

BIOGRAPHY

Artist

Sama Alshaibi

Sama Alshaibi is an artist born in 1973, in Basra, Iraq to an Iraqi father and Palestinian mother and is now a naturalized US citizen.

Alshaibi's works in photography, video art and sculpture to evoke the language of suffering, displacement and loss. Her poetic and lyrical approach contrasts the depiction of her own history of living in war and the double negation to her familial homelands. Alshaibi often uses her own body in her works to test the limits of access and privilege; infiltrating guarded spaces, negotiating borders and testing the dynamics of power between nation/state and its citizenry. Alshaibi is also interested in the spectrum of control and domination, whether it's the body's relationship to land and national identity, or the experience between humans' competing for resources and power. Whether it's the threshold of two different existential planes, of disorientation, and spaces between spaces, her work is rooted in the anxieties of the human experience.

Sama Alshaibi received her MFA from the University of Colorado in Photography/Video and Media Arts in 2005. She is currently an Assistant Professor of Photography/Video Art at University of Arizona. Her work has been exhibited at arts institutions and galleries in over 20 countries including Exit Art, NYC, Traffic, Dubai, Al Hoash, Jerusalem, DARB 1718, Cairo, The Bronx Museum, NYC and the Museum of Contemporary Art, Denver. Her 28 time-based works (video art and films) have screened in numerous film festivals internationally.

Selected Solo Exhibitions

2023

- Sama Alshaibi: Silsila, Hattan Gallery at Colorado State University, Fort Collins, CO, USA
- Tell it to The River, Maraya Art Center, Sharjah, UAE (Curators: Mo Reda and Cima Azzam), catalog

2022

- Sama Alshaibi - Arlene and Morton Scult Artist Award solo exhibition, Phoenix Art Museum, Phoenix, AZ, USA
- Sama Alshaibi: Four Series, Zane Bennett Gallery, Santa Fe, NM, USA

2021

- Sama Alshaibi: Grainlines, Kittredge Gallery, University of Washington at Puget Sound, WA
- Model of Motions, form & concept gallery, Santa Fe, NM (Collaboration with Michael Fadel)

2019

- Staging the Imagined, Ayyam Gallery, Dubai, UAE, catalog
- Until Total Liberation, Artpace, San Antonio, TX (Curator: Dr. Deborah Willis)

2017

Sama Alshaibi: Silsila, Herbert F. Johnson Museum of Art, Ithaca, NY

2015

- Collapse, Ayyam Gallery, Dubai, UAE (Curator: Maymanah Farhat)
- Sand Rushes In, Ayyam Gallery, London, UK (Curator: Isabella Ellaheh Hughes)

2011

- End of September, Selma Feriani Gallery, London, UK
- vs. Him, Lawrie Shabibi Gallery, Dubai, UAE

2010

- Zero Sum Game, Selma Feriani Gallery, London, UK
- Between Two Rivers, Al-Hoash Gallery, East Jerusalem
- FLIGHT, Lycoming College of Art Gallery, PA

2009

- Between Two Rivers, Al-Kahf Gallery, Bethlehem, West Bank, Palestine
- SUMOUD, Hoffmaster Gallery at Lawrence University, Appleton, WI

2006

My Apartheid Vacation, Zero Station, Portland, ME

2005

Women, War, and Peace: Feminist Interventions in a Time of Conflict,
St. Mary's College, Notre Dame, IN

2004

- Where Do the Birds Fly After the Last Sky? El Centro de Formación de la Cooperación Española,
Antigua, Guatemala
- Where Do the Birds Fly After the Last Sky? La Fabrica Arte Contemporaneo,
Guatemala City, Guatemala

2003

Zaman I Remember, La Fabrica Arte Contemporaneo, Guatemala City, Guatemala

**Selected Group
Exhibitions**
2024

- Paris Photo, Galerie Esther Woerdehoff, Paris
- Nepantla: The Land is the Beloved, Tacoma Art Museum, Washington, forthcoming
(Curator: Maymanah Farhat)
- Staging Oneself, Cairns Art Gallery, Cairns City, Australia
- Family, Community, Belonging: Works from the Collection,
Montclair Art Museum, NJ

2023

- Something Else, Third Edition of the Off Biennale Cairo, Egypt (Lead Curator:
Simon Njami)
- Resonating Tides, Women's Pavilion, COP28, Expo City Dubai (Curator: Janet
Bellotto)
- Iraq: Beyond the Two Rivers, Keller Gallery at Massachusetts Institute of
Technology Cambridge, MA (Curator: Dr. Huma Gupta)
- <terminal>, Austin Peay State University, Clarksville, TN
- Crafting Resistance, ASU Art Museum, Tempe, AZ (Curator: Erin Joyce)

2022

- LOCATE: State of the Art 2020, Currier Museum of Art, Manchester, NH
- The Intimacy of Distance: Explorations of the Figure/Ground, Marshall Gallery,
Santa Monica, CA (Curators: Douglas Marshall and Lawrence Gipe)
- This Land Is Your Music, Walker Art Center, Minneapolis, MN (live music and
composition by musician Pieta Brown with film screening)

- LOOKING AT US: Examining Institutional Critique, Idyllwild Arts, Idyllwild, CA (Curators: Roshii Montano and Ninabah Winton)
- Heterotopia, Cihan Gallery, Erbil, Kurdistan-Iraq (Curator: Ahmad Nabaz)
- SXSW 2022: Wonder House, Austin, TX
- LOCATE: State of the Art 2020, Art Museum South Texas, Corpus Christi, TX
- LOCATE: State of the Art 2020, MOCA Jacksonville, Jacksonville, FL
- What Photography Is, Eleanor D. Wilson Museum, Hollins University, Roanoke, VA (Curator: Kyra Schmidt), catalogue

2021

- Converging Lines: Tracing the Artistic Lineage of the Arab Diaspora in the U.S., Middle East, Institute Gallery, Washington D.C. (Curator: Maymanah Farhat)
- Land Body, Ogden Contemporary Arts Center, Ogden, UT (Curator: Kelly Carper)
- EL devenir / The Becoming, The Front Arte & Cultura Gallery, San Diego, CA
- Roots, Granga Paraiso, Germantown, NY
- Women in the Face of History, Tisch Art Galleries, NYU University and Photoville, NYC, NY (Curator: Dr. Deborah Willis)

2020

- State of the Art 2020, Crystal Bridges Museum of American Art / the Momentary, Bentonville, AR (Curator: Lauren Haynes, Allison Glenn, and Alejo Benedetti)
- Reframed, Florida Museum of Photographic Arts, Tampa, FL
- The Fourth Wall, the 21st Biennale of Santa Cruz de la Sierra, Bolivia (Curator: Mo Reda)
- 100 Years, 100 Women, Park Avenue Armory, NYC, NY (includes commission; co-organized by Dr. Deborah Willis and NYU Tisch)
- Migration(s) and Meaning in Art, Meyerhoff Gallery, MICA, Baltimore, MD (Curator: Deborah Willis), catalog
- The Democracy Project: 2020, Artillery Magazine, virtual exhibition (Curators: Lawrence Gipe, Antoine Girard)
- Echoes & Perceptions, Ayyam Gallery, Dubai, UAE
- Geo-Graphies: Identity Rituals and Fragile Ecosystems, Palmieri's Foundation, Lecce, Italy
- Trajectory, Ayyam Gallery, Dubai, UAE

2019

- 13th Cairo International Biennale, Cairo, Egypt
- How The Light Gets In, Herbert F. Johnson Museum of Art, Ithaca, NY
- Person, Perception, Persona, Northlight Gallery, Phoenix, AZ

2018

- Tribe: Contemporary Photography from the Arab World, American University Museum, Washington D.C., USA (Curated by Janet Bellotto and Dr. Woodman Taylor)
- 30 Years: An Open Eye to the Arab World, Institut Du Monde Arabe, Paris, France
- Water/Trespassing Liquid Highways, Gallery 102, Washington D.C. (Curator: Ikram Lakhdhar)
- The Arrangements of the Soul in the Universe, Langgeng Art Foundation, Yogyakarta, Indonesia (Curator: Mo Reda)
- Arizona Biennial 2018, Tucson Museum of Art, Tucson, AZ (Juror: Rebecca R. Hart)
- you+topia, Ayyam Gallery, Dubai, UAE
- Walk in My Shoes, Gallery at Tempe Center for the Arts, Tempe, AZ

2017

- Frammenti Senza Tempo (Timeless Fragments), Palazzo Granafei-Nervegna, Brindisi, Italy

- Our Night Is Long, Ayyam Gallery, Dubai, UAE
- Beautiful Stranger, Museum De Wieger, Deurne, Netherlands, (Curator: Diana Wiegersma)
- Middle of Now | Here, Honolulu Biennial 2017, Honolulu, Hawai'i (Curatorial Director: Fumio Nanjo; Curator: Ngahiraka Mason)
- Boundaries, Brentwood Arts Exchange, Maryland

2016

- The People of the Sea (The Sea is Mine), Qalandiya International 2016, Haifa (commissioner: The Arab Culture Foundation; curator: Mohamed Badarne)
- Krisis, Bonington Gallery at Trent University, Nottingham, UK
- April Showers, Desai Matta Gallery, California Institute of Integral Studies, San Francisco, CA (Curator: Tomiko Jones)

2015

- View from Inside: Contemporary Arab Photography, Video and Multimedia Art, Abu Dhabi
- 10, Arab American National Museum, Dearborn, MI, USA (Curator: Maymanah Farhat)

2014

- Chain of Fire – Prologue Exhibition of the Honolulu Biennial, Hawai'i (Curators: Dr. Kóan Jeff Baysa and Isabella Ellaheh Hughes)
- International Symposium on Electronic Art, Dubai, UAE (Curator: Joshua Watts)
- Portable Nation, Fondazione Fish - Visual Arts Center Museum of Contemporary Art, Pesaro, Italy (Curator: Camilla Boemio)
- Intelligence Report, Peacock Visual Arts Center for Contemporary Art, Aberdeen, Scotland (Curator: Jay Murphy)
- Fluid Forms II, Samsung Blue Square & Busan Museum of Art, Seoul South Korea (Curator: Yu Yeon Kim)
- Opposing Gestures | two-person exhibition with Joseph Farbrook. University of Southern Maine Art Galleries, Portland/Gorham, ME, USA
- Architecture of Memory | two person exhibition with Dena Al-Adeeb, Mana Contemporary, New Jersey City, NJ
- MADATAC – 6th New Media Festival, Centro Palacio de Cibeles, Madrid, Spain

2013

- Edition #1, Edge of Arabia Gallery, London, UK
- The Map Is Not The Territory, Jerusalem Fund Gallery, Washington D.C.
- Semblance, Center for Visual Art, Metro State University, Denver, CO

2012

- Mapping Subjectivity: Experimentation in Arab Cinema from the 1960s until Now, MoMA, NYC, NY (Curators: Rasha Salti and Jytte Jensen)
- Primal Seen Revealed: Selections from the CU Art Museum's Collection of Photography, University of Colorado Art Museum, Boulder, CO
- NOT ABOUT BOMBS, Intermedia Arts, Minneapolis, MN, USA (Curator: Tricia Khutoretsky)
- 3rd Digital Marrakech, Centre Culturel Atlas Golf Marrakech, Marrakech, Morocco
- Mahatat for Contemporary Art, Lazoghly Square, Cairo, Egypt

2011

- Renditions, CAVE/Contemporary Arab Video Encounter, Maraya Art Center, Sharjah, UAE
- En Foco/In Focus: Selected Works from the Permanent Collection, Lightwork, Robert B.
- Menschel Media Center, Syracuse, NY

- Breaking Ranks: Human/Nature, Headlands Center for the Arts, Sausalito, CA
- Of Mind and Memory|two person exhibition with Dena Al-Adeeb, Worth Ryder Gallery, Berkeley, CA (Curator: Anuradha Vikram)

2010

- JASAD/BODY: Sama Alshaibi and Ninar Esber | two-person exhibition, Mole Vanvitelliana, Adriatic Mediterranean Festival, Ancona, Italy
- Hiwar, DARB 1718, Cairo, Egypt (Curator: Khadija Hamdi)
- War and The Body, London, UK (Curator: Sarah Maltby)
- Bearing Witness, LightWork Gallery, Syracuse, NY
- Carrying Across, Asian Arts Initiative, Philadelphia, PA (Curator: Yvonne Lung)

2009

- Inside/Outside & Other Oxymoron's, Levantine Cultural Center Gallery, Los Angeles, CA
- Motherhood and Revolution: Sama Alshaibi and Beth Krensky|two person exhibition, CalArts, Valencia, CA
- MidEastCut, Copenhagen, Denmark; Helsinki, Finland

2008

- A Day of Collaborative Performance | with 6+ Collective | Bronx Museum, NYC, NY
- Enfoco Presents: Sama Alshaibi and Myra Greene | two-person exhibition, Umbrella Arts Gallery, NYC, NY

2007

- Selection from The Collection, Darat Al Funun, Amman, Jordan
- Women on The Move: Refugees, Migration and Exile, University of West England, Bristol, UK

2006

- Religion and Personal Identity, Contemporary Art Gallery, Southeastern Louisiana University, Hammond, LA
- Transformations – Photography of the 21st. Century, Center for the Living Arts, Mobile, AL

2005

- Juannio, Subasta Para el Arte Contemporaneo 2005, Museo De Arte Moderno "Carlos Merida", Guatemala City, Guatemala
- Afrofuturism, Soap Factory (juried by the Obsidian Arts), Minneapolis, MN

2004

- The Discourse of Others, Salon de Artes Plasticas, Mexico City, Mexico

2003

- BLOOD Lines & Connections, The Museum of Contemporary Art, Denver, CO

Collections

- Herbert F. Johnson Museum of Art at Cornell University, NY, USA
- Montclair Art Museum, Montclair, NJ, USA
- The Arab American National Museum, Dearborn, Michigan, USA
- The Center for Creative Photography, AZ, USA
- The Gorman Museum, CA, USA
- The Photography Institute Archive at The Getty Research Institute, The Getty Museum, CA, USA (as part of the Photography Institute Archive)
- The Museum of Fine Arts, Houston, Texas, USA
- The Prints Collection Archive at The University of Mississippi, MS, USA
- The Corcoran College of Art & Design, Washington D.C., USA
- The 'Colorado Collection', CU Art Museum, CO, USA
- The University of Illinois at Chicago, IL, USA
- St. Louis Artists' Guild, MO, USA
- LightWork, NY, USA
- En Foco, NY, USA
- Henry Ford Community College, MI, USA
- Nadour Collection, Germany
- The Khalid Shoman Foundation - Darat Al Funun, Amman, Jordan
- Barjeel Art Foundation, Sharjah, UAE
- The Maraya Art Center, Sharjah, UAE
- The Samawi Collection, Dubai, UAE
- Salsali Private Museum, Dubai, UAE
- Farook Collection, Traffic Gallery, Dubai, UAE
- The Museum of Tunisia, Tunisia
- The International Center of Bethlehem, West Bank, Palestine

**Fellowships,
Grants & Awards**
2024

- Residency, The Rockefeller Foundation Bellagio Center, Bellagio, Italy
- Mellon-Fronteridades Faculty Fellows, Confluence Center, University of Arizona

2023

Fellowship, Art Matters Betty Parsons Fellow, NYC, NY

2022/24

Racial Justice Studio Fellow, Arizona Arts, University of Arizona

2022

Regents Professor, University of Arizona, Tucson, AZ

2021

- Fellowship, John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Foundation, NYC, NY
- Arlene and Morton Scult Artist Award, Phoenix Art Museum, Phoenix, AZ

2020

Faculty Professional Development Endowment Grant, University of Arizona, Tucson, AZ

2019

- First Prize: Project Development Grant, The Center at Santa Fe, New Mexico
- International Artist in Residence, Artpace, San Antonio, Texas

2018

- Artist Research and Development Grant, Visual Artist grant recipient, Arizona Commission on the Arts, Phoenix, AZ
- Research, Discovery and Innovation Faculty Seed Grant, University of Arizona, AZ

2017

Arab Fund for Art and Culture Grantee, Visual Artist grant recipient, Beirut, Lebanon

2015

Notable Books of 2015, Photo District News

2014

- Fulbright Scholars Fellowship, IIE Council for International Exchange of Scholars, Ramallah, West Bank, Palestine (2014-2015)
- Arab American Book Award - The Evelyn Shakir Non-fiction Award, We Art Iraqis: Aesthetics and Politics in a Time of War, The Arab American National Museum, Dearborn, Michigan, USA
- "Light it UP" public art commission, City of Phoenix Office of Arts and Culture Public Art (supported by the National Endowments for the Arts), Phoenix, AZ

2013

1885 Distinguished Scholar - Teaching/Research Award, University of Arizona, AZ

2010

Third Place Award, Creative Palestinian Arts, Art Sawa Gallery, Dubai, UAE

2008

Honorable Mention: Excellence in Photographic Teaching, The Center (at Santa Fe) National teaching award for excellence in photographic education

2007

- Grant Recipient, Feminist Review Trust, London, UK
- Commission, Mizel Museum, Denver, CO

Bibliography
2023

Alshaibi, Sama. "Sama Alshaibi: Tell it to the River," forward by Dr Nina Heydemann, texts by Dr. Huma Gupta and Sama Alshaibi, curatorial essay/ interview by Mo Reda and Cima Azzam, published by Maraya Art Centre, Sharjah, UAE. 155 pages, text published in Arabic and English, 50 photographs.

2015

Alshaibi, Sama. "Sama Alshaibi: Sand Rushes In," foreword by Salwa Mikdadi, text by Alfredo Cramerotti, and book editor and interview with Isabella Ellaheh Hughes, Aperture Foundation Press, NYC. 112 pages, including 102 photographs.