

Bassem Yousri

Visual artist and filmmaker

Cairo · Berlin — bassemyousri.com

Education

2009	MFA in painting, Tyler School of Art, Temple University - Philadelphia, USA.
2006	Fulbright Scholarship: non-degree studies in fashion design, Drexel University, Antoinette Westphal School of Media, Arts, and Design – Philadelphia, USA.
2003	BFA in painting, School of Fine Arts, Helwan University, Cairo, Egypt.

Teaching Experience

2025	Project development workshop (3 days), as part of the Masaha Residency at Misk Art Institute, Riyadh, KSA.
2024	Two-week Masterclass on Conceptual Painting at Misk Art Institute, Riyadh, KSA.
2023 - 2025	Associate Professor of Practice at the Visual Arts program – Arts department, the American University in Cairo, Egypt.
2018 - 2023	Adjunct Faculty, Graphic Design program - Arts department, the American University in Cairo, Egypt.
2022	Adjunct Faculty, School of Creative Arts, Hertfordshire University, Cairo, Egypt.
2018 - 2020	Instructor at Kemet School for Art & Design, Cairo, Egypt.
2018	Workshop titled the Tools of Anger with the students of the Graphic Design department of École Supérieure d'Art Et De Design (ESAD Amiens) in Amiens, France. Throughout 4 days, the students worked on multiple exercises exploring the creative power of anger.
2015	Commissioned by ADEF (Arab Digital Expression Foundation in Cairo, Egypt) to create the Visual Expression curriculum: an open-source curriculum that constitutes of 36 sessions tackling different topics (drawing, photography, typography, and design software as means of visual expression). The commission concluded with a 2 weeks long workshop to train the prospective trainers on how to implement the curriculum.
2013	Workshop titled Artist Encounters at Mathaf: Arab Museum of Modern Art, Doha, Qatar. Throughout two weeks, the participants worked on a collaborative mixed media installation.
2012	Workshop titled Drawing revelations at Aufbau Haus, Berlin, Germany. The participants designed and executed a site-specific mural throughout the 6 days of the workshop.

Exhibitions

Solo Shows

- 2022 Performance titled Ask Me a Question at the Goethe Institute, Cairo, Egypt.
Solo show titled Guideposts at Medrar for Contemporary Art, Cairo, Egypt.
- 2020 Solo show titled Where Do We Go from Here at Fiendish Plots gallery, Lincoln, Nebraska, USA.
- 2014 Exhibition titled RGB (1) at Mashrabia Gallery, Cairo, Egypt.
- 2013 Exhibition titled The Official Institution at al Gazira Art Center, Cairo, Egypt.
- 2011 Exhibition titled Homage to the Egyptian Revolution at Kansas State University, Manhattan Kansas, USA.
- 2009 MFA thesis exhibition titled All the Important Issues at Tyler School of Art, Temple U., Philadelphia, USA.

Selected Group Shows and Film Screenings

- 2024 Sculpture titled From the Bottom to the Top and Vice Versa, Commissioned by Aldau Addart, at Hyatt Centric Cairo West Hotel.
Group exhibition titled, A Home for Something Unknown, featuring the recipients of the Work Stipend Grant by the Berlin Senate Department for Culture and Europe, Haus am Lützowplatz, Berlin, Germany.
- 2022 Duo exhibition titled Together Again, with the Dufala Brothers, Atelier Art Gallery, Philadelphia, PA, USA.
Duo exhibition titled How to Build a City with Two Nails and a Wire, with the artist Ahmed al-Badry, curated by Aleya Hamza, Gypsum Gallery, Cairo, Egypt.
- 2021 Speed Date video screening, in the context of a program titled Banal Complexities, curated by Christine Bruckbauer and Aline Lenzhofer, Philomena+ Gallery, Vienna, Austria.
Dismantling (15 min video), commissioned by Redzone Festival, organized by Al Mawred Al Thaqafi (Lebanon) in cooperation with KKV (Norway), online.
The Wardrobe Man, online film screening and talk at Bozar, in the context of the Arab Futurism program curated by Nedjma Hadj Benchelabi, Brussels, Belgium.
- 2020 Instructions for a performance titled Consciously Subconscious, Commissioned and published by 1000 Scores (<https://1000scores.com>).
Exhibition with the two artists Evelyn Ashamallah and Salam Yousri, titled Magic Window at Shelter Art Space, Alexandria, Egypt.
- 2018 The Wardrobe Man, film screening at Mors Cultural Summit, Mors, Denmark; at the Museum of the Moving Image, Queens, NY, USA; at the University of Wisconsin in Milwaukee, Milwaukee, WI, USA; and at Cairo Cinema Days festival, Cairo, Egypt.
Mai 68: Assemblée Générale, Centre Pompidou, Paris, France.

- 2017 Exhibition titled Hidden Stories, Gravit Art gallery, Nairobi, Kenya.
 "Das Innere Wartet Draußen auf Dich" ("The Inner Is Waiting Outside For You", Parallel Vienna, Austria.
 Exhibition at Kultur Drogerie with Ukranian artist Dariia Kuzmych, Vienna, Austria.
 Time, Site & Lore project, commissioned by ET4U organization, film screening at the Struer Museum, and at the Off Road festival and Meetings festival, Struer, Denmark.
- 2016 The March Project 2016 exhibition at Sharjah Art Foundation, UAE.
 Exhibition titled From the Outside Inwards and From the Inside Outwards at AE Gallery, Potsdam, Germany.
- 2015 Exhibition titled Something Else – Cairo OFF Biennale, curated by Simon Njami at Darb 1718, Cairo, Egypt.
 Exhibition titled Keep it Real curated by Klio Krajewska at Bayt al Sinnary, Cairo, Egypt.
- 2014 Exhibition titled Tea with Nefertiti curated by Sam Bardaouil and Till Fellrath, at the Museum Ägyptischer Kunst München in Munich, Germany.
 Exhibition titled Good Day to You! at Saad Zaghloul Cultural Center, Cairo, Egypt.
 Exhibition titled A Politics of Drawing: Proposal for a Method of Transformation, curated by Philip Glahn and John O'Connor at the Barbara White Gallery, Sarah Lawrence College, NY, USA.
- 2013 Exhibition titled Té con Nefertiti (Tea with Nefertiti) curated by Sam Bardaouil and Till Fellrath, at IVAM (Institut Valencià d'Art Modern), Valencia, Spain.
 Wavy Banners Festival, ET4U Organization, West Jutland, Denmark.
 Exhibition titled Le Théoreme de Nefertiti, curated by Sam Bardaouil and Till Fellrath, at l'Institut du Monde Arabe, Paris, France.
 Exhibition titled Recording Against Regimes (curated by Klio Krajewska), Darb 1718 Art Center, Cairo Egypt.
- 2012 Exhibition titled Tea with Nefertiti at Mathaf: Arab Museum of Modern Art, curated by Sam Bardaouil and Till Fellrath, Doha, Qatar.
 Exhibition titled Cairo Headlines at Ballhaus Naunynstraße (as part of Voicing Resistance festival), Berlin, Germany.
 Exhibition titled Signs of Resistance at Aufbau Haus Kreuzberg, Berlin, Germany.
 Exhibition titled the Changing Room (curated by Aida Eltorie), Charing Cross tube station, London, England.
 Exhibition titled Super Market at al Gazira Art Center, Cairo, Egypt.
 ITB Tourism Festival, Berlin, Germany. Yousri was one of 10 Egyptian artists invited to decorate 10 sculptures in the shape of Ankh through a workshop. The sculptures were displayed across different parts of Berlin in parallel to Egypt's representation at the ITB festival.
 Exhibition titled Shift Delete 30 at Saad Zaghloul Art Center, Cairo, Egypt.
 Keep Recording film screening at Hakaya Forum, Alexandria, Egypt.
- 2011 Exhibition titled Renditions at Maraya Art Center (curated by Aida Eltorie), Sharjah, UAE.
 Exhibition titled The Changing Room: Arab Reflections on Praxis and Time at Spazio Qubi gallery (curated by Aida Eltorie), Torino, Italy.
 Exhibition titled Manifest 770 at Incline Gallery, San Francisco, USA.

2010	Manifesta 8, Murcia, Spain. Exhibition titled Residency Projects I at Kala Art Institute Gallery, Berkeley, California, USA.
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Filmography

Under development	Film Romancy (editor and director) experimental docu-fiction feature.
2018	The Wardrobe Man (48 min), experimental docu-fiction, (editor, performer and director).
2012	Pulse (4 min), experimental documentary short (editor and director)
2010	Still Recording, (50 min) experimental documentary (editor and director) (shot in Philadelphia).
2009	Keep Recording (40 min), experimental documentary (editor and director) (shot in Cairo). All the Important Issues (14 min), experimental short (performer, editor, and director).

Museum Acquisitions

The Egyptian Museum in Munich (Museum Ägyptischer Kunst München), Germany.

Curatorial Work

2025	Heels Over Head, American U. in Cairo Visual Arts senior exhibition, AUC Tahrir Campus, Cairo, Egypt.
2025	Earth, Birds, and Metal Dragons, solo show by Amr el Kafrawy, Sharjah Gallery, American University in Cairo, Egypt.
2024	MedRX Portal (co-curator), Sharjah Gallery, American University in Cairo, Egypt.
2024	Solidarity Now, Visual Arts program juried open student exhibition, Sharjah Gallery, American University in Cairo, Egypt.
2024	Kharasana: Construction Site, American U. in Cairo Visual Arts senior exhibition, AUC Tahrir Campus, Cairo, Egypt.
2016	Oshtoor Festival, Fayoum, Egypt.
2015	Oshtoor Festival, Sinai desert, Egypt.

Publications

Original Writing & Essays

2020	"I Am Serious!", an essay published by International Journal of Middle East Studies 52, no. 3 (2020): 516-25. doi:10.1017/S0020743820000732.
2016	Visual Expression and Design, educational curriculum, published by ADEF (Arab Digital Expression Foundation).

2014 RGB (1), graphic novel, published by B.E.B.A Editions.

Selected Translations

- 2026 Of The Earth: Earthly Technologies to Computational Biologies — full translation of the exhibition catalogue exploring the intersection of ecology, materiality, and new media art. Diriyah Art Futures.
- 2026 Rewiring Narratives: New Media Art from the Arab World — translation of a comprehensive volume documenting the evolution of digital and media-based practices in the region. Museums Commission, Riyadh.
- 2025 Continuum '25: Emerging New Media Artists — translation of the catalogue and curatorial statements for the inaugural emerging artist program. Diriyah Art Futures.
- Maknana: An Archaeology of New Media Art in the Arab World — translation of curatorial essays, artist biographies, and thematic research; edited by Haytham Nawar and Ala Younis. Published by Skira.

Residencies, Fellowships, and Awards

- 2023 Work Stipend Grant, Berlin Senate Department for Culture and Europe, Germany.
- 2022 Studio Takhshina Residency, Goethe Institute, Cairo, Egypt
Artist in Residence fellowship at RAIR Philly, Philadelphia – PA, USA.
- 2021 Artist in Residence at Philomena+ gallery, Vienna, Austria.
- 2020 Al Mawred Al Thaqafi (Cultural Resource) production grant.
AFAC (Arab Fund for Arts and Culture) Artist Support Grant.
Art Jameel Research and Practice Platform Grant.
Home Not Alone Artist in Residence fellowship, offered by ProHelvetia, Zurich, Switzerland.
- 2018 Artist in Residence fellowship at Vermont Studio Center, USA.
- 2017 Kultur Kontakt Austria fellowship, Vienna, Austria.
- 2016 March Project residency at Sharjah Art Foundation, UAE.
Arte East Fellowship – Art Omi International Artists' Residency.
- 2013 Artist in Residence Fellowship at Vermont Studio Center, USA.
- 2012 AFAC (Arab Fund for Arts and Culture) Express Grant.
- 2011 Visiting Artist-in-Residence position at Kansas State University, USA.
- 2010 Artist in Residence Fellowship at KALA Art Institute, Berkeley, USA.
- 2006 Fulbright Arts Grant.

Artist Lectures

- 2025 Medrar for Contemporary Art, Cairo, Egypt.
- 2022 Medrar for Contemporary Art, Cairo, Egypt.

2020	Hixson-Lied Visiting Artist Lecture - University of Nebraska in Lincoln, Nebraska, USA. Lewis & Clark College, Portland, Oregon, USA. Sarah Lawrence College, NY, USA.
2018	University of Wisconsin in Milwaukee, USA. Centre Pompidou, Paris, France.
2016	Residency Unlimited, New York, USA.
2015	CSM (Foundation Center for Contemporary Art) in Kyiv, Ukraine. Cairo University, Egypt.
2014	The Palace of the Arts, Cairo, Egypt.
2013	ET4U Organization, West Jutland, Denmark.
2012	German University in Cairo.
2011	Kansas State University, Manhattan Kansas, USA. American University in Cairo, Egypt.
2010	California College of the Arts (CCA), San Francisco, California, USA. Kala Art Institute, Berkeley, California, USA.
2007	Drexel University, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, USA.