

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.

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

- 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
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, Venice, 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

- 2024 *All is Flux. Nothing Stays Still*, Rizq Art Gallery, Abu Dhabi, UAE
Visions of Beauty, CA'Doro - Center for Art and Science, Mainz, Germany
Visions of Beauty, La Galleria Dorothea van der Koelen, 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

- 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 (Upcoming)
- CURATED BY - WHERE TO NOW? الى أين الآن؟, Galerie Krinzinger Schottenfeld, Wien, Austria
- In the Heart of Another Country: The Diasporic Imagination Rises*, Sharjah Art Foundation, Sharjah, UAE
- Silent Hands*, Hayy Arts, Hayy Jameel, Jeddah, Saudi Arabia
- 2022 *Black and White in Dialogue*, Cadoro-Zentrum Für Kunst und Wissenschaft, Mainz, Germany
- Manifesto of Fragility*, 16th Lyon Biennale of Contemporary Art, Lyon, France
- In the Change of Time*, La Galleria, Venice, Italy
- Collecting and Receiving*, FLAG Studio, Cincinnati, USA
- Stories of Paper* at 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*, La Galerie Dorothea van der Koelen, Venice, Italy
- Seeing the Invisible*, San Diego Botanic Garden, Encinitas, California, USA
- Papier*, Kunstverein Bamberg, Hamburg, Germany
- Seeing & Perceiving*, Ithra, Saudi Arabia
- Unsettled Objects*, Sharjah Art Foundation, Sharjah, UAE
- 2020 *I Love You Urgently*, 21 39, Jeddah Arts, Jeddah, Saudi Arabia
- 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*, La Galleria Dorothea van der Koelen, 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
- Letters to a Young Muslim*, Manarat Al Saadiyat, Abu Dhabi, UAE
- Attached Beside Beyond Architecture*, La Galleria Dorothea van der Koelen, 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
- Night Was Paper and We Were Ink*, Barjeel Art Foundation, Maraya Art Centre, Sharjah, UAE
- 2017 *Hajj: 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, Sharjah, 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, La Galleria Dorothea van der Koelen, Venice, Italy
Sharjah Biennial 12: The past, the present, the possible, Sharjah Art Foundation, Sharjah, UAE
Nice Drawings, Gallery Isabelle van den Eynde, Dubai, UAE
- 2014 */seconds.*, Sharjah Art Foundation, Sharjah, 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, La Galleria Dorothea van der Koelen, 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
When Ideas Become Form, La Galerie Dorothea van der Koelen, Mainz, Germany
- 2008 *Season of Art*, DIFC, Dubai, UAE
The Flying House, Creek Art Fair, Al Bastakiya, 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.U.A.E Contemporary Art, Dubai Community Theatre & Arts Centre (DUCTAC), Dubai, UAE
Portrait Exhibition, Total Art Gallery, Dubai, UAE
- 2006 *Belief*, 1st Singapore Biennale, Singapore
- 2005 *Languages of the Desert*, Kunst Museum, Bonn, Germany
- 2004 *Line Exhibition*, Sharjah Art Museum, Sharjah, UAE
- 2003 *Numbers-Signs-Time*, La Galerie Dorothea van der Koelen, 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, Sharjah, UAE
The 7th Cairo International Biennial, Cairo, Egypt

GALLERY ISABELLE

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

COLLECTIONS

- 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, Sharjah, UAE
- Barjeel Art Foundation, Sharjah, 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, Turkey

BIBLIOGRAPHIES

- 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, Geumcheon, South Korea

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- 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, Kunstsammlungen, Chemnitz, Germany