

Art on 56th

The work of Mouneer Al Shaarani, prior to being that of a calligrapher who is passionate about Arabic calligraphy, is the work of a designer, and the work of a graphic designer experimenting with calligraphy and using it in new and various functions. Al Shaarani worked on each letter as a term by itself, a term perfected throughout the ages by many artists that had taken it to high levels of perfection and beauty, until it reached arithmetical and geometrical standards and rules, along extremely various layouts, as diverse as the cultures in the Arab world, from east to west. Al Shaarani resumes this long career with a refined artistic sense, and a vast knowledge in the history of Arabic calligraphy that has its modernization. He has revived many of the forgotten layouts, and found some in old manuscripts, and devoted special attention to the aesthetics of the lines used by potters, weavers and architects on different ores. Al Shaarani ventured and shaped letters that he modeled out of diverse layouts. Layouts he thought contained essence that he could suggest as an addition to the aesthetic of these lines, despite being distinct.

Furthermore, Al Shaarani, as a graphic designer, had to treat each letter as a term that leads to a word or text that he shall include in his designs as a geometrical mass in a dynamical reaction with other masses in the visual field of the design.

Within these two courses, working to embellish the Arabic letters and working on widening the prospects of its use in new functions, the limit of the creative activity of Mouneer Al Shaarani is defined. Al Shaarani without a doubt will shake the stability of the Arabic tradition, in thought and practice, a tradition that has been as such for dozens of years.

Emile Mennem

Mouneer Al Shaarani

Mouneer Al Shaarani was born in 1952 and is an internationally acclaimed Syrian artist. He is an admired calligrapher, book designer and writer with over 50 years of experience. He found his calling at a young age as an apprentice for the most important Syrian calligrapher, Badawi Al Dirany. He then graduated from the faculty of Fine Arts in Damascus in 1977. Known for his work in contemporary Arab Calligraphy, Al Shaarani has also become popular for his innovative and scholarly advancements of the traditional calligraphic script.

His work reflects the faultlessness attained through pioneering dimensions. In addition to working as a consultant for the International Arab Encyclopedia, Al Shaarani has also published tutorials and articles about Arab calligraphy and Arab Islamic Art. His work has been showcased internationally, gaining wide exposure through exhibitions in over a dozen countries around the Arab world, Europe and the United States. The artwork has been acquired by iconic institutions such as the Reitberg Museum in Zurich, Museum of Contemporary Art in Tunisia, Museum of Red Cross in Geneva, Museum of Islamic Art in Malaysia and by the Museum of Contemporary Art in Cairo. His works are also in private collections in Dubai, Abu Dhabi, Amman, Qatar and Bahrain.

Selected Exhibitions

- 2016 Arabic calligraphy compositions, Mils Gallery, Sydney, Australia
2015 ArtSpace, DIFC, Dubai, UAE
2014 Art on 56th, Beirut, Lebanon
2014 Art auction 101 works of Art for Syrian children refugees, Beirut, Lebanon
Art 14 London, Art on 56th, London, England
2013 Art space gallery, Dubai
Contemporary Istanbul, Art on 56th, Istanbul, Turkey
Art on 56th, Beirut, Lebanon
2011 Casa Arab Collective Exhibition, Madrid, Spain
Gallery Al Shaab, Homs, Syria
2010 Rafia collective exhibition, Damascus, Syria
2009 Ayyam gallery, collective exhibition, Damascus, Syria
Fogrth collective exhibition, Germany
2008 Ayyam gallery, Damascus, Syria
2007 Dar Al Anda, Amman, Jordan
2006 Art Space gallery, Dubai, UAE
"Word into Art", the British Museum, England
Centre International de la poesie, Marseille, France
Al Jezirah Art center, Caire, Syria
2005 Gallery Attasy, Damascus, Syria
St. Jean college, Oxford, England
2004 Gallery Green Art, Dubai, UAE
2003-2005 Continuous mobil exhibition, USA
2002 Al Jezirah Art Center, Cairo, Egypt
Monza House, Muscat, Oman
Al Rouaq Al Baladi, Sfax, Tunisia
Gallery Al Sham, Aleppo, Syria
Gallery Green Art, Dubai, UAE
2001 Gallery Ishtar, Damascus, Syria Audiovisual collective exhibition,
Sharjah Art Museum, Emirates Arbes Unis, Sharjah, UAE
1999 7 Hills collective (Dream Hill), Berlin, Germany
Gallery Dar Albareh, Bahrain
Honorary exhibition, (Opera house), Cairo, Egypt
Cairo workshop, Cairo, Egypt
1998 Shawqi museum, Cairo, Egypt
Reitberg museum, Zurich, Switzerland
Gallery Caire- Berlin, Cairo, Egypt
1997 T hervantes center, Cairo, Egypt
1996 Atelier Cairo, Cairo, Egypt Rewaq Belal, Tunisia
1995 Gallery Al Saiyd, Damascus, Syria
1994-1995 Mobil exhibition in co-operation with International Red Cross,
Morocco, Tunisia and Jordan
1994 Cultural house, Abu Dhabi, UAE
1993 Cairo workshop, Cairo, Egypt
1992 Dar Al Fonoun, Tunisia

Awards

Modernization award at the First International Forum for Arabic calligraphy