



Abdullah Al Saadi

BORN

1967 Khor Fakkan, UAE

Lives and works in Khor Fakkan, UAE

EDUCATION

1994 - 1996 A Course in Japanese Art, Kyoto Seika University of Japan, Kyoto, Japan

1993 Bachelor of English Literature, United Arab Emirates University, Al Ain, UAE

SOLO EXHIBITION

2014 "Al Toubay", Sharjah Art Foundation, Sharjah, UAE

2008 "Findale / Sweet Potato", Emirates Fine Arts Society, Sharjah, UAE

2003 "The Mobile exhibition by Car", Fujairah, UAE

2004 "The Mobile exhibition by Car", Khor Fakkan, Sharjah, UAE

1999 "Sharm Café", Sharm, Fujairah, UAE

1997 "I Am in Japan", Emirates Fine Arts Society, Sharjah, UAE

1994 "The Second Solo Exhibition", Emirates Fine Arts Society, Sharjah, UAE

1989 "The First Solo Exhibition", UAE University, Al Ain, UAE

SELECTED GROUP EXHIBITIONS

2023 Thinking Art, Maraya Art Centre, Sharjah, UAE

2022 "The Paper Tales", Louvre Abu Dhabi, UAE
Dubai Public Art, EXPO, Dubai, UAE

2014 "Here and Elsewhere", New Museum, New York, USA

2013 16 Artists at New York University, Abu Dhabi, UAE

Emirati Expressions realized at Manarat Al Saadiyat, Abu Dhabi, UAE

Mind/Body, body art and performance, in the Gulf Area, Barsha Centre, Dubai, UAE.

- 2011 UAE Pavilion, 54th International Art Exhibition, Venice Biennale, Italy
- 2009 Dach Platform, Venice Biennale, Venice, Italy
- 2005 “The Languages of the Desert”, Kunst Museum, Bonn, Germany
Fine Arts Museum, Buenos Aires, Argentina
- 2002 “The Fifth” from the Emirates, Ludwig Forum, Aachen, Germany
- 1999 “The Two Artists exhibition” Hussain Sharif and Abdullah Al Saadi,
Emirates Fine Arts Society, Sharjah, UAE

BIENNALES

- 2020 Lahore Biennale, Pakistan
- 2017 Venice Biennale, Arsenale, Italy
Sharjah Arts Biennial, Sharjah, UAE
Antarctic Biennale, South Pole
- 2016 Aichi Triennale, Nagoya, Japan
- 2015 Sharjah Biennial 12, Sharjah, UAE
- 2007 Sharjah Arts Biennial, Sharjah, UAE
- 2004 26th São Paulo Biennale, Brazil

RESIDENCIES AND PROGRAMS

- 2009 Rio de Janeiro, Brazil
- 2008 Austria
- 1998 Scotland
- 1994–1996 Kyoto, Japan
- 1990 Cavilam, Vichy, France

PUBLICATIONS

2024 Abdullah Al Saadi: Sites of Memory, Sites of Amnesia, Kaph Books / UAE National Pavilion, Venice Biennale, Exhibition Catalogue

Abdullah Al Saadi: Sometimes You Have to Go a Long Way to Come Back a Short Distance, Kaph Books / Sharjah Art Foundation, Monograph

2014 Abdullah Al Saadi: Al-Toubay, Sharjah Art Foundation, Exhibition Catalogue

Various years Selected Publications and Artist Books, Sharjah Art Foundation

BIOGRAPHY

Abdullah Al Saadi (b. Khorfakkan, UAE, 1967) is an Emirati conceptual artist whose multidisciplinary practice spans drawing, painting, sculpture, performance, and archival processes. Working through a deeply introspective and process-driven approach, he engages with themes of memory, landscape, and personal history. His work often unfolds through walking journeys across the mountainous terrains of the UAE and Oman, where he documents his experiences through handwritten notes, diagrams, maps, and collected natural materials, transforming these into poetic and coded visual narratives.

Al Saadi's solo exhibitions include Al Toubay at Sharjah Art Foundation, Sharjah, UAE (2014); Finale / Sweet Potato at Emirates Fine Arts Society, Sharjah, UAE (2008); Sharm Café, Fujairah, UAE (1999); I Am in Japan at Emirates Fine Arts Society, Sharjah, UAE (1997); and earlier solo presentations at Emirates Fine Arts Society (1994) and UAE University, Al Ain (1989).

His work has been featured in major international exhibitions and biennials, including the 60th International Art Exhibition – Venice Biennale (2024), as well as previous editions of the Venice Biennale (2009, 2011, 2017); Sharjah Biennial (2007, 2011, 2015); the São Paulo Biennale (2004); Aichi Triennale, Nagoya, Japan (2016); Lahore Biennale (2020); and institutional exhibitions such as Here and Elsewhere at the New Museum, New York (2014), and presentations at Louvre Abu Dhabi (2022) and Maraya Art Centre, Sharjah (2023).

In 2024, Al Saadi represented the United Arab Emirates at the Venice Biennale with *Sites of Memory, Sites of Amnesia*, further solidifying his position as a leading figure in contemporary art from the region.

He has participated in residencies in France, Japan, Scotland, Austria, and Brazil, experiences that have informed his evolving practice as a wanderer, chronicler, and cartographer of both physical and psychological landscapes.

Al Saadi studied Japanese painting at Kyoto Seika University, Japan (1994–1996), following a Bachelor of Arts in English Literature from United Arab Emirates University, Al Ain (1993). A key member of the UAE's "Pioneer Five," he has played a foundational role in shaping the country's contemporary art scene. His work is held in major institutional and private collections, and he continues to live and work in Khor Fakkan, UAE.