

N O M E

KHALED HAFEZ

b. 1963

Lives and works in Cairo, Egypt

Khaled Hafez's work delves into the dialectics of collective memory and consumer culture. Through various media – painting, video, photography and installation – Hafez deconstructs the binary narratives propagated by mass media and disrupts representational dichotomies such as East/West, good/evil. Re-assembling appropriated pop, historical, and political imagery, the artist traces links between the icons and serial format of Pharaonic painting and modern comics. His practice produces an amalgam of visual alphabets that bridge Orient and Occident, and address how globalization and consumerism have altered Middle Eastern societies, to create aesthetic hybrids far beyond the stereotypes of the news.

The video installation *Mirror Sonata in Six Animated Movements* (2015) for the 56th Venice Biennale was the culmination of Hafez's excavation of Egyptian identity, combining hieroglyphic forms with superhero figures and emblems of warfare. His work has been exhibited at, among others: Venice Biennale (57th, 56th and 55th editions); 12th Cairo Biennale (2010); Institut du Monde Arabe, Paris; British Museum, London; Hiroshima Museum of Contemporary Art, Japan; New Museum, NYC; Saatchi Gallery, London; MuHKA Museum of Art, Antwerp, Belgium; and Kunstmuseum Bonn, Germany. Hafez has been Fulbright Fellow (2005) and Rockefeller Fellow (2009).

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SELECTED EXHIBITIONS

2023

Illustrated History of the Mundane: Military Industrial Complex, Extension Art Space, Stockholm – SE

2021

Borderless: Digital Practices in Changing Times, Noyes Museum of Art, NJ – USA

Reflections: Contemporary Art of the Middle East and North Africa, British Museum, London – UK

Contemporary Urgency, 13th ALANICA Contemporary Art Festival, Pushkin State Museum of Contemporary Art, North Caucasus – RU

2018

Un œil ouvert sur le monde arabe, Institut du Monde Arabe, Paris - FR

2017

UTOCORPIS: Les Corps Utopiques, Institut Francais de Casablanca - Morocco

VIDEOIST: Unfold, Arte Sanat Galerisi, Ankara - Turkey

57th Venice Biennale, The Bridge: Cultural Diversity in Question, Grenada National Pavilion, Venice - Italy

2016

The Body & Other Small Tales, Crete Museum of Contemporary Art, Collection of the Thessaloniki State Museum of Art, Thessaloniki – Greece

UTOCORPIS: Les Corps Utopiques, Institut Francais, Dakar – Senegal

Synchronisation – Syncopation, London Biennale Manila Pollination – Philippines

ReFrame, Transart Triennale Video Program, UFERSTUDIOS, Berlin – Germany

Mulliqi Prize 2016, Kosovo National Art Gallery, Prishtina - Kosovo

ONUFRI XXII: Galeria Kombetare E Arteve, National Gallery of Art Tirana - Albania

Cairotronica, 1st Symposium of Electronic Art, Palace of the Arts, Cairo - Egypt

VICEVERSA (N-S-E-O), Museo Provincial de Holguin, Holguín - Cuba

2nd DocuTIFF 2016, 14th Tirana International Film Festival, Tirana - Albania

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2015

Alanica: The Experimental Way, 6th Moscow Biennale, Moscow - Russia

Codes of Hermes, Deborah Colton Gallery, Houston, Texas - USA

A Temple for Extended Days, Ayyam Gallery, Dubai - UAE

1st Trio Biennale, Rio De Janeiro - Brazil

1st Bienal del Sur, Caracas - Venezuela

3rd Mardin Biennale - Turkey

View From Inside: Contemporary Arab Photography, Video & Mixed-Media Art, Abu Dhabi

Festival, Abu Dhabi - UAE

Speak Together, Hofburg, Imperial Museum, Innsbruck - Austria

Hidden Subject: Parallax, Arte Sanat and Foya Art Gallery, Ankara - Turkey

3rd Mardin Biennale, Mardin Museum and several locations, Mardin - Turkey

56th Venice Biennale: In the Eye of the Thunder Storm: Official Collateral, Venice – Italy

2014

A Room of His Own: Masculinities in Korea & Middle East, Art Sonje Center, Seoul – South Korea

I'm Better Than Tomorrow, Hayaka Arti, Istanbul - Turkey

ISEA 2014: International Symposium of Electronic Art, Zayed University, Dubai - UAE

Mapping Strife, Deborah Colton Gallery, Houston, Texas - USA

FotoFest 2014 International Biennial, Houston, Texas - USA

The Art of Life: Between Tradition and Change, Uppsala Museum of Art, Uppsala - Sweden

Images of the Sensible, Kuad Gallery, Istanbul - Turkey

Tradition-Reversal, Collegium Artisticum, Sarajevo - Bosnia Herzegovina

Hajj, Le Pèlerinage à La Mecque, Institut du Monde Arabe, Paris – France

2013

Berlin Chromosome, Galerie Naimah Schütter, Berlin - Germany

Handling Memories, AB Gallery, Lucerne - Switzerland

Beyond The Codes, Raymaluz Gallery, Madrid - Spain

Moving Forward by the Day, Meem Gallery, Dubai – UAE

Portable Nation: Disappearance as work in progress, 55th Venice Biennale - Maldives

Tradition-Reversal, State Museum of Contemporary Art, Thessaloniki, Greek Pavilion, Gervasuti Foundation, Venice – Italy

The Shadows Took Shape, The Studio Museum in Harlem, NY – USA

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Tussen Verhulling en Moderniteit, Cultuurcentrum Brugge - Belgium
Reimagining Egypt, Saffron Walden Museum, Essex - UK
ALANICA 7: 7th International Contemporary Art Symposium, Vladikafkaz Museum, North
Ossetia- Russia
Longing for Mecca: The Pilgrim's Journey, Rijksmuseum Volkenkunde, Leiden - The
Netherlands
25 Years of Arab Creativity, National Museum of Art, Manama - Bahrain
Khaled Hafez: Deciphering the Past Within the Present, A.R.T.e.s. Galerie, University of Koeln,
Cologne - Germany
Egyptian Art Today, AB Gallery, Lucerne - Switzerland
Twenty-Five Years of Arab Creativity, Emirates Palace Gallery, Abu Dhabi - UAE
Desert Shouts / City Whispers, Bekris Gallery, San Francisco, CA - USA
Passages Africaines, Les Chantiers de la Lune, La Seyne-sur-mer - France
Grounded: Back to Square 1, Lopez Museum, Manila - Philippines

2012

On Codes, Symbols & Stockholm syndrome, Safarkhan Gallery, Cairo - Egypt
Khaled Hafez, Video Art Program, Windows Upon the World, Hiroshima MOCA - Japan
2nd Kathmandu International Art Festival, Kathmandu - Nepal
Rencontres de Bamako / Fondation Blachere Laureats Presentation, Apt - France
Liberation – A Process Review, Havremagasinet, Boden - Sweden
Vingt-cinq Ans de Créativité Arabe, Institut du Monde Arabe, Paris - France
1st Santorini Biennale, Santorini - Greece
41st International Film Festival Rotterdam - The Netherlands
The Art of Hajj: Pilgrimage Exhibition, British Museum, London - UK
Lowave Rising Images, Cinema du Reel, Centre George Pompidou, Paris - France
Beautiful Life: Memory and Nostalgia, The Pier-2 Art Center, Kaohsiung - Taiwan
Subversion: A Comedy of Manners, Cornerhouse, Manchester - UK
11th Havana Biennale, Havana - Cuba

2011

9th Bamako Encounters, National Museum of Art, Bamako - Mali
Reframing Reality, Museum of Contemporary Art, Roskilde - Denmark
15th International Short Film Festival Winterthur - Switzerland
CPH:DOX/ Copenhagen Film Festival, Copenhagen - Denmark

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8th Mercusol Biennale, Porto Alegre - Brazil

Beautiful Life: Memory and Nostalgia, South Hill Park, Bracknell - UK

Miragem / Mirage,

Centro Cultural Banco do Brasil, Rio de Janeiro - Brazil

East from 4°24': COLLECTIE XXVII, MuHKA Museum of Art, Antwerp – Belgium

Miragem / Mirage: Contemporary Art in the Islamic World, Instituto Tomie Ohtake, Sao Paulo -

Brazil RESISTANCE(S) III: Arab Video Arts, Ankara International Film Festival, Ankara – Turkey

Windows Upon Oceans, State Museum of Contemporary Art, Thessaloniki – Greece

Miragem / Mirage: Contemporary Art in the Islamic World, Museo Nacional do Conjunto Cultural da Republica, Brasilia - Brazil

2010

First Temple of Flight, Almasar Gallery, Cairo - Egypt

Gods & Superheroes, Galleria Luz & Suarez, Madrid - Spain

12th Cairo Biennale, Cairo - Egypt

Manifesta 8, Murcia - Spain

Miragem / Mirage,

Centro Cultural Banco do Brasil, Rio de Janeiro - Brazil

Resistance(s) III, Fondazione Merz, Turin - Italy

Resistance(s) III, Casa Àrabe, Madrid - Spain

3rd World Festival of Black Arts: Modernities + Resistances, Dakar - Senegal

CAVE: Contemporary Arab Video Encounter

, Maraya Arts Center, Sharjah - UAE

Tarjama/Translation, The Herbert F. Johnson Museum of Art, Icattha, NY - USA

The Presidents: Remix, Blancpain Art Contemporain, Geneva - Switzerland

What's Happening Now?: Contemporary Art from Egypt, Casa Arabe, Madrid - Spain

Fuck Ups, Fables & Fiascos, Galerie Caprice Horn, Berlin - Germany

IN/FLUX: Awkward Conversations, 17th African Film Festival, New Museum, NY - USA

Categorical Imperatives, The Guild Gallery, Bombay - India

Resistance(s) III, Centre George Pompidou, Paris - France

2009

Tarjama / Translation, Queens Museum, New York - USA

2nd Thessaloniki Biennale, Thessaloniki - Greece

Deconstructing Myths & Reality, Galerie Caprice Horn, Berlin - Germany

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Icons Reloaded, Galerie ElyseeArts, Liege - Belgium
Unveiled: New Art from the Middle East, Saatchi Gallery, London – UK

2008

Desert Snow & Other Stories, Galleria San Carlo, Milan - Italy
Borderlines, Le Violin Blue Gallery, London - UK
3rd Guangzhou Triennale, Guangdong Museum of Art, Guangdong - China
Breaking News, F&A Projects, Paris - France
Cairoscope: Images, Imagination and Imaginary of a Contemporary Mega City, Kunstraum
Kreuzberg/Bethanien, Berlin - Germany
Neighbors in Dialogue, Collegium Artisticum, Skenderija Centre, Sarajevo - Bosnia
Om Kalsoum la quatrième pyramide, Institut du Mode Arabe, Paris - France
Collectiepresentatie XXI, MuHKA Museum of Contemporary Art, Antwerp - Belgium
Trilogie Méditerranéenne: From Athens to Marseille to Cairo, Palais des Arts, Marseille - France
Arab Artists Between Italy & the Mediterranean, Italian Cultural Institute, Damascus, Beirut &
Cairo
Gates of the Mediterranean, Palazzo Piozzo Rivoli, Turin – Italy

2007

More Chromosomes, Il Divano Di George, Modena - Italy
Contact Zone, Bamako Museum of Art, Bamako - Mali
The Present Out of the Past Millennia, Kunstmuseum Bonn - Germany
Recognize, Contemporary Platform, London - UK
This Day, Tate Modern, London - UK
7th Sharjah Biennale, Sharjah - UAE
Without Title, MuHKA Museum of Contemporary Art, Antwerp - Belgium
Neighbors in Dialogue, Fezhane, Istanbul – Turkey
1st AMAL Film Festival - Spain

2006

North-East to Southwest, Espace Doual'Art, Douala - Cameroon
Philadelphia Chromosome, Galleria San Carlo, Milan - Italy
Kartomania & Tout-en-Karton, French Cultural Center, Cairo - Egypt

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1st Singapore Biennale - Singapore

7th Dakar Biennale, Dakar - Senegal

Images of the Middle East, Museum of Contemporary Art, Roskilde, Copenhagen - Denmark

2005

French memories, CCM Jean Gagnant, Limoges - France

African Memories, Chantiers de la Lune, Toulon - France

Mediterranean Encounters, Horcynus Orca Foundation, Messina - Italy

2004

Kartonopolis & some 10 years later, Townhouse Gallery, Cairo - Egypt

6th Dak'Art 2004 Dakar Biennale - Senegal (Francophonie Prize)

8th smailia International Film Festival, Ismailia - Egypt

2002 Nut, the President's Necktie & Batman, Townhouse Gallery, Cairo - Egypt

2001 Cairo Modern Art in Holland, Fortiscircus Theater, Den Haag - The Netherlands

2000 Icons of the Second Floor, Townhouse Gallery, Cairo – Egypt

1999

Halfway Home & the Electronic Gods, Guezira Art Center, Cairo – Egypt

Faster Than the City, Townhouse Gallery, Cairo - Egypt

1998

Visions of a Rusty Memory, Cairo-Berlin Gallery, Cairo - Egypt

Unimportant Items, Cairo Atelier, Cairo - Egypt

1992 Steps on Desert Sands, Akhenaton III Gallery, Cairo - Egypt

1990 Prisoner of Freedom, Cairo Atelier, Cairo - Egypt

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1989 A Tale of Two Leos, Nile Gallery, Cairo - Egypt

1987 Délires, French Cultural Center, Cairo - Egypt

FELLOWSHIPS

2009

Rockefeller Bellagio Center, Bellagio - Italy

Visiting Artist: McColl Center for Art + Innovation, Charlotte, NC - USA

2005

Fulbright Fellowship, Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Arts, Philadelphia, PA - USA

Visiting Artist: Ecole Nationale Supérieure d'Art, Limoges - France

AWARD NOMINATIONS

2015 Jameel Art Prize, Art Jameel, Dubai – UAE

2012 4th Prix Pictet Photography Prize (Long List), Banque Pictet, Geneva – Switzerland

2011 The Sovereign African Art Prize (Short List), Sovereign Art Foundation, Hong Kong/
London/ Cape Town/ Singapore

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