

Sadik Kwaish Alfraji (Iraq, b. 1960)

Education

- 2000 Graphic Design Diploma, Constantijn Huygens, Kampen, Netherlands
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

- 2017 *Once Upon A Time: Hadiqat Al Umma*, Maraya Art Centre, Sharjah, UAE
2016 *Ali's Boat*, Red Star Line Museum, Antwerp, Belgium (Curator: Niels Van Tomme)
 A Dream Within a Dream, Galerie Tanit, Munich, Germany
2015 *Driven By Storms* (The Notebooks), Ayyam Gallery, Beirut, Lebanon
 Driven By Storms (Ali's Boat), Ayyam Gallery, London, UK; Ayyam Gallery, Al Quoz, Dubai, UAE
2014 *Biography of a Head*, Beirut Exhibition Center, Beirut, Lebanon
2013 *Godot to Come Yesterday*, Ayyam Gallery, Jeddah, Saudi Arabia
 I Do Not Feel That I Am Free, Ayyam Gallery, London, UK
2011 *Waiting for Godot*, Ayyam Gallery, Damascus, Syria
 Nothing, Nobody, Ayyam Gallery, DIFC, Dubai, UAE
2010 *An Introduction to the Philosophy of Freedom*, Stadsgalerij, Amersfoort, Netherlands
 For the Love of Zainab, Art Singel 100, Amsterdam, Netherlands
 A Cup of Coffee with Kafka, 't Hoogt, Utrecht, Netherlands
2008-09 *Born April 9th*, Station Museum, Houston, Texas, USA
2008 *Dear Rilke we are all Travellers*, Gallery Majke Husstege, 's-Hertogenbosch, Netherlands

- Art Singel 100, Amsterdam, Netherlands
- 2007-08 *Born April 9th*, Stedelijk Museum 's-Hertogenbosch, 's-Hertogenbosch, Netherlands
- 2007 *Keeping Clear of Socrates*, Seasons Gallery, The Hague, Netherlands
- 2006 Collect-Art Gallery, Amersfoort, Netherlands
- Human Miniatures*, Gallery Witteveen, Amsterdam, Netherlands
- 2005 *Papers of a Rational Being*, 4 Walls Gallery, Amman, Jordan
- 2004 *Memories of a Golden City: Baghdad*, Aya Gallery, London,
- 2000 *In Between Project*, Cultural Centre Ter Dilft, Bornem, Belgium
- 1999 Gallery Felix, Kampen, Netherlands
- 1994 French Cultural Center, Amman, Jordan
- 1993 *Talisman*, Baladna Gallery, Amman, Jordan
- 1992 Baladna Gallery, Amman, Jordan
- 1989 *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

- 2017 *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
- Time, Site & Lore*, Lemvig Museum, Denmark
- Archaic*, 57th Venice Biennale, Venice, Italy (Curator: Martina Corgnati)
- 2015 *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
- Islamic Art Now: Contemporary Art of the Middle East*, LACMA, Los Angeles, California, USA
- 2014 *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)
- Contemporary Uprising: Art from the Middle East*, Nest Gallery, Geneva, Switzerland (Curators: Khaled and Hisham Samawi, in collaboration with Stefania Nazzal)
- 2013 *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)
- The Samawi Collection II*, Ayyam Gallery, Al Quoz, Dubai, UAE
- 2011 International Festival of Contemporary Art, Museum of Modern and Contemporary Art, Algiers, Algeria
- 2010-11 *Told / Untold / Retold*, Mathaf: Arab Museum of Modern Art, Doha, Qatar (Curators: Sam Bardaouil and Till Fellrath)
- 2008 *12 Tekenaars*, Gallery Witteveen, Amsterdam, Netherlands
- Old Friends & New Faces*, Seasons Gallery, The Hague, Netherlands
- Arttransit Gallery, Amersfoort, Netherlands
- New Salon: Identity has a Face with No Features*, CBKU & Central Museum, Utrecht, Netherlands (Curator: Robbert Roos)

- 2007 8th International Biennial of Engraving, Premio Acqui, Acqui Terme, Italy
- Rabbit and House*, Seoul International Book Arts Fair, Seoul, South Korea (Curator: Kestutis Vasiliunas)
- Rabbit and House*, Leipzig Book Fair, Leipzig, Germany (Curator: Kestutis Vasiliunas)
- 2006 *Intervisie IV*, Seasons Gallery, The Hague, Netherlands
- International Book-Art Project, Artetica, Roma, Italy
- 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
- 2005 *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
- Galerie Covalenco, Geldrop, Netherlands
- Best of Inkt*, Inkt Gallery, The Hague, Netherlands
- 2004 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
- Op Format*, Inkt Gallery, The Hague, Netherlands
- 2003 *Expressions of Hope*, Aya Gallery, London, UK

- 2002 *1001 Reasons to Love the Earth*, Foundation 2000, Seoul, South Korea
- 2001 Inkt Graphic Calendar, Inkt Gallery, The Hague, Netherlands
The Outside of the Inside, Manege St. Petersburg Art Hall, St. Petersburg, Russia
- 2000 *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
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
- 1986 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

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

Workshops

2011 **Workshop**, *My First Animation*, Mathaf: Arab Museum of Modern Art, Doha, Qatar

Workshop, *My Father*, Mathaf: Arab Museum of Modern Art, Doha, Qatar

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

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'*, moderated by Sam Bardaouil, Mathaf: Arab Museum of Modern Art, Doha, Qatar

Awards

2015 **Grant**, *Driven By Storms (Ali's Boat)*, Mondriaan Fund, Amsterdam, Netherlands

Filmography

- 2014 *Biography of a Head* (23:15 minutes)
- 2013 *Godot to Come Yesterday* (13 minutes)
- 2012 *Sisyphus Goes on Demonstration* (3 minutes, loop)
- 2011 *The House that My Father Built* (6:12 minutes)
- 2009 *Seven Days in Baghdad* (23 minutes)
- 2007 *Born April 9th* (15 minutes, loop)
- 2005 *An Introduction to the Philosophy of Freedom (Basic Notes)* (14:34 minutes)

Publications

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