

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SUNDARAM TAGORE PRESENTS **SIGNS: CONTEMPORARY ARAB ART** SEVEN RENOWNED ARTISTS FROM THE MIDDLE EAST

Exhibition dates: **October 14 - November 14, 2009**

Opening cocktail reception: **Wednesday, October 14, 6:30 to 8:30 pm**



New York, NY, July 20, 2009—Signs: Contemporary Arab Art is a groundbreaking exhibition offering a rare glimpse into the Arab art world. The first of its kind in New York, this exhibition presents the work of seven influential artists from various countries in the Middle East. Curated by noted art historian and curator Karin von Roques, the exhibition explores the role of traditional Islamic calligraphy and symbols in the contemporary Arab consciousness. Grappling with aesthetic philosophy, mysticism, tradition, and issues of everyday survival and existence, all seven artists challenge convention and create new visual language.

Once the cradle of ancient civilization, the Middle East has a compelling artistic history. For centuries, the written word has played a defining role in Islamic visual culture—a legacy that persists even today. Working with different media, including paint on canvas, collage, ink on paper, wood and gold leaf, these artists take traditional Arabic script and symbols as their point of departure. Qatari artist Yousef Ahmad distills Arabic letters into abstract shapes and gestural marks that sweep across dream-like mixed-media surfaces. Syrian artist Khaled Al-Saa'i is inspired by poetry and Sufi philosophy, and paints spacious landscapes in which words float, overlap and follow their own particular rhythm. Offering a nuanced view of the culture of the Middle East, these innovative artists create complex contemporary works that draw on the spiritual depth of ancient Islamic art.

(continued)

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Rather than singling out Arab culture as “other,” this exhibition aims to further intercultural dialogue between the Arab world and the West. Having studied and lived in the Middle East over the past decade, exhibition curator Karin von Roques has an intimate and unique understanding of the region and its artists. She throws into relief the wide range of work emerging from the contemporary Middle East, bringing its seminal artists to an international audience. Gallery director Sundaram Tagore says, “This exhibition was developed with the prime motivation being connoisseurship rather than the more expected issues of religion or politics. I believe connoisseurship will be the defining factor in the post-recession art world.”

The full roster of artists is as follows: Ahmad Moualla (Syria); Ayman El Semaary (Egypt); Hassan Massoudy (Iraq); Khaled Al-Saa'i (Syria); Ali Hassan (Qatar); Georges Fikry Ibrahim (Egypt); and Yousef Ahmad (Qatar).

GALLERY MISSION

Established in 2000, Sundaram Tagore Gallery is devoted to examining the exchange of ideas between Western and non-Western cultures. We focus on developing exhibitions and hosting not-for-profit events that encourage spiritual, social and aesthetic dialogues. In a world where communication is instant and cultures are colliding and melding as never before, our goal is to provide venues for art that transcend boundaries of all sorts. With galleries in New York, Beverly Hills, and Hong Kong, our interest in cross-cultural exchange extends beyond the visual arts into many other disciplines, including poetry, literature, performance art, film and music.

CURATOR'S PROFILE

Karin von Roques is a noted German curator and art historian who, having studied Islamic art, specializes in contemporary Arab and Iranian art. From 1997 to 2000 she was the director for the Hermann Hesse Museum in Lugano, Switzerland. Von Roques has curated exhibitions for numerous institutions, including the Museum of Applied Arts, Frankfurt; Kunstmuseum, Bonn; Institut du Monde Arabe, Paris; and the Cultural Foundation, Abu Dhabi. She has had extensive experience developing Arab art collections, and currently oversees Deutsche Bank's collection program focused on contemporary Arab art. Most recently, von Roques served as a consultant to Sotheby's, London, advising their Modern and Contemporary Arab and Iranian Art Department. She was a member of the international jury for the 11th International Cairo Biennale and served as a key panelist at the roundtable conference “Global Art in a Global Culture” held at Sundaram Tagore Gallery, New York, in 2007.

SUNDARAM TAGORE'S PROFILE

Sundaram Tagore is a New York-based art historian and gallerist. He was the first gallerist to focus exclusively on globalization, assembling a roster of artists from around the world. A descendant of the influential Indian poet and Nobel Prize winner Rabindranath Tagore, he promotes East-West dialogues through his contributions to numerous exhibitions as well as his eponymous galleries and their multicultural and multidisciplinary events. A candidate for a Doctorate of Philosophy from Oxford University, Tagore writes for many art publications. He was previously a director at Pace Wildenstein Gallery in New York. He has worked with many international organizations including The Peggy Guggenheim Foundation, Venice, Italy, and the Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York. He has also served as an advisor for the Museum of Modern Art, New York, and the United Nations. In 1999, he was nominated by Avenue magazine as one of the 100 Most Influential Asian Americans in the United States and was recently the subject of a 30-minute interview on CNN's Talk Asia.

For more information or to arrange interviews with the curator or artists, please email: press@sundaramtagore.com
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57-59 Hollywood Road
Central, Hong Kong

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Ahmad Moualla

Born Syria, 1958

Graduate, Visual Communication, Faculty of Fine Arts, Damascus University, Syria, 1981

Graduate, École Nationale Supérieure des Arts Décoratifs, Paris, France, 1981

Professor, Faculty of Fine Arts, Damascus University, Syria, 1989-1996

Selected Solo Exhibitions

Ahmad Moualla's Orient, Sultan Gallery, Kuwait, 2008

An Homage to Antoine Maqdessi and Antoine Al-Jammal, Art House Gallery, Damascus, Syria, 2007

Al Riwaq Gallery, Bahrain, 2007

Ahmad Moualla, Artist Gallery, Istanbul, Turkey, 2006

Clay, Country Exhibition, the German Cultural Institute (Goethe Institut), Damascus, Syria, 2004

Private exhibition, National Board of Culture, Art & Literature, Kuwait, 2001

An Homage to Saadallah Wannous, Bahrain National Museum, 1998

Private Experimentations, Green Art Gallery, Dubai, United Arab Emirates, 1998

An Homage to Saadallah Wannous, Atassi Gallery, Damascus, Syria, 1997

Painting of Ra's Al Mamluk Jabir Book, UNESCO, Paris, France, 1996

Remains of a Human Combustion, Brazil Café, Cham Palace Hotel, Damascus, Syria, 1996-1997

Miró in Three Dimensions, French Cultural Center, Damascus, Syria, 1994-1995

Trials in Colors, French Cultural Center, Damascus, Syria, 1993-1994

Experimentations, Mar Gallery, Latakia, Syria, 1990

Experimentations, Atassi Gallery, Homs, Syria, 1990

Experimentations, Bilad Al-Cham Gallery, Aleppo, Syria, 1990

Experimentations, Bilad Al-Cham Gallery, Damascus, Syria, 1990

Syria Ahmad Moualla, Urnina Gallery, Damascus, Syria, 1988

Selected Group Exhibitions

Retrospective of Fine Arts in Syria III, Damascus, 2008

Syria's Modern Art, Souk Waqef Gallery, Qatar, 2008

Beyond Words, Galerie Kashya Hildebrand, Zurich, Switzerland, 2008

Stiria Meet Syria, Neo Gallery, Gratz, Austria, 2007

Even War Has Its Limits and Women and War, exhibitions by the Red Cross, Damascus, Syria, and Geneva, Switzerland, 2001-2002

A Glimpse at Modern Arab Art, Kindah Group, Arab World Institute, Paris, France, 2002

Modern Syrian Art, Arab World Institute, Paris, France, 2001

Experience in Old Cairo with an invitation from The International Critique Association

Experimental-critique seminar about Kom Ghourab, Cairo, Egypt, 1996

Cairo International Biennale, Egypt, 1996

Sharjah Biennale, artistic workshops and participation, 1995

World Artists, an international exhibition visiting world capitals, 1995

Juries

Photographing the Mediterranean Sea Contest with the European Union, 2004

Graphic Biennale of the Islamic World, Tehran, Iran, 2004

Damascus International Film Festival, Syria, 2003

International Symposium, Emaar, Dubai, United Arab Emirates, 2003

Damascus International Exhibition: Lottery Card Contest, 2001-2007

Damascus International Exhibition: Best Poster Contest, 2001-2007

Think With Your Hand Contest, Cervantes Institute, Damascus, Syria, 1998

Gulf Cooperation Council Exhibition, 1996

Awards

Burda Prize (first prize), Arabic calligraphy (the modern method), Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates, 2007

Grand Prize, Latakia Biennale, Syria, 1999

Best Outdoor Poster, Munich, Germany, 1988

First Prize, Kieler Woche Contest, Germany, 1988

Scenography, television

The Boxthorn, The Death Coming to the East, Al-Kawasser, Ser Al-Nawwar, Al-Zir Salem

Scenography, theatre

Man to Man, Voices of Depths, A Long Birthday Night, Kahrab, Sour Grapes, The Blinds

Scenography, film

Layla and the Wolf, Verbal Letters, Sandouq Al-Dunia (Box of the Universe), What the Audience Wants, Under the Ceiling, Dhulm (Years of Torment)

Publications

On Western Media Directed to Arab Countries, The Role of Media in Western Art

Ali Hassan

Born Doha, Qatar, 1956

Studied history, Qatar University, 1982 and 1984

Workshop, Arabic and Islamic Restoration Legacy, University of Louvain, Belgium

Chairman, Youth Creative Art Centre and Girls' Creativity Art Centre, Doha, Qatar, 2004 to 2008

Selected Solo Exhibitions

The Japan Foundation Forum, Tokyo, Japan, 2003

Bissan Gallery, Doha, Qatar, 2001 and 2005

The National Gallery, 2004

Fashion Arts Association, Kuwait, 2000

The National Centre for Arabic Arts Calligraphy, Tunisia, 2000

Festival Palace, Cannes, France, 1992

Qatar University, Doha, 1987

Selected Group Exhibitions

Deborah Colton Gallery, Houston, Texas, 2008

Galerie Kashya Hildebrand, Zurich, Switzerland, 2008

British Museum Collection, Dubai Market for the Arts, 2008

Albareh Art Gallery, Adliya, Kingdom of Bahrain, 2007

ArtParis Abu Dhabi Modern and Contemporary Art Fair, United Arab Emirates, 2007

Contemporary Gulf Art, Bonn, Germany, 2005

Contemporary Arabic Art, Spain, 2003-2004

The 10th International India Triennial, New Delhi, 2001

New York, Hofstra Museum, Hofstra University, Hempstead, New York, 1996

The Asian Art Biennial, Dhaka, Bangladesh, 1986-1997

International Cairo Ciennial, Egypt, 1984-1998

Selected Awards

State Award for Plastic Art, Doha, Qatar, 2005

Appreciation Award, Print Triennial, Egypt, 2003

Al Dana Award, Kuwait, 2000

Merit Award, UNICEF, 1995

Jury prize, Sharjah Art Biennial, United Arab Emirates, 1993

Golden Palm Award, Gulf Cooperation Council Art Exhibition, Qatar, 1992-1999

Public Collections

Los Angeles District Museum

The British Museum, London, United Kingdom

Chuan Art Museum

Jordanian National Gallery of Fine Arts

Sharjah Art Museum, United Arab Emirates

Qatar National Museum

The Museum of Modern Arab Art, Doha, Qatar

Museum of Contemporary Graphic Art, Cairo, Egypt

The Ritz Carlton

The Sheraton

The Four Seasons

The Al Bustan

The Marriott Hotel

Ayman El Semary

Born Kafr Shukr-Kalubia, Egypt, 1965

M.A., painting, Helwan University, Egypt, 1995

Ph.D., art education, painting department, Helwan University, Egypt, 2001

The faculty of art education

Member, Cairo & Alexandria Atelier for Artists & Writers

Member, Plastic Artists Syndicate

Selected Solo Exhibitions

Alexandria International Symposium, Sculpture in Natural Materials, Egypt, 2008

Townhouse On Site gallery, Sequoia, Zamalek, Egypt, 2007

Ebdaa Art Gallery, Mohandeseen, Giza, Egypt, 2007

The American University in Cairo, Egypt, 2007

Gezira Art Center, Zamalek, Cairo, Egypt, 2006

Albertini Academy, Torino, Italy, 2005

The Egyptian and Swiss flat countries with artist Romano Delakezia, Mashrabia Gallery, Cairo, Egypt, 2004

Chamber drawings sequences, Zamalek Arts Complex, Cairo, Egypt, 2003

Ekhnaton 1 Gallery, Zamalek, Cairo, Egypt, 2003

The Egyptian Academy in Rome, Italy, 2002

Kamal Khalifa Gallery, Gezira Art Center, Zamalek, Cairo, Egypt, 2002

Chamber drawings, Zamalek Arts Complex, Cairo, Egypt, 2001

Installation, Cairo Atelier, Zamalek Arts Complex, Egypt, 2001

Ekhnaton 3 Gallery, Gezira Art Center, Zamalek, Cairo, Egypt, 2000

Chamber drawings, Zamalek Arts Complex, Cairo, Egypt, 1999

The Greek Cultural Corporation Gallery, Alexandria, Egypt, 1999

Chamber drawings, Cairo Atelier, Zamalek Arts Complex, Egypt, 1997

Ekhnaton 3 Gallery, Gezira Art Center, Zamalek, Cairo, Egypt, 1997

Myth sequences, Zamalek Arts Complex, Cairo, 1996

Cairo Atelier, Zamalek Arts Complex, Egypt, 1995

Sports Club gallery, Kafr Shukr, Egypt, 1995

Earth mythology, Zamalek Arts Complex, Cairo, Egypt, 1994

Sports Club gallery, Kafr Shukr, Egypt, 1986

Selected Group Exhibitions

The Present Out of the Past Millennia—Contemporary Egyptian Art, Kunstmuseum, Bonn, Germany, 2007

The Venice Biennale, 2007

Imagining the Book, International Biennial Alexandria, Bibliotheca Alexandria, Egypt, 2006

Contemporary Egyptian art, Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates, 2006

Contemporary Egyptian art, Algeria, 2006

Contemporary Egyptian art, Prague, Czech Republic, 2005

Imagining the Book, International Biennial Alexandria, Bibliotheca Alexandria, Egypt 2005

Form through Light, Ramadan, Palace of Art, Cairo, 2004

Imagining the Book, International Biennial Alexandria, Bibliotheca Alexandria, Egypt, 2004

Alexandria International Biennial, The Museum of Fine Arts, Alexandria, Egypt, 2003

Portrait, Bibliotheca Alexandria, Egypt, 2003

Twentieth-Century Panorama—100 artists in Egypt, Bibliotheca Alexandria, Egypt, 2003

Contemporary Egyptian art, Al-Nitaq Festival of Art, Gresham Hotel, Cairo, Egypt, 2002

National exhibition, Palace of Art, Cairo, Egypt, 2001
Al-Nitaq Festival of Art, The Greek Club, Cairo, Egypt, 2000
Workshop in Luxor studios, Egypt, 2000
Espace Karim Francis Contemporary Art Gallery, Cairo, Egypt, 2000
The International Dubrovnik Biennial, Croatia, 1999
Shell Company Gallery, Misr el-Gedida, Egypt, 1998
Cairo International Biennial, Egypt, 1998
T-shirt, Mashrabia Gallery, Cairo, Egypt, 1998
Cairo International Biennial in Ceramics, Egypt, 1998
Zeno X Gallery, Frankfurt, Germany, 1998
Cairo Atelier Salon, Egypt, 1997
Mashrabia Gallery, Cairo, Egypt, 1997
Youth Salon, 2nd to 10th, salons, Cairo, Egypt, beginning in 1990
National Exhibition, Center of Arts, Cairo Egypt, 1996
Alexandria Atelier, Egypt, 1994

Participation

Eighteenth Youth Salon, Cairo, Egypt, 2006
Graphic workshop in conjunction with national exhibition of graphic art, Palace of Art, Cairo, Egypt, 2005
Workshop on the contemporary Egyptian painting, Riyadh, Kingdom of Saudia Arabia, 2004
Jury member, 16th Youth Salon, Cairo, Egypt, 2004
The fourth Conference of Plastic Arts, thesis titled Contemporary Egyptian Art and Postmodern Arts, Egypt, 2004
The international workshop for Imagining the Book, 120 international artists, Bibliotheca Alexandria, Egypt, 2003

Awards

Honor prize and bronze medal, Alexandria Biennial, Egypt, 2003
The best partition prize, International Dubrovnik Biennial, Croatia, 1999
The jury prize, installation, 10th Youth Salon, Cairo, Egypt, 1998
Second prize, painting, 9th Youth Salon, 1997
Grand prize, International Union for Plastic Arts Critiques (AIKA), scholarship for three months in art studios in Rotterdam, The Netherlands, 1997
Grand prize (Golden Ekhnaton), 7th Youth Salon, Cairo, Egypt, 1995

Collections

The Museum of Modern Art, Cairo, Egypt
Cultural development box, 2000
Private collection, Germany, 2008

Georges Fikry Ibrahim

Born Heliopolis, Cairo, Egypt

Graduated with honors, Helwan University, Egypt, 1986

Demonstrator, art education, Helwan University, Egypt, 1987

M.A., art education, 1994

Assistant instructor, art education sciences, 2000

P.h.D., art education philosophy, 2000

Instructor, art education sciences, 2000

Assistant professor, art education, 2006

Selected Solo Exhibitions

The American University in Cairo, Egypt, 2007

Albertini Academy, Torino – Italy, 2005

Chamber drawings sequences, Zamalek Arts Complex , Cairo, Egypt, 2003

The Egyptian Academy in Rome, Italy, 2002

Chamber drawings, Zamalek Arts Complex, Cairo, Egypt, 2001

Chamber drawings, Zamalek Arts Complex, Cairo, Egypt, 1999

Chamber drawings, Cairo Atelier, Egypt, 1997

Myth sequences, Zamalek Arts Complex , Cairo, Egypt, 1996

Earth mythology, Zamalek Arts Complex, 1994

Selected Group Exhibitions

Masterpieces Collective, Zamalek Art Gallery, Cairo, Egypt, 2009

International Dakar Biennial, Senegal, 2008

Venice Biennale, Egyptian Pavilion, Italy, 2007

Contemporary Egyptian art, Alicante, Spain, 2007

Contemporary Egyptian art, Kunstmuseum Bonn, Germany, 2007

El Arousa, Ahmed Shawki Museum, Cairo, Egypt, 2007

Contemporary Egyptian art, Bosnia and Herzegovina, 2006

International Cairo Biennial, Egypt, 2006

Art and Soul, contemporary Egyptian and Korean art, Palace of Art, Cairo, Egypt, 2005

Egyptian Cultural Center in Rome, Italy, 2005

Twenty-ninth National Exhibition in Commemoration of 100 years of Egyptian Plastic Arts, nominated by the Ministry of Culture and faculty of art education Helwan University, Palace of Art, art education faculty, Cairo, Egypt, 2005

First International Alexandria Biennial for Artists' Book, Egypt, 2004

Stars' Salon, in conjunction with the sixth Youth Salon, Cairo, Egypt, 2004

Contemporary Egyptian art, in conjunction with the Frankfurt International Book Fair, Germany, 2004.

Silver Jubilee, celebrating the 25th anniversary of the Zamalek Arts Complex, Cairo, Egypt, 2002

Contemporary Egyptian art, Tunisia, 2001

Contemporary Egyptian art, Sharjah, United Arab Emirates, 2000

Commissioner of a contemporary Egyptian art and dialogue on the paradoxes of contemporary Egyptian art at the beginning of the 21st century, United Arab Emirates, 2000

Contemporary Egyptian art, Jordan, 1999.

Contemporary Egyptian art, Qatar, 1999

Dream mythology, Italian Cultural Center, Cairo, Egypt, 1997

Contemporary Egyptian art, Pakistan, 1997

Little Works Salon, Cairo, Egypt, 1998-2004
The National Exhibition for Fine Arts, Cairo, Egypt, 1997-2003
Contemporary Egyptian art, Vienna, Austria, 1995.
Homeland X 1 Society, Cairo, Egypt, 1993-1995
Youth Salon, Cairo, Egypt, 1989
Pioneers Exhibition, Cairo, Egypt, 1989-1995

Memberships

Plastic Arts Syndicate
Art Educators Union
Union of the Graduates of Art Education Higher Institute
Art and Artwork Instructors Union
Writes and Artists League, Cairo Atelier
Egyptian Society for Folklore Arts
National Society of Fine Arts
International Society of Education Through Art
Nation X 1 Society
Committee collecting and documenting information on Egyptian plastic arts
Suzanne Mubarak arbitration committee for children's literature
Egyptian section, International Association of Art
National Book Project Committee

Hassan Massoudy

Born Najef, Iraq, 1944

Moved to Baghdad, Iraq, 1961, to study classical calligraphy, graphic arts, communication arts, and fine arts

Moved to Paris, France, 1969, to enroll at L'Ecole des Beaux-Arts ; graduated 1975

Selected Exhibitions

Arabesque : Arts of the Arab World, The Kennedy Center, Washington, D.C., 2009

Sciptorial, Musée d'Avranches, France, 2008

Word into Art: Artists of the Modern Middle East, organized by the British Museum, Dubai, United Arab Emirates, 2008

Hunar Gallery, Dubai, United Arab Emirates, 2008

October Gallery, London, United Kingdom, 2007

Centre d'Art Contemporain, Abbaye de Trizay, France, 2007

Galerie-jardin d'Anh Tuyêt, Blagnac, France, 2007

Chapelle du séminaire, Moissac, France, 2007

Eglise des Dominicains et Espace Boulat du Couvent des Minimes, Perpignan, France, 2007

Château de Villiers, Draveil, France, 2007

Word into Art: Artists of the Modern Middle East, British Museum, London, United Kingdom, 2006

Festival Soirs en Scène sur Tarn, La Tour de la Défense, Villemur sur Tarn, 2006

Maison Joseph Perrier, Châlons en Champagne, France, 2006

Théâtre du Lierre, Paris, France, 2006

Ferme du Mousseau, Elancourt, France, 2005

Médiathèque du Pays de Mauriac, Mauriac, France, 2005

Salle André Malraux, Yerres, France, 2005

Musée Chateau Saint Jean, Nogent-le-Rotrou, France, 2005

Maison des Mémoires, Carcassonne, France, 2004

Syndicat d'Initiative, Issigeac, France, 2004

Maison de la Rencontre, Ecully, France, 2003

Maison des Arts et de la Communication, Sallaumines, France, 2003

Centre Culturel François Villon, Enghien les Bains, France, 2002

Hunar Gallery, Dubai, United Arab Emirates, 2002

Espace culturel François Mauriac, Sevran, France, 2002

Galerie Atelier Gustave, Paris, France, 2002

Maison des Jeunes et de la Culture, Colombes, France, 2002

Pavillon des Arts, Mont de Marsan, France, 2001

Artothèque de Cherbourg, France, 2001

Terres d'Ecrites, Grignan, France, 2001

Sharja Museum, United Arab Emirates, 2001

Bibliothèque Municipale, Montbéliard, France, 2000

Artothèque, Centre Culturel, Vitré, France, 2000

Maison de la Fontaine, Brest, France, 2000

Fondation Asselah, Alger, Algérie, 1999

Sacred music festival, Dar Batha Museum, Fez, Morocco, 1999

Espace Henri Matisse, Creil, France, 1999

Centre Culturel, Saint Pierre des Corps, France, 1998

Comptoir des Ecrites, Paris, France, 1998

Centre Culturel Saint-Exupéry, Reims, France, 1997

Espace Saint Martin, Paris, France, 1997

Bibliothèque Municipale , Obernai, France, 1997
Maison des Jeunes et de la Culture , Briançon, France, 1996
La Médiatine, Brussels, Belgium, 1996
Espace 110, Illzach, France, 1996
Centre Culturel, Meudon, France, 1995
La Collégiale de Saint-Pierre Le Puellier, Orléans, France, 1995
La Ferme des Arts, Vaison-la-Romaine, France, 1995
Médiathèque Municipale , Saint-Apollinaire, France, 1995
Médiathèque Municipale , Sète, France, 1995
Centre des Cultures Méditerranéennes, Belfort, France, 1994
Galerie Tammouz, Brussels, Belgium, 1994
Centre Culturel le Dôme, Albertville, France, 1994
Salle des Templiers, Montélimar, France, 1994
Bibliothèque Municipale, Chambon-sur-Lignon, France, 1994
Centre Culturel, Rungis, France, 1994
Centre Culturel, Colomiers, France, 1994
Maison des Jeunes et de la Culture , Annecy-le-Vieux, France, 1993
Centre d'Action Culturelle Saint-Martial, Angoulême, France, 1993
Musée Barrois, Bar-le-Duc, France, 1993
La Galerie, Centre Multimédia , Liévin, France, 1993
Bibliothèque Municipale, Quimper, France, 1993
Maison de la Culture, Bourges, France, 1993
Palais des Congrès, Grasse, France, 1993
L'Astrolabe, La Rochelle, France, 1992
Théâtre des Sources, Avignon, France, 1992
De Balie Theater, Amsterdam, Netherlands, 1991
Centre Culturel Algérien, Paris, France, 1991
Espace Culturel Juliette Drouet, Fougères, France, 1991
Galerie l'Art à la Page, Paris, France, 1991
Palais de l'UNESCO, Paris, France, 1990
L'Arsenal, Metz, France, 1990
ARIAP Galerie des Beaux-Arts, Lille, France, 1990
Château de Trousse-Barrière, Briare le Canal, France, 1990
Salle Al Amane, Casablanca, Morocco, 1989
A.R Galerie Art Contemporain, Brest, France, 1989
La Maison des Congrès, Clermont-Ferrand, France, 1988
Bibliothèque Max-Paul Fouchet, Givors, France, 1988
Maison des Jeunes et de la Culture, Neuville-sur-Saône, France, 1988
Soeterijntheater, Amsterdam, Netherlands, 1988
Galerie/librairie La Marge, Ajaccio, France, 1988
Centre Culturel Français, Constantine, Algeria, 1987
Bibliothèque Municipale, Lille, France, 1987
Maison de la Mutualité, Rezé, France, 1987
Galerie de Lappe, Paris, France 1988
Espace Kiron, Paris, France, 1987
Maison des Jeunes et de la Culture, Colombes, France, 1986
Palais des Arts, Brest, France, 1986
Stedelijke Musea, Gouda, Netherlands, 1986
Signe et Calligraphie, Musée des Arts d'Afrique et d'Océanie, Paris, France, 1986
Westfries Museum, Hoorn, Netherlands, 1986

Maison des Jeunes et de la Culture des Orions, Tourcoing, France, 1986
Galerie Al Iwan, Kuwait, 1986
Mairie du 1er arrondissement, Lyon, France, 1985
Bibliothèque Municipale, Sarcelles, France, 1985
Bibliothèque Municipale, Echirolles, France 1985
Salon Inter Art, Saidia , Morocco, 1984
Orient Galerie, Paris, France, 1984
Musée Régional, Sarreguemine, France, 1984
Centre Culturel, Athis-Mons, France, 1983
Maison des Arts et de la Culture, Créteil, France, 1982
Bibliothèque Municipale, Pierrefitte, France, 1982
Musée des Beaux-Arts, Pau, France, 1981
Maison des Jeunes et de la Culture, La Celle-Saint-Cloud, France, 1981
Maison des Jeunes et de la Culture, Colombes, France, 1981
Maison Pour Tous, Saint-Quentin-en-Yvelines, France, 1980

Khaled Al-Saa'i

Born Syria, 1970

Certificate, calligraphy, Research Centre for Islamic History, Art, and Culture, Istanbul, Turkey, 1998

M.A., fine arts, University of Damascus, Syria, 1997

B.A., fine arts, painting, University of Damascus, Syria, 1995

Selected Solo Exhibitions

French Cultural Center, Damascus, Syria, 2009

Dar Al Funoon, Kuwait, 2007

Majlis Gallery, Dubai, United Arab Emirates, 2007

Cultural Foundation, Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates, 2006

Pellouailles-les-Vignes, Nantes, France, 2005

Poems in Calligraphy, Majlis Gallery, Dubai, United Arab Emirates, 2005

Green Art Gallery, Dubai, United Arab Emirates, 2004

Arab World Institute, Paris, France, 2000

French Cultural Centre, Damascus, Syria, 2000

Atassi Gallery, Damascus, Syria, 2000

Institut Francais d'Etudes Arabes Damasc (IFEAD), Damascus, Syria, 1999

Spanish Institute, Damascus, Syria, 1996

Selected Group Exhibitions

Dubai Art Fair and Creek Art Fair, Dubai, United Arab Emirates, 2009

Kashya Hildebrand Gallery, Zurich, Switzerland, 2008

Visual and Audible Art Exhibition, Sharjah Museum of Art, United Arab Emirates, 2007

San Pedro Museum of Art, Mexico, 2007

Al Bareh Art Gallery, Bahrain, 2007

Arab World Institute, Paris, France, 2006

Language of the Desert, Bonn Museum of Art, Germany, 2005

The Art of the Written Word in the Middle East, University of Michigan Museum of Art, Ann Arbor, 2005

Written Cosmos, Frankfurt Museum of Applied Art, Germany, 2004

Visual and Audible, sixth session, Sharjah, United Arab Emirates, 2003

Slater International House, Wellesley College, Wellesley, Massachusetts, 2003

Sharjah Museum of Art, United Arab Emirates, 2002

Art and Sufism, organized by the Cervantes Institute, National Museum of Damascus, Syria; Royal Museum of Amman, Jordan; Bilad Al Sham Gallery, Aleppo Syria; UNESCO Palace, Beirut, Lebanon; Granada and Seville Spain, 2001-2004

Exhibition of Syrian artists organized by the Ministry of Culture, National Museum of Art, Damascus, Syria, 1997

Biennial Almahaba Arts Festival, Latakia, Syria, 1997

Exhibition of Syrian artists organized by the Ministry of Culture, National Museum of Syria, 1991

Al Mayadin City Hall, Syria, 1987

Awards

Modern calligraphy prize, third, International Calligraphy Biennial, Sharjah, United Arab Emirates, 2008
Modern calligraphy prize, Audio-Visual Art Exhibition, Sharjah Museum of Art, United Arab Emirates
First prize of Diwany Jaly, seventh International Competition of Calligraphy, Research Centre for Islamic History, Art, and Culture, Istanbul, Turkey, 2007
Classic Calligraphy Prize, second Biennial of Calligraphy in Arab World, Sharjah, UAE, 2006
First prize for Diwany Jaly script, Master Competition of Calligraphy, sponsored by Al Baraka Turk Bank, Istanbul, Turkey, 2005
First prize for modern of Arabic calligraphy, first Arabic calligraphy, first Biennial of Calligraphy in the Arab World, Sharjah, United Arab Emirates, 2004
Diwany Jaly prize from the sixth international competition, Istanbul, Turkey, 2004
Modernity prize, Audio-Visual Festival, Sharjah Museum of Arts, United Arab Emirates, 2003
The fifth international competition on Arabic calligraphy, Diwany Jaly style, Istanbul, Turkey, 2001
Certificate of distinction, Festival of Music, Poetry and Calligraphy, Obernai, France, 2000
Prize for young artist, presented by the British Counsel, Damascus, Syria, 2000
Biennial of Young Artists, Rome, Italy, 1999
Certificate of distinction, nominated one of the 10 best international calligraphers, and first prize for Diwany Jaly style calligraphy, First International Festival of Arabic Calligraphy, Tehran, Iran, 1997

Workshops

Sharjah Institute of Arts, United Arab Emirates, 2007
Free Atelier, Kuwait, 2006
Museum of Calligraphy and Ornament, Sharjah, United Arab Emirates, 2006
Workshop and lecture, Bonn Museum of Art, Germany, 2005
University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, 2005
Wellesley College, Wellesley, Massachusetts, 2005
University of Michigan Museum of Arts, Ann Arbor, 2006
Technique of calligraphy, first Biennial of Calligraphy, United Arab Emirates, 2004
Workshop and lecture, Michigan Union, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, 2003
Workshop and exhibition, Illinois Institute of Technology, Chicago, 2003
Workshop, lecture and exhibition, Wellesley College, Wellesley, Massachusetts, 2006
Centre of Arabic Calligraphy, Sharjah, United Arab Emirates, 2002
Rhythm and forms in Arabic calligraphy, 2002
Workshop and lecture, Inma Gallery, Al Khobar City, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, 2002
The relationship between Arabic calligraphy and plastic art, Sharjah Museum of Art, United Arab Emirates, 2002
Washtenaw Community College, Ypsilanti, Michigan, 2002
University of Michigan Museum of Art, Ann Arbor, 2002
History of the Arabic calligraphy, Middlebury College, Middlebury, Vermont, 2002
Wellesley College, Wellesley, Massachusetts, 2002
Spirituality of Arabic calligraphy, Islamic Centre of Canton, Michigan, 2001
Workshop with musician Khaled Jarmani, Damascus, Syria, audio-visual dialogue, 2001

Teaching

Islamic Art Center, Kuwait, 2006

Arabic calligraphy and Islamic art, Centre for Islamic Arts and Calligraphy, Kuwait, 2006

Introduction to Arabic calligraphy, Centre for Middle Eastern and North African Studies, 2005

Introduction to Arabic Calligraphy, Fine Art College, Sharjah University, UAE, 2005

Arabic calligraphy and identity, in Kuwait, 2003

Arabic Calligraphy in the Islamic centre of Ann Arbor, 2003

Arabic Calligraphy, University of Michigan, Department of Near Eastern Studies, University of Michigan International Institute, Ann Arbor, 2002-2003

Arabic calligraphy, Institut Français d'Etudes Arabes, 1997-2001

Painting and drawing, University of Damascus, Syria, 1997-1998

Lectures

Arabic calligraphy and identity, Plastic Art Society, Kuwait, 2003

Relationship between Arabic language and Arabic calligraphy, Arabic Circle, Department of Near Eastern Studies, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, 2001

Arabic calligraphy, Middlebury College, Middlebury, Vermont, 2001

Artist expression of Arabic calligraphy, Arabic Circle, Department of Near Eastern Studies, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, 2001

Sufism and calligraphy, National Museum of Art, Damascus, Syria, 2001

Yousef Ahmad

Born Doha, Qatar, 1955

B.A., arts and education, Helwan University, Egypt

M.F.A., fine arts, California

Art consultant, Hewar Art Gallery, Riyadh, Saudi Arabia

Art consultant, Contemporary Art Museum, Qatar Foundation

Selected Solo Exhibitions

The Movement (to mark the 30th anniversary of the artist's first solo exhibition in Qatar), 2007

VCV University Gallery, Doha, Qatar, 2004

Ahmad Al-Adwani Gallery, Kuwait City, Kuwait, 2003

French Cultural Centre, Doha, Qatar, 2003

Qatar Association of Plastic Arts, Doha, Qatar, 2000

Gandhir Gallery, Kuwait, 1994

Doha, 1983

Washington, 1982

Buffalo, New York, 1980-1981

Doha, Qatar, 1977

Selected Group Exhibitions

Art Paris, Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates, 2008

Istanbul Sculptures Symposium, Turkey, 2008

Art Dubai, United Arab Emirates, 2007, 2008

Al Kharafi Biennial for Contemporary Arab Art, Kuwait, 2006

Language of the Desert, Bonn Museum of Modern Art, Germany, 2005 and Arab World Institute, Paris, 2006

Tehran First International Biennial of Islamic Arts, Iran, 2000

Arabian Peninsula Artists, Amman, Jordan, 2000

Bangladesh Seventh Contemporary Asian Art Exhibition, Dhaka, 1999

Fifth Periodic Exhibition of Plastic Arts and Calligraphy, Doha, Qatar, 1999

Sharjah Fourth Biennial, United Arab Emirates, 1999

New Delhi Triennial, India, 1998

Guest of honor, Sharjah First Biennial, United Arab Emirates, 1992

Second Exhibition of Gulf Cooperation Council Artists, 1991

Ankara Third International Euro-Asian Art Exhibition, 1990

Norway World Engraving Triennial, 1989

First Exhibition of Gulf Cooperation Council Artists, Riyadh, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, 1989

Contemporary Islamic Art Exhibition, Barbican Gallery, London, United Kingdom, 1989

Arab Calligraphers-Artists Exhibition, London, United Kingdom, 1989

Havana World Biennial, Cuba, 1989

Second International Plastic Arts Festival, Baghdad, Iraq, 1988

Ankara Second International Euro-Asian Arts Biennial, Turkey, 1988

First Arab Week Exhibition, London, United Kingdom, 1988

Gulf Cooperation Council Art Friends Exhibitions, 1985-1995: Abu Dhabi, Ajman, Doha, Riyadh, Manama, Jeddah, Kuwait, Jordan, Damascus, Bonn, Washington, Cairo, Tunis, Madrid, Dominican Republic, Muscat

Cairo Biennial, Egypt, 1984, 1986, 1988, 1992, 1994, 1996, 1998

Arab Calligraphers-Artists Exhibition, Grapheti Gallery, London, United Kingdom, 1984

Media exhibitions held by the Ministry of Information during official visits of H.H. Prince of Qatar to Pakistan, India, South Korea, Ankara, Istanbul, Madrid, London, Paris, Cairo, Damascus, 1984-1990
Omani Youth Exhibition, 1983
Arab Calligraphers-Artists Exhibition, Iraq Cultural Centre, London, United Kingdom, 1983
Second Gulf Exhibition, Baghdad, Iraq, 1982
Exhibitions of Qatari Plastic Arts Association, 1980-2006
Sculpture World Conference, Washington, 1980
The First Gulf Exhibition, Doha, Qatar, 1980
The Three Friends Exhibitions, 1977, 1978, 1980
Afro Arab Artists Gathering Exhibition, Tunis, 1977
The Exhibitions of the Ministry of Culture and Information, London and Paris, 1977, Tunis, 1978
22 February Exhibition, Doha, Qatar, 1977
The Second General Plastic Art Exhibition, Doha, Qatar, 1976
The Final-Year Exhibition at the College of Art Education, Cairo, Egypt, 1976
Second Arab Biennial, Rabat, Morocco, 1976
First Cairo-based Qatari Students Exhibition, Egypt, 1975
The Roaming Arab League Exhibition, 1974
First Arab Biennial, Baghdad, Iraq, 1974
Arab Biennial, Kuwait, 1973-1985
The General Exhibition, Gulf Hotel, 1973
Modern art exhibition, Al Jesrah Cultural and Social Club, 1973
The permanent exhibition, Al Jesrah Cultural and Social Club, 1972

Awards

Referees' Award, Al Kharafi First International Biennial of Contemporary Arab Art, Kuwait, 2006
Abha Art Prize, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, 2000
Gold Palm-Leaf, Fifth Exhibition of Gulf Cooperation Council Artists Exhibition, Doha, Qatar, 1999
Referees' Award, Cairo Seventh Biennial, 1998
Special recognition, Sharjah Third Biennial, by H. H. Sheikh Dr. Sultan Al Qasimi, ruler of Sharjah, United Arab Emirates
Referees' Award, Cairo Sixth Biennial, Egypt, 1996
Gold Palm-Leaf, Fourth Gulf Cooperation Council Artists Exhibition, Kuwait, 1996
First prize, First Tourist Exhibition, Doha, Qatar, 1993
Gold Palm-Leaf, Second Gulf Cooperation Council Artists Exhibition, 1991
Gold Palm-Leaf, First Gulf Cooperation Council Artists Exhibition, 1989
Referees' Award, Ankara International Biennial, Turkey, 1986
Third prize, bronze medal, Cairo Second Biennial, Egypt, 1986
First prize, Baghdad Festival, Iraq, 1986
Second prize, Gulf Air Competition, 1984
Three certificates of recognition, Arab Biennial Exhibition I, Kuwait, 1975, 1977, 1985

Collections

Commercial Bank, Qatar, 2008
Al Faisal Group, Doha, Qatar, 2007
The German Bank, Riyadh, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, 2006
Qatar International Bank, 2004

Sharjah Arts Museum, United Arab Emirates
Shoman Institute, Amman, Jordan, 2000
Kindah Institute, Riyadh, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, 1999
Sheikh Hasan bin Mohamed bin Ali Al Thani, project of the Arab Museum for Modern Art, 1994
Islamic Studies Centre, Istanbul, Turkey, 1993
An Attempt for Solitude, The Jordanian Museum for Modern Arts, 1990
Peace, Hiroshima Museum, Japan, 1989
International Museum of Engravings, Asilah, Morocco, 1985
An engraved work on Qatar, Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D.C., 1982
Ministry of Information and Culture, since 1978
The Tailor Woman, Contemporary Arab Art Museum, Damascus, 1972