



MOHAMED AHMED IBRAHIM B. 1962

Emirati artist Mohamed Ahmed Ibrahim is part of the UAE's first generation of contemporary artists from the late 1980s, an avant-garde scene that included Hassan Sharif, Abdullah Al Saadi, Hussein Sharif, and Mohammed Kazem. Ibrahim's work has been inspired by a lifelong relationship with the environment of Khorfakkan, his place of birth, with the Gulf of Oman on one side and the Hajar Mountains on the other. This deep connection to his local environment repeats itself throughout his studio practice, whether through his installations, drawings or objects, and the materials he has worked with for over three decades. His hand made objects are shaped like primitive tools, bones or parts of trees and appear to have been unearthed from some ancient den, rather than handcrafted. His works on paper reveal his own form of language - inscriptions, lines and abstract forms that are reminiscent of ancient cave drawings - marking time and memory through meditative repetition.



Untitled, 2019

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IBRAHIM**

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BIOGRAPHY

Ibrahim came of age as an artist in the UAE in an era in which the visual arts were not yet valued culturally or taught in university degree programs. In 1986, when he met the late artist Hassan Sharif (a founding member of the influential Emirates Fine Art Society), Ibrahim was pulled out of a secluded practice and carved out unshakable friendships and collaborations that have formed the foundation for the creative community that defines the UAE today.

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In March 2018, *Elements*, a survey of works spanning three decades of his practice, was presented at the Sharjah Art Foundation, curated by Sheikha Hoor Al Qasimi.

Ibrahim's recent solo exhibitions include *Elevation* at Abu Dhabi Art with Lawrie Shabibi (2023); *The Armory Show* with Lawrie Shabibi, New York (2022); *Embryonic Coat*, (2022), *Memory Drum* (2020) and *The Space between the Eyelid and the Eyeball* (2019) at Lawrie Shabibi, Dubai, as well as a series of solo shows at Cuadro Gallery, Dubai (2018, 2016, 2015, 2013).

Ibrahim's public works include: *Al Ain Oasis*, commissioned by Abu Dhabi Art for *Artist Commissions in Cultural Sites*, Al Ain, Abu Dhabi, UAE (2023); *Falling Stones Garden*, commissioned by the Royal Commission for Al Ula and Desert X, Al Ula, Saudi Arabia (2020); *Grocery*, commissioned by Ghadan 21, Government of Abu Dhabi as part of the For Abu Dhabi initiative, Madinat Zayed Market, Abu Dhabi, UAE (2019); *Untitled*, commissioned by Aldar Properties PJSC in partnership with Abu Dhabi Art Reem Central Park, Al Reem Island, Abu Dhabi, UAE (2019); *Kids Garden* (2019), commissioned by Abu Dhabi Health Services Company, Sheikh Khalifa Medical City, Abu Dhabi, UAE (2019); and *Bait Al Hurma*, commissioned by the Sharjah Art Foundation as part of the exhibition *Elements*, Al Mureijah Square, Sharjah (2018).

Ibrahim's select group exhibitions include *Unwritten, Unspoken & Told* exhibition, Dubai Calligraphy Biennale, Foundry Downtown, Dubai (2023); *In the Heart of Another Country: The Diasporic Imagination Rises*, curated by Dr Kholeif, Sharjah, Art Foundation, Sharjah, UAE (2023); *Portrait Of A Nation II: Beyond Narratives*, Produced by Abu Dhabi Festival organised by ADMAF, Manarat Al Saadiyat, Abu Dhabi (2022); *But We Cannot See Them: Tracing a UAE Art Community, 1988-2008* at The NYUAD Art Gallery (2017); *The Unbearable Lightness of Being*, Yay Gallery, Baku (2015); the Kochi-Muziris Biennale, Kochi (2016); the 53rd Venice Biennale, Venice (2009); the Sharjah Biennial (1993, 2003 and 2007); and the Dhaka Biennial (2002 and 1993).

Select institutional exhibitions include the Kunstmuseum, Bonn (2005); the Sharjah Art Museum, Sharjah (2005 & 1996); the Ludwig Forum for International Art, Aachen (2002); Institut du Monde Arabe, Paris (1998); Sittard Art Centre, the Netherlands (1995) and the Exhibition for the Emirates Fine Art Society in the Soviet Union, Moscow (1990).

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Consortium, Dijon, France (2009) and Kunstcentrum Sittard, the Netherlands (1994-1996, 1998-2000).

His works have been acquired by significant international collections including Sharjah Art Foundation, Sharjah; Sharjah Art Museum, Sharjah; Art Jameel Collection, Dubai; Barjeel Art Foundation, Sharjah; Mathaf: Arab Museum of Modern Art, Doha; Kunstcentrum Sittard, Sittard; The British Museum, London; and Le Centre Georges Pompidou, Paris.

Ibrahim works and lives in Khor Fakkan, United Arab Emirates.

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