

## ALA YOUNIS

Born 1974, Kuwait  
Lives and works in Abu Dhabi, UAE

### EDUCATION

DPhil in Fine Art, Ruskin School of Art, University of Oxford,  
Oxford, UK  
Masters in Research in Visual Cultures, Goldsmiths, University  
of London, London, UK  
BSc in Architecture, University of Jordan, Amman, JO

### MAJOR COLLECTIONS

Barjeel Art Foundation, Dubai and Sharjah, UAE  
Darat al Funun – The Khalid Shoman Foundation, Amman, JO  
Art Jameel Collection, Dubai, UAE  
Jordan National Gallery of Fine Arts, Amman, JO  
Le Frac Centre-Val de Loire, Orléans, FR  
Sharjah Art Foundation, Sharjah, UAE  
Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum, New York, NY  
Uppsala Art Museum, Uppsala, SE

### SOLO EXHIBITIONS

2025 Past of a Temporal Universe, NYUAD Art Gallery, Abu Dhabi, UAE  
2024 I Wake from History Alive, Duo exhibition with Vangelis Vlahos curated by Maria-Thalia Carras,  
Tavros, Athens, GR  
2020 High Dam Modern Pyramid, curated by Rado Ištok, VI PER, Prague, CZ  
2018 Steps Toward the Impossible, curated by Ryan Inouye, Sharjah Art Foundation, Sharjah, UAE  
Plan fem for Greater Baghdad, 17ESSEX, New York, NY  
Ala Younis, Centro Andaluz de Arte Contemporáneo, Seville, ES  
Plan for Feminist Greater Baghdad, Project Space Art Jameel, Dubai, UAE  
Plan for Feminist Greater Baghdad, Delfina Foundation, London, UK  
2017 A Second Original After Several Conversions, MMAG Foundation, Amman, JO  
2014 UAR, Gypsum Gallery, Cairo, EG  
2010 Nefertiti, Delfina Foundation, London, UK  
2009 Ala Younis, Darat al Funun, Amman, JO

## SOLO EXHIBITIONS (CONT.)

2005 Ala Younis, Institut Francais, Amman, JO

## SELECTED GROUP EXHIBITIONS

2026 Art Dubai, Taymour Grahne Projects booth, Dubai, UAE

2025 And All That Is In Between, Islamic Arts Biennale Hajj Terminal, Jeddah, SA  
Sun'i'a Bisihrika Made with Your Magic, Dream City Festival, Tunis, TN

2024 Multiplay, Serendipity Arts Festival The Old GMC Complex, Goa, IN  
Broken Time And the World Is Recreated from What It Forgets, Museum of Contemporary Art MSU, Skopje, MK  
Constellations of Multiple Wishes To the East, Museum of Contemporary Art Metelkova, Ljubljana, SI  
Perhaps Here, Sharjah Art Foundation, Sharjah, UAE

2023 Guest Relations, Art Jameel Center, Dubai, UAE  
From the Void Came Gifts of the Cosmos, 35th Ljubljana Biennale of Graphic Arts Cukrarna, Ljubljana, SI  
Long-distance Friendships, Contemporary Art Festival Survival Kit 14 Vidzeme Farmers Market, Riga, LV  
Long-distance Friendships, 14th Kaunas Biennial Kaunas Central Post Office, Kaunas, LT

2022 All That Is Solid Melts into Water Hydropower Archaeology Indigeneity, Kunsthall Oslo, Oslo, NO  
All That Is Solid Melts into Water Hydropower Archaeology Indigeneity, Uppsala Art Museum, Uppsala, SE  
Zamišljene granice Imaginary Borders, Subin Plato Limanski Park, Novi Sad, RS  
Friends of Elliptical Orbits, CCS Bard, New York, NY  
Breaking the Borders, The Hangar Ras Al-Ain, Amman, JO  
Divinations The Art of Remembering the Future, Qattan Foundation, Ramallah, PS  
HIJRA Online Film Programme, Royal College of Art, London, UK  
Miss Read Art Book Fair, HKW, Berlin, DE

2021 Afrophon Art Book Fair, LUMA Foundation, Arles, FR  
Sharbaka, NYU 19 Washington Square North, New York, NY  
Making Another World Possible, Tallinn Art Hall, Tallinn, EE  
Focal Point Art Book Fair, Sharjah Art Foundation, Sharjah, UAE  
Limitless SIN LIMITES Artistic Deconstruction of the Borders, Revellín Museum of Ceuta, Ceuta, ES  
aashra, Ashkal Alwan Streaming Platform, Beirut, LB

SELECTED GROUP EXHIBITIONS (CONT.)

- 2020  
Publishing As Method, Art Sonje Center, Seoul, KR  
Limitless SIN LIMITES Artistic Deconstruction of the Borders, Casa Arabe, Madrid, ES
- 2019  
Last Flood with Alia Mosallam, Contemporary Image Collective, Cairo, EG  
Theater of Operations The Gulf Wars 1991–2011, MoMA PS1, New York, NY  
On failed tales and taylors, Tabakalera International Centre for Contemporary Culture, San Sebastian, ES  
This Land's Unknown, 2nd Biennale d'Architecture d'Orléans, Orléans, FR  
History Is Not Here Art and the Arab Imaginary, Minnesota Museum of American Art The M, MN, US  
The Whole Life Archives and Reality, Kunsthalle im Lipsiusbau Dresden, Dresden, DE  
ANTIKINO The Siren's Echo Chamber, Silent Green Betonhalle, Berlin, DE  
This Must Be True, KHOJ International Artists Association, New Delhi, IN
- 2018  
Crude, Art Jameel Centre, Dubai, UAE  
Punk Orientalism, MacKenzie Art Gallery, Regina, CA  
Behind the Screen Tashweesh, Medrar for Contemporary Art, Cairo, EG  
Submerged On Rivers and Their Interrupted Flow, Contemporary Image Collective, Cairo, EG  
Imagined Nations Modern Utopias, 12th Gwangju Biennale, Gwangju, KR  
Power Play, SongEun Artspace, Seoul, KR  
Truth Is Black Write Over It with a Mirage's Light, Darat al Funun, Amman, JO  
In the Margin, Jordan National Gallery of Fine Arts, Amman, JO  
Bagdad Mon Amour, Institut des Cultures d'Islam, Paris, FR  
Riots Slow Cancellation of the Future, ifa-Galerie Berlin, Berlin, DE  
Riots Slow Cancellation of the Future, ifa-Galerie Stuttgart, Stuttgart, DE  
A Mechanism Capable of Changing Itself, Akademie der Künste, Berlin, DE
- 2017  
Tell It to the Stones The Work of Danièle Huillet and Jean-Marie Straub, Akademie der Künste, Berlin, DE  
New Literacy, 4th Ural Industrial Biennial of Contemporary Art, Ekaterinburg, RU  
Suspended Territories Artists from Middle East and North Africa, Marta Herford Museum, Herford, DE  
No to the Invasion Breakdowns and Side Effects, CCS Bard Galleries, New York, NY  
Imagined Life In a Museum Vitrine If Not For That Wall, Contemporary Image Collective, Cairo, EG  
House of Wisdom, Dzialdov Project Space, Berlin, DE  
House of Wisdom, 15th Istanbul Biennial Public Programme Nejat Eczacıbaşı Building, Istanbul, TR  
House of Wisdom, Framer Framed, Amsterdam, NL

SELECTED GROUP EXHIBITIONS (CONT.)

- 2016  
VIII Tashkent Biennale, Tashkent, UZ  
Under Arms Fire and Forget 2, Museum Angewandte Kunst, Frankfurt, DE  
Transcultural Flux, Stiftelsen 3,14, Bergen, NO  
Transcultural Flux, Akershus Kunstsenter, Lillestrøm, NO  
But a Storm Is Blowing from Paradise Contemporary Art of the Middle East and North Africa, Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum, New York, NY  
Do It in Arabic, Sharjah Art Foundation, Sharjah, UAE  
Do It in Arabic, Darat al Funun, Amman, JO
- 2015  
All the World's Futures, 56th Venice Biennale Arsenale, Venice, IT  
Fire and Forget On Violence, KW Institute for Contemporary Art, Berlin, DE  
The Current State of Experimental Cinema, Cine Tonalá, Mexico City, MX  
VIVA Valletta International Visual Arts Festival, Valletta, MT
- 2014  
Contemporary Festival of New Media Arts and Advanced Audiovisual Technologies, Madrid, ES  
New York Film Festival, New York, NY  
Here and Elsewhere, New Museum, New York, NY  
Multitude, Sesc Pompéia, São Paulo, BR  
Nofretete tête-à-tête, Staatliches Museum Ägyptischer Kunst SMÄK, Munich, DE  
Meeting Points 7 Ten Thousand Wiles and a Hundred Thousand Tricks, Contemporary Image Collective, Cairo, EG  
Meeting Points 7 Ten Thousand Wiles and a Hundred Thousand Tricks, ParaSite, Hong Kong, HK  
Meeting Points 7 Ten Thousand Wiles and a Hundred Thousand Tricks, Beirut Art Center, Beirut, LB
- 2013  
A Paradise Built in Hell, Kunstverein in Hamburg, Hamburg, DE  
Meeting Points 7 Ten Thousand Wiles and a Hundred Thousand Tricks, Gallery Nova Teslina 7, Zagreb, HR  
Meeting Points 7 Ten Thousand Wiles and a Hundred Thousand Tricks, Museum of Modern Art M HKA, Antwerp, BE  
Té con Nefertiti, IVAM Institut Valencià d'Art Modern, Valencia, ES  
Living Archive, KW Institute for Contemporary Art, Berlin, DE  
Le Théorème de Nefertiti, Institut du Monde Arabe, Paris, FR

SELECTED GROUP EXHIBITIONS (CONT.)

- 2012 59th International Short Film Festival Oberhausen, Oberhausen, DE  
Living Archive Archive Work as a Contemporary Artistic and Curatorial Practice, KW Institute for Contemporary Art, Berlin, DE  
Tea with Nefertiti, Mathaf Arab Museum of Modern Art, Doha, QA  
ROUNDTABLE, 9th Gwangju Biennial, Gwangju, KR  
The Generational Triennial The Ungovernables, New Museum Triennial, New York, NY  
A Gathering, Athens, GR
- 2011 London Palestine Film Festival, London, UK  
Untitled 12th Istanbul Biennial, Istanbul, TR  
24th Instants Video Festival in collaboration with Transitio Festival, Mexico City, MX  
Houston Palestine Film Festival, Houston, US  
Dream of a Nation Film Festival, Columbia University, New York, NY  
Toronto Palestine Film Festival, Toronto, CA
- 2010 Home Works 5 Forum and Exhibition, Beirut Art Center, Beirut, LB  
2009 Where Are You, Townhouse Gallery, Cairo, EG  
The Jerusalem Show Jerusalem Syndrome, Jerusalem, PS  
All Art Now 1st International Video Art Festival, Damascus, SY  
A Starting Point Intrude 366 Dynamics of Change and Growth, Zendai MoMA, Shanghai, CN
- 2008 PhotoCairo 4 The Long Shortcut, Hungarian Cultural Center, Cairo, EG  
Intrude Art and Life 366, Shanghai Juvenile Prison, Shanghai, CN  
The Third International Biennale for the Artist's Book 2008, Bibliotheca Alexandrina, Alexandria, EG
- 2006 12th Asian Art Biennale, Shilpakala Academy, Dhaka, BD  
Jordanian Artists Association Exhibition, Royal Cultural Center, Amman, JO
- 2005 Art in Contemporary Islamic World 3rd Biennale of Art, Tehran, IR  
17th Youth Salon, Palace of Arts Opera Complex, Cairo, EG  
Summer Academy Exhibition, Darat Al Funun, Amman, JO  
Young Jordanian Artists Exhibition, Royal Cultural Center, Amman, JO

## AWARDS, GRANTS & FELLOWSHIPS

- 2021 Shortlisted for the Keith Haring Fellowship in Art and Activism, Bard College, New York, NY  
Grant Wejhat Travel Grants Culture Resource, Beirut, LB
- 2020 Grant, Foundation for Arts Initiatives, New York, NY  
Fellowship, Akademie der Künste der Welt, Cologne, DE  
Fellowship, Civitella Ranieri Fellowship, Umbertide, IT  
Grant, Arab Fund for Arts and Culture, Beirut, LB
- 2015 Grant, Arab Fund for Arts and Culture, Beirut, LB  
Grant, Sharjah Art Foundation, Sharjah, UAE  
Residency, Delfina Foundation Residency Program, London, UK  
Residency, Cimatheque Alternative Film Center, Cairo, EG
- 2014 Fellowship, Kamel Lazaar Foundation, Tunis, TN
- 2013 Grant, Foundation for Arts Initiatives, New York, NY  
Fellowship, Bellagio Creative Arts Fellowship The Rockefeller Foundation, Bellagio, IT
- 2012 Residency, Living Archive Archive Work as a Contemporary Artistic and Curatorial Practice Arsenal  
Institut für Film und Videokunst, Berlin, DE  
Grant, Young Arab Theatre Fund, Brussels, BE
- 2011 Residency, La Galerie Contemporary Art Centre, Noisy-le-Sec, FR  
Residency, Ashkal Alwan, Beirut, LB
- 2010 Residency, Accented Residencies Delfina Foundation, London, UK
- 2008 Residency, Digital Residencies Contemporary Image Collective, Cairo, EG
- 2007 Residency, F+F School of Art and Media Design, Zürich, CH
- 2005 Award, Second Prize in Painting 17th Youth Salon, Cairo, EG  
Award, Third Prize in Painting Annual Exhibition of the Jordanian Artists Association, Amman, JO

## COMMISSIONS

- 2025 5 Cut Flowers, Islamic Arts Biennale Hajj Terminal, Jeddah, SA
- 2024 Friendship Garden, Serendipity Arts Festival, Goa, IN  
Battles in a Future Estate, Tavros, Athens, GR  
Pen Pals, Sharjah Art Foundation, Sharjah, UAE
- 2023 Double Sided Mirrors, Jameel Arts Centre, Dubai, UAE

COMMISSIONS (CONT.)

- 2022 High Dam Concrete Poetry, 35th Ljubljana Biennale of Graphic Arts, Ljubljana, SI  
Defunct Moving Image, Survival Kit 14, Riga, LV  
Friendship Garden Pen Pals, 14th Kaunas Biennial Kaunas Central Post Office, Kaunas, LT  
Friendship Garden Book of Transfers I, 14th Kaunas Biennial Kaunas Central Post Office, Kaunas, LT  
High Dam Rock Forms, Kunsthall Oslo, Oslo, NO  
Work in Progress, Barjeel Art Foundation Etihad Museum, Dubai, UAE
- 2021 High Dam Cutting Scheme, Uppsala Art Museum, Uppsala, SE  
Dis-membrance, Akademie der Künste der Welt, Cologne, DE  
An Index of Tensional and Unintentional Future Love of Land, A M Qattan Foundation, Ramallah, PS
- 2019 Past of a Temporal Universe, Darat al Funun, Amman, JO
- 2018 Drachmas, Sharjah Art Foundation, Sharjah, UAE  
Al Bahithun, Jameel Art Center, Dubai, UAE
- 2017 Plan fem for Greater Baghdad, Delfina Foundation and Art Jameel, London, UK and Dubai, UAE  
Enactment, Marta Herford, Herford, DE  
This Land First Speaks to You in Signs, Akademie der Künste, Berlin, DE
- 2015 Plan for Greater Baghdad, 56th Venice Biennale, Venice, IT
- 2014 From the Impossibility of One Page Being Like the Other, Frieze BBC 3 EMPAC  
An Index of Tensional and Unintentional Love of Land, New Museum, New York, NY  
UAR, Gypsum Gallery and Kamal Lazaar Projects
- 2012 Tin Soldiers Publication, 9th Gwangju Biennial, Gwangju, KR
- 2011 Tin Soldiers Final Edition, 9th Istanbul Biennial, Istanbul, TR
- 2010 Tin Soldiers First Edition, Home Works 5 Ashkal Alwan, Beirut, LB
- 2009 Needles to Rockets Publication, PhotoCairo 4 The Long Shortcut, Cairo, EG

PRESS

- 2026 “Five Shows Not to Be Missed in the United Arab Emirates,” Artissima, January, 2026  
“Ala Younis’s Past of a Temporal Universe,” ArtAsiaPacific, January, 2026  
“Ala Younis Rethinks How History Is Built,” Frieze, January 2026
- 2025 “Inside the Second Islamic Biennale,” Milleworld, January 2025
- 2021 “14 Artists to Explore Reshaping Existing Narratives,” Gulf Times, February 2021

PRESS (CONT.)

- 2019 Wilson-Goldie, Kaelen. "How to Reappear," Artforum, 2019
- 2018 "Celebrating 30 Years of the Arab Art World's Sleeping Giant," Frieze, October, 2018  
"From London to Agadir to Baghdad: What the Future Used to Be," Frieze, March, 2018  
"10 Galleries to Visit Now on the Lower East Side," The New York Times, April, 2018  
"Ala Younis's Plan for Feminist Greater Baghdad," ArtAsiaPacific, March, 2018
- 2017 "Works from the Barjeel Art Foundation Collection Come to CCS Bard," The Art Newspaper, 2017
- 2016 "The Guggenheim Is Going Global, Kind Of," The New York Times, August, 2016  
"Sand Storms and Couscous Castles," Observer, April, 2016