

## MOHAMMED KAZEM

Mohammed Kazem (born 1969, Dubai) lives and works in Dubai. He has developed an artistic practice that encompasses video, photography and performance to and new ways of apprehending his environment and experiences. The foundations of his work are informed by his training as a musician, and Kazem is deeply engaged with developing processes that can render transient phenomena, such as sound and light, in tangible terms. Often positioning himself within his work, Kazem responds to geographical location, materiality and the elements as a means to assert his subjectivity, particularly in relation to the rapid pace of modernisation in the Emirates since the country's founding.

Kazem was a member of the Emirates Fine Arts Society early in his career and is acknowledged as one of the 'Five', an informal group of Emirati artists – including Hassan Sharif and Abdullah Al Saadi – at the vanguard of conceptual and interdisciplinary art practice. In 2012, Kazem completed his Masters in Fine Art at the University of the Arts, Philadelphia. He has been participating in the Annual Exhibitions of the Emirates Fine Arts Society in Sharjah since 1986, as well as numerous editions of Sharjah Biennial, receiving first prize for installations in 1999 and 2003, and in 2007, he curated the Sharjah Biennial. In recent years, Kazem has participated in several group shows at the Mori Art Museum (2012), Boghossian Foundation (2013), Gwangju Museum of Art (2014) and the 2014 edition of the Fotofest Biennial in Houston (2014). He has exhibited at the Venice Biennale three times: in 2009 as part of a group exhibition curated by Catherine David, in 2013 he represented the UAE with an immersive video installation entitled *Walking on Water*, which was curated by Reem Fadda, and in 2015 he showcased works from the *Tongue* series at *1980 – Today: Exhibitions in the UAE*, curated by Sheikha Hoor Al Qasimi. In November 2014, he presented two solo shows *Sound of Objects* at Gallery Isabelle van den Eynde, Dubai, and *Memorizing by Means of Observing* at Taymour Grahne Gallery, New York. The following year in March, he co-curated *A Public Privacy*, a group show featuring works by emerging UAE-based artists at DUCTAC's Gallery of Light. His works are held in the collections of the British Museum, Guggenheim Abu Dhabi and New York, Mathaf: Arab Museum of Modern Art, Ullens Centre for Contemporary Art, Sharjah Art Foundation, Barjeel Art Foundation, and Vehbi Koç Foundation, among others.

## EDUCATION

- 2012 Master of Fine Art, University of the Arts, Philadelphia
- 1998 Painting Workshop, Edinburgh College of Art, Edinburgh
- 1991 Al Rayat Music Institute, Dubai
- 1984 Painting, Emirates Fine Arts Society, Sharjah

## RESIDENCIES

- 2018 Artist in Residence, University of Cincinnati, USA
- 2017 Artist in Residence, Shangri La: A Museum of Islamic Art, Culture and Design, Honolulu
- 2016 Pepper House Residency, Kochi  
Maraya Art Centre's Artist in Residence, Seoul Foundation for Arts and Culture, Seoul Art Space, Geumcheon
- 2014 ArteEast Watermill Residency, The Watermill Centre, Long Island, New York
- 2011 Artist in Residence, Boda Gaya, Bihar
- 2010 Artist in Residence, The University of the Arts, Philadelphia
- 2008 Artist in Residence, Kunstsammlungen, Chemnitz

## SOLO EXHIBITIONS

- 2019 *Collecting Light*, Cadoro-Zentrum ur Kunst und Wissenschaft, Mainz, Germany
- 2018 *A Prime Activity*, Gallery Isabelle van den Eynde, Dubai  
*Ways of Marking*, Aicon Gallery, New York
- 2017 *Receiving and Collecting*, Gallery Isabelle van den Eynde, Dubai
- 2014 *Sound of Objects*, Gallery Isabelle van den Eynde, Dubai  
*Memorizing by Means of Observing*, Taymour Grahne, New York
- 2013 *Raw Data*, Maraya Art Centre, Sharjah  
*Walking on Water*, The National Pavilion of the UAE at the 55th Venice Biennale  
*Directions*, New York University, Abu Dhabi

- 2010 *Directions*, University of the Arts, Philadelphia  
 1994 Salwa Zeidan Gallery, Abu Dhabi  
 1992 Public Library in Hor Al Anz, Dubai  
 1987 Emirates Fine Arts Society, Sharjah

## GROUP EXHIBITIONS

Participation in the Annual Exhibitions of Emirates Fine Arts Society since 1986

Participation in Sharjah Biennial in 1993, 1995, 1997, 1999, 2001, 2003, 2005 and 2015

- 2019 *Was. Is. Will be. 40 Years of Gallery*, La Galleria Dorothea van der Koelen, Venice  
*M Woods x The Dubai Mall*, Pavilion 2, Fashion Avenue, Dubai Mall  
*The Illusion of Summer*, Dorothy W.C. Lawson Reed, Jr. Gallery, University of Cincinnati, Ohio
- 2018 *The Monochrome Revisited*, Jean-Paul Najar Foundation, Dubai  
*Letters to a Young Muslim*, Manarat Al Saadiyat, Abu Dhabi  
*Attached Beside Beyond Architecture*, La Galleria, Venice  
*From Barcelona to Abu Dhabi: Works from the MACBA Art Collection in Dialogue with the Emirates*, Manarat Al Saadiyat, Abu Dhabi  
*(Un)conscious: A series of small serendipities*, Gallery Isabelle van den Eynde, Dubai
- 2017 *Jerusalem Lives (Tahya Al Quds)*, The Palestinian Museum, Birzeit  
*But We Cannot See Them: Tracing a UAE Underground 1988 – 2008*, NYUAD Art Gallery, Abu Dhabi  
*The Creative Act: Performance, Process, Presence*, Guggenheim Abu Dhabi  
*Is Old Gold?*, Dubai Community Theatre and Art Centre, Dubai
- 2016 *Residuals, and the Anthology of Narcissism*, Mandalay Hall, Kochi  
*Yinchuan Biennale: For An Image, Faster Than Light*, Yinchuan  
*But a Storm is Blowing From Paradise: Contemporary Art of the Middle East and North Africa*, Guggenheim, New York  
*Portrait of a Nation*, Abu Dhabi Music & Arts Foundation, Abu Dhabi  
*What is it?*, 1x1 Art Gallery, Dubai  
*Do It [In Arabic]*, Sharjah Art Foundation, Sharjah  
*1980 – Today: Exhibitions in the United Arab Emirates*, The Flying Saucer, Sharjah  
*White Cube... Literally*, Gallery Isabelle van den Eynde, Dubai  
*In Search of Lost Time*, Brunei Gallery, London
- 2015 *Barjeel Art Foundation collection exhibition*, Whitechapel Gallery, London  
*A Prologue to the Past and Present State of Things*, Delfina Foundation, London  
*1980 – Today: Exhibitions in the United Arab Emirates*, 56th Venice Biennale  
*Towards The Future, 35 Years of Gallery*, La Galleria, Venice  
*Sharjah Biennial 12: The past, the present, the possible*, Sharjah Art Foundation Art Spaces, Sharjah  
*Nice Drawings*, Gallery Isabelle van den Eynde, Dubai
- 2014 *Seconds*, Sharjah Art Foundation, Sharjah  
*Fluid Form II, Arab Contemporary Art*, Busan Museum of Art, Busan  
*Songs of Loss and Songs of Love*, Gwangju Museum of Art, Gwangju  
*Sky over the East: Works from the Collection of the Barjeel Art Foundation*, Emirates Palace, Abu Dhabi  
*View From Inside, Contemporary Arab Photography, Video and Mixed Media Art*, Fotofest, Houston, Texas, USA  
*Over-Look-Over*, Empty10, Dubai
- 2013 *Poetics and Meanings*, Gallery Isabelle van den Eynde, Dubai  
*Emirati Expressions: Realised*, Manarat Al Saadiyat, Abu Dhabi  
*La Route Bleue*, Boghossian Foundation, Brussels  
*MinD/Body*, DUCTAC, Dubai  
*Die Quadratur der Kreises*, Islamic Cultural Centre, Wolfsburg  
*In the Mirror of Reality*, La Galleria, Venice  
*Soundless*, Empty10, Dubai
- 2012 *Bundling Future*, Crane Arts Centre, Philadelphia  
*Arab Express*, Mori Art Museum  
*Asia Serendipity*, Photo Espana, Madrid

- 2010 *Dropping Lines*, Salwa Zeidan Gallery, Abu Dhabi  
*Vis Roboris*, AB Gallery, Lucerne
- 2009 ADACH Platform for Visual Arts at the 53rd Venice Biennale, Venice
- When Ideas Become Form*, Galerie Dorothea van der Koelen, Mainz
- 2008 *Season of Art*, DIFC, Dubai  
*The Flying House*, Creek Art Fair, Al Bastakya  
*Next Dubai*, Vitra Design Museum, Weil am Rhein  
Selected UAE Contemporary Artist Expo, Zaragoza
- 2007 *The Masters*, Royal Mirage, Dubai  
*Dubai Dubai*, Total Art Gallery, Dubai  
Tashkent Biennial, Uzbekistan  
*Self-Representation in the Arabian Gulf*, VCU Qatar, Doha  
*7.U.A.E Contemporary Art*, DUCTAC, Dubai  
*Portrait Exhibition*, Total Art Gallery, Dubai
- 2006 *Belief*, 1st Singapore Biennale, Singapore
- 2005 *Languages of the Desert*, Kunst Museum, Bonn
- 2004 *Line Exhibition*, Sharjah Art Museum, Sharjah
- 2003 *Numbers–Signs–Time*, Galerie Dorothea van der Koelen, Mainz
- 2002 Dhaka Biennial, Bangladesh  
*5 U.A.E*, Ludwig Forum for International Art, Aachen
- 2000 The 7th Havana Biennial, Havana  
*The Contemporary Arts of the Arab World*, Shoman Foundation, Darat Al Funun, Amman  
*Emirates Identities*, French Cultural Centre, Dubai
- 1998 The 7th Cairo International Biennial, Cairo  
*U.A.E Contemporary Art*, Institute of Arab World, Paris
- 1997 *U.A.E Artists*, French Cultural Centre, Dubai
- 1996 *The Six*, Sharjah Art Museum, UAE
- 1995 Emirates Arts, Sittard Art Centre
- 1994 *Five Artists*, Emirates Fine Arts Society, Sharjah
- 1990 Exhibition of the Emirates Fine Arts Society in the Soviet Union, Moscow  
Muscat Youth Biennial, Muscat

## AWARDS

- 2003 First prize for installation, Sharjah Biennial
- 1999 First prize for installation, Sharjah Biennial
- 1990 First prize for painting, Muscat Youth Biennial

## COLLECTIONS

King Abdulaziz Center for World Cultural Collection, Dhahran  
Museum Ritter Collection, Waldenbuch  
Art Jameel, Dubai  
British Museum, London  
Guggenheim, New York/Abu Dhabi  
Kadist Art Foundation, San Francisco  
Kadist Art Foundation, Paris  
Mathaf: Arab Museum of Modern Art, Doha  
Sharjah Art Museum, Sharjah  
Barjeel Art Foundation, Sharjah  
Private collection of HH Sheikh Zayed Bin Sultan Bin Khalifa Al Nahyan, Abu Dhabi  
Fondation Louis Vuitton, Paris  
Sittard Art Centre  
JP Morgan Chase Collection  
ITP Publishing Group, Dubai  
Deutsche Bank Collection

Aldar, Abu Dhabi

Cleveland Clinic, Abu Dhabi  
Ullens Centre for Contemporary Art, Beijing  
Vehbi Koc Foundation, Istanbul  
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