

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 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. In 2012, he completed his Masters in Fine Art at the University of the Arts, Philadelphia. In recent years, he has participated in several group shows such as 21,39 Jeddah Arts (2020), Guggenheim Abu Dhabi (2017), Guggenheim New York (2016), the Yinchuan Biennale (2016), Sharjah Biennial (2015), Gwangju Museum of Art (2014), Fotofest Biennial in Houston (2014), Boghossian Foundation (2013), and Mori Art Museum (2012), amongst others. In 2013 he represented the UAE's National Pavilion at the Venice Biennale with an immersive video installation entitled *Walking on Water*, curated by Reem Fadda, and in 2015 he showcased works from the *Tongue* series at *1980 – Today: Exhibitions in the UAE*, curated by Hoor Al Qasimi.

His works are held in the collections of the British Museum, London; Guggenheim Abu Dhabi and New York; Mathaf: Arab Museum of Modern Art, Doha; Sharjah Art Foundation, Sharjah; Barjeel Art Foundation, Sharjah; Vehbi Koç Foundation, Istanbul; King Abdulaziz Centre for World Culture, Dhahran, 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

SOLO EXHIBITIONS

- 2020 *Infinite Angles*, Gallery Isabelle van den Eynde, Dubai
- 2019 *Collecting Light*, Cadoro-Zentrum Für Kunst und Wissenschaft, Mainz
- 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

- 2023 *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 (Upcoming)
- 2022 *manifesto of fragility*, 16th Lyon Biennale of Contemporary Art (Upcoming)
Stories of Paper at Louvre Abu Dhabi (Upcoming)
Portrait of a Nation II: Beyond Narratives, commissioned by ADMAF, Manarat Al Saadiyat, Abu Dhabi
- 2021 *Between the Sky and the Earth: contemporary Art from the UAE*, Middle East Institute (MEI) Art Gallery, Washington DC
Art Here 2021, Louvre, Abu Dhabi
Seeing the Invisible, Led by Jerusalem Botanical Gardens and Outset Contemporary Art Fund
Terra, Sustainability Pavilion, EXPO 2020, Dubai
Milestones, La Galerie Dorothea van der Koelen, Venice
Seeing the Invisible, San Diego Botanic Garden, Encinitas, California
Papier, Kunstverein Bamberg, Hamberg
Seeing & Perceiving, Ithra, Saudi Arabia
Unsettled Objects, Sharjah Art Foundation, Sharjah
- 2020 *I Love You Urgently*, 21 39, Jeddah Arts, Jeddah
- 2019 *21st International Biennial of Art Santa Cruz De La Sierra*, Bolivia
Second Hand, Jameel Arts Centre, Dubai
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, Dubai
The Illusion of Summer, Dorothy W.C. Lawson Reed, Jr. Gallery, University of Cincinnati, Ohio
- 2018 *The Monochrome Revisited*, Jean-Paul Najjar Foundation, Dubai
Letters to a Young Muslim, Manarat Al Saadiyat, Abu Dhabi
Attached Beside Beyond Architecture, La Galleria Dorothea van der Koelen, 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
Night Was Paper and We Were Ink, Barjeel Art Foundation, Maraya Art Centre, Sharjah
- 2017 *Hajj: Memories of a Journey*, Sheikh Zayed Grand Mosque Centre, Abu Dhabi
Gateway: Line, Abu Dhabi Art, Abu Dhabi
No to the Invasion: Breakdowns and Side Effects, Hessel Museum, Bard College, New York
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
Beloved Bodies, Barjeel Art Foundation, Maraya Art Centre, Sharjah
- 2016 *Residuals, and the Anthology of Narcissism*, Mandalay Hall, Kochi
For An Image, Faster Than Light, Yinchuan Biennale, 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
Imperfect Chronology: Arab Art from the Modern to the Contemporary (Mapping the Contemporary I), Whitechapel Gallery, London
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

GALLERY
ISABELLE
VAN DEN
EYNDE

- In Search of Lost Time*, Brunei Gallery, London
- 2015 *Barjeel Art Foundation Collection: Imperfect Chronology*, 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, Venice
Towards the Future, 35 Years of Gallery, La Galleria Dorothea van der Koelen, Venice
Sharjah Biennial 12: The past, the present, the possible, Sharjah Art Foundation, 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
Sky Over the East – ADMAF, Emirates Palace Hotel, Abu Dhabi
Modes and Methods – Google House, JW Marquis Hotel, Dubai
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
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, Dubai Community Theatre & Arts Centre (DUCTAC), Dubai
Die Quadratur der Kreises, Islamic Cultural Centre, Wolfsburg
In the Mirror of Reality, La Galleria Dorothea van der Koelen, Venice
Soundless, Empty10, Dubai
- 2012 *Bundling Future*, Crane Arts Centre, Philadelphia
Arab Express, Mori Art Museum, Tokyo
Asia Serendipity, PHotoESPAÑA, Madrid
- 2010 *Peripheral Vision*, Barjeel Art Foundation, Maraya Art Centre, Sharjah
Dropping Lines, Salwa Zeidan Gallery, Abu Dhabi
Fluid Form I, Korea Foundation Cultural Center, Seoul
Vis Roboris - Group exhibition with artists from The Flying House, AB Gallery, Lucerne
- 2009 *ADACH Platform for Visual Arts at the 53rd Venice Biennale*, Venice
Contemporary Emirati Art, Salwa Zeidan Gallery, Abu Dhabi
When Ideas Become Form, La Galerie Dorothea van der Koelen, Mainz
- 2008 *Season of Art*, DIFC, Dubai
The Flying House, Creek Art Fair, Al Bastakiya, Dubai
Dubai Next, Vitra Design Museum, Weil am Rhein, Germany
Selected UAE Contemporary Artist Expo, Zaragoza, Spain
- 2007 *The Masters*, Royal Mirage, Dubai
Dubai Dubai, Total Art Gallery, Dubai
Tashkent Biennial, Tashkent
Self-Representation in the Arabian Gulf, Virginia Commonwealth University School of the Arts (VCU), Doha
7.U.A.E Contemporary Art, Dubai Community Theatre & Arts Centre (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*, La Galerie Dorothea van der Koelen, Mainz
- 2002 *Dhaka Biennial*, Dhaka
5 U.A.E, Ludwig Forum for International Art, Aachen
- 2000 *Closer to Each Other*, the 7th Havana Biennial, Havana
The Contemporary Arts of the Arab World, Darat al Funun-The Khalid Shoman Foundation, Amman
Emirates Identities, French Cultural Centre, Dubai
- 1998 *The 7th Cairo International Biennial*, Cairo
U.A.E Contemporary Art, L'Institut du monde arabe, Paris

GALLERY ISABELLE VAN DEN EYNDE

- 1997 *U.A.E Artists*, French Cultural Centre, Dubai
1996 *The Six*, Sharjah Art Museum, Sharjah
1995 Emirates Arts, Sittard Art Centre, Sittard
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 Culture, Dhahran, Saudi Arabia
Museum Ritter Collection, Waldenbuch, Germany
Jameel Arts Center, Dubai
British Museum, London
Solomon R Guggenheim, New York
Guggenheim, 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
Fondation Louis Vuitton, Paris
Sittard Art Centre
JP Morgan Chase Collection
Deutsche Bank Collection
Cleveland Clinic, Abu Dhabi
Vehbi Koc Foundation, Istanbul

BIBLIOGRAPHIES

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

- 2018 Artist in Residence, University of Cincinnati
- 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