



## Mona Al Khaja

### BORN

1958 Sharjah, UAE  
Lives and works in Dubai, UAE

### EDUCATION

1981 BFA, Faculty of Fine Arts, Helwan University, Cairo, Egypt

### SOLO EXHIBITIONS

- 2021 Abu Dhabi Art, Aisha Alabbar Gallery, Manarat Al Saadiyat, Abu Dhabi, UAE  
2019 *Observe + Absorb*, Majlis Gallery, Dubai, UAE  
*Harmony: Aesthetics of Ornamentation in Emirati Heritage*, Sharjah Heritage Museum, Sharjah, UAE  
*Melodies of the East*, Sharjah University, Sharjah, UAE  
*Colours*, Dubai Women's College, Dubai, UAE  
2015 *Chromatic Horizons*, Sharjah University, Sharjah, UAE  
*Salutation and Endearment*, Dubai Cultural and Scientific Association, Dubai, UAE  
2010 *Pearls*, Hunar Gallery, Dubai, UAE

### SELECTED GROUP EXHIBITIONS

- 2023 *Spirit of Time*, Emirates Fine Arts Society Annual Exhibition, Sharjah Art Museum, Sharjah, UAE  
2021 *Interconnection (37<sup>th</sup> Emirates Fine Arts Society Annual Exhibition)*, Sharjah Art Museum, Sharjah, UAE  
2020 *7 + 7*, Sultan Bin Ali Al Owais Cultural Foundation, Dubai, UAE  
*Joint Gulf Exhibition*, Hala February Festival, Kuwait City, Kuwait  
2019 *Convergence (36<sup>th</sup> Emirates Fine Arts Society Annual Exhibition)*, Sharjah Art Museum, Sharjah, UAE  
*Najat Makki: Luminescence*, Cultural Foundation, Abu Dhabi, UAE  
2018 *We Love Zayed*, Abu Dhabi, UAE  
*Saudi Emirati Exhibition*, The Cultural and Scientific Association, Dubai, UAE  
*Artists and the Cultural Foundation: The Early Years*, Cultural Foundation, Abu Dhabi, UAE  
2017 *Creative Creations*, Sultan Bin Ali Al Owais Cultural Foundation, Dubai, UAE  
*Proud Expressions Exhibition*, The Martyr's Families' Affairs Office, Abu Dhabi, UAE  
2nd GCC Visual Art Forum, Doha, Qatar  
*First Gulf Sinyar Exhibition*, Sinyar Gallery, Dubai, UAE  
2016 *The Perpetual Kingdom: Contemporary Arabic Calligraphy*, Gallery Ward, Dubai, UAE  
2015 *Kunooz Fine Art Exhibition and Auction*, Bvlgari Hotel Knightsbridge (auction organized by Christie's), London, UK  
Sikka Art Fair, Dubai, UAE  
*Art 4 Sight*, Dubai Ladies Club by Noor Dubai Foundation & Charity Auction by Christie's, Dubai, UAE  
2012 *Interchange 4*, Yas Viceroy Hotel, Abu Dhabi, UAE  
*30<sup>th</sup> Emirates Fine Arts Society Annual Exhibition*, Sharjah Art Museum, Sharjah, UAE  
2011 *The Jidar Group Exhibition*, Sultan Bin Ali Al Owais Cultural Foundation, Dubai, UAE  
*Jewels from the Emirates*, Delta City Mall, Podgorica, Montenegro  
*5th Fine Arts Exhibition*, Umm Al Quwain, UAE  
Art Exhibition at Abu Dhabi International Book Fair, Abu Dhabi National Exhibition Centre, Abu Dhabi, UAE  
2010 *Art Dubai (Hunar Gallery)*, Madinat Jumeirah, Dubai, UAE  
*Her Colourful Papers*, Sharjah Calligraphy Museum, Sharjah, UAE (duo exhibition with Dr. Najat Makki)  
*The Reflective Mirror*, United Nations Headquarters, New York, NY, USA  
*Colourful Papers*, Sharjah Ladies Club, Sharjah, UAE



- Al Bastakiya Art Fair*, Dubai, UAE  
*4th Fine Arts Exhibition*, Umm Al Quwain, UAE
- 2009 The International Exhibition of the Renaissance and Great Masterpieces of World Art, Ashgabat, Turkmenistan
- 2008 *Fine Art Creativity Exhibition*, Kuwait Arts Association, Kuwait  
*The New Impressions*, Cultural Foundation, Abu Dhabi, UAE  
*Arabian Wings*, Dubai, UAE  
*5 x 5*, Rabat, Morocco  
*5 x 5*, Cultural Foundation, Abu Dhabi, UAE
- 2007 *1<sup>st</sup> GCC Cultural Festival*, Sharjah, UAE  
*2<sup>nd</sup> Exhibition of Al Juman Group*, Cairo Opera House, Cairo, Egypt
- 2006 *1<sup>st</sup> Exhibition of Al Juman Group*, Sultan Bin Ali Al Owais Cultural Foundation, Dubai, UAE  
Exhibition with Emirates Fine Arts Society, Singapore
- 2004 Cairo Biennial, Cairo, Egypt  
Exhibition with Dr. Najat Makki, Dubai International Airport, Dubai, UAE
- 2002 Kuwait Biennial, Kuwait City, Kuwait
- 2001 Sharjah Biennial, Sharjah, UAE
- 2000 *Woman & Art (A Global View)*, Sharjah Art Museum, Sharjah, UAE  
Exhibition with Emirates Fine Arts Society, Hanover, Germany  
The 25<sup>th</sup> of February Fine Art Exhibition, Kuwait City, Kuwait
- 1999 Sharjah Biennial, Sharjah, UAE
- 1998 *17<sup>th</sup> Emirates Fine Arts Society Annual Exhibition*, Sharjah Art Museum, Sharjah, UAE  
The 25<sup>th</sup> of February Fine Art Exhibition, Kuwait City, Kuwait
- 1996 *Emirates Fine Arts Society Exhibition*, El Hanager Art Center, Cairo, Egypt
- 1994 *13<sup>th</sup> Emirates Fine Arts Society Annual Exhibition*, Sharjah Expo, Sharjah, UAE
- 1990 *9<sup>th</sup> Emirates Fine Arts Society Annual Exhibition*, Sharjah Expo, Sharjah, UAE  
Oman Art Biennial, Muscat, Oman  
*1<sup>st</sup> Emirates Fine Arts Society Exhibition in India*
- 1987 *6<sup>th</sup> Emirates Fine Arts Society Annual Exhibition*, Sharjah Expo, Sharjah, UAE
- 1986 *5<sup>th</sup> Emirates Fine Arts Society Annual Exhibition*, Sharjah Expo, Sharjah, UAE
- 1985 The Cultural Festival Exhibition of GCC Youth Cultural Festival, Japan  
9<sup>th</sup> Kuwait Exhibition of Arab Artists, Kuwait
- 1984 2nd Banosh Exhibition, Dubai, UAE
- 1983 *3<sup>rd</sup> Emirates Fine Arts Society Annual Exhibition*, Sharjah Expo, Sharjah, UAE  
1st Banosh Exhibition, Dubai, UAE
- 1979 UAE Student Exhibition, UAE Students Club, Cairo, Egypt
- 1972 Output of Activities Exhibition, Women's Union Association, Sharjah, UAE

## AWARDS & RECOGNITIONS

- 2019 1<sup>st</sup> place, Al Owais Award, Dubai, UAE
- 2010 Best Artist, L'Officiel Arab Women Award, Dubai, UAE
- 2005 2<sup>nd</sup> place, National Olympic Committee Award, Sharjah, UAE
- 2004 Al Owais Award for Science and Innovation, Dubai, UAE

## PROFESSIONAL ACHIEVEMENT

- 2021 Participant, Fujairah International Arts Festival Residency, Fujairah, UAE  
Participant, *March Meeting 2021: Unraveling the Present*, Sharjah Art Foundation, Sharjah, UAE
- 2019 Member, Jury Committee, Sheikha Latifa Bint Mohammad bin Rashid Award for Painting, Dubai Women's Association, Dubai, UAE
- 2018 Artist in residence, Fujairah International Arts Festival Residency, Fujairah, UAE
- 2014 Member, Jury Committee, 4<sup>th</sup> Sharjah Children Biennial, Sharjah, UAE
- 2010 Member, Jury Committee, Painter Competition, Juvenile Association, Dubai, UAE
- 2009 Member, Jury Committee, Sheikha Latifa Bint Mohammad bin Rashid Award for Painting, Dubai



- Women's Association, Dubai, UAE
- 2008 Member, Jury Committee, 1<sup>st</sup> Sharjah Children Biennial, Sharjah, UAE  
Supervisor, 10<sup>th</sup> "We are the Nation... Loyalty and Belonging", part of Sheikha Latifa Bint Mohammad bin Rashid Award for Painting, Dubai Women's Association, Dubai, UAE
- 2007 Member, Jury Committee, *Our Beaches, Between Present and Future*, Dubai National School, Dubai, UAE  
Member, Jury Committee, Sheikha Latifa Bint Mohammad bin Rashid Award for Painting, Dubai Women's Association, Dubai, UAE
- 2006 Member, Jury Committee, Flower Week, Dubai Municipality, Dubai, UAE
- 1999 Member, Jury Committee, Sheikha Latifa Bint Mohammad bin Rashid Award for Painting, Dubai Women's Association, Dubai, UAE
- 1995 Member, Jury Committee, Man and the Future Competition, Sharjah Education Council, Sharjah, UAE
- 1994 Member, Jury Committee, 7<sup>th</sup> Colours of Childhood Competition, Sharjah, UAE

## MEMBERSHIPS & AFFILIATIONS

Member of Emirates Fine Arts Society, UAE  
Member of Lahth Gallery, KSA  
Member of the Committee for the Creation of the Curriculum of Art Education, UAE

## COLLECTIONS

American University of Sharjah, Sharjah, UAE  
Abu Dhabi Authority for Culture and Heritage, Abu Dhabi, UAE  
Commercial Bank of Dubai, Dubai, UAE  
Cultural Foundation, Abu Dhabi, UAE  
Dubai Collection, Dubai, UAE  
Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Abu Dhabi, UAE  
Mubadala Investment Company, Abu Dhabi, UAE  
Museum of Modern Art Kuwait, Kuwait City, Kuwait  
Sharjah Museum, Sharjah, UAE  
Sultan Bin Ali Al Owais Cultural Foundation, Dubai, UAE  
The Jordan Museum, Amman, Jordan  
Private collections in the UAE and abroad



## Biography

**Mona Al Khaja** (b. Sharjah, 1958) is an Emirati painter. Having graduated from the Faculty of Fine Arts of Cairo of Helwan University, in 1981, Mona studied under influential artists and educators from the Arab World including Hamed Nada, Mohammed Riyadh, and Ahmed Nawar. She is considered among the founding artists of the contemporary art scene in the UAE.

As one of the first generation of UAE artists, Mona's approach to painting is the result of formal study in the history of art, training in Egypt alongside artists such as Dr. Najat Makki and Abdulrahim Salim, as well as mastering techniques unique to Islamic culture. These sources provide her with abundant inspiration that she translates to the Emirati present, often blending symbolism and impressionist abstraction into her signature style. Mona uses figuration and abstraction, deliberately layering and blending colours and strokes to capture simplicity so elaborately. The artist mirrors her experience observing and recollecting acts of life at home and abroad.

She has had several solo exhibitions in the UAE, including a solo presentation at Abu Dhabi Art, Aisha Alabbar Gallery, Manarat Al Saadiyat, Abu Dhabi (2021); *Observe + Absorb*, Majlis Gallery, Dubai (2019); *Harmony: Aesthetics of Ornamentation in Emirati Heritage*, Sharjah Heritage Museum, Sharjah (2019); and *Chromatic Horizons*, Sharjah University, Sharjah (2015).

Mona is a member of the Emirates Fine Arts Society and has continuously participated in its Annual Exhibition since its founding in 1980, in addition to participating in its international exhibitions in Kuwait, Jordan, Egypt, Qatar, France, Japan, Spain, Germany, Singapore, Iran, India and Morocco.

She participated in numerous exhibitions in the UAE, including *Spirit of Time*, Emirates Fine Arts Society Annual Exhibition, Sharjah Art Museum, Sharjah, UAE (2023); *7 + 7*, Sultan Bin Ali Al Owais Cultural Foundation, Dubai (2020); *Artists and the Cultural Foundation: The Early Years*, Cultural Foundation, Abu Dhabi (2018); *The Perpetual Kingdom: Contemporary Arabic Calligraphy*, Gallery Ward, Dubai (2016); Sikka Art Fair, Dubai (2015); *Her Colourful Papers*, Sharjah Calligraphy Museum, Sharjah (2010); and Sharjah Biennial (2001 and 1999). Internationally, Mona participated in notable exhibitions, including *Kunooz Fine Art Exhibition and Auction*, Bvlgari Hotel Knightsbridge & Christie's, London, UK (2015); *Jewels from the Emirates*, Delta City Mall, Podgorica, Montenegro (2011); *The Reflective Mirror*, United Nations Headquarters, New York, NY, USA (2010); *The International Exhibition of the Renaissance and Great Masterpieces of World Art*, Ashgabat, Turkmenistan (2009); Cairo Biennial (2004); Kuwait Biennial (2002); and Oman Art Biennial (1990).

Mona has received multiple awards, including the Al Owais Award, Dubai (2019 and 2004); and L'Officiel Arab Women Award, Dubai (2010). She also participated in the Fujairah International Arts Festival Residency in 2018.

The artist sold her first two paintings at age 14 to a prominent art patron in the UAE. Today, her works are in important collections in the UAE, including American University of Sharjah in Sharjah; Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Cultural Foundation, Mubadala Investment Company and Abu Dhabi Authority for Culture and Heritage in Abu Dhabi; Dubai Collection, Sultan Bin Ali Al Owais Cultural Foundation and Commercial Bank of Dubai in Dubai; and internationally in The Museum of Modern Art in Kuwait and The Jordan Museum in Amman, Jordan. Her works are also in private collections in the UAE and abroad.