

ABDULRAHMAN NAANSEH

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Professional Summary

Visual Artist with more than 20 years of experience in the art of Arabic calligraphy, ranging from traditional to innovative forms. Fascinated by the abstraction of thoughts, emotions, and language through aesthetically mesmerizing symbols, and vivid composition, break the classical norms of Arabic lettering to express my inner world.

Education

Bachelor Degree in Fine Arts/ September 27, 2015

Bachelor Degree in Fine Arts-Damascus University, Damascus, Syria

Work Experience

George Mason University/ School of Art/ Fairfax, VA, USA

Adjunct Professor/ January 24, 2023- Present

Arabic Calligraphy:

- Teach Drawing and Arabic Calligraphy courses
- Demonstrate proper usage of traditional calligraphy tools and techniques
- Provide personalized guidance and constructive feedback to students
- Collaborate with fellow instructors to enhance the learning experience

Drawing:

- Guide dynamic Drawing 1 classes, building artistic foundations.
- Teach fundamental tools, techniques, and concepts.
- Nurture individual styles with personalized guidance.
- Collaborate with fellow instructors to enhance the learning experience.

George Mason University/ School of Art/ Fairfax, VA, USA

Researcher and Scholar/ January 25, 2022- Present

- Give artist talks about Arabic calligraphy for students and faculty
- Work on finding new styles to merge Arabic calligraphy with abstract art
- Produced solo show "Pressure Movement Effect"
- Provided workshops on campus at Mason and beyond, relating to Global Affairs, Arabic, Art and Art History, Poetry and Image, and calligraphy

Freelance Artist/ Fairfax, VA, USA

Abstract Artist and Calligraphy Artist / 2018- Present

- Design a calligraphy cover/ J Carrier M'raj photography book cover/April 4, 2023
- Design a calligraphy logo/ DIE ARABISCHEN KULTURWOCHEN 2023 "The Arabic Cultural Weeks 2023"/ August 15, 2023.
- Creating and selling calligraphy artwork/ Art Majeur, Arneliart gallery, Justseeds, Artsper

Alef by Stitching Hope/ Beirut, Lebanon

Designer and Painter/ July 1, 2018- Present

- Design a calligraphy model for clothes
- Execute the design directly on fabric/clothes

Le Marais 101/ Beirut, Lebanon

Designer and Painter/ October 15, 2021- Present

- Design a calligraphy model for leather
- Execute the design directly with fabric/leather

Waw Design/ Beirut, Lebanon

Designer and Painter /August 01, 2017- December 20, 2021

- Design calligraphy models to execute handmade products
- Draw and paint traditional Lebanese culture designs

Bel 3arabeh | بالعربي / Beirut, Lebanon

Designer/ May 01- December 10, 2021

- Design calligraphic Jewelry

BNA Institute for Arts / Damascus, Syria

Architect/ Drawing Instructor/ June 01, 2014- April 30, 2017

- Assist students in Visualizing Ideas
- Prepared 3 curriculums to teach students (drawing for beginners, architectural drawing basics, and architectural production techniques)
- Guided more than 700 students to graduation from the institute

- Worked with UNHCR to create a voluntary project called CHILA (Children Art) to support refugee children by using arts as a psychological therapy, May 2016
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Damascus University/ Damascus, Syria

Mural Artist / May 08, 2014 - April 13, 2016

- Design and create two murals for the College of Science
- Design and create murals for the Collage of Civil Engineering

Samer Sarji Photography/ Damascus, Syria

Expert in Arabic Calligraph/ 2015

- Worked as a font designer and developed some new methods for working with Arabic fonts
- Made more than 15 advertising videos

Grants and Awards

Artist Protection Fund Fellowship Grant/ January 25, 2021/ New York, New York

Fellowship supporting Arts Education/ January 25, 2021/ George Mason University, Fairfax, VA, USA

Gold Medal: Leading Vanguard of Syria/ 2003/ Damascus, Syria

Won gold medal in calligraphy youth organization competition

Gold Medal: Leading Vanguard of Syria/ 2002/ Damascus, Syria

Won gold medal in calligraphy youth organization competition

Bronze Medal: Leading Vanguard of Syria/ 2001/ Damascus, Syria

Won gold medal in calligraphy youth organization competition

Permanent collections

Private Collection/ October 2, 2023/ Durham University-oriental Museum/ London

Solo Exhibitions

DIE ARABISCHEN KULTURWOCHEN 2023 “*The Arabic Cultural Weeks 2023*”/ October 3 - November 4, 2023/ Otto-Schäfer-Museum/ Schweinfurt, Germany

Letters in Isolation/ June 13 – September 9, 2023/ Buchanan Partners Gallery/ Hylton Performing Arts Center/ Manassas, Virginia, USA

The Kingdom of Red Lines/ October 26 - December 16, 2022/ Fenwick Library/George Mason University/Fairfax, Virginia, USA

PRESSURE.MOVEMENT. EFFECT/ August 22 - October 15, 2022/ Gillespie Gallery/ George Mason University/ Fairfax, Virginia, USA

PRESSURE.MOVEMENT. EFFECT/ June 17 - August 6, 2022/ Mason Exhibitions/ George Mason University/ Arlington, Virginia, USA

Group Exhibitions

Walter Reed Arts in Health Annual Exhibit/October 18-December 15/ Glass Passageway between America Parking Garage and America Lobby/ Walter Reed National Military Medical Center

Struggling To Be Heard/ July 05- July 28, 2024 /Popcorn Gallery /Glen Echo Park / Maryland, USA

Without Words/ September 4- October 6, 2023/ Duke Hall-James Madison University/ Harrisonburg, VA, USA

Edges of What I Feel/ June 2- August 26, 2023/ Mason Exhibitions/ George Mason University/ Arlington, Virginia, USA.

Parallel Realms/ February 10- February 18, 2022/ Zico House/ Beirut, Lebanon.

A Collective Exhibition/ December 21- January 6, 2021/ Bloom Gallery/ Valence, Spain.

22nd JAALA International Art Exhibition/ August 11-August 16, 2021/ Yokohama Civic Gallery/Tokyo, Japan

The Lebanese Arts and Culture Showcase/ July 3 -July 11, 2021/ Beit Misk, Lebanon

Sharjah Calligraphy Biennial – 9th edition/ April 1- June 1, 2020/ Government of Sharjah/ United Arab Emirates

Selected Media Coverage

“My Culture, My Survival: Refugee the Power of Intangible Culture Heritage”/ Book interview/ Folklore Journalist Dr. Lisa Gilman

- Featured in a chapter discussing personal experiences and perspectives on the Syrian conflict and displacement.
- Shared firsthand insights into the impact of war on individuals and communities, contributing to the book's exploration of the refugee experience.
- Demonstrated expertise in the field of cultural heritage and its significance in times of crisis.

[August 2023 Edition \(Issue:30\)](#)/ August 19, 2023/Artmagazineium

[MASON EXHIBITIONS ARLINGTON PRESENTS THE HEALING ARTISTS](#)

[COLLECTIVE“EDGES OF WHAT I FEEL”](#)/ June 5, 2023/ Eastcity Art/ Editorial Team

[2022 Artist in Residence: Abdulrahman Naanseh documentary](#)/ May 12, 2023/ Participants: Dr. Lisa Marie Gilman, Dr. Yasemin Ipek, Dr. Bassam S. Haddad, Don Starr, Donald H. Russell, Jeffrey M. Kenney/ Director Steven Luu

[Pressure. Movement. Effect](#)/ October 20, 2022/ Asymptote Journal/ Heather Green

[Syrian calligrapher is Mason's 2022 Artist-in-Residence](#)/ August 2, 2022/ Mason Magazine/ Shayla Brown

[In the galleries: Renaissance techniques with a modern twist Review](#)/ July 29, 2022/ Washington Post/ Mark Jenkins

[Arneli Art Gallery is part of the 22nd International Art Exchange exhibition in KANAGAWA, JAPAN](#)/ February 15, 2023/ Arneli Galery Articles/ Dzovig Arnelian

[Architecture and Calligraphy in the Middle East: Maintaining Identity and Preserving Art](#)/November 25, 2022/ fanack.com/ Dana Hourany

[عبد الرحمن نعائسه يخطّ الأسئلة والمنفى](#)/ July 12, 2022/ The New Arab/ Salam Abou Naser

[studio visit to Abdulrahman Naanseh's art space](#)/ May 4, 2022/ Arneli Art Gallery/ by Arneli Art Gallery

[مهمشة أجساد... غاضبة أجساد: «موازية عوالم» | وكولاج ونحت وتجهيز لوحة بين عملا خمسون](#)/ February 16, 2022/ al-akhbar/ Taghreed Abdelaal

رحلة NEXUS.. الافتراضي العالم في رحلة / باسم فني معرض / December 23, 2021 / anbaa online / Editorial

Team

Public Lectures and Workshops

Band-Aid Art Workshop/ August 12, 2023/ partnership with Young Marines and Women Veterans United Committee, Inc./ The Catholic University of America/ Washington DC, USA

Arabic Calligraphy open workshop/ July 15, 2023/ Mason Exhibitions/ Arlington, VA, USA.

Healing by Art/ July 13, 2023/ With Walter Reed Patients/ Mason Exhibitions/ Arlington, VA, USA

Arabic Calligraphy Workshop/ July 13, 2023/ Walter Reed/ Mason Exhibitions/ Arlington, VA, USA.

Arabic Calligraphy Workshop/ May 12, 2023/ Arab America Heritage Month/ George Mason University, Fairfax, VA, USA

Arabic Calligraphy Workshop/ May 10, 2023/ Arab America Heritage Month/ Federal Reserve Board/ Washington DC, USA

Arabic Calligraphy Workshop/ December 18, 2022/ Arabic Language Day/ Collaboration with Saudi Arabia Club and the Catholic University of America/ Tyson's Corner Center/ Tysons, VA, USA

Uncovering the Kingdom of Red Lines Panel/ November 16, 2022/ Fenwick Library/ George Mason University/ Fairfax, VA, USA

A Presentation about the Gallery, the Exhibition, and my artwork/ October 15, 2022/Mason Family Weekend/ Gillespie Gallery/ Fairfax, VA, USA

The Process of Making an Exhibition/ October 13, 2022/ Workshop with Professor Bobby Yi's AVT101 class/ Gillespie Gallery/ Fairfax, VA, USA

Cheuse Salon poetry reading/ October 11, 2022/ Collaboration with Maya Abu Al-Hayyat (Leeya Mehta organizing)/ Gillespie Gallery/ Fairfax, VA, USA

Modern and Classical Languages Workshop/ October 7, 2022/ with Professor Peiyu Yang's Arabic class/ Gillespie Gallery/ Fairfax, VA, USA

Words and Images panel/ September 13, 2022/ with professor Heather Shreck-Green, the author and artist Veronica Gerber Bicecci, and the translator Alta L.Price/ annual Day of Translation/ Phillips Collection/ Washington DC, USA

The Process of Making an Exhibition Workshop/ September 27, 2022/ with Professor Bobby Yi's AVT101 class/ Gillespie Gallery/ Fairfax, VA, USA

Modern and Classical Languages Workshop/ September 27, 2022 / with Professor Peiyu Yang's Arabic class / Gillespie Gallery / Fairfax, VA, USA

The Preparation of Art Exhibition Workshop / September 21, 2022/ with instructor Stephanie Benassi's Senior Project class / Gillespie Gallery / Fairfax, VA, USA

The Relationship Between Art and Society Presentation/ September 20, 2022/ with Professor Chawky Frenn's class/ Gillespie Gallery/ Fairfax, VA, USA

The Relationship Between Arabic Language and Calligraphy Workshop/ September 15, 2022/ with Professor Peiyu Yang's Arabic, Modern, and Classical Languages class/ Gillespie Gallery/ Fairfax, VA, USA

The Art of Arabic Calligraphy Workshop/ September 13, 2022/ Professor Adam Bradley's 3D Design class/ Gillespie Gallery/ Fairfax, VA, USA

The Preparation of Art Exhibition Workshop/ September 13, 2022/ with Professor Savannah Fetterolf's Honor's class/ Gillespie Gallery/ Fairfax, VA, USA

The Creative Processes from Traditional to Modern Calligraphy Workshop/ September 8, 2022/ with Professor Leeya Mehta's Creative Writing class/ Gillespie Gallery/ Fairfax, VA

The Art of Arabic Calligraphy Workshop / September 8, 2022/ with Professor Heather Green's class/ Gillespie Gallery/ Fairfax, VA, USA

Calligraphy and Poetry Workshop/ September 6, 2022/ with instructor Peter C Petrine's Non-Traditional Drawing class/ Gillespie Gallery/ Fairfax, VA, USA

Basics of Calligraphy workshop/ September 6, 2022/ with Professor Heather Green's class/ Gillespie Gallery/ Fairfax, VA, USA

A Conversation about Classic and Modern Arabic Calligraphy Workshop/ September 1, 2022/ with Professor Don Starr's class/ Gillespie Gallery/ Fairfax, VA, USA

The Art of Arabic Calligraphy Workshop/ September 1, 2022 / with Professor Maryam Ahmad's class / Gillespie Gallery / Fairfax, VA, USA

The Construction of Calligraphy Art Presentation/ August 30, 2022/ with Instructure Natalie Guerrieri's class/ Gillespie Gallery/ Fairfax, VA, USA

The Art of Arabic Calligraphy Workshop/ August 29, 2022/ with Professor Hayon Park's class/ Gillespie Gallery/ Fairfax, VA, USA

Cultures of Calligraphy Workshop/ July 27, 2022/ with Chinese Calligrapher Amy Quach and Graffiti Typographer Corey Posner/ Mason Exhibitions/ Arlington, VA, USA

The Architectural Construction of the Arabic Letter Presentation/ March 2, 2022/ with Professor Mary Del Popolo's class/ George Mason School of Art/ Fairfax, VA, USA

A Glimpse into the History and Methods of Arabic Calligraphy Presentation/ February 22, 2022/ with Professor Chawky Frenn's class / George Mason School of Art/ Fairfax, VA, USA

Certificates and Volunteer Experience

Volunteering as a Calligraphist/ April 16, 2023/ Passport DC/ Embassy of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia/ Washington DC, USA

Certificate of Appreciation/ December 16-17, 2022/ contribution as a calligraphist / Saudi Arabian Cultural Mission to the USA/ Arabic International Language Day/ Tyson Corner, VA, USA

Participation certificate/ 2018-2019/ creating artwork and donating it/ local community organizations in Lebanon/ Beirut, Lebanon

Participation certificate/ September 26, 2016/ Leadership in Social Communication Skills with Kids Art workshop/ United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees/ Damascus, Syria

Participation certificate/ May 21, 2016/ Creating an interactive art mural to Support Syrian Youth/ TEDx Youth@jahez,/ Damascus, Syria

Appreciation certificate/ April 13, 2016/ Damascus University – Faculty of Civil Engineering/ participating in renewing the faculty library/ Damascus, Syria

Appreciation certificate/ May 12, 2014/ Damascus University – Faculty of Science/ Participating in Damascus Libraries Exhibition /Damascus, Syria