

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

- 2022 *A Language Under My Skin*, artgenève 2023, Ayyam Gallery Booth, Palexpo, Geneva, Switzerland
- A Language Under My Skinn*, W139, Amsterdam, The Netherlands
- 2021 *Bagdad - Amersfoort*, Museum Flehite, Amersfoort, The Netherlands
- Kunsthal KAdE, Amersfoort, The Netherlands
- 2020 *City, L'appartement 22 art*, Rabat, Morocco
- 2019 *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
- 2018 *Dark is the Tone of My History*, Curated by Mayssa Fattouh, Casa Arabe, Madrid, Spain.
- 2017 *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
- War Scraps At Lemvig Museum*, Bunkermuseum, part of Meetings Symposium, Rom, Denmark.
- 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
Ali's Boat, Ayyam Gallery, London, UK.
- 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, Hertogenbosch,
Netherlands
Art Singel 100, Amsterdam, Netherlands
- 2007-08 *Born April 9th*, Stedelijk Museum's-Hertogenbosch, 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

- 2022 *Baghdad: Eye's Delight*, Museum of Islamic Art, Doha, Qatar
- Amakin*, 21,39, Jeddah, KSA
- In the Footsteps of Cai Lun II, Selected Works on Paper*, Ayyam Gallery, Dubai, UAE
- 2020 *In the Presence of Absence*, Stedelijk Museum, Amsterdam, Netherlands
- 2020 *Echoes & Perceptions*, Ayyam Gallery, Al Quoz, Dubai, UAE
- In the Presence of Absence*, Stedelijk Museum, Amsterdam, Netherlands
- 2020-19 *Imagined Communities*, 21st Contemporary Art Biennial Sesc_Videobrasil, curated by Solange Farkas, São Paulo, Brazil
- 2019 *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
- Eyes East Bound*, 13th Cairo International Biennale, chosen by artistic director Ehab EL-Labban, Cairo, Egypt
- 2019-18 *9th Asia Pacific Triennial of Contemporary Art (APT9)*, Queensland Gallery of Modern Art (QAGOMA), Brisbane, Australia
- 2018 *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
- Tribe: Contemporary Photography from the Arab World*, American University Museum, Washington DC, USA
- Abu Dhabi Art, Ayyam Gallery Booth, Abu Dhabi, UAE

- 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)
- 2016 *Imperfect Chronology: Mapping the Contemporary II*, drawn from the Barjeel Art Foundation, (Curated by Omar Kholeif), Whitechapel Gallery, London.
- Screening**, *Ali's Boat (2015)*, International Film Festival Rotterdam (IFFR), Rotterdam, Netherlands
- 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
- LA Art Show, Ayyam Gallery Booth, Los Angeles, CA, USA
- 2014 *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)

- Contemporary Uprising: Art from the Middle East*, Nest Gallery, Geneva, Switzerland (Curators: Khaled and Hisham Samawi, in collaboration with Stefania Nazzari)
- 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
- Screening**, Bienal de la Imagen en Movimiento, Centro Cultural General San Martin, Buenos Aires, Argentina
- 2012 *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
- 1987 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.
- 2017 *I Am the Hunter, I Am the Prey* (04:37 minutes), Sound.
- 2017 *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.
- 2015 *Flying over Baghdad* (05:28 minutes), Silent.
- 2015 *A Letter* (05:04 minutes), Silent.
- 2014 *Biography of a Head* (23:15 minutes), Silent.
- 2013 *Godot to Come Yesterday* (13 minutes), Sound.
- 2012 *Sisyphus Goes on Demonstration* (3 minutes, loop), Sound.
- 2011 *The House that My Father Built* (6:12 minutes), Sound.
- 2009 *Seven Days in Baghdad* (23 minutes), Sound.
- 2007 *Born April 9th* (15 minutes, loop), Sound.
- 2005 *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'*, moderated by Sam Bardaouil, Mathaf: Arab Museum of Modern Art, Doha, Qatar

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

Publications

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