

# MARC STRAUS

## ABDULNASSER GHAREM

b. 1973, Khamis Mushait, Saudi Arabia  
Lives and works in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia

### SELECTED SOLO EXHIBITIONS

- 2022 *Hospitable Thoughts*, Marc Straus, New York, NY  
2020 *Smart Obedience*, Galerie Nagel Draxler, Berlin, Germany  
2017 *Abdulnasser Gharem: Pause*, LACMA, Los Angeles, CA  
2014 *The Awakening*, Ayyam Gallery, Dubai, UAE  
2013 *Edge of Arabia*, Ayyam Gallery, London, UK  
*Abdulnasser Gharem*, Side by Side Gallery, Berlin, Germany  
2010 *Restored Behaviour*, XVA Gallery, Dubai, UAE (17 Jan- 10 Mar)  
2006 *The Path*, King Fahd Art Village, Abha, Saudi Arabia  
2004 *The White Tongue Who Speaks Slowly*, King Fahad Art Village, Abha, Saudi Arabia  
*Who Keeps Watching the Sun (Sunflower field)*, *Death Mattered*, Attileh, Jeddah, Saudi Arabia  
2003 *Mute*, Attileh, Jeddah, Saudi Arabia  
*UN Inspector*, Attileh, Jeddah, Saudi Arabia

### SELECTED GROUP EXHIBITIONS

- 2021 *Glasstress Boca Raton*, Boca Raton Museum of Art, Boca Raton, FL  
2018 *Subversive Forms of Social Sculpture*, Sharjah Art Museum, Sharjah, UAE  
2017 *Desert To Delta: Contemporary Art In Memphis*, Art Museum of the University Of Memphis, Memphis, TN  
*Memories of a Journey Hajj*, Sheikh Zayed Grand Mosque, Abu Dhabi, UAE  
*Cities Of Conviction: Contemporary Saudi Art in Salt Lake City*, Utah Museum Of Contemporary Art, Salt Lake City, UT  
*Epicenter X: Contemporary Saudi Art in Detroit*, Arab American National Museum, Dearborn, MI  
*Glasstress*, Palazzo Franchetti, Venice, Italy  
2016 *Parallel Kingdom*, Station Museum, Houston, Texas  
*Illumination, New contemporary art at the Louisiana*, Louisiana Museum of Modern Art, Humlebaek, Denmark  
2015 *Saudi Art Contemporary*, Chalet Saqqarah, Gstaad, Switzerland  
2013 *Arab Contemporary*, Louisiana Museum of Modern Art, Humlebaek, Denmark  
*A Generation In Waiting*, Side by Side Gallery, Berlin, Germany  
*Light from the Middle East: New Photography*, Victoria & Albert Museum, London  
*La voce delle immagini*, Palazzo Grassi, Venice, Italy  
2012 *#COMETOGETHER*, Edge of Arabia, London, UK  
*Arab Express: The Latest Art From the Arab World*, Mori Art Museum, Tokyo, Japan  
*Porta dell' Oriente*, Roma Contemporary, Italy  
*Bending History*, Katara Galleries, Doha Qatar

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- Hajj, Journey to the Heart of Islam*, British Museum, London, UK  
*Edge of Arabia*, Al Furusiya Marina, Jeddah, Saudi Arabia  
*Contemporary Istanbul*, Turkey
- 2011 *Political Patterns*, ifa-Galerie, Berlin, Germany  
*The Future of a Promise: Contemporary Art from the Arab World*, Magazzini del Sale, 54th Venice Biennale  
*The Bravery of Being Out of Range*, Athr Gallery, Jeddah, Saudi Arabia  
*The New Middle East*, Willem Baars Projects, Amsterdam  
*Edge of Arabia Dubai: TERMINAL*, Building 9, Gate Village, Dubai International Financial Centre, Dubai, UAE  
*Uppers & Downers*, Traffic, Dubai, UAE  
*Nujoom: Constellations of Arab Art from The Farjam Collection*, The Farjam Collection @ DIFC, Dubai, UAE  
*I Don't Need Your Money Honey All I Need is Love*, Traffic, Dubai, UAE
- 2010 *Edge of Arabia Istanbul: TRANSITION*, Sanat Limani, Antrepo 5  
*Opening the Doors: Collecting Middle Eastern Art*, Abu Dhabi Art  
*CAVE: Contemporary Arab Video Encounter*, Maraya Arts Centre, Sharjah, UAE  
*Emerging Asian Artists*, Gwangju Biennale  
*Edge of Arabia Berlin: Grey Borders/Grey Frontiers*, Soho House, Berlin, Germany  
*Fuck Ups, Fables and Fiascos*, Galerie Caprice Horn, Berlin, Germany  
*Edge of Arabia World Tour Launch*, Global Competitiveness Forum, Riyadh, Saudi Arabia  
*Taswir: Pictorial Mappings of Islam and Modernity*, Martin Gropius-Bau, Berlin, Germany
- 2009 *The 28th Annual Exhibition*, Gulf Fine Arts Society, Sharjah, UAE  
*Edge of Arabia Venice*, Palazzo Polignac, 53rd Venice Biennale
- 2008 *Edge of Arabia London: Contemporary Art from Saudi Arabia*, SOAS Brunei Gallery, University of London, London, UK
- 2007 *Still Life: Art, Ecology and the Politics of Change*, Sharjah Biennial 8
- 2006 *Son of Aseer*, Al-Meftaha Arts Village, Abha, Saudi Arabia
- 2004 *Shattah*, Atelier Gallery, Jeddah, Saudi Arabia

## SELECTED PUBLIC COLLECTIONS

Kamel Lazaar Foundation  
Los Angeles County Museum of Art, California, USA  
Nadour Collection, Germany  
Palazzo Grassi, Venice, Italy  
The Barjeel Art Foundation, Sharjah, UAE  
The Farjam Collection  
The Farook Collection  
The Jameel Foundation  
The Saudi Arabian Ministry of Culture & Information, Saudi Arabia BASMOCA: Basma Al Sulaiman Museum of Contemporary Art, Jeddah, Saudi Arabia  
V&A Museum, London, UK

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## BIBLIOGRAPHY

- 2024 Talass, Rawaa. "Inside Gharem Studio, the Saudi Cultural 'Think Tank'," *Arab News*, June 19
- 2022 Mabrouk, Mirette F., et al. "Hospitable Thoughts: Saudi Artist Abdunasser Gharem's New York Show Explores Control and Authority," *Middle East Institute*, September 12
- 2018 Sebugwawo, Ismail. "Hajj over the Centuries Explained through Artworks," *Khaleej Times*, March 3  
"Saudi Artist Abdunasser Gharem Practices the Fine Art of Defiance..." *Abdunasser Gharem*, August 18
- 2017 Harris, Gareth. "Abu Dhabi Art Censors Work by Saudi Arabian Artist," *The Art Newspaper*, December 12  
Hubbard, Ben. "Artist Nurtures a Creative Oasis in Conservative Saudi Arabia," *The New York Times*, November 25  
"Gharem: The American Media Plays a Role in Creating a Certain Image of the Saudi Society," *جريدة الرياض* (Al-Riyadh Newspaper), May 19  
"Take a Pause," *Bazaar Art*, May 2  
"At LACMA, the Horror of 9/11 through the Eyes of a Muslim Artist Who Found a Different Path," *Los Angeles Times*, April 27  
Vankin, Deborah. "The Hidden Messages in LACMA's Massive Stamp Painting, 'Camouflage,'" *Los Angeles Times*, April 27  
"Jusoor Initiative' Builds A Bridge between Gharem's Art and the American Audience," *Al Sharq Al Awsat*, April 22  
Dawson, Aimee. "Saudi Arabian Artist's First US Solo Show Escapes Shadow of 9/11," *The Art Newspaper*, April 15  
Vankin, Deborah. "5 Picks: What's on Our Radar for Art, Theater, Music and More," *Los Angeles Times*, April 9
- 2016 "Provocative 'Parallel Kingdom' Shows Saudis Have Something to Say," *Houston Chronicle*, July 8  
"Contemporary Arabic Art Figures You Need To Know," *Widewalls*, May 30  
Ronald Düker, Ronald. "Saudi-Arabien: Avantgarde Im Wüstensand," *ZEIT ONLINE*, May 24  
Rieger, Birgit. "Interview Mit Abdunasser Gharem: Kunst Als Alternative Zum Terrorismus," *Aktuelle News: Nachrichten Aus Berlin Und Der Welt*, Der Tagesspiegel, April 9
- 2015 Campbell-Johnston, Rachel. "Abdunasser Gharem: 'My Military Training Taught Me to Dedicate Myself to My Mission,'" *The Times*, October 5  
Milner, Catherine. "Can Art Stop Jihad?" *The Guardian*, September 28  
East, Ben. "FAITH HEALER," *Monocle*, May 1
- 2014 Fryns, Fabien. "PORTRAIT OF AN ARTIST: ABDUNASSER GHAREM," *Vanity Fair*, November 1
- 2013 Heyman, Stephen. "An Artist Tests Saudi Arabia's Limits," *The New York Times*, November 6  
Harris, Gareth. "Saudi Artist Abdunasser Gharem's Unusual Double Life," *The Financial Times*, October 11  
Werneburg, Brigitte. "Ein Saudi-Arabischer Trickster," *Taz De*, June 7
- 2012 "Het Vliegtuigje Ging Echt Te Ver," *NCR*, December 4  
Hemming, Henry. "Saudi Artist Hopes to Stir Conversation about Democracy," *The Washington Post*, October 8  
Akbar, Arifa. "Pilgrim's Progress: Journey to the Heart of Islam," *The Independent*, January 30
- 2011 "LEAVE NO MAN BEHAIND," *Canvas*, November 1

# MARC STRAUS

“War and Politics in the Art World of Abdunasser Gharem,” *Al Sharq Al Awsat*, October 16

“Three Arab Works Topped Christie’s Auction in Dubai,” *Emarat Alyoum*, April 21

“Islam · Kultur · Politik,” *Kulturrat*, January 1