ZARA MAHMOOD

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Artist and educator with 20 years of university-level teaching experience in the UAE. Two decades of practice-led research spanning drawing, painting, printmaking and interdisciplinary studio practice. Recipient of Art Jameel's Research and Practice Grant supported by Dubai Culture (2024) funding art projects addressing the climate crisis. Participant in regional and international exhibitions as well as public programmes.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Adjunct Assistant Professor, College of Arts and Creative Enterprises, Zayed University, Dubai (2014 – till date)
Adjunct Professor in Visual Communication at the American University in Dubai (2007 - 2022)

EDUCATION

2024 MFA in Art and Media, NYU Abu Dhabi, UAE
2006 MA Fine Art (Painting), University for the Creative Arts, Farnham, Surrey, UK
2003 Bachelors of Fine Arts (Printmaking), National College of Arts, Lahore, Pakistan

AWARDS AND FELLOWSHIPS

2026 **Recipient of Microfund (courtesy Fiker Institute and Dirwaza Curatorial Lab)**
2024 **Recipient of Art Jameel Research and Practice Grant**
2022 **Recipient of Master's scholarship in Arts and Media at NYU Abu Dhabi**
2020 **Recipient of Art Jameel Research and Practice Grant**
2016 **Campus Art Dubai 5.0** (selected for a 6 month course as part of an Art Dubai initiative)
2011 **Winner of Sheikha Manal's Young Artist Award,** 2nd place, Fine Arts
2004 **Winner of DIAC Members Exhibition,** 1st place
2004 **Distinction,** Bachelor of Fine Arts – Printmaking

SOLO EXHIBITIONS

2022 **Towards Time,** Maraya Art Centre, Sharjah, UAE
2014 **Degrees of Modulation,** Sabrina Amrani, Madrid, Spain
2013 **Looking at the Overlooked,** Cuadro Fine Art Gallery, Dubai, UAE

SELECTED GROUP EXHIBITIONS

2026 **The Importance of Staying Quiet, 6. Open Forms,** Grey Noise, Dubai, UAE
2025 **And After,** Cultural Foundation (in collaboration with Dirwaza Curatorial Lab), Abu Dhabi, UAE
2024 **On A Timeline,** MFA Degree Show, 421 Arts Campus, Abu Dhabi, UAE
Relational Elements, 'Personal Structures - Beyond Boundaries' biennial (in collaboration with NYU Abu Dhabi), Venice, Italy
2023 **A Return to the Ground,** Dirwaza Curatorial Lab in collaboration with the UAE Embassy in Tokyo, Japan
Nine Nodes of Non-Being, 421 Arts Campus, Abu Dhabi, UAE
gabriel, Grey Noise, Dubai, UAE

2022 **Bound,** Bayt Al Mamzar (in collaboration with NYUAD MFA program), Dubai, UAE

Wamda, Warehouse #1 (in collaboration with UAE Unlimited), Alserkal Avenue, Dubai, UAE

2020 **Landscape of Memory,** Koel Gallery, Karachi, Pakistan

2019 **Microcosm III,** Gandhara Art Space, Karachi, Pakistan

Tashweesh, Maraya Art Centre (in collaboration with UAE Unlimited), Sharjah, UAE

2016 **but even if I cannot see the sun,** (participated as Sail Into Night), Grey Noise, Dubai, UAE

2015 **They Really Live the Real Reality,** Twelve Gates Arts, Philadelphia, USA

2014 **Dhaka Art Summit,** courtesy ArtChowk, Dhaka, Bangladesh

2013 **Sikka Art Fair,** Dubai, UAE

2012 **Beirut Art Fair,** courtesy ArtChowk, Lebanon

Additional group exhibitions (2003 – 2011) available on request

TALKS AND PANELS

2025 **'Honouring Tradition, Celebrating Modernity'** (panel discussion moderated by Myrna Ayad), **Prada Mode Abu Dhabi**

2021 **Global RewirED Summit** (panel discussion moderated by Leonora Dowley, featuring artist/educator Zara Mahmood, football icon Clarence Seedorf and opera singer Juan Diego Flores), **Expo 2020 Dubai,** UAE

2019 **Artist Talk** (in collaboration with UAE Unlimited), **Jameel Art Centre,** Dubai, UAE

WORKSHOPS

2022 Drawing workshop**, Maraya Art Centre**, Sharjah, UAE

2020 **'Drawing As Comfort'** in collaboration with **Jameel Art Centre,** Dubai, UAE

2019 Drawing workshop in collaboration with **UAE Unlimited,** Jameel Art Centre**,** Dubai, UAE

2011 **'Drawing the Biennial'** in collaboration with **The Pavilion,** Sharjah Museum, UAE

Drawing workshop, **Dubai Ladies Club,** Dubai, UAE

Painting workshop in collaboration with **START, The Pavilion**, Dubai, UAE

Printmaking workshop in collaboration with **START**, Park Hyatt, Dubai, UAE

PRESS, REVIEWS AND ESSAYS (SELECTED)

'Zara Mahmood's first institutional solo show in the UAE merges light and time', Vamika Sinha, The National, July 2022

'The Nebulus Murmur of Time', Saira Ansari, Towards Time catalogue, 2022

'Lightness of Being', Saira Ansari, Canvas magazine, November/December 2019 (Volume 15, Issue 6)

'From Soap to Algae: UAE artists creating art from everyday Items annual exhibit', Laura Egerton, The National, Feb 2019

'Ways to Observe', essay for Tashweesh catalogue, Laura Egerton, 2019

'Intensifying White Noise', essay for Tashweesh catalogue, Suheyla Takesh, 2019

'But Even If I Cannot See the Sun', Ipek Ulusoy Akgul, Art Asia Pacific, April 2016

'Healing Hearts and minds through the power of Art', Janice Ponce De Leon, Gulf News, Nov 2011

'Collective Amnesia', Muniza Agha-Fawad, Nigaah magazine, Vol.1 Fourteen, 2011

'Once Upon A Sting' review, Christopher Lord, Time Out Dubai, Oct 2009

Full press list available on request