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Born 1979 in Beirut, Lebanon.

Lives and works in Oxford, UK.

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## EDUCATION

- 2013            Diploma in Traditional Arts from the Prince's School of Traditional Arts, London
- 2007-2012    Assistant and apprentice to Master Samir Sayegh, Beirut, Lebanon
- 1997-2001    BGD (Bachelors of Graphic Design), American University of Beirut

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## SOLO & TRIO EXHIBITIONS

- 2022    *The Written Word*, The Woolf Institute, Cambridge, UK
- 2019    *In So Many Words*, Pictorem Gallery, London, UK
- 2017    *Art in Times of Crisis*, The Crafts Center at North Carolina State University, Raleigh, USA
- 2015    *Lighting the Darkness*, The Crypt Gallery, London, UK
- 2012    *Maktoob: Contemporary Calligraphy*, Art Lounge, Maasser Beiteddine, Lebanon

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## SELECTED GROUP EXHIBITIONS

- 2025    *Unfolding Events: Exploring Past and Present in Artists' Books*, Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library, Yale University, USA
- 2023    *Highlights*, Ithra Museum, King Abdulaziz Center for World Culture, Dhahran, Saudi Arabia
- 2023    *Through the Looking Glass*, Swanfall Art, Mall Galleries, London, UK
- 2023    *Lebanon | Untitled*, Janet Rady Fine Art x Artscoops, Cromwell Place, London, UK
- 2023    *The Future of Traditions, Writing Pictures: Contemporary Art from the Middle East*, Rose Issa Projects, Brunei Gallery, SOAS, London, UK
- 2022-23 *The Handmade Book*, Stanford Libraries, USA
- 2020    Work selected for the *Sharjah Biennale 2020*, UAE (cancelled due to the pandemic)
- 2019-    *Treasures of the British Library*, The British Library, London, UK
- 2018    *The Society of Women Artists Exhibition*, Mall Galleries, London, UK
- 2015    *Signs, Traces and Calligraphy*, Rose Issa Projects, Beirut, Lebanon
- 2014    *Great Lebanese Painters of the Jihad and Farouk Abillama Collection*, Beirut, Lebanon
- 2014    *Fifth Summer Art Festival*, Sharjah Art Museum, UAE
- 2013-14 *Kuwait's Sixth International Islamic Arts Convention*, Kuwait

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## PUBLIC & PRIVATE COLLECTIONS

- Special Collections, Merton College Library, Oxford University, UK
- Yale University Haas Arts Library, New Haven, USA

- VCU Libraries Special Collections and Archives, Richmond, USA
  - Princeton University Firestone Library Special Collections, Princeton, USA
  - The Psyche Collection, Paris, France
  - Harvard Fine Arts Library Special Collections, Cambridge, USA
  - Stanford Libraries Gunst Collection, Stanford, USA
  - Contemporary British Published Collections, The British Library, London, UK
  - The Khayrallah Center for Lebanese Diaspora Studies, Raleigh, USA
  - Gallery One, King Abdulaziz Center for World Culture, Dhahran, Saudi Arabia
  - The Jihad and Farouk Abillama Collection, Beirut, Lebanon
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## AWARDS & RESIDENCIES

- 2025 Distinguished Alumni Award, Maroun Semaan Faculty of Engineering and Architecture, American University of Beirut, Lebanon
  - 2024 Visiting Research Fellow in Creative Arts, Merton College, Oxford University, UK
  - 2023 Arteventura Art Residency, Aracena, Spain
  - 2017 Artist in Residence, The Khayrallah Center for Lebanese Diaspora Studies, Raleigh, USA
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## PRESS & MEDIA

- وادي | Arab Culture Voices: [Bringing Art Down to Earth](#), Feb 2026
  - Interview on [Radio New Zealand Nights](#), July 2024
  - Press for *Lebanon* / *Untitled*: [Arab News](#) (+video), [The National](#), [L'Orient-Le Jour](#), [Al-Sharq al-Awsat](#).
  - Press for *The Future of Traditions*: [The National](#), [Because Magazine](#).
  - Press for *The Written Word*: [BBC](#), [Cambridge Independent](#), iTV Anglia (12 June 22), BBC One Sunday Morning (25 July 22).
  - [The New Arab](#), July 2023
  - [The Dark Mountain Project](#), June 2023
  - [The Anglo-Arab Voice](#) podcast, March 2022
  - [Art Fervour](#), Nov. 2020
  - [Middle East Eye](#), 2019
  - [Art Illuminated podcast](#), 2018
  - *Al Kashaf*, Al Araby TV, 5 April 2016
  - [Femme Magazine](#), 2015
  - [El-Iktisad](#), 2015
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## PUBLICATIONS

- [Caravanserai](#) newsletter, 2023-ongoing
- *Inks & Paints of the Islamic Golden Age*, 2026
- *Stories of Abjad*. 2023

- Al-Qalalusi's Tuhaf al-Khawas. 2022
- Wild Inks & Paints. 2021
- Al-Razi's Zinat al-Kataba. 2020
- Inks & Paints of the Middle East, 2020
- Cosmographia, 2019

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## LECTURES & TALKS

- 2026 *Books, Bindings and Bibliophilia in the Islamic World: Inks & Pigments*, SOAS, London
- 2026 *The Hidden Life of Kufi scripts: Practice-based insights*, Khalili Research Centre, University of Oxford
- 2025 *Reclaiming Kufi*, online lecture, University of Oxford
- 2025 *Circles of Time*, Merton College, University of Oxford
- 2024 *Inks and Paints of the Abbasids*, Merton College, University of Oxford
- 2024 *Art as Knowledge Keeper*, Calouste Gulbenkian Museum, Lisbon
- 2023 *Translation through Praxis*, demonstration-lecture for 'Decoding Recipes' conference, University of Sheffield
- 2023 *My Journey with Kufi: Freedom in Restriction*, online lecture, Letterform Archive
- 2023 *The Art of Letting Go*, keynote lecture for the Collegium 'Uncertainty and the Handmade', Stanford Libraries, Stanford
- 2023 *A Conversation Between Calligraphers*, panel, School of Traditional Arts, London
- 2022 *Al-Qalalusi's Colour Palette*, demonstration-lecture, School of Traditional Arts, London
- 2021 *Natural Dyes* online lecture, American University of Cairo, Egypt
- 2019 *Artist Books Now*, panel, British Library, London
- 2017 *Art in Times of Crisis*, The Crafts Center at North Carolina State University, Raleigh, USA
- 2016 *Living With Mystery*, panel, St Ethelburga's Centre for Reconciliation and Peace, London

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## COURSES & WORKSHOPS

- 2025 *Plants in the Qur'an & Plants That Wrote It*, Faculty of Asian and Middle Eastern Studies, Cambridge University
- 2025 *Secret Red: At the Heart of Safflower*, workshop for 'Material Culture in Global History', Faculty of History, University of Oxford
- 2025 *When Letters Were Numbers: The Abjad Numerals*, Oxford Centre for Islamic Studies
- 2024 *Beyond the Letters*, online workshop with VCUArts Qatar
- 2024 *Making Inks from Plants, Making Paints from Pigment*, nine-day course, School of Calligraphy and Ornamentation, Fujairah, UAE
- 2023 *Magical Inks of Ghāyat al-Hakim* workshop for 'Science & Craft' conference, Warburg Institute, London
- 2022 *Inks & Paints of the Middle East*, five-day course, School of Traditional Arts, London
- 2022 *Introduction to Manuscript Kufi*, online workshop, Aga Khan Museum
- 2022 Mentor for *Circular Design Training Program*, Goethe Institut

2018 Calligraphy workshop for the opening of the Albukhary Foundation Gallery of the Islamic World, British Museum

2017 Square Kufic workshop, The Crafts Center at North Carolina State University, Raleigh, USA

2014-ongoing Tutor in Kufi calligraphy and related techniques, The Arab-British Centre, London ([see Courses](#))