



Dr. Najat Makki

BORN

1956 Dubai, United Arab Emirates
Lives and works in Dubai, UAE

EDUCATION

- 2001 Doctorate in Philosophy of Art, Helwan University, Cairo, Egypt
- 1998 Master's Degree of Arts in Ancient Egyptian Civilization, Helwan University, Cairo, Egypt
- 1996 General Diploma in Plastic Arts, Faculty of Fine Arts, Helwan University, Cairo, Egypt
- 1982 Bachelor's Degree of Relief Carving & Medals, Faculty of Fine Arts, Helwan University, Cairo, Egypt

SELECTED SOLO EXHIBITIONS

- 2023 *The Scent of Memories*, Aisha Alabbar Gallery, Dubai, UAE
- 2021 *Inner Light*, Sharjah Calligraphy Museum (part of 24th Sharjah Islamic Arts Festival), Sharjah, UA
Sotheby's Presents: I Write in Colour: Dr. Najat Makki, Sotheby's, Dubai, UAE
The Rhythm of Patterns, Embassy of Mexico, Abu Dhabi, UAE
I Write in Colour, Aisha Alabbar Gallery, Dubai, UAE
- 2019 Exhibition, The Woman Museum, Dubai, UAE
Exhibition, The Military Museum, Montenegro
Luminescence, Cultural Foundation, Abu Dhabi, UAE
- 2018 Abu Dhabi Book Fair, Abu Dhabi, UAE
- 2015 Exhibition accompanied to Cairo Cinema Festival, Cairo Opera House, Cairo, Egypt
Exhibition, Royal Mirage Hotel, Dubai, UAE
- 2014 Exhibition, Women's Union Society, Sharjah, UAE
Exhibition, The Cultural & Scientific Association, Dubai, UAE
- 2012 Exhibition, Cité Internationale des Arts, Paris, France
Exhibition, Emirates Palace, Abu Dhabi, UAE
- 2011 *Distinctive Mark*, Sharjah Art Museum, Sharjah, UAE
A Journey, Faculty of Fine Arts, Sharjah University, Sharjah, UAE
- 2007 Exhibition, Emirates Fine Arts Society, Sharjah, UAE
Exhibition, Gallery Abbekas, Sweden



- Exhibition, Islamic Arts Festival, Sharjah, UAE
- 2006 Exhibition, Sultan Al Owais Cultural Foundation, Dubai, UAE
- 2005 *Languages of the Desert - Contemporary Arab Art*, Bonn Museum of Contemporary Art, Bonn, Germany
- Exhibition, Sharjah Art Gallery, Sharjah, UAE
- 2004 Exhibition, Emirates Cultural Festival, Trade Center, Dubai, UAE
- 1997 Exhibition, Faculty of Fine Arts, Cairo, Egypt
- 1988 Exhibition, Atelier of Literati & Writers, Cairo, Egypt
- 1987 Exhibition, Al Wasl Club, Dubai, UAE

SELECTED GROUP EXHIBITIONS

- 2025 "Whispers of the Past", Sotheby's, Dubai, UAE
- 2025 *Beyond the City 3*, Feminin Pluriel Mercedes Benz, Dubai, UAE
Through the Years, Abu Dhabi Cultural Centre, Abu Dhabi, UAE
- 2025 *Next Chapter Edition 1*, Foundry Downtown, Dubai, UAE
- 2024 *Hour Eternal*, Bassam Freiha Foundation, Abu Dhabi, UAE
- 2023 Abu Dhabi Sustainability Week, ADNEC, Abu Dhabi, UAE
- 2022 *While the Coffee Grounds Settle*, Fathom Gallery, Georgetown, Washington, DC, USA
Khaleej Modern: Pioneers and Collectives in the Arabian Peninsula, NYUAD Art Gallery, Abu Dhabi, UAE
Portrait of a Nation II: Beyond Narratives, Manarat Al Saadiyat, Abu Dhabi, UAE
- 2021 *Confluence: Najat Makki & Bénédicte Gimonnet*, Alliance Francaise Dubai, Dubai, UAE
Interconnection, 37 Emirati Fine Arts Society Annual Exhibition, Sharjah Art Museum, Sharjah, U
- 2019 *Heya (She)*, Hend Gallery, Bahrain
Caravan, French Ambassador's House, Abu Dhabi, UAE
Alaia Art Event, Balqarn, Saudi Arabia
Her Story, Woman Museum, Dubai, UAE
7/7, Sultan Bin Ali Al Owais Cultural Foundation, Dubai, UAE
Ishraqat, Virtual Exhibition, Fujairah Social & Cultural Association, Fujairah, UAE
Al-Gedar Group, Virtual Exhibition, Sultan Bin Ali Al Owais Cultural Foundation, Dubai, UAE
- 2018 *We Love Zayed*, Abu Dhabi, UAE
- Pioneers*, Abu Dhabi Cultural Foundation, Abu Dhabi, UAE
International Symposium of Cairo Oman Bank for Fine Arts, Oman
Al-Gedar Art Group Exhibition, The Cultural & Scientific Association, Dubai, UAE



- 2017 The second Art Forum of Gulf Fine Arts, Al Doha, Qatar
The Creative Women, Sultan Bin Ali Al Owais Cultural Foundation, Dubai, UAE
Sky of The East, Emirates palace, Abu Dhabi Cultural Foundation, Abu Dhabi, UAE
Sinyar First Gulf, Sinyar Gallery, D3, Dubai, UAE
Expressions of Honor, Abu Dhabi, UAE
Colors' Charm, Al-Etihad Gallery, Abu Dhabi, UAE Art Abu Dhabi, Manarat Al Saadiyat, Abu Dhabi, UAE
Art Abu Dhabi, Honar Gallery, Manarat Al Saadiyat, Abu Dhabi, UAE
Exhibition with artist Tag Alser Hassan, Sultan Al Owais Cultural Foundation, Dubai, UAE
- 2016 *Treasures*, Auction & Exhibition, Christie's Dubai, Dubai, UAE
Realm (Contemporary Arabic Calligraphy), Ward Gallery, Dubai, UAE Exhibition, Bayat Gallery, Wafi Center, Dubai, UAE
Exhibition with Jewelry designer Maha Alsebaay, Wafi Center, Dubai, UAE
- 2015 Exhibition, Lamiatos Gallery, Dubai, UAE
Art for Sight, Auction & Exhibition, Christie's Dubai & Noor Dubai, Dubai, UAE
Al Asmakh International Symposium, Al Doha, Qatar
1980 – Today: Exhibitions in the UAE, UAE National Pavilion, 56th Venice Biennale, Venice, Italy
Sikka Art Fair, Art Week, Al Bastakiya, Dubai, UAE
Exhibition with a French artist, Armani Hotel, Burj Khalifa, Dubai, UAE
- 2014 *City of Diversity*, Grand Hyatt Hotel, Dubai, UAE, Women/Creators: Visionary Women in the Emir Art Scene, Abu Dhabi, UAE
- 2013 Carving's First Forum, The Cultural & Scientific Association, Dubai, UAE
6th International Symposium of Luxor for painting, Luxor, Egypt
- 2012 5th Beijing International Art Biennale: *Future and Reality*, Beijing Museum, Beijing, China
Between Two Mountains, Al-Gedar Group Exhibition, Sultan Bin Ali Al Owais Cultural Foundation, Dubai, UAE
- 2011 *Painting & Poem*, Jordanian Fine Artists Association, Amman, Jordan
Sikka Art Fair, Art Week, Al Bastakiya, Dubai, UAE National Exhibition, Abu Dhabi, UAE
Exhibition, Emirates palace, Abu Dhabi, UAE
Culture & Arts Authority, Culture's Week, Dubai, UAE
Art On Tacks, Yass Center, Abu Dhabi, UAE
Islamic Art, Sharjah, UAE
A Painting & A book, Book Fair, Abu Dhabi, UAE
- 2010 Bibliotheca Alexandrina 7th International Biennale for Artist's Book, Alexandria, Egypt
Art Dubai, Hunar Gallery, Jumeirah, Dubai, UAE
Art Abu Dhabi, Hunar Gallery, Manarat Al Saadiyat, Abu Dhabi, UAE
The 4th Fine Arts Exhibition, Umm Al Quwain, UAE
Colored Papers, Sharjah Women's Club, Sharjah, UAE
Al Bastakiya Art Fair, Dubai, UAE
4 Artists from The Middle East, Grand Hyatt Hotel, Dubai, UAE
Exhibition with artist Mona Alkhaga, Sharjah Calligraphy Museum, Sharjah, UAE
- 2009 *Spirit of The Union*, Dubai Mall, Dubai, UAE
Jordan Forum of Fine Arts, Jordan
Emirati Expressions, Emirates palace, Abu Dhabi, UAE *Agenda*, Bibliotheca Alexandrina, Alexandria, Egypt
Art Lounge, Dubai, UAE



- 2008 *UAE in Arabic Eyes*, Dubai World Trade Center, Dubai, UAE
The Memory, Emirates Fine Arts Society, Alserkal, Dubai, UAE
The Experiment of The Local Artist, The International Day of Museums, Sharjah, UAE
French Art Festival, Mina A'Salam, Dubai, UAE
Cairo Book Fair Events, Cairo, Egypt
1st International Forum of Al Raqqa of Fine Arts, Al Raqqa, Syria
Shadow Women, with artist Abd Alraheem Salem, Hunar Gallery, Dubai, UAE
- 2007 The National Art Exhibition, Armed Forces Officers Club, Abu Dhabi, UAE
Emirates & Its Pioneer Artists, The Art Center, Dubai Al Ahli Theatre, Dubai, UAE *Art pioneers*, Ro Mirage Hotel, Dubai, UAE
2nd Exhibition of Al Juman Group, Cairo Opera House, Cairo, Egypt
1st Gulf Cultural Festival Exhibition, Sharjah, UAE
- 2006 *Runways of The Circle*, Moroccan poet Hakim Anker, Sultan Al Owais Cultural Foundation, Dubai, UAE
The Wind Movement, Hessen, Germany
Exhibition in Conjunction with the silver Jubilee of the Emirates Fine Arts Society, Sharjah, UAE
Creative Arabs in UAE, Meem Gallery, Dubai, UAE
Arabian Masterpieces, Tehran, Iran
Al Juman Group First Exhibition, Sultan Bin Ali Al Owais Cultural Foundation, Dubai, UAE
- 2005 Exhibition, Abu Dhabi Cultural Foundation, Abu Dhabi, UAE
Exhibition with artist Karima Alshomely, Sharjah Cultural Palace, Sharjah, UAE
Exhibition of a charity auction, Nelson Mandela Foundation, Dubai Cinema Festival, Beach Hotel Jumeirah, Dubai, UAE
Kuwait Fine Arts Society Exhibition, Kuwait Exhibition, Knowledge Village, Dubai, UAE
Concept, Dubai Women's Club, Dubai, UAE
Asilah international cultural forum, Asilah, Morocco Al-Baha Fine Arts Exhibition, Al-Baha, Saudi Arabia
2nd Emaar Global Art Forum, Dubai, UAE
- 2004 *The Environment*, Financial Center, Dubai, UAE Frankfurt Book Fair, Frankfurt, Germany
Exhibition with artist Mona Al Khaga, Dubai International Airport, Dubai, UAE
9th International Cairo Biennale "*Mythology: A Bet on Imagination, a Bet on Art*", Cairo, Egypt
1st Emaar Global Art Forum, Dubai, UAE, Immar International Arts Workshop- Dubai, UAE
- 2003 Exhibition, Al Dhaid Cultural Center, Al Dhaid, Sharjah, UAE
- 2002 Tehran Contemporary Art Biennale, Tehran, Iran
Kuwait International Biennale, Kuwait
For You, Abu Dhabi Media (Emirates Media previously), Dubai, UAE
- 2000 Al-Gedar Group Exhibition, Abu Dhabi Cultural Foundation, Abu Dhabi, UAE
Woman & Art (A Global View), Sharjah Art Museum, Sharjah, UAE
- 1999 *Carpet Oasis*, Posts, Customs, & Free Zone Corporation, Dubai, UAE
Fine Artists from UAE, The Cultural Foundation & The French Embassy, Abu Dhabi, UAE
The Arab World Institute Exhibition, Paris, France
Emirates Fine Arts Society Exhibition, Hannover, Germany
3rd Al-Mhabba Biennale, Latakia, Syria
- 1998 *Figurative Art*, Sharjah Art Museum, Sharjah, UAE
17th Exhibition of The Emirates Fine Arts Society, Sharjah Art Museum, Sharjah, UAE
Welcome February (Hala February), Kuwait
Exhibition in conjunction with selecting Sharjah to be The Arab Cultural Capital, France
8th Student Forum Exhibition, The National Union of Emirates Students, Ireland, UK



- 1997 *Art for Everyone*, Department of Culture, Sharjah, UAE
16th Exhibition of The Emirates Fine Arts Society, Sharjah Art Museum, Sharjah, UAE
Exhibition with artist Mohammed Abdullah Bulheya, Sharjah Art Museum, Sharjah, UAE
3rd Sharjah International Art Biennale, Sharjah, UAE
- 1996 Al-Gedar Group Exhibition, Emirates Fine Arts Society, Sharjah, UAE Garash Festival for Arts and Culture, Garash, Jordan
Exhibition, Emirates Fine Arts Society, El-Hanager Art Center, Cairo, Egypt
- 1995 Dubai Women Society Exhibition, Dubai, UAE
Arab Women Artists, Sharjah, UAE
Al-Gedar Group Exhibition, The Cultural Center, Department of Culture, Sharjah, UAE
Emirates Fine Artists, El-Hanager Art Center, Cairo, Egypt
2nd Sharjah International Art Biennale, Sharjah, UAE
1st Arab Women Artists Exhibition, Sharjah, UAE
- 1994 *6 Gulf Women Artists*, The Cultural Center, Sharjah, UAE
3rd Fine Arts Exhibition of GCC Artists, Sharjah, UAE
1st Girls Clubs Fine Arts Exhibition, Sharjah, UAE
13th Exhibition of The Emirates Fine Arts Society, Sharjah, UAE
- 1993 Fine Arts & Sports, Ministry of Youth & Sports, Dubai, UAE
3 Women Artists, The Cultural Foundation, Abu Dhabi, UAE The Art Group Exhibition, Istanbul, Turkey
1st Sharjah International Art Biennale, Sharjah, UAE
- 1992 Cairo International Art Biennale, Cairo, Egypt
- 1991 *4 Women Artists*, The Cultural Foundation, Abu Dhabi, UAE
- 1990 Solidarity with Kuwait Exhibition, Abu Dhabi, UAE
Emirates Fine Arts Society Exhibition, Sharjah, UAE Solidarity with Kuwait Exhibition, Kuwait
Oman Art Biennale, Muscat, Oman Emirates Fine Arts Society Exhibition, India
- 1989 *Gulf Artists*, Bonn, Germany
- 1987 Emirates Fine Arts Society Exhibition, Sharjah, UAE
- 1986 Emirates Fine Arts Society Exhibition, Sharjah, UAE
Exhibition in conjunction with The Regional Conference in the Gulf and the Arabian Peninsula, Muscat, Oman
- 1985 The Cultural Festival Exhibition of GCC Youth, Japan
9th Kuwait Exhibition of Arab Artists, Kuwait
- 1984 *Fine Arts*, Sheraton Hotel, Dubai, UAE
- 1984 1st & 2nd Banosh Exhibition, Dubai, UAE
- 1983 *Traditional Manufactures*, Gulf News, Dubai, UAE Emirates Fine Arts Society Exhibition, Sharjah, UAE
- 1970 Emirates' Students Exhibition, Cairo, Egypt
- 1965 1st Fine Arts Exhibition, Public Library, Dubai, UAE

AWARDS & RECOGNITIONS



- 2023 Awarded the distinction "Chevalier des Arts et des Lettres" by the French Ministry of Culture, France
- 2019 Emirates Environment Society Tribute, Arab Network of Social Associations, UAE
H. H. Sheikha Latifa Bint Muhammed for Children Creativity Tribute, UAE
- 2018 Sharjah Ladies' Club Tribute, Sharjah, UAE
- 2015 Ministers of GCC Countries' Tribute, Al Doha, Qatar
Directorate of Nationality & Foreign Affairs' Tribute, Dubai, UAE
- 2013 Arab Woman Award of the Art, UAE
- 2008 The 2nd Session of The Country's Award of Appreciation in Science, Literature & Art, UAE
Emirates Fine Arts Society's Tribute, Sharjah, UAE
- 2007 The Cultural Attaché of the UAE tribute, Cairo, Egypt
Emirates Appreciation Award for Arts, Science and Literature
- 2005 H. H. Prince Sultan Bin Abd Al Aziz, Al-Baha, Saudi Arabia
- 2004 Sultan Bin Ali Al Owais Foundation tribute, Dubai, UAE
- 2003 The Emirates Embassy tribute, Cairo, Egypt
- 1999 Al Mahabba International Biennale Award, Damascus, Syria
- 1998 The Arab League tribute, Pioneer Arab Festival, Cairo, Egypt
- 1996 Ministry of Higher Education & Scientific Research tribute, Abu Dhabi, UAE
General Authority of Youth & Sports Welfare-Silver Award, UAE
- 1994 Al Owais Award, The Cultural & Scientific Association, Dubai, UAE
- 1993 Jury Committee Award, 1st Sharjah International Art Biennale, Sharjah, UAE
- 1991 Culture Department tribute, Sharjah, UAE
Appreciation Award, 1st Al-Ain Fine Arts Exhibition, Al-Ain, Dubai, UAE
- 1975 Ministry of Youth & Sports tribute, Dubai, UAE
- 1969 Ministry of Youth & Sports Award, Dubai, UAE

AFFILIATIONS

Member of Emirates Fine Arts Society
Member of Art's Friends Group of Gulf Countries
Member of Al-Gedar Group in Sharjah
Member of Al-Eiyab Fine Arts Association in UNESCO
Member of the Supreme Committee of Tolerance
Consultant of The Art Committee of Down's syndrome



COLLECTIONS

Sharjah Art Museum, Sharjah, UAE
The Mestelan Collection, UAE
The Peggy Guggenheim Collection, VE
Sharjah Art Foundation, Sharjah, UAE
The Cultural Foundation, Abu Dhabi, UAE
General Authority for Competition, Dubai, UAE
The Cultural & Scientific Association, Dubai, UAE
Sultan Bin Ali Al Owais Foundation, Dubai, UAE
Ministry of Foreign Affairs & International Cooperation, Abu Dhabi, UAE
The American University of Sharjah, Sharjah, UAE
The Embassy of The United States of America, Abu Dhabi, UAE
Emaar Company, Dubai, UAE
EDCO Company, Abu Dhabi, UAE
Grand Hyatt Hotel, Dubai, UAE
Woman Museum, Dubai, UAE
Al-Wasl Club, Dubai, UAE
Women's Association, Dubai, UAE
Dubai International Airport, British Airlines, UAE
Ministry of Youth & Community Development, Abu Dhabi, UAE
Dolphin Company, Al-Doha, Qatar
Emirates Diplomatic Academy, Abu Dhabi, UAE
VIP Lounge, Military Airport, Dubai, UAE
UAE Ministry of Culture and Youth
Mubadala Investment Company, Abu Dhabi, UAE
Barjeel Art Foundation, Sharjah, UAE



Biography

Najat Makki (b. Dubai, 1956) is a pioneering Emirati artist best known for her curiosity for color and dreamlike, abstracted depictions of the natural landscape in the UAE. What started as childlike wonder led her to Cairo, where she graduated with a Bachelor's and Master's degree in relief sculpture and metal from the College of Fine Arts (1982 and 1998, respectively). Upon returning to the UAE, the colorist and painter started exploring fluorescent paints through her work in scenography for children at the Ministry of Education, introducing the Gulf to a style of abstract painting that is characterized primarily by large fields of flat, solid color, spread across, creating areas of unbroken surface and a flat picture plane. Her use of this material in contemporary art contexts created an unconventional viewing experience, often accompanied by UV-A lights that elevate matter from canvas in lurid dimensionality. This experimentation was first debuted in her solo exhibition at Al Wasl Club in Dubai in 1987, marking a turning point in her career and gaining her regional recognition. Makki later returned to the Egyptian capital to pursue a doctorate degree, making her the first Emirati woman to formally specialize in the philosophy of art (2001), adding a theoretical dimension to her practical aptitude and visual flair.

Makki has exhibited widely in her home country and internationally in Egypt, France, Germany, India, Jordan, Switzerland, Syria, Turkey, and the United Kingdom. Her recent highlights include Sotheby's London Auction (2025) "Whispers of the Past" (2025), Festival of Optical Arts–Dubai Expo 2024, Portrait of a Nation (2016), and Women/Creators: Visionary Women in the Emirates Art Scene (2014). Earlier exhibitions include Heritage Horizons Exhibition at Abu Dhabi Officers Club (2004), Book Fair Exhibition in Frankfurt, Germany (2004), and a co-exhibition for UAE President Ascension Day held at Dubai International Airport (2004). That same year, she participated in the Immar International Arts Workshop and the Environment Exhibition at Dubai Trade Center. She previously exhibited at Sharjah Antiquities Museum (2003), the Tehran Biennial (2002), Emirates Media Inc. Exhibition: For You Jerusalem in Abu Dhabi (2002), and Woman & Arts: International View Exhibition in Sharjah (2000).

Her works are held in the permanent collections of the Guggenheim Abu Dhabi, Sharjah Art Museum, the Cultural Foundation in Abu Dhabi, Sultan Bin Ali Al Owais Cultural Foundation in Dubai, the Women's Museum in Dubai, and the Ministry of Culture and Youth in Abu Dhabi, among many. Makki was the only female artist among the 15 showing at 1980–Today: Exhibitions in the UAE and represented the UAE at the 56th Venice Biennale (2015), curated by Sheikh Hoor Al Qasimi. Her acclaimed 2019 retrospective, Luminescence, was held at the Cultural Foundation in Abu Dhabi. A multi-award-winning artist, Makki received the Order of Arts and Letters from the French Government (2023), the Emirates Appreciation Award (2015), and the National Award for Arts, Sciences, and Literature from the Ministry of Culture, Youth and Community Development (2008). Earlier distinctions include the Emirates Appreciation Award for Arts, Science and Literature (2007), the Al Mahabaa Syrian International Biennial Award (1999), the Gulf Cooperation Council Biennial Award (1998), the General Authority of Youth & Sports Welfare Silver Award (1996), the Sultan Bin Owais Cultural Award (1994), and the Jury Award at the first Sharjah Biennial (1993), in addition to numerous certificates of excellence and merit.

She is currently a member of the Dubai Cultural Council, the Emirates Plastic Arts Society, and the Art Friends Society. Najat Makki is represented by Aisha Alabbar Gallery in the United Arab Emirates.