

LISSON GALLERY

Wael Shawky

Lives and works between Philadelphia, USA and Alexandria, Egypt

- 2001 MFA, Graduate School of Fine Arts, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, PA, USA
- 1994 BFA, Faculty of Fine Arts, University of Alexandria, Alexandria, Egypt
- 1971 Born in Alexandria, Egypt

Selected Solo Exhibitions

- 2025 'Wael Shawky: I Am Hymns of the New Temples', LUMA Arles, Arles, France
'Wael Shawky' Talbot Rice Gallery, Edinburgh, United Kingdom
'Drama 1882' Stedelijk Museum Amsterdam, Amsterdam, Netherlands
'Wael Shawky: Telematch and Other Stories' Barakat Contemporary, Seoul, South Korea
'Wael Shawky: Drama 1882' MOCA, Los Angeles, USA
- 2024 Egyptian Pavilion, La Biennale Di Venezia 2024
'Wael Shawky: 2024 International Exchange Exhibition' Daegu Art Museum, Daegu, South Korea
- 2023 'I am Hymns of the New Temples', Sfeir-Semler Gallery Karantina, Beirut, Lebanon
'I Am Hymns of the New Temples', Pompeii Archaeological Park, Pompeii, Italy
- 2022 'Dry Culture Wet Culture', M Leuven, Leuven, Belgium
'Artist and Society', Tate Modern, London, UK
- 2021 'FOCUS: Wael Shawky', Modern Art Museum of Fort Worth, Fort Worth, TX, USA
- 2020 'The Song of Roland: The Arabic Version', Louvre Abu Dhabi, Abu Dhabi, UAE
- 2019 'Wael Shawky: Al Araba Al Madfuna', The Polygon Gallery, Vancouver, BC, Canada
'Wael Shawky: The Gulf Project Camp', Lisson Gallery, New York, NY, USA
'The Song of Roland: The Arabic Version', MUCEM, Festival de Marseilles, Marseilles, France
- 2018 'The Crusades and Current Stories', ARoS, Aarhus Kunstmuseum, Aarhus, Denmark
'Al Araba Al Madfuna', Galerie Sfeir-Semler, Hamburg, Germany
'The Song of Roland: The Arabic Version', Sharjah Art Foundation, Sharjah, UAE
'The Song of Roland: The Arabic Version', Theater an der Wien, The Opera House, Vienna, Austria
- 2017 'Al Araba Al Madfuna', Museum of Contemporary Art (MOCA), Yinchuan, China
'The Song of Roland: The Arabic Version', Theatre de Welt, Hamburg, Germany
- 2016 'WaelShawky.AlArabaAlMadfuna', Fondazione Merz, Turin, Italy
'Wael Shawky', Castello di Rivoli, Turin, Italy
'Wael Shawky', Kunsthau Bregenz, Bregenz, Austria
'Wael Shawky. Al Araba Al Madfuna', Fondazione Merz, Zurich, Switzerland
- 2015 'Crusades and Other Stories', MATHAF: Arab Museum of Modern Art, Doha, Qatar
'Cabaret Crusades', MoMA P.S.1, New York
- 2014 'Cabaret Crusades', Kunstsammlung Nordrhein-Westfalen, Dusseldorf, Germany
'Al Araba Al Madfuna', Festwochen-Zentrum im Künstlerhaus, Vienna, Austria
'Horsemen Adore Perfumes and Other Stories', Sharjah Art Foundation, Sharjah, UAE

- 'Dictums', Lisson Gallery, London, UK
- 2013 'Al-Qurban/The Offering', Serpentine Gallery, London, UK
'Cabaret Crusades', Ludwig Forum, Aachen, Germany
The Hammer Museum, Los Angeles, CA, USA
Art Gallery of York University, Toronto, Canada
- 2012 'AlArabaAl Madfuna', Kunst-Werke Institute, Berlin, Germany
- 2011 Nottingham Contemporary, Nottingham, UK
'Drawings and Flags from Cabaret Crusades', Walker Art Gallery, Liverpool, UK
'Larvae Channel', Delfina Foundation, London, UK
- 2010 'Contemporary Myths', Cittadellarte – Fondazione Pistoletto, Biella, Italy
'Contemporary Myths', Sfeir-Semler Gallery, Hamburg, Germany
- 2009 'Larvae Channel 2', Project Gentili, Berlin, Germany
Darat al Funun, Amman, Jordan
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- 2008 'Al Aqsa Park', Factory Space, Townhouse Gallery, Cairo, Egypt
- 2007 'Then you will return to me and I will judge between you in the matters in which you used to dispute', Kunsthalle Winterthur, Winterthur, Switzerland
Collective Gallery, Edinburgh, UK
'The Forty Days Road, Wet Culture–Dry Culture', Galeria Sztuki
Wspolczesnej, Bunkier Sztukim, Krakow, Poland
'Al Aqsa Park', YAMA, Marmara Hotel, Istanbul, Turkey
'Telematch Sadat'/'Telematch Market'/'Al Aqsa Park', Koninklijke Vlaamse Schouwburg, Brussels, Belgium
'Telematch Sadat'/'Al Aqsa Park', Hebbelam Ufer 3, Berlin, Germany
'Telematch Sadat', San Matteo, Lucca, Italy
- 2006 'Drawings 1998–2006', Townhouse Gallery, Cairo, Egypt
- 2005 'The GreenLand Circus', Factory Space, Townhouse Gallery, Cairo, Egypt
'Lose Your Identity', Ludwigsburg Kunstverein, Ludwigsburg, Germany
- 2003 'Asphalt Quarter', Townhouse Gallery, Cairo, Egypt
- 2002 'When he decided to visit the Christmas village', MainSpace, Cairo, Egypt
- 2001 'Transitions', Gemmayze, Beirut
'Sidi El Asphalt's Moulid', Townhouse Gallery, 2nd Al Nitaq Festival of Visual Arts, Cairo, Egypt

Selected Group Exhibitions

- 2025 'Otherlands II: Wael Shawky, Akram Zaatari', MMCA Gwacheon, Gwacheon, South Korea
- 2023 'In the Heart of Another Country: The Diasporic Imagination Rises', Sharjah Art Foundation, Sharjah, UAE
'Alexandria: Past Futures', MUCEM, Marseille, France
'In The Heart of Another Country', Deichtorhallen Hamburg, Germany
- 2022 'Alexandria: Past Futures', Centre for Fine Arts, Bozar Brussels, Brussels, Belgium
'MACBA Collection. Prelude. Poetic Intention', MACBA, Barcelona, Spain
- 2021 'Genealogies in the Middle East and Latin America', Sharjah Art Foundation, Sharjah, United Arab Emirates
'GLASSTRESS Hermitage 2021', The State Hermitage Museum, Saint Petersburg, Russia
- 2020 'Notre Monde Brûle/Our World is Burning', Palais de Tokyo, Paris, France

- ‘Desert X AlUla’, Al Ula, Saudi Arabia
‘Between the Sun and the Moon’, Lahore Biennale, Lahore, Pakistan
- 2019 ‘GLASSTRESS’, Fondazione Berengo Art Space, Venice, Italy
‘The Gulf Project Camp: Look for Me All Around You’, Sharjah Biennial 14, Sharjah, UAE
- 2018 ‘Gangwon International Biennale’, Gangwon, Korea
‘Beyond Borders’, Boghossian Foundation – Villa Empain, Brussels, Belgium
‘NOW’, Scottish National Gallery of Modern Art, Edinburgh, Scotland
‘Dal-Bahar Madwarha: Valletta 2018’, St Elmo Examination Centre, Valletta, Malta
- 2017 ‘Everything at Once’, Vinyl Factory & Lisson Gallery, The Store, London, UK
‘Yokohama Triennale 2017: Islands, Constellations, and Galapagos’, Yokohama, Japan
‘Dream City Tunis Biennial – 6th Edition’, Tunis, Tunisia, Africa
- 2016 ‘Reconstruction of Story II: Duncan Campbell, The Otolith Group, and Wael Shawky,’ National Museum of Modern and Contemporary Art, Seoul, South Korea
‘The Migrant (Moving) Image,’ Tale of a Tub, Vanity Projects, New York, NY and Miami, FL, USA
‘Performer/Audience/Mirror’, Lisson Gallery, London, UK
‘PLATOvideo07–War: Marine Hugonniere, Wael Shawky, Clemens von Wedemeyer,’ PLATO, Ostrava, Czech Republic
‘The Time is Out of Joint,’ Sharjah Art Foundation, Sharjah, United Arab Emirates
- 2015 ‘Une Brève Histoire de L’Avenir,’ Musée du Louvre, Paris, France
‘Saltwater’, the 14th Istanbul Biennial, Istanbul, Turkey.
‘Mario Merz Prize’, Fondazione Merz, Turin, Italy
‘Too early, too late: Middle East and Modernity’, Pinacoteca Nazionale di Bologna, Bologna, Italy
‘Cross Section of a Revolution’, Lisson Gallery, London, UK
- 2014 Manifesta 10, The State Hermitage Museum, Saint Petersburg, Russia
‘You Imagine What You Desire’, 19th Biennale of Sydney, Sydney, Australia
‘Fotofest 2014’, Contemporary Arab Video, Houston, TX, USA
‘Now Babylon’, Louisiana Museum of Modern Art, Humlebæk, Denmark
Dak’Art 2014, Dakar, Senegal
‘The Anthropology Effect’, MAP Centre for Contemporary Art, Glasgow, UK ‘
‘Here and Elsewhere’, New Museum, New York, NY, USA
‘Neighbours: Contemporary Narratives from Turkey and Beyond’, Istanbul Modern, Istanbul, Turkey
- 2013 ‘A History of Inspiration’, Palais de Tokyo, Paris, France
‘In the Heart of the Country’, Museum of Modern Art, Warsaw, Poland
‘Dreams of Reason: Highlights of the Sandretto Re Rebaudengo Collection’, Centre of Contemporary Art, Torun, Poland
‘Re:emerge’, Sharjah Biennial 11, Sharjah, United Arab Emirates
‘Moment–Frontlines’, Moderna Museet Stockholm, Stockholm, Sweden
‘Les choses du côté du côté du cotedumonde’, Musée Des civilisations de l’Europe et de la Méditerranée, Marseille, France
‘The Translation’, Cabaret Voltaire, Zurich, Switzerland
- 2012 ‘Mirages d’Orient: Grenades et Figures de Barbaries’, Collection Lambert, Avignon, France
7th Asia Pacific Triennale of Contemporary Art, Queensland Art Gallery, Brisbane, Australia
9th Gwangju Biennale, Gwangju, South Korea
Documenta 13, Kassel, Germany
Bucharest Biennial 5, Bucharest, Romania
Marrakech Biennial 2012, Marrakech, Morocco
‘On the Edgware Road’, Serpentine Gallery, London, UK
- 2011 12th Istanbul Biennial, Istanbul, Turkey
‘Serious Games: Krieg, Medien Kunst’, Mathildenhöhe Darmstadt, Darmstadt, Germany
‘Where Is MY Place?’, La Gallerie di Piazza San Marco, Venice, Italy
‘Miragens’, Institute Tomie Ohtake/Centro Cultural Banco do Brasil, São Paulo, Brazil

- 2010
 ‘Lo Spazio del Sacro’, Galleria Civica di Modena, Modena, Italy
 ‘Breaking News: Contemporary Photography from the Middle East and Africa’, Ex Ospedale Sant’Agostino, Modena, Italy
 ‘Localities: My World Images Festival’, Museet for Samtidskunst, Roskilde, Sweden
 ‘Beyond Credit: Contemporary Art and Mutual Trust’, Sanat Limani, Istanbul, Turkey
 ‘What’s Happening Now?’, Casa Arabe Madrid, Madrid, Spain
- 2009
 ‘The Columns Held Us Up’, Artists Space, New York, USA
 25th Alexandria Biennale for Mediterranean Countries, Alexandria Fine Arts Museum, Alexandria, Egypt
 ‘The Jerusalem Syndrome’, Al-ma’mal Foundation for Contemporary Art, Jerusalem, Israel
 ‘Tarjama/Translation’, Queens Museum of Art, New York, NY, USA
 ‘Socially Disorganised’, Lion Arts Centre, Adelaide, Australia
- 2008
 ‘Lucky Number Seven’, SITE Santa Fe Biennial, Santa Fe, New Mexico, USA
 ‘Medium Religion’, Zentrum für Kunst und Medientechnologie Karlsruhe, Karlsruhe, Germany
 ‘Où? Scènes du Sud’, Carré d’Art, Musée d’art contemporain de Nîmes, Nîmes, France
 ‘Medium Religion’, Zentrum für Kunst und Medientechnologie Karlsruhe, Karlsruhe, Germany
 ‘Où? Scènes du Sud’, Carré d’Art, Musée d’art contemporain de Nîmes, Nîmes, France
- 2007
 ‘Gestures of Infinity’, Minotoren Kultur, Graz, Austria
 ‘Gegenwart aus Jahrtausenden: Zeitgenössische Kunst aus Ägypten’, Kunstmuseum Bonn, Bonn, Germany
 ‘Out of Place’, Gallery Sfeir-Semler, Beirut, Lebanon
 ‘Petriolina’, Moscow Museum of Modern Art, collateral event of the 2nd Moscow Biennale, Moscow, Russia
 Contemporary Art Platform, London, UK
- 2006
 ‘Choosing My Religion’, Kunstmuseum Thun, Thun, Switzerland
 ‘Fremd bin ich eingezogen’, Kunsthalle Fridericianum, Kassel, Germany
 ‘AYOR: NoMan’s Land’, Hellenic American Union, Athens, Greece
 47th October Art Salon Belgrade Cultural Center, Belgrade, Serbia
 ‘Coding: Decoding’, Kunsthallen Nikolaj, Copenhagen, Denmark
 6th Visual Arts Festival, Kodra Field, Thessaloniki, Greece
 ‘Outside the Living Room’, Gb Agency, Paris, France
- 2004
 ‘Mediterraneans’, Museo D’arte Contemporanea di Roma, Rome, Italy
 ‘Meeting Points’, Makan House, Amman, Jordan
 ‘Journées de la Photographie 4’, Centre Culturel Français de Damas, Damascus, Syria
- 2003
 Les Laboratoires d’Aubervilliers, Aubervilliers, France
 ‘24/7: Wilno–Nueva York (visapara)’, Contemporary Art Centre, Vilnius, Lithuania
 50th Venice Biennale, Venice, Italy
 ‘Video Invitational’, FA Projects, London, UK
 ‘International Experimental Film Festival’, Goethe Institut, Alexandria/Cairo, Egypt
 ‘Body and the Archive’, Artists Space, New York, NY, USA
- 2002
 ‘Close-Up: An Artistic Collaborative Workshop and Exhibition’, Townhouse Gallery, Cairo, Egypt
- 2001
 ‘Rita Longa International Art Symposium’, Codema, Bayamo, Cuba
 2nd Al Nitaq Festival of Visual Arts, Townhouse Gallery of Contemporary Art, Cairo, Egypt
- 2000
 Meyerson Hall Gallery, Philadelphia, PA, USA
 1st Al Nitaq Festival of Visual Arts, Talaat Harb Square, Cairo, Egypt
- 1997
 ‘Contemporary Egyptian Art’, Kunsthistorisches Museum, Vienna, Austria
- 1996
 6th Cairo Biennale, Museum of Modern Art, Cairo, Egypt
- 1995
 Al-Hanagar Gallery, Opera House Complex, Cairo, Egypt
 1994 6th Salon of Youth, Akhenaten Centre of Arts, Cairo, Egypt

Awards

2017	The Honorary Citizenship of the City of Palermo, Italy
2015	Joint winner, Mario Merz Prize
2013	Louis Vuitton and Kino der Kunst Award for Filmic Oeuvre, Munich, Germany
2012	Joint winner, Abraaj Capital Art Prize, United Arab Emirates
2011	Kunstpreis der Schering Stiftung, Berlin, Germany Artist-in-Residence, Center for Possible Studies, Serpentine Gallery, London, UK
2009	Grand Prize, 25th Alexandria Biennale, Alexandria, Cairo
2007	Ford Foundation Grant, Cairo, Egypt
2006	Ford Foundation Grant, Cairo, Egypt
2005	International Commissioning Grant, Lower Manhattan Cultural Council, New York, NY, USA
2004	International Award of the Islamic World Arts Initiative, Arts International, New York, NY, USA American Center Foundation Grant, Philadelphia, PA, USA
2001	Honorary Award, Rita Longa International Symposium, Codema, Bayamo, Cuba
2000	Piero Dozairo Award, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, PA, USA
1996	Grand Nile Prize, 6th International Cairo Biennial, Cairo, Egypt
1994	Grand Akhenaten Prize, 6th Salon of Youth, Akhenaten Centre of Arts, Cairo, Egypt

Collections

APT Dubai, Dubai, UAE
Bristol Museum and Art Gallery
Darat Al Funun, Amman, Jordan
Fiorucci Art Trust, London, UK
Francois Pinault Collection, Venice, Italy
Guggenheim Abu Dhabi, UAE
K20 Kunstsammlung Nordrhein-Westfalen, Düsseldorf, Germany
Lucas Museum of Narrative Art, Los Angeles, California, USA
MATHAF: Arab Museum of Modern Art, Doha, Qatar
MACRO: Museo d'Arte Contemporanea Roma, Italy
Museum of Modern Art, New York, USA
Mart Museum Collection, Trento, Italy
Muzeum Sztuki Nowoczesnej Warszawa: Museum of Modern Art, Warsaw, Poland
MUDAM: Musée d'Art Moderne Grand-Duc Jean, Luxembourg
MACBA: Museu d'Art Contemporani de Barcelona, Barcelona, Spain
Margulies Collection, Miami, Florida, USA
INHOTIM, Belo Horizonte, Brazil
National Gallery of Canada, Ottawa, Canada
Sandretto Re Rebaudengo Foundation, Turin, Italy
Sharjah Art Foundation, Sharjah, UAE
Tate Collection, London, UK