



## Dr. Najat Makki

### BORN

1956 Dubai, United Arab Emirates  
Lives and works in Dubai, UAE

### EDUCATION

2001 Doctorate in Philosophy of Art, Helwan University, Cairo, Egypt  
1998 Master's Degree of Arts in Ancient Egyptian Civilization, Helwan University, Cairo, Egypt  
1996 General Diploma in Plastic Arts, Faculty of Fine Arts, Helwan University, Cairo, Egypt  
1982 Bachelor's Degree of Relief Carving & Medals, Faculty of Fine Arts, Helwan University, Cairo, Egypt

### SELECTED SOLO EXHIBITIONS

2023 *The Scent of Memories*, Aisha Alabbar Gallery, Dubai, UAE  
2021 *Inner Light*, Sharjah Calligraphy Museum (part of 24<sup>th</sup> Sharjah Islamic Arts Festival), Sharjah, UAE  
*Sotheby's Presents: I Write in Colour: Dr. Najat Makki*, Sotheby's, Dubai, UAE  
*The Rhythm of Patterns*, Embassy of Mexico, Abu Dhabi, UAE  
*I Write in Colour*, Aisha Alabbar Gallery, Dubai, UAE  
2019 Exhibition, The Woman Museum, Dubai, UAE  
Exhibition, The Military Museum, Montenegro  
*Luminescence*, Cultural Foundation, Abu Dhabi, UAE  
2018 Abu Dhabi Book Fair, Abu Dhabi, UAE  
2015 Exhibition accompanied to Cairo Cinema Festival, Cairo Opera House, Cairo, Egypt  
Exhibition, Royal Mirage Hotel, Dubai, UAE  
2014 Exhibition, Women's Union Society, Sharjah, UAE  
Exhibition, The Cultural & Scientific Association, Dubai, UAE  
2012 Exhibition, Cité Internationale des Arts, Paris, France  
Exhibition, Emirates Palace, Abu Dhabi, UAE  
2011 *Distinctive Mark*, Sharjah Art Museum, Sharjah, UAE  
*A Journey*, Faculty of Fine Arts, Sharjah University, Sharjah, UAE  
2007 Exhibition, Emirates Fine Arts Society, Sharjah, UAE  
Exhibition, Gallery Abbekas, Sweden  
Exhibition, Islamic Arts Festival, Sharjah, UAE  
2006 Exhibition, Sultan Al Owais Cultural Foundation, Dubai, UAE  
2005 *Languages of the Desert - Contemporary Arab Art*, Bonn Museum of Contemporary Art, Bonn, Germany  
Exhibition, Sharjah Art Gallery, Sharjah, UAE  
2004 Exhibition, Emirates Cultural Festival, Trade Center, Dubai, UAE  
1997 Exhibition, Faculty of Fine Arts, Cairo, Egypt  
1988 Exhibition, Atelier of Literati & Writers, Cairo, Egypt  
1987 Exhibition, Al Wasl Club, Dubai, UAE

### SELECTED GROUP EXHIBITIONS

2025 *Through the Years*, Abu Dhabi Cultural Centre, Abu Dhabi, UAE  
2025 *Next Chapter Edition 1*, Foundry Downtown, Dubai, UAE  
2024 *Hour Eternal*, Bassam Freiha Foundation, Abu Dhabi, UAE  
2023 Abu Dhabi Sustainability Week, ADNEC, Abu Dhabi, UAE  
2022 *While the Coffee Grounds Settle*, Fathom Gallery, Georgetown, Washington, DC, USA  
*Khaleej Modern: Pioneers and Collectives in the Arabian Peninsula*, NYUAD Art Gallery, Abu Dhabi, UAE  
*Portrait of a Nation II: Beyond Narratives*, Manarat Al Saadiyat, Abu Dhabi, UAE  
2021 *Confluence: Najat Makki & Bénédicte Gimmonnet*, Alliance Francaise Dubai, Dubai, UAE



- 2019 *Interconnection*, 37 Emirati Fine Arts Society Annual Exhibition, Sharjah Art Museum, Sharjah, UAE  
*Heya (She)*, Hend Gallery, Bahrain  
*Caravan*, French Ambassador's House, Abu Dhabi, UAE  
*Alaia Art Event*, Balqarn, Saudi Arabia  
*Her Story*, Woman Museum, Dubai, UAE  
*7/7*, Sultan Bin Ali Al Owais Cultural Foundation, Dubai, UAE  
*Ishraqat*, Virtual Exhibition, Fujairah Social & Cultural Association, Fujairah, UAE  
Al-Gedar Group, Virtual Exhibition, Sultan Bin Ali Al Owais Cultural Foundation, Dubai, UAE
- 2018 *We Love Zayed*, Abu Dhabi, UAE  
*Pioneers*, Abu Dhabi Cultural Foundation, Abu Dhabi, UAE  
International Symposium of Cairo Oman Bank for Fine Arts, Oman  
Al-Gedar Art Group Exhibition, The Cultural & Scientific Association, Dubai, UAE
- 2017 The second Art Forum of Gulf Fine Arts, Al Doha, Qatar  
The Creative Women, Sultan Bin Ali Al Owais Cultural Foundation, Dubai, UAE  
*Sky of The East*, Emirates palace, Abu Dhabi Cultural Foundation, Abu Dhabi, UAE  
*Sinyar First Gulf*, Sinyar Gallery, D3, Dubai, UAE  
*Expressions of Honor*, Abu Dhabi, UAE  
*Colors' Charm*, Al-Etihad Gallery, Abu Dhabi, UAE  
Art Abu Dhabi, Manarat Al Saadiyat, Abu Dhabi, UAE  
Art Abu Dhabi, Honar Gallery, Manarat Al Saadiyat, Abu Dhabi, UAE  
Exhibition with artist Tag Alser Hassan, Sultan Al Owais Cultural Foundation, Dubai, UAE
- 2016 *Treasures*, Auction & Exhibition, Christie's Dubai, Dubai, UAE  
*Realm (Contemporary Arabic Calligraphy)*, Ward Gallery, Dubai, UAE  
Exhibition, Bayat Gallery, Wafi Center, Dubai, UAE  
Exhibition with Jewelry designer Maha Alsebaay, Wafi Center, Dubai, UAE
- 2015 Exhibition, Lamiatos Gallery, Dubai, UAE  
*Art for Sight*, Auction & Exhibition, Christie's Dubai & Noor Dubai, Dubai, UAE  
Al Asmakh International Symposium, Al Doha, Qatar  
*1980 – Today: Exhibitions in the UAE*, UAE National Pavilion, 56<sup>th</sup> Venice Biennale, Venice, Italy  
*Sikka Art Fair*, Art Week, Al Bastakiya, Dubai, UAE  
Exhibition with a French artist, Armani Hotel, Burj Khalifa, Dubai, UAE
- 2014 *City of Diversity*, Grand Hyatt Hotel, Dubai, UAE
- 2013 Carving's First Forum, The Cultural & Scientific Association, Dubai, UAE  
6<sup>th</sup> International Symposium of Luxor for painting, Luxor, Egypt
- 2012 5<sup>th</sup> Beijing International Art Biennale: *Future and Reality*, Beijing Museum, Beijing, China  
*Between Two Mountains*, Al-Gedar Group Exhibition, Sultan Bin Ali Al Owais Cultural Foundation, Dubai, UAE
- 2011 *Painting & Poem*, Jordanian Fine Artists Association, Amman, Jordan  
*Sikka Art Fair*, Art Week, Al Bastakiya, Dubai, UAE  
National Exhibition, Abu Dhabi, UAE  
Exhibition, Emirates palace, Abu Dhabi, UAE  
Culture & Arts Authority, Culture's Week, Dubai, UAE  
*Art On Tacks*, Yass Center, Abu Dhabi, UAE  
*Islamic Art*, Sharjah, UAE  
*A Painting & A book*, Book Fair, Abu Dhabi, UAE
- 2010 Bibliotheca Alexandrina 7<sup>th</sup> International Biennale for Artist's Book, Alexandria, Egypt  
Art Dubai, Hunar Gallery, Jumeirah, Dubai, UAE  
Art Abu Dhabi, Hunar Gallery, Manarat Al Saadiyat, Abu Dhabi, UAE  
The 4<sup>th</sup> Fine Arts Exhibition, Umm Al Quwain, UAE  
*Colored Papers*, Sharjah Women's Club, Sharjah, UAE  
*Al Bastakiya Art Fair*, Dubai, UAE  
*4 Artists from The Middle East*, Grand Hyatt Hotel, Dubai, UAE  
Exhibition with artist Mona Alkhaga, Sharjah Calligraphy Museum, Sharjah, UAE
- 2009 *Spirit of The Union*, Dubai Mall, Dubai, UAE  
Jordan Forum of Fine Arts, Jordan  
*Emirati Expressions*, Emirates palace, Abu Dhabi, UAE  
*UAE Agenda*, Bibliotheca Alexandrina, Alexandria, Egypt  
*Art Lounge*, Dubai, UAE
- 2008 *UAE in Arabic Eyes*, Dubai World Trade Center, Dubai, UAE  
*The Memory*, Emirates Fine Arts Society, Alserkal, Dubai, UAE  
*The Experiment of The Local Artist*, The International Day of Museums, Sharjah, UAE  
French Art Festival, Mina A'Salam, Dubai, UAE  
Cairo Book Fair Events, Cairo, Egypt



- 1<sup>st</sup> International Forum of Al Raqqa of Fine Arts, Al Raqqa, Syria  
*Shadow Women*, with artist Abd Alraheem Salem, Hunar Gallery, Dubai, UAE
- 2007 The National Art Exhibition, Armed Forces Officers Club, Abu Dhabi, UAE  
*Emirates & Its Pioneer Artists*, The Art Center, Dubai Al Ahli Theatre, Dubai, UAE *Art pioneers*, Royal Mirage Hotel, Dubai, UAE
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Exhibition of Al Juman Group, Cairo Opera House, Cairo, Egypt  
1<sup>st</sup> Gulf Cultural Festival Exhibition, Sharjah, UAE
- 2006 *Runways of The Circle*, Moroccan poet Hakim Anker, Sultan Al Owais Cultural Foundation, Dubai, UAE  
*The Wind Movement*, Hessen, Germany  
Exhibition in Conjunction with the silver Jubilee of the Emirates Fine Arts Society, Sharjah, UAE  
*Creative Arabs in UAE*, Meem Gallery, Dubai, UAE  
*Arabian Masterpieces*, Tehran, Iran
- Al Juman Group First Exhibition, Sultan Bin Ali Al Owais Cultural Foundation, Dubai, UAE
- 2005 Exhibition, Abu Dhabi Cultural Foundation, Abu Dhabi, UAE  
Exhibition with artist Karima Alshomely, Sharjah Cultural Palace, Sharjah, UAE  
Exhibition of a charity auction, Nelson Mandela Foundation, Dubai Cinema Festival, Beach Hotel, Jumeirah, Dubai, UAE
- Kuwait Fine Arts Society Exhibition, Kuwait Exhibition, Knowledge Village, Dubai, UAE  
*Concept*, Dubai Women's Club, Dubai, UAE
- Asilah international cultural forum, Asilah, Morocco Al-Baha Fine Arts Exhibition, Al-Baha, Saudi Arabia
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Emaar Global Art Forum, Dubai, UAE
- 2004 *The Environment*, Financial Center, Dubai, UAE Frankfurt Book Fair, Frankfurt, Germany  
Exhibition with artist Mona Al Khaga, Dubai International Airport, Dubai, UAE
- 9<sup>th</sup> International Cairo Biennale "*Mythology: A Bet on Imagination, a Bet on Art*", Cairo, Egypt
- 1<sup>st</sup> Emaar Global Art Forum, Dubai, UAE
- 2003 Exhibition, Al Dhaid Cultural Center, Al Dhaid, Sharjah, UAE
- 2002 Tehran Contemporary Art Biennale, Tehran, Iran  
Kuwait International Biennale, Kuwait  
*For You*, Abu Dhabi Media (Emirates Media previously), Dubai, UAE
- 2000 Al-Gedar Group Exhibition, Abu Dhabi Cultural Foundation, Abu Dhabi, UAE  
*Woman & Art (A Global View)*, Sharjah Art Museum, Sharjah, UAE
- 1999 *Carpet Oasis*, Posts, Customs, & Free Zone Corporation, Dubai, UAE  
*Fine Artists from UAE*, The Cultural Foundation & The French Embassy, Abu Dhabi, UAE  
The Arab World Institute Exhibition, Paris, France  
Emirates Fine Arts Society Exhibition, Hannover, Germany
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Al-Mhabba Biennale, Latakia, Syria
- 1998 *Figurative Art*, Sharjah Art Museum, Sharjah, UAE  
17<sup>th</sup> Exhibition of The Emirates Fine Arts Society, Sharjah Art Museum, Sharjah, UAE  
*Welcome February (Hala February)*, Kuwait  
Exhibition in conjunction with selecting Sharjah to be The Arab Cultural Capital, France
- 8<sup>th</sup> Student Forum Exhibition, The National Union of Emirates Students, Ireland, UK
- 1997 *Art for Everyone*, Department of Culture, Sharjah, UAE  
16<sup>th</sup> Exhibition of The Emirates Fine Arts Society, Sharjah Art Museum, Sharjah, UAE  
Exhibition with artist Mohammed Abdullah Bulheya, Sharjah Art Museum, Sharjah, UAE
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Sharjah International Art Biennale, Sharjah, UAE
- 1996 Al-Gedar Group Exhibition, Emirates Fine Arts Society, Sharjah, UAE Garash Festival for Arts and Culture, Garash, Jordan  
Exhibition, Emirates Fine Arts Society, El-Hanager Art Center, Cairo, Egypt
- 1995 Dubai Women Society Exhibition, Dubai, UAE  
*Arab Women Artists*, Sharjah, UAE  
Al-Gedar Group Exhibition, The Cultural Center, Department of Culture, Sharjah, UAE  
*Emirates Fine Artists*, El-Hanager Art Center, Cairo, Egypt
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Sharjah International Art Biennale, Sharjah, UAE  
1<sup>st</sup> Arab Women Artists Exhibition, Sharjah, UAE
- 1994 *6 Gulf Women Artists*, The Cultural Center, Sharjah, UAE  
3<sup>rd</sup> Fine Arts Exhibition of GCC Artists, Sharjah, UAE  
1<sup>st</sup> Girls Clubs Fine Arts Exhibition, Sharjah, UAE
- 13<sup>th</sup> Exhibition of The Emirates Fine Arts Society, Sharjah, UAE
- 1993 Fine Arts & Sports, Ministry of Youth & Sports, Dubai, UAE



- 3 *Women Artists*, The Cultural Foundation, Abu Dhabi, UAE The Art Group Exhibition, Istanbul, Turkey  
1<sup>st</sup> Sharjah International Art Biennale, Sharjah, UAE
- 1992 Cairo International Art Biennale, Cairo, Egypt
- 1991 4 *Women Artists*, The Cultural Foundation, Abu Dhabi, UAE
- 1990 Solidarity with Kuwait Exhibition, Abu Dhabi, UAE  
Emirates Fine Arts Society Exhibition, Sharjah, UAE Solidarity with Kuwait Exhibition, Kuwait  
Oman Art Biennale, Muscat, Oman Emirates Fine Arts Society Exhibition, India
- 1989 *Gulf Artists*, Bonn, Germany
- 1987 Emirates Fine Arts Society Exhibition, Sharjah, UAE
- 1986 Emirates Fine Arts Society Exhibition, Sharjah, UAE  
Exhibition in conjunction with The Regional Conference in the Gulf and the Arabian Peninsula, Muscat, Oman
- 1985 The Cultural Festival Exhibition of GCC Youth, Japan  
9<sup>th</sup> Kuwait Exhibition of Arab Artists, Kuwait
- 1984 *Fine Arts*, Sheraton Hotel, Dubai, UAE
- 1984 - 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> Banosh Exhibition, Dubai, UAE
- 1983
- 1983 *Traditional Manufactures*, Gulf News, Dubai, UAE Emirates Fine Arts Society Exhibition, Sharjah, UAE
- 1970 - Emirates' Students Exhibition, Cairo, Egypt
- 1980
- 1965 1<sup>st</sup> Fine Arts Exhibition, Public Library, Dubai, UAE

## AWARDS & RECOGNITIONS

- 2023 Awarded the distinction "Chevalier des Arts et des Lettres" by the French Ministry of Culture, UAE
- 2019 Emirates Environment Society Tribute, Arab Network of Social Associations, UAE  
H. H. Sheikha Latifa Bint Muhammed for Children Creativity Tribute, UAE
- 2018 Sharjah Ladies' Club Tribute, Sharjah, UAE
- 2015 Ministers of GCC Countries' Tribute, Al Doha, Qatar  
Directorate of Nationality & Foreign Affairs' Tribute, Dubai, UAE
- 2013 Arab Woman Award of the Art, UAE
- 2008 The 2<sup>nd</sup> Session of The Country's Award of Appreciation in Science, Literature & Art, UAE  
Emirates Fine Arts Society's Tribute, Sharjah, UAE
- 2007 The Cultural Attaché of the UAE tribute, Cairo, Egypt
- 2005 H. H. Prince Sultan Bin Abd Al Aziz, Al-Baha, Saudi Arabia
- 2004 Sultan Bin Ali Al Owais Foundation tribute, Dubai, UAE
- 2003 The Emirates Embassy tribute, Cairo, Egypt
- 1999 Al Mahabba International Biennale Award, Damascus, Syria
- 1998 The Arab League tribute, Pioneer Arab Festival, Cairo, Egypt
- 1996 Ministry of Higher Education & Scientific Research tribute, Abu Dhabi, UAE
- 1994 Al Owais Award, The Cultural & Scientific Association, Dubai, UAE
- 1993 Jury Committee Award, 1<sup>st</sup> Sharjah International Art Biennale, Sharjah, UAE
- 1991 Culture Department tribute, Sharjah, UAE  
Appreciation Award, 1<sup>st</sup> Al-Ain Fine Arts Exhibition, Al-Ain, Dubai, UAE
- 1975 Ministry of Youth & Sports tribute, Dubai, UAE
- 1969 Ministry of Youth & Sports Award, Dubai, UAE

## AFFILIATIONS

- Member of Emirates Fine Arts Society  
Member of Art's Friends Group of Gulf Countries  
Member of Al-Gedar Group in Sharjah  
Member of Al-Eiyab Fine Arts Association in UNESCO  
Member of the Supreme Committee of Tolerance  
Consultant of The Art Committee of Down's syndrome



## COLLECTIONS

Sharjah Art Museum, Sharjah, UAE  
Sharjah Art Foundation, Sharjah, UAE  
The Cultural Foundation, Abu Dhabi, UAE  
General Authority for Competition, Dubai, UAE  
The Cultural & Scientific Association, Dubai, UAE  
Sultan Bin Ali Al Owais Foundation, Dubai, UAE  
Ministry of Foreign Affairs & International Cooperation, Abu Dhabi, UAE  
The American University of Sharjah, Sharjah, UAE  
The Embassy of The United States of America, Abu Dhabi, UAE  
Emaar Company, Dubai, UAE  
EDCO Company, Abu Dhabi, UAE  
Grand Hyatt Hotel, Dubai, UAE  
Woman Museum, Dubai, UAE  
Al-Wasl Club, Dubai, UAE  
Women's Association, Dubai, UAE  
Dubai International Airport, British Airlines, UAE  
Ministry of Youth & Community Development, Abu Dhabi, UAE  
Dolphin Company, Al-Doha, Qatar  
Emirates Diplomatic Academy, Abu Dhabi, UAE  
VIP Lounge, Military Airport, Dubai, UAE  
UAE Ministry of Culture and Youth  
Mubadala Investment Company, Abu Dhabi, UAE  
Barjeel Art Foundation, Sharjah, UAE



## Biography

**Najat Makki** (b. Dubai, 1956) is a pioneering Emirati artist best known for her curiosity for color and dreamlike, abstracted depictions of the natural landscape in the UAE. What started as a childlike wonder led her to Cairo, where she graduated with a Bachelor's and Master's degree in relief sculpture and metal from the College of Fine Arts (1982 and 1998, respectively). Upon returning to the UAE, the colorist and painter started exploring fluorescent paints through her work in scenography for children at the Ministry of Education, introducing the Gulf to a style of abstract painting that is characterized primarily by large fields of flat, solid color, spread across, creating areas of unbroken surface and a flat picture plane. Her use of this material in contemporary art contexts created an unconventional viewing experience, often accompanied by UV-A lights that elevate matter from canvas in lurid dimensionality. This experimentation first debuted in her solo exhibition at Al Wasl Club in Dubai in 1987, marking a turning point in her career and gaining her regional recognition. Makki later returned to the Egyptian capital to pursue a doctorate degree, making her the first Emirati woman to formally specialize in the philosophy of art (2001), adding a theoretical dimension to her practical aptitude and visual flair.

Makki has exhibited widely in her home country but also internationally in Egypt, France, Germany, India, Jordan, Switzerland, Syria, Turkey and the United Kingdom. Her works are in the permanent collections of the Sharjah Art Museum, the Cultural Foundation in Abu Dhabi, Sultan Bin Ali Al Owais Cultural Foundation in Dubai, Women's Museum in Dubai and the Ministry of Culture and Youth in Abu Dhabi, among many. Makki was the only female artist among the 15 showing at *1980 – Today: Exhibitions in the UAE*, the National Pavilion UAE, the 56th Venice Biennale (2015) curated by Sheikha Hoor Al Qasimi, and had an acclaimed retrospective at the Cultural Foundation in Abu Dhabi entitled *Luminescence* (2019). She is a current member of the Dubai Cultural Council, the Emirates Plastic Arts Society and Art Friends Society. A multi-award-winning artist, she has received the Emirates Appreciation Award (2015), the Ministry of Culture, Youth and Community Development's National Award for Arts, Sciences, and Literature (2008), Gulf Cooperation Council Biennial Award (1998), Sultan Bin Owais Cultural Award (1994), Jury Award, First session of Sharjah Biennial (1993), in addition to several excellence and merit certificates.