Gallery, Amman, Jordan

1989 Baladna Gallery, Amman, Jordan

Miniatures Wood Cut, Al-Rawaq Gallery, Baghdad, Iraq

Artist Books: Enuma Elish, the Babylonian Creation Myth, Al-Rashid Theater Hall, Baghdad, Iraq

Selected Group Exhibitions

2026 Opening Exhibition, Museum Amersfoort, Amersfoort, Netherlands

الأيام تستمر | *The Days Go On - 20 Years of Ayyam Gallery*, Ayyam Gallery, Dubai, UAE

Today I Would Like to Be a Tree, Curated by Abed Al Kadiri, Nuhad Es-Said Pavilion for Culture, Lebanon

Déjà Vu, Concrete, Alserkal Avenue, Dubai, UAE

All Manner of Experiments: Legacies of the Baghdad Modern Art Group, Curated by Nada Shabout, NYU Abu Dhabi, Gallery, Abu Dhabi, UAE

2025 *Cities Under Quarantine: The Mailbox Project*, SAMoCA@Jax, Riyadh, Saudi Arabia

What of the eternal harm lurking all around?, McMaster Museum of Art, Hamilton, Canada

Squaring the Circle – 25 Years with ET4U, MK61, Denmark

Maknana: An Archeology of New Media Art In the Arab World, Diriyah Art Futures, Riyadh, KSA

New New Babylon: Visions for Another Tomorrow, Kunstmuseum Den Hagg, the Hague, Amsterdam

Jameel Prize: Moving Image, Hayy Jameel, Jeddah, KSA

Jameel Prize: Moving Image, Cartwright Hall, Bradford, UK

Jameel Prize: Moving Image, Victoria and Albert Museum, London, UK

2023 *Kiss My Soul*, Dordrechts Museum, Netherlands

Dining with the Sultan: The Fine Art of Feasting, LACMA, Los Angeles, California, US

Something Else at the Citadel, Salah al-Din Citadel, Cairo, Egypt

35th Ljubljana Biennial, Ljubljana, Slovenia

Outside the Text, POST, Netherlands

2022 *Landscape of Memory: Seven Installations from the Barjeel Art Foundation*, McMullen Museum of Art,

	Boston, Massachusetts, USA
	Baghdad: Eye's Delight, Museum of Islamic Art, Doha, Qatar
2020	*Amakin*, 21,39, Jeddah, KSA
	In the Footsteps of Cai Lun II, Selected Works on Paper, Ayyam Gallery, Dubai, UAE
	In the Presence of Absence, Stedelijk Museum, Amsterdam, Netherlands
2020-19	*Echoes & Perceptions*, 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
2018	*9th Asia Pacific Triennial of Contemporary Art* (APT9), Queensland, Gallery of Modern Art (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)

I*mperfect 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 Nazzal)

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 Martin, 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

D*aftar: Contemporary Iraqi Book A*rt, 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

2025 **Artist Talk**, hosted by ET4U – Contemporary Visual Art Projects – West Jutland, Morsø Art Association of 1961, Morsø Kunstforening, MK61, Denmark

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

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, Novosibirdk, Russia

The Samawi, Collection, Dubai, UAE

Stedelijk Museum, Amsterdam, Netherlands

Publications

2021 *Sadik Kwaish Alfraji, In Search of Lost Bagdad*, writen 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