

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
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 At Lemvig Museum</i> , 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

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

- 2025 *New New Babylon: Visions for Another Tomorrow*, Kunstmuseum Den Haag, 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
- 2024 Art Dubai, Ayyam Gallery booth, Madinat Jumeirah, Dubai, UAE
- Artgenève, Ayyam Gallery Booth, Palexpo, Geneve, Switzerland
- 2023 Artgenève, Ayyam Gallery Booth, Palexpo, Geneve, Switzerland
- 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
- 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 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

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

- 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, Novosibirsk,
Russia

The Samawi, Collection, Dubai, UAE

Stedelijk Museum, Amsterdam, Netherlands

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

2021 *Sadik Kwaish Alfraji*, Edited by Nat Muller, Schilt Publishing, Amsterdam, Netherlands

2015