

Wael Shawky

Wael Shawky was born in Alexandria, Egypt in 1971. His practice spanning video, drawing, and performance are in-depth productions about the way history and mythology are written, offering crucial perspectives on contemporary narratives of uncertainty and change. Shawky is a major artist of his generation, developing an original art vocabulary dealing with global aesthetic and political issues. His work is exhibited internationally, most recently in solo exhibitions at Mathaf: Arab Museum of Modern Art, Doha; MoMA PS1, New York (2015); K20, Düsseldorf (2014); Serpentine Gallery, London (2013); KW Berlin (2012); and large scale group exhibitions including Istanbul Biennial (2015); Sharjah Biennial (2013); and dOCUMENTA (13) (2012). His work is collected by public institutions including Tate Modern, London; MoMA, New York; MACBA, Barcelona; Qatar Museums, Doha.

SOLO EXHIBITIONS

2016

Kunsthau Bregenz, Bregenz, Austria (Forthcoming, 16 July - 23 October 2016)

Al Araba Al Madfuna, Fondazione Merz, Torino (Forthcoming 3 November 2016 - 5 February 2017)

Castello di Rivoli (Forthcoming, 3 novembre 2016 – 14 maggio 2017)

2015

Cabaret Crusades: The Secrets of Karbala, Sfeir-Semler Gallery, Beirut, Lebanon

Wael Shawky: Crusades and Other Stories, Mathaf: Arab Museum of Modern Art, Doha, Qatar

Cabaret Crusades, MoMA P.S.1, New York, USA

2014

Cabaret Crusades, K20 Düsseldorf, Germany

Al Araba Al Madfuna, Festwochen-Zentrum im Künstlerhaus, Vienna, Austria

Wael Shawky: Horsemen Adore Perfumes and Other Stories, Sharjah Art Foundation, Sharjah, UAE

Dictums, Lisson Gallery, London, UK

2013

Wael Shawky, Serpentine Gallery, London, UK

Video Zone: Wael Shawky, Cabaret Crusades: The Horror Show File, Ludwig Forum für Internationale Kunst, Aachen, Germany

Wael Shawky, The Hammer Museum, Los Angeles, USA

Wael Shawky, Art Gallery of York University, Toronto, Canada

2012

Wael Shawky, Al Araba Al Madfuna, Kunst-Werke, Berlin, Germany

2011

Wael Shawky, Nottingham Contemporary, Nottingham, UK

Drawings and Flags from Cabaret Crusades, Walker Art Gallery, Liverpool, UK

Larvae Channel series, The Delfina Foundation, London, UK

2010

Contemporary Myths, Cittadellarte - Fondazione Pistoletto, Biella, Italy

2009

Larvae Channel 2, Project Gentili, Berlin, Germany
Clean History, Townhouse Gallery for Contemporary Art, Cairo, Egypt
Wael Shawky, Darat al Funun, Amman, Jordan

2008

Al Aqsa Park, Factory Space, Townhouse Gallery for Contemporary Art, Cairo, Egypt

2007

Wael Shawky, Telematch Sadat, Claudio Poleschi Arte Contemporanea, Lucca, Italy
KVS, Brussels, Belgium
HAU DREI, Berlin, Germany
Then you will return to Me and I will judge between you in the matters in which you used to dispute, Kunsthalle Winterthur, Switzerland
Wael Shawky, Collective Gallery, Edinburgh, Scotland
The Forty Days Road, Wet Culture – Dry Culture, Galeria Sztuki Wspolczesnej, Bunkier Sztukim, Krakow
Al Aqsa Park, YAMA, Istanbul, Turkey

2006

Drawings (1998-2006), Townhouse Gallery of Contemporary Art, Cairo, Egypt

2005

The Green Land Circus, Factory Space, Townhouse Gallery of Contemporary Art, Cairo, Egypt
Losing Identity, Ludwigsburg Kunstverein, Ludwigsburg, Germany

2003

Asphalt Quarter, Townhouse Gallery of Contemporary art, Cairo, Egypt

2001

Transitions, Gemmayzeh, Beirut, Lebanon
Sidi El Asphalt's Moulid, Townhouse Gallery of Contemporary Art, Cairo, Egypt
2nd Al Nitaq Festival of Visual Arts, Cairo, Egypt

GROUP EXHIBITIONS

2015

A Brief History of the Future, The Louvre, Paris, France
14th Istanbul Biennial, Istanbul, Turkey
Gallery 3010, Sfeir-Semler, Beirut, Lebanon
Desires and Necessities, MACBA, Barcelona
Mario Merz Prize, Fondazione Merz, Turin

2014

Manifesta 10, The State Hermitage Museum, St. Petersburg, Russia
You Imagine What You Desire, 19th Sydney Biennial, Sydney, Australia
Fotofest 2014, Contemporary Arab Video, Photography and Mixed Media, Houston, USA
Now Babylon – Architecture, Culture and Identity, Louisiana Museum of Modern Art, Humlbæk, Denmark
Dak'Art 2014, Dakar, Senegal

2013

A History of Inspiration, Palais de Tokyo, Paris, France

In the Heart of the Country, The Collection of the Museum of Modern Art in Warsaw, Warsaw, Poland
Dreams of Reason. Highlights of the Sandretto Re Rebaudengo Collection, Centre of Contemporary Art, Torun, Poland
Re:emerge, Sharjah Biennial, Sharjah, United Arab Emirates
Moment – Frontlines, Moderna Museet Stockholm, Stockholm, Sweden
Trade Routes, Hauser and Wirth, London, UK
LES CHOSES DE COTE DU MONDE, Musée des civilisations de l'Europe et de la Méditerranée, Marseille, France
The Translation, Cabaret Voltaire, Zürich, Switzerland

2012-13

Mirages d'Orient, Grenades et Figures de Barbaries, Chassès-croix en Méditerranée, Collection Lambert, Avignon, France

2012

9th Gwangju Biennial, Gwangju, Korea
DOCUMENTA (13), Kassel, Germany
Bucharest Biennial 5, Bucharest, Romania
Marrakech Biennial 2012, Marrakech, Morocco

2011

Kunst-Werke, Berlin, Germany
Serious Games, Krieg - Medien Kunst, Mathildenhöhe Darmstadt, Germany

2010-11

Contemporary Myths, Sfeir-Semler Gallery, Beirut, Lebanon

2010

Theater Der Welt Festival, Stadthalle, Mulheim, Germany
In and out of context, New Museum of Contemporary Art, New York, USA
Mart Museum Collection, Rovereto, Italy
Medium Religion, The Musée d'art Contemporain de Montréal, Canada
Festival BOM Ganesha Production, Arko Museum, Seoul, Korea

2009

25th Alexandria Biennale, Egyptian pavilion, Fine Arts Museum, Alexandria, Egypt
3rd Riwaq Biennale, Riwaq biennale, Ramallah, Palestine
3rd Marrakech Biennale, Marrakech, Morocco
Disorientation II, Manarat Al Saadiyat, Abu Dhabi, UAE
The columns held us up, Artists Space, New York, USA, collaboration with Platform Garanti Contemporary Art Center, Istanbul, Turkey
The Jerusalem Show, Al-ma' mal Foundation for Contemporary Art, Jerusalem
Rites of Passage, Schunck-Glaspaleis, Heerlen, Netherlands
Translation, Queens Museum of Art, New York, USA

2008

Medium Religion, ZKM, Center for Art and Media, Museum of contemporary Art, Karlsruhe, Germany
Lucky Number Seven, Santa Fe Biennale, Site Santa Fe, Santa Fe, New Mexico, USA
Breaking News, F&A Projects, Paris, France
SCENES DU SUD II - Méditerranée Orientale, Carré d'Art - Musée d'art contemporain de Nîmes, Place de la Maison Carrée

2007

5th Meeting points, Beirut

2nd Riwaq Biennale, Riwaq, Ramallah, Palestine

The Present Out of the Past Millennia, Kunstmuseum, Bonn

House Trip, Artforum Berlin, Berlin, Germany

Out of place, Gallery SFEIR-SEMLER, Beirut, Lebanon

What happens today (contemporary Egyptian art), Palace of Art, Opera House, Cairo, Egypt

2006

Fremd bin ich eingezogen, Kunsthalle Fridericianum, Kassel, Germany

No Man's Land (Part II), Hellenic American Union, Athens, Greece

Choosing my religion, Kunstmuseum Thun, Switzerland

Art, Life and Confusion, 47th October Art Salon Belgrade,

Outside The Living Room, Gb Agency, Paris, France

Stile der Stadt, Hamburg, Grobe Bergstrasse, Altona, Hamburg

2005

9th Istanbul Biennial, Istanbul, Turkey

ADAM, Smart Project Space, Amsterdam, The Netherlands

Urban Realities, Focus Istanbul, Martin-Gropius-Bau, Berlin, Germany

Museum Collection Exhibition, The Museum of Modern Art Rome (MACRO)

Normalization, Platform Granti of Contemporary Art, Istanbul, Turkey

Photo Cairo 3, Townhouse Gallery of Contemporary Art, Cairo

2004

Mediterranean, The Museum of Modern Art Rome (MACRO), Italy

Meeting Points, Makan House, Amman, Jordan

4th Les Journees de la Photographie, Centre Culturel Francais de Damas, Damascus

2003

Les Laboratoires d'Aubervilliers, Aubervilliers, France

24/7 Vilnius, CAC museum, Vilnius, Lithuania

50th La Biennale di Venezia, Venice, Italy

Body and the Archive, Artists Space, New York, USA

International Video Invitational, Fa project, London, UK

International Experimental Film Festival, Goethe Institute, Alexandria/Cairo

2002

Close Up, Townhouse Gallery of Contemporary Art, Cairo, Egypt

2001

Rita Longa International Art Symposium, Codema, Bayamo, Cuba

2nd Al Nitaq Festival of Visual Arts, The Townhouse Gallery of Contemporary Art, Cairo, Egypt

2000

Meyerson Hall Gallery, Philadelphia, USA

1st Al Nitaq Festival of Visual Arts, Talaat Harb Square, Cairo, Egypt

1997

Contemporary Egyptian Art, Kunst Historisch Museum, Vienna, Austria

1996

6th International Cairo Biennial, Museum of Modern Art, Cairo, Egypt

SCREENINGS AND PERFORMANCES

2014

The Anthropology Effect, MAP, Glasgow, UK

2013

Images Festival, Toronto, Canada

the MAC The Mc Kinney Avenue Contemporary, Dallas, USA

2010

When he decided to visit the Christmas village, Main Space, Cairo, Egypt (performance)

5th Forum Beirut, Beirut, Lebanon

2006

No matter what, I will always be distant from you, The Artists Cinema, Frieze Art Fair, London, UK

SELECTED AWARDS, PRIZES AND GRANTS

2015

Mario Merz Prize

2013

Sharjah Biennial Award 2013 for exceptional contribution Award for the Filmic Oevre donated by Luis Vuitton and Kino der Kunst

2012

Abraaj Capital Art Prize, joint winner

2011

Kunstpreis der Schering Stiftung

2009

Grand Prize, 25th Alexandria Biennale, Alexandria

2007

Ford Foundation Grant, Cairo

2006

Ford Foundation Grant, Cairo

2005

International Commissioning Grant, The Lower Manhattan Cultural Council, New York.

2004

The International Award of The Islamic World Arts Initiative, Arts International, New York.

The American Center Foundation Grant, Philadelphia.

2001

Honorary Award, Rita Longa International Symposium, Codema, Bayamo, Cuba

2000

Piero Dozairo Award, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia

1999

Merit Scholarship, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, USA

Edna C. and Monroe Gutman Annual Scholarship, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, USA

1996

Grand Nile Prize, 6th International Cairo Biennial, Cairo

1994

Grand Akhnaton Prize, 6th Salon of Youth, Akhnaton Art Centre, Cairo, Egypt

SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY

Exhibition Catalogues

Krystof, Doris & Shawky, Wael. Wael Shawky: Cabaret Crusades, Kunstsammlung Nordrhein-Westfalen, Dusseldorf, 2015

Marta, Karen. Wael Shawky: Horsemen Adore Perfumes and other stories, Sharjah Art Foundation, Sharjah, & Serpentine Galleries, London, 2013

Pfeffer, Susanne & Mertens, Heike Catherina. Wael Shawky: Al Araba Al Madfuna, Ernst Schering Foundation Art Award & KW Institute for Contemporary Art, Berlin, 2012

Publications

Are you a lucky artist?, Fondazione Cassa di Risparmio de Modena, 2010

Campbell, Sarah & Tawadros, Gilane. Fault Lines: Contemporary African art and Shifting Landscapes. Institute of International Visual Arts in collaboration with the Forum for African Arts and the Prince Claus Fund, 2003
Karnouk, Liliane. Modern Egyptian Art: 1910-2003. American University of Cairo Press, 2005
Harris, Jonathan. Globalization and Contemporary Art. Wiley-Blackwell, 2011
Sapiega, Jacques. Scènes de croisades-Cabaret crusades: The path to Cairo de Wael Shawky. Presses Univertaires de Provence: Aix-Marseille Université, 2013

Journals, Newspapers, and Magazines

Davies, Clare. The Haunting Memory of a Metamorphosis. Parkett. No. 94, 2014
Denson, G. Roger. Egyptian Artist Wael Shawky Is Pulling the Strings of Crusade and Jihad at MoMA PS1. Huffington Post. Jul. 22, 2015
Groys, Boris. The Return of the Strings. Parkett. No. 94, 2014
Hirsch, Faye. In the Studio: Wael Shawky. Art in America, April 2013
Obrist, Hans Ulrich. Hans Ulrich Obrist in Conversation with Wael Shawky. Res Art World. No. 7, June 2011
Rifky, Sarah. In History: From Translation to Linguistic Analysis. Mousse. No. 34, 2012
Saltz, Jerry. Wael Shawky's Epic Films Will Completely Change How You See the Crusades. Vulture. Jul 15, 2015
Spence, Rachel. Interview: Egyptian artist Wael Shawky on faith, oil, politics – and puppetry. Financial Times. Nov. 29, 2013
Wilson-Goldie, Kaelen. Lost and Found. Parkett. No. 94, 2014
Younis, Ala. A Weave of Voices Interprets Wael Shawky's Art: Performing Turbulence. Take Magazine. Issue 13