



**ISQINEEHA**

ISQINEEHA is an online art magazine remembering the cultures and contemporary arts from the Middle East, North Africa, and South Asia (MENASA) in both the homeland and the diaspora.

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**FEATURED ARTIST: EGYPTIAN MOATAZ NASR**  
**(HTTP://ISQINEEHA.TUMBLR.COM/POST/58553381:ARTIST-EGYPTIAN-MOATAZ-NASR)**

by [isqineeha \(http://isqineeha.tumblr.com/\)](http://isqineeha.tumblr.com/)

There aren't many artists who achieved success in the art scene without having been academically trained in the field, but Moataz Nasr is one of those who were able to overcome that and establish a unique artist base for himself. Nasr is an Egyptian multimedia artist who was born in Alexandria in 1961. He is a graduate from the Faculty of Economics from the University of Alexandria. His artistic abilities became evident in 1995 when he participated in an arts competition organized by the Egyptian Ministry of Culture in which he achieved the third place. His prominence in the art scene became evident when Italian gallery *Galleria Continua* featured some of his work and added him to their top artists list. In 2008 he founded **DARB 1718**, a non profit contemporary arts centre in Cairo whose mission is to:

🕒 17th August 2013  
<http://isqineeha.tumblr.com/post/58553381307/featured-artist-egyptian-moataz-nasr>

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to cultivate the burgeoning contemporary art movement in Egypt ... The Darb 1718 Contemporary Art and Culture Center seeks to encourage experimentation by supporting new works by emerging artists with particular attention to artistic merit, diversity of media and aesthetic traditions, along with originality of cultural influences.

Moataz's art creates a mixture between different materials and artistic methods, employing techniques that are representative of classical arts from across the globe. His work is highly political in its nature, specifically dealing with the current events glooming the Middle East. This can be seen in one of his sculpture series where he employs Chinese Ceramic designs with themes that are expressive of the Middle East (particularly Egypt), thus creating a dialogue of some sort between these two highly different cultures. Moataz's flexibility in being able to use different techniques and materials plays a very important role of in the development of the themes he covers, spanning from painting and sculptures to embroidery and installations gave him a major advantage in the portrayal of the themes approached. Like many other artists from the Middle East, Nasr is also highly influenced by the calligraphy and textures that are seen in Islamic art, especially those evident in the Egyptian society.

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