

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 ones. 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.

Art Selected Exhibitions

on 56th

- 2019 Stories ART Gallery- London, United Kingdom
- 2018 Europia Gallery – Paris
- 2018 Box-Freiraum Gallery - berlin – Germany
- 2018 Design Retrospective – sharjah art gallery AUC - Cairo
- 2017 Goethe Institute - Sydney – Australia
- 2016 Mils Gallery - Australia
- 2016 Europia Gallery - Paris
- 2016 Dar Al Anda, Amman, Jordan
- 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
- 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 AlJezirah 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