



## Nujoom Alghanem

### BORN

1962 Dubai, UAE  
Lives and works in Dubai, UAE

### EDUCATION

1999 MA in Media Production, the School of Film, Griffith University, Australia  
1996 BA in Video Production, Ohio University, Athens, Ohio

### SOLO EXHIBITIONS

2023 *Unframed*, Aisha Alabbar Gallery, Dubai, UAE  
2022 *An Imaginary Portrait of Palestine*, Tashkeel – Al Fahidi, Dubai, UAE  
2021 *Gateway: Passage*, Abu Dhabi Art 2021, Manarat Al Saadiyat, Abu Dhabi, UAE  
2021 *Malamih – Faces, Phantoms, Expressions*, Maraya Art Centre, Sharjah, UAE  
2019 *Passage*, UAE National Pavilion at the 58<sup>th</sup> Venice Biennale, Venice, Italy

### SELECTED GROUP EXHIBITIONS

2023 *Huarere: Weather Eye, Weather Ear*, Te Tuhi, Auckland, New Zealand  
*Ensemble*, Alliance Française, Dubai, UAE  
*That Sea*, Abu Dhabi Sustainability Week, ADNEC, Abu Dhabi, UAE  
2022 *Khaleej Modern: Pioneers and Collectives in the Arabian Peninsula*, NYUAD Art Gallery, Abu Dhabi, UAE  
*RHIZOMATIC*, Morrow Collective, The Museum of the Future, Dubai, UAE  
*Union of Cultures*, Sultan Bin Ali Al Owais Cultural Foundation, Dubai, UAE  
*Portrait of a Nation II: Beyond Narratives*, Manarat Al Saadiyat, Abu Dhabi, UAE  
2021 *Ramadan Arcade*, Manarat Al Saadiyat, Abu Dhabi, UAE  
2018 *Untold Stories Retold*, Warehouse421, Abu Dhabi, UAE  
*The Room of Mysteries*, Sharjah Islamic Arts Festival, Sharjah Art Museum, Sharjah, UAE  
*Tashweesh: Noise of Materials*, Maraya Art Centre, Sharjah, UAE  
2017 *Mind the Gap*, Tashkeel, Dubai, UAE  
*Rock, Paper, Scissors: Positions in Play*, UAE National Pavilion at the Venice Biennale, Venice, Italy  
2013 *MinD/Body*, Gallery of Light at DUCTAC, Dubai, UAE  
1985 *Aqwas: Central Market* (one-day group exhibition with the late Hassan Sharif and Khalid Albudoor), Central Market of Sharjah, Sharjah, UAE  
*Emirates Fine Arts Society 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Exhibition*, Expo Center, Sharjah, UAE

### SELECTED FILMS

2019 *Passage* - Video Art  
2018 *Forest under the Sea* - Video Art  
*Rain on my Skin* - Video Art  
*Writer's Room* - Video Art  
2017 *Sharp Tools* - Feature Documentary  
2016-17 *Honey, Dust, & Rain* - Feature Documentary  
2016 *Dancing with Shadows* - Short Experimental  
2014 *Nearby Sky* - Feature Documentary  
*Sounds of the Sea* - Feature Documentary  
2013 *Red, Blue, Yellow* - Feature Documentary  
*The Young Fighter* - Short Documentary



- 2011 *Amal* - Feature Documentary  
*Salma's Dinner* - Short Fiction
- 2010 *Hamama* - Feature Documentary
- 2008 *Al Mureed* - Feature Documentary
- 1999 *Between Two Banks* - Short Documentary
- 1997 *The Park* - Short Fiction  
*Ice Cream* - Short Fiction

## SELECTED PUBLICATIONS

- 2012 *I Fall Into Myself*, Arab Institute for Research and Publishing, Lebanon
- 2010 *A Night Heavy on the Night*, Qalam, Abu Dhabi Authority for Culture & Heritage -the Cultural Foundation, UAE
- 2008 *Angels of Distant Yearning*, Arab Institute for Research and Publishing, Lebanon
- 2005 *Indescribable*, Arab Institute for Research and Publishing, Lebanon
- 1999 *Homes of Pomegranates*, Arab Diffusion Company, Lebanon
- 1995 *Journeyings*, Dar Aljadeed Publishing, Lebanon
- 1991 *Sins*, Writers & Literature Association, Bahrain
- 1989 *Evening of Paradise*, Writers & Literature Association, Bahrain

## HONOURARY AWARDS & RECOGNITION

- 2022 Creativity Award in recognition of contributions in poetry, art, scriptwriting and filmmaking, Gulf Arts and Leadership Academy
- 2021 GCC Innovators Award, The Secretariat General of Cooperation Council for the Arab States of the Gulf, Riyadh, KSA  
Award of Achievement, Al Ain Film Festival, Al Ain, UAE
- 2020 Award of Excellence, Gulf Madhyamam Daily
- 2019 Pride of the UAE Medal, Mohammed bin Rashid Government Excellence Award
- 2018 Award of Outstanding Excellence: Original Score, Docs Without Borders Film Festival, DE, USA  
Award of Outstanding Excellence: Editing, Docs Without Borders Film Festival, DE, USA  
Award of Outstanding Excellence: Viewer Impact: Motivational/Inspirational, Docs Without Borders Film Festival, DE, USA  
Best Documentary Feature of April 2018, Los Angeles Film Awards  
International Experimental Feature Film Award, Portoviejo Film Festival, Portoviejo, Ecuador  
Special Mention, Oran International Arabic Film Festival, Oran, Algeria  
Award of Merit, Impact Docs Awards, Los Angeles, CA, USA  
Best Female Director, London Independent Film Awards, London, UK  
Grand Prize for Best Feature Documentary, Ismailia International Film Festival, Ismailia, Egypt
- 2017 Best Feature Documentary, Emirati Muhr, Dubai International Film Festival, Dubai, UAE  
First Prize, Al Owais Creative Award, The Cultural & Scientific Association, Dubai, UAE
- 2016 Best Documentary, GCC Film Festival, Abu Dhabi, UAE  
Honored by Effat University, Saudi Arabia for taking an active part in the Gulf Cinema, Jeddah, KSA  
*Sayidaty Magazine* Award for Excellence and Innovation, Dubai, UAE
- 2015 Special Jury Prize, Alexandria Mediterranean Countries Film Festival, Alexandria, Egypt
- 2014 Best Non-Fiction Film, Dubai International Film Festival, Dubai, UAE  
Best Short Documentary, Al Owais Creative Award, The Cultural & Scientific Association, Dubai, UAE
- 2013 First Prize, GCC Film Festival, Kuwait
- 2012 Special Jury Prize, Beirut International Film Festival, Lebanon  
Second Prize, Documentary Competition, Gulf Film Festival, Dubai, UAE  
Best Director, GCC Film Festival, Doha, Qatar
- 2011 First Prize, Dubai International Film Festival, Dubai, UAE  
First Prize, Baghdad International Film Festival, Arab Women Directors' Competition, Baghdad, Iraq  
First Prize, Malmo Film Festival, Malmo, Sweden  
First Prize, Gulf Film Festival, Dubai, UAE
- 2010 Special Jury Prize, Dubai International Film Festival, Dubai, UAE



- 2008 L'Officiel Woman of the Year Awards in Literature, Dubai, UAE  
Best Feature Documentary in the Gulf, Emirates Film Competition, Abu Dhabi International Film Festival  
Most Promising UAE Filmmaker, Dubai International Film Festival, Dubai, UAE
- 2002 Rashid Award for Scientific Outstanding, Dubai, UAE
- 2001 Nantes Mayor's Medal for contribution in filmmaking, Festival des 3 Continents, Nantes, France

**Nujoom Alghanem** (b. 1962, Dubai) is a pioneering Emirati artist, poet, and multi-award-winning film director. Her multifaceted career which spans four decades, explores forms of storytelling. A core aspect shared by the three art forms is a sense of healing that they lend to their maker.

Nujoom is a longstanding member of the UAE's creative scene from its very beginnings. During the 1980s, she cofounded Aqwas Collective with the late legendary artist Hassan Sharif, Youssef Khalil and Khalid Albudoor in an attempt to look beyond traditional art by experimenting with free-verse poetry composition, constructionism, and post-modernism – inviting a certain amount of criticism. The group orchestrated pop up exhibitions in public spaces, like *Central Market of Sharjah* (1985) in addition to producing *Silsilat Al Ramad* (Chain of Ashes), a non-conventional poetry, art, and short stories publication.

In 2019, Nujoom made history becoming the first woman to stage a solo exhibition at the UAE's pavilion at the Venice Biennale, showing *Passage*, a site-specific film installation. The installation was recreated in 2021 for a solo presentation at Abu Dhabi Art. Other solo exhibitions include *An Imaginary Portrait of Palestine*, Tashkeel – Al Fahidi, Dubai, UAE (2022) and *Malamih – Faces, Phantoms, and Expressions*, Maraya Art Centre, Sharjah, UAE (2021).

Nujoom recently presented *That Sea*, an immersive video installation at Abu Dhabi Sustainability Week, ADNEC, Abu Dhabi, UAE (2023). Additionally, she participated in *Khaleej Modern: Pioneers and Collectives in the Arabian Peninsula*, NYUAD Art Gallery, Abu Dhabi, UAE (2022); *Union of Cultures*, Sultan Bin Ali Al Owais Foundation, Dubai, UAE (2022); *Portrait of a Nation II: Beyond Narratives*, Manarat Al Saadiyat, Abu Dhabi, UAE (2022); *Ramadan Arcade*, Manarat Al



Saadiyat, Abu Dhabi, UAE (2021); *Tashweesh: Noise of Materials*, Maraya Art Centre, Sharjah, UAE (2018); *Untold Stories Retold*, Warehouse421, Abu Dhabi, UAE (2018); *The Room of Mysteries*, 21<sup>st</sup> Sharjah Islamic Art Festival, Sharjah Art Museum, Sharjah, UAE (2018); *Mind the Gap*, Tashkeel, Dubai, UAE (2017); *Rock, Paper Scissors: Positions in Play*, UAE National Pavilion, Venice Biennale, Italy (2017); *MinD/Body*, DUCTAC, Dubai, UAE (2013); and *4<sup>th</sup> Emirates Fine Arts Society Annual Exhibition*, Expo Center, Sharjah, UAE (1985).

Nujoom has published eight poetry collections and produced around twenty films including short fiction, documentaries, and art films, earning regional and international awards and recognition. Nujoom has a BA in Video Production from Ohio University in 1996 and an MA in Media Production from Griffith University in Australia in 1999.