

MOHAMMED KAZEM (b. 1969, Dubai, UAE)

Lives and works in Dubai, UAE.

Mohammed Kazem has developed an artistic practice that encompasses video, photography and performance to find 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, Abdullah Al Saadi, Mohammed Ahmed Ibrahim, and Hussain Sharif – at the vanguard of conceptual and interdisciplinary art practice.

EDUCATION

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

SOLO EXHIBITIONS

- 2026 *Scenes from the 90s: Oscillating between Observation and Abstraction*, Gallery Isabelle, Dubai, UAE
- Proximities*, Seoul Museum of Art, Seoul, South Korea
- The Emirati Scene*, Iyad Qanazea Gallery, Abu Dhabi, UAE
- 2025 *Shifting Directions*, Gallery Crane, Seoul, Korea
- Directions (Merging)*, Julius Baer Art Dubai lounge, Dubai, UAE
- 2023 *Directions*, Ludwig Museum, Koblenz, Germany
- 2020 *Infinite Angles*, Gallery Isabelle van den Eynde, Dubai, UAE
- 2019 *Collecting Light*, Cadoro-Zentrum Für Kunst und Wissenschaft, Mainz, Germany
- 2018 *A Prime Activity*, Gallery Isabelle van den Eynde, Dubai, UAE
- Silent Hands*, Jameel Art Centre, Dubai, UAE
- Ways of Marking*, Aicon Gallery, New York, USA
- 2017 *Receiving and Collecting*, Gallery Isabelle van den Eynde, Dubai, UAE
- 2014 *Sound of Objects*, Gallery Isabelle van den Eynde, Dubai, UAE
- Memorizing by Means of Observing*, Taymour Grahne, New York, USA
- 2013 *Raw Data*, Maraya Art Centre, Sharjah, UAE
- Walking on Water*, The National Pavilion of the UAE at the 55th Venice Biennale, Italy
- Directions*, New York University, Abu Dhabi, UAE
- 2010 *Directions*, University of the Arts, Philadelphia, USA
- 1994 Salwa Zeidan Gallery, Abu Dhabi, UAE
- 1992 Public Library in Hor Al Anz, Dubai, UAE
- 1987 Emirates Fine Arts Society, Sharjah, UAE

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

- 2026 *Global Positioning System*, Jameel Art Centre, Dubai, UAE
Art Beyond Boundaries, La Galleria, Venice, Italy
Move, Pause, Return, Gallery Isabelle, Dubai, UAE
- 2025 *Proximities*, Seoul Museum of Art and Abu Dhabi Music & Arts Foundation, Seoul, Korea
Image Keepers, Sharjah Art Foundation, UAE
Directions, Dhahi Dubai, Expo City, Dubai, UAE
Fall Exhibition, Misk Art Institute, Riyadh, KSA
And after..., Cultural Foundation, Abu Dhabi, UAE
The Other Side of the Moon, Baró Galeria, Abu Dhabi, UAE
Observers of Change: Art from the UAE, Dubai Culture & Barjeel Art Foundation, Etihad Museum, Dubai, UAE
A Visual Union, Istituto Italiano di Cultura, Abu Dhabi, UAE
Resonant Histories: India and the Arab World, Jehangir Nicholson Art Foundation, CSMVS, Mumbai, India
A Time Between Ashes and Roses, Aichi Triennale, Aichi, Japan
Redrawing the Boundaries: Art Movements and Collectives of the 20th Century Khaleej, Hayy Jameel, Jeddah, KSA
Ways of Hope, Gallery Dr. Dorothea van der Koelen, Venice, Italy
- 2024 *Multiple Future*, Ennova Art Biennale Vol.10, Ennova Art Museum, Beijing, China
Visions of Beauty, Dorothea van der Koelen Gallery, Venice, Italy
Rest, Gallery Isabelle, Dubai, UAE
The Circle Was a Point, The Foundry, Dubai, UAE
- 2023 Public Art Abu Dhabi, Manar Abu Dhabi, Samaliyah Island, Abu Dhabi, UAE
In His Own Shadow, Arter, Istanbul, Turkey
Permanent Mission of the United Arab Emirates to the United Nations, The building of the Permanent Mission of the UAE to the UN, New York, USA
CURATED BY – WHERE TO NOW, Galerie Krinzinger Schottenfeld, Wien, Austria
In the Heart of Another Country: The Diasporic Imagination Rises, Sharjah Art Foundation, UAE
Silent Hands, Hayy Arts, Hayy Jameel, Jeddah, KSA
- 2022 *Black and White in Dialogue*, Cadore-Zentrum Für Kunst und Wissenschaft, Mainz, Germany
Manifesto of Fragility, 16th Lyon Biennale of Contemporary Art, Lyon, France
In the Change of Time, Dorothea van der Koelen Gallery, Venice, Italy
Collecting and Receiving, FLAG Studio, Cincinnati, USA
Stories of Paper, Louvre Abu Dhabi, UAE
Portrait of a Nation II: Beyond Narratives, commissioned by ADMAF, Manarat Al Saadiyat, Abu Dhabi, UAE
The Light in Between, Cultural Foundation Abu Dhabi, UAE
- 2021 *Between the Sky and the Earth: Contemporary Art from the UAE*, Middle East Institute (MEI) Art Gallery, Washington DC, USA
Art Here 2021, Louvre, Abu Dhabi, UAE
Seeing the Invisible, Led by Jerusalem Botanical Gardens and Outset Contemporary Art Fund, Cape Town, South Africa
Terra, Sustainability Pavilion, EXPO 2020, Dubai, UAE
Milestones, Dorothea van der Koelen Gallery, Venice, Italy
Seeing the Invisible, San Diego Botanic Garden, Encinitas, California, USA
Papier, Kunstverein Bamberg, Hamburg, Germany
Seeing & Perceiving, Ithra, KSA
Unsettled Objects, Sharjah Art Foundation, UAE
- 2020 *I Love You Urgently*, 21 39, Jeddah Arts, Jeddah, KSA
- 2019 21st International Biennial of Art Santa Cruz De La Sierra, Santa Cruz De La Sierra, Bolivia
Second Hand, Jameel Arts Centre, Dubai, UAE
Was. Is. Will be. 40 Years of Gallery, Dorothea van der Koelen Gallery, Venice, Italy
M Woods x The Dubai Mall, Pavilion 2, Fashion Avenue, Dubai Mall, Dubai, UAE
The Illusion of Summer, Dorothy W.C. Lawson Reed, Jr. Gallery, University of Cincinnati, Ohio, USA
- 2018 *The Monochrome Revisited*, Jean-Paul Najjar Foundation, Dubai, UAE
Silent Hands, Jameels Art Centre, Dubai, UAE
Letters to a Young Muslim, Manarat Al Saadiyat, Abu Dhabi, UAE
Attached Beside Beyond Architecture, Dorothea van der Koelen Gallery, Venice, Italy
From Barcelona to Abu Dhabi: Works from the MACBA Art Collection in Dialogue with the Emirates, Manarat Al Saadiyat, Abu Dhabi, UAE
(Un)conscious: A series of small serendipities, Gallery Isabelle van den Eynde, Dubai, UAE
- 2017 *Haji: Memories of a Journey*, Sheikh Zayed Grand Mosque Centre, Abu Dhabi, UAE

- Gateway: Line*, Abu Dhabi Art, Abu Dhabi, UAE
No to the Invasion: Breakdowns and Side Effects, Hessel Museum, Bard College, New York, USA
Jerusalem Lives (Tahya Al Quds), The Palestinian Museum, Birzeit, Palestine
But We Cannot See Them: Tracing a UAE Underground 1988 – 2008, NYUAD Art Gallery, Abu Dhabi, UAE
The Creative Act: Performance, Process, Presence, Guggenheim Abu Dhabi, UAE
Is Old Gold?, Dubai Community Theatre and Art Centre, Dubai, UAE
Beloved Bodies, Barjeel Art Foundation, Maraya Art Centre, Sharjah, UAE
- 2016 *Residuals, and the Anthology of Narcissism*, Mandalay Hall, Kochi, India
For An Image, Faster Than Light, Yinchuan Biennale, Yinchuan, China
But a Storm is Blowing From Paradise: Contemporary Art of the Middle East and North Africa, Guggenheim New York, New York, USA
Portrait of a Nation, Abu Dhabi Music & Arts Foundation, Abu Dhabi, UAE
What is it?, 1x1 Art Gallery, Dubai, UAE
Imperfect Chronology: Arab Art from the Modern to the Contemporary (Mapping the Contemporary I), Whitechapel Gallery, London, UK
Do It [In Arabic], Sharjah Art Foundation, UAE
1980 – Today: Exhibitions in the United Arab Emirates, The Flying Saucer, Sharjah, UAE
White Cube ... Literally, Gallery Isabelle van den Eynde, Dubai, UAE
In Search of Lost Time, Brunei Gallery, London, UK
- 2015 *Barjeel Art Foundation Collection: Imperfect Chronology*, Whitechapel Gallery, London, UK
A Prologue to the Past and Present State of Things, Delfina Foundation, London, UK
1980 – Today: Exhibitions in the United Arab Emirates, 56th Venice Biennale, Venice, Italy
Towards the Future, 35 Years of Gallery, Dorothea van der Koelen Gallery, Venice, Italy
Sharjah Biennial 12: The past, the present, the possible, Sharjah Art Foundation, UAE
Nice Drawings, Gallery Isabelle van den Eynde, Dubai, UAE
- 2014 */seconds.*, Sharjah Art Foundation, UAE
Fluid Form II, Arab Contemporary Art, Busan Museum of Art, Busan, South Korea
Sky Over the East – ADMAF, Emirates Palace Hotel, Abu Dhabi, UAE
Modes and Methods – Google House, JW Marquis Hotel, Dubai, UAE
Songs of Loss and Songs of Love, Gwangju Museum of Art, Gwangju, South Korea
Sky over the East: Works from the Collection of the Barjeel Art Foundation, Emirates Palace, Abu Dhabi, UAE
View From Inside, Contemporary Arab Photography, Video and Mixed Media Art, Fotofest, Houston, Texas, USA
Over-Look-Over, Empty10, Dubai, UAE
- 2013 *Poetics and Meanings*, Gallery Isabelle van den Eynde, Dubai, UAE
Emirati Expressions: Realised, Manarat Al Saadiyat, Abu Dhabi, UAE
La Route Bleue, Boghossian Foundation, Brussels, Belgium
MinD/Body, Dubai Community Theatre & Arts Centre (DUCTAC), Dubai, UAE
Die Quadratur der Kreises, Islamic Cultural Centre, Wolfsburg, Germany
In the Mirror of Reality, Dorothea van der Koelen Gallery, Venice, Italy
Soundless, Empty10, Dubai, UAE
- 2012 *Bundling Future*, Crane Arts Centre, Philadelphia, USA
Arab Express, Mori Art Museum, Tokyo, Japan
Asia Serendipity, PHotoESPAÑA, Madrid, Spain
- 2010 *Peripheral Vision*, Barjeel Art Foundation, Maraya Art Centre, Sharjah, UAE
Dropping Lines, Salwa Zeidan Gallery, Abu Dhabi, UAE
Fluid Form I, Korea Foundation Cultural Center, Seoul, South Korea
Vis Roboris – Group exhibition with artists from The Flying House, AB Gallery, Lucerne, Switzerland
- 2009 *ADACH Platform for Visual Arts at the 53rd Venice Biennale*, Venice, Italy
Contemporary Emirati Art, Salwa Zeidan Gallery, Abu Dhabi, UAE
- 2008 *Season of Art*, DIFC, Dubai, UAE
The Flying House, Creek Art Fair, Al Bastakya, Dubai, UAE
Dubai Next, Vitra Design Museum, Weil am Rhein, Germany
Selected UAE Contemporary Artist Expo, Zaragoza, Spain
- 2007 *The Masters*, Royal Mirage, Dubai, UAE
Dubai Dubai, Total Art Gallery, Dubai, UAE
Tashkent Biennial, Tashkent, Uzbekistan
Self-Representation in the Arabian Gulf, Virginia Commonwealth University School of the Arts (VCU), Doha, Qatar
7.UAE Contemporary Art, Dubai Community Theatre & Arts Centre (DUCTAC), Dubai, UAE

GALLERY ISABELLE

إيسابل

- Portrait Exhibition*, Total Art Gallery, Dubai, UAE 2006
Window, Total Art Gallery, Dubai, UAE
Belief, 1st Singapore Biennale, Singapore
- 2005 *Languages of the Desert*, Kunst Museum, Bonn, Germany
2004 *Line Exhibition*, Sharjah Art Museum, UAE
2003 *Numbers-Signs-Time*, Dorothea van der Koelen Gallery, Mainz, Germany
2002 Dhaka Biennial, Dhaka, Bangladesh
5 U.A.E., Ludwig Forum for International Art, Aachen, Germany
2000 *Closer to Each Other*, the 7th Havana Biennial, Havana, Cuba
The Contemporary Arts of the Arab World, Darat al Funun-The Khalid Shoman Foundation, Amman, Jordan
Emirates Identities, French Cultural Centre, Dubai, UAE
- 1998 *Portrait*, Sharjah Art Museum, UAE
The 7th Cairo International Biennial, Cairo, Egypt
U.A.E Contemporary Art, L'Institut du monde arabe, Paris, France
- 1997 *U.A.E Artists*, French Cultural Centre, Dubai, UAE
1996 *The Six*, Sharjah Art Museum, UAE
1995 Emirates Arts, Sittard Art Centre, Sittard, Germany
1994 *Five Artists*, Emirates Fine Arts Society, Sharjah, UAE
1990 Exhibition of the Emirates Fine Arts Society in the Soviet Union, Moscow, Russia
Muscat Youth Biennial, Muscat, Oman

AWARDS

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

COLLECTIONS

The Fortress House Collection, UAE
A.R.M Holding Art Collection, Dubai, UAE
Abu Dhabi Music & Arts Foundation, Abu Dhabi, UAE
Aldar Properties Collection, Abu Dhabi, UAE
HSBC Art Collection, Dubai, UAE
LVMH, Dior collection, UAE
The Centre Pompidou, Paris, France
Expo 2020, Sustainability Building, Dubai, UAE
King Abdulaziz Center for World Culture, Dhahran, Saudi Arabia
Museum Ritter Collection, Waldenbuch, Germany
Jameel Arts Center, Dubai, UAE British Museum, London, UK
Solomon R Guggenheim, New York, USA
Guggenheim, Abu Dhabi, UAE
Kadist Art Foundation, San Francisco, USA
Kadist Art Foundation, Paris, France
Mathaf: Arab Museum of Modern Art, Doha, Qatar
Sharjah Art Museum, UAE
Barjeel Art Foundation, UAE
Fondation Louis Vuitton, Paris, France
Sittard Art Centre, Sittard, Germany
JP Morgan Chase Collection Deutsche Bank Collection
Cleveland Clinic, Abu Dhabi, UAE
Vehbi Koc Foundation, Istanbul, Tur

BIBLIOGRAPHIES

Resonant Histories: India and the Arab World, 2026, Edited by Puja Vaish, Suheyla Takesh, and Sultan Sooud Al Qassemi
The Development of an Art History in the UAE: An Art Not Made to Be Understood, 2024, Book by Sophie Kazan Makhlouf
Kazem, Directions, 2024, Edited by Dorothea van der Koelen, Dr. Dorothea van der Koelen
Mohammed Kazem, Collecting Light, 2019, Edited by Dorothea van der Koelen, Dr. Dorothea van der Koelen
Mohammed Kazem, 2013, Edited by Reem Fadda, Damiani

RESIDENCIES

2024 Artist in Residence, SeMA Nanji, Seoul, South Korea
2018 Artist in Residence, University of Cincinnati, Ohio, USA
2017 Artist in Residence, Shangri La: A Museum of Islamic Art, Culture and Design, Honolulu, Hawaii
2016 Pepper House Residency, Kochi, India
Maraya Art Centre's Artist in Residence, Seoul Foundation for Arts and Culture, Seoul Art Space, South Korea
2014 ArteEast Watermill Residency, The Watermill Centre, Long Island, New York, USA
2011 Artist in Residence, Boda Gaya, Bihar, India
2010 Artist in Residence, The University of the Arts, Philadelphia, USA
2008 Artist in Residence, Kunstammlungen, Chemnitz, Germany