

TALAL AL NAJJAR

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EDUCATION

- 2023 **Master of Fine Arts** / ArtCenter College of Design / Pasadena, CA, USA
2021 **Bachelor of Fine Arts** / School of the Art Institute of Chicago / Chicago, IL, USA

SOLO & TWO-PERSON EXHIBITIONS

- 2025 **Tabari Artspace Solo Exhibition** / Dubai, UAE (forthcoming)*
Broken Barrels (with Moza Almazrouei) / Curated by Salem AlSuwaidi / SWALIF x ATHR / Riyadh, Saudi Arabia (forthcoming)*
- 2024 **Petro-Ghareebo: NAUSEA** / Tabari Artspace x Art Dubai / Dubai, UAE
- 2023 **Symbiotic: Hyperreal** (with Ziad Al Najjar) / Curated by Tala Nassar / NYU Abu Dhabi
Project Space / Abu Dhabi, UAE
Petro-Ghareebo: NAUSEA / Graduate Thesis Exhibition / Cave Gallery / ArtCenter College of Design / Pasadena, CA, USA
- 2022 **Petro-Ghareebo** / Cave Gallery / ArtCenter College of Design / Pasadena, CA, USA
L1MB-B0 / Cave Gallery / ArtCenter College of Design / Pasadena, CA, USA
L1MB_B0 / B13 Gallery / ArtCenter College of Design / Pasadena, CA, USA
Virtual Ritual / Raymond Gallery / ArtCenter College of Design / Pasadena, CA, USA
Crash! (with Brennan Stalford) / Mike Kelley Foundation Graduate Art Gallery / Pasadena, CA, USA
- 2021 **Tittering** / B13 Gallery / ArtCenter College of Design / Pasadena, CA, USA
Cetacea / Appendix Projects / Online

SELECTED GROUP EXHIBITIONS

- 2025 **The Boys Are Alright** / Bayt AlMamzar / Dubai, UAE (forthcoming)*
Archaeology of New Media Arts Practices in the Arab World / Diriyah Art Futures / Riyadh, Saudi Arabia (forthcoming)*
Inca: Presenting the Salam Art Collection / Miraz Art Space / Sulaymaniyah, Iraq
- 2024 **Tracing The Murmurs** / Tabari Artspace x Abu Dhabi Art / Abu Dhabi, UAE
My Existence, That Absurd Thing (Curator) / MamarLab / Abu Dhabi, UAE
CHIAROSCURO / Curated by Michele Lamy / ICD Brookfield Place / Dubai, UAE
- 2023 **Postmordial Soup** / ICD Brookfield Place / Dubai, UAE
The Deluge / Curated by Catherine Taft / The Box Gallery / Los Angeles, CA, USA
Swamped / Book Launch / Hauser & Wirth / Los Angeles, CA, USA
After the End / Curated by Catherine Taft / New Art Dealers Alliance / Online
- 2022 **Liquify** / Yiwei Gallery / Los Angeles, CA, USA
Ybna Al3eid (Co-curator, with Salem AlSuwaidi) / Bayt AlMamzar / Dubai, UAE
Fractured Existence / Al Fahidi / Dubai, UAE
Cohort Show / Mike Kelley Foundation Graduate Art Gallery / Pasadena, CA, USA
- 2021 **MFA Group Show** / The Goodan Family Graduate Art Gallery / Pasadena, CA, USA
13 PAINTERS / 3FTD Gallery / Los Angeles, CA, USA
Made in the Emirates: Connected, Collected / Engage 101 / Sotheby's / Dubai, UAE
Anthropopeia / Appendix Projects / Online
Undergraduate Thesis Exhibition / School of the Art Institute of Chicago Galleries /

Chicago, IL, USA
 2020 **Playing Spaces** / Engage 101 / Alserkal Avenue / Dubai, UAE
Reassigning Values / Jameel Arts Centre / Dubai, UAE
 2019 **Chicago Art Book Fair** / Chicago, IL, USA
 2016 **Sikka Art Fair** / Al Fahidi / Dubai, UAE

GALLERY REPRESENTATION

Tabari Artspace / Dubai, UAE

SELECTED PRESS & BIBLIOGRAPHY

2025 [The Dubai Collection. "On Creating - Talal Al Najjar"](#), January 2025
 2024 [The National](#), "The DNA of the city: What to expect at Art Dubai 2025", December 2024
[Global Art Daily](#), "My Existence, That Absurd Thing' Opens at MamarLab in MiZa, Abu Dhabi", November 2024
[Level Shoes](#), "Dubai's 3 Most Exciting Young Artists", October 2024
[Wallpaper Magazine](#), "Michèle Lamy explores light and darkness in Dubai", March 2024
[Artsy](#), "Art Dubai Highlights the City's Growing Appeal with Asian Collectors", March 2024
[The National](#), "Emirati artist strives to provoke questions when showcasing his work", February 2024
[Art Dubai](#), "ART DUBAI DIGITAL 2024: BEHIND THE SCENES WITH CURATORS AURONDA SCALERA AND ALFREDO CRAMEROTTI", February 2024
[The Arab Gulf States Institute in Washington](#), "AGSIW X Culture Summit: Channeling the Uncanny in Counter-Futurisms", February 2024
 2023 [Canvas Magazine](#), "Stirring the Pot" (Review) [Print], Nov-Dec issue, November 2023
[Collecteurs](#), "Collecteurs Selects: Exhibitions to See in Dubai in October and November 2023", November 2023
[Fast Company Middle East](#), "AI is changing art creation in the Middle East. And this is raising many conundrums", October 2023
[Gulf News](#), "'Postmordial Soup' Exhibition: A fusion of art, culture, and human experience", October 2023
[Global Art Daily](#), "Postmordial Soup Brings Together Al Najjar, Talal Al Najjar and Miramar Al Nayyar at ICD Brookfield Place", October 2023
[Tabari Artspace](#), "THE VOICE | Talal Al Najjar", October 2023
[Khamisa](#), "Creative Talks: Discussion with the Artists Behind 'Postmordial Soup'", October 2023
[Caravel Magazine](#), "Postmordial Soup exhibitions opens at ICD Brookfield Place", October 2023
[Arte & Lusso](#), "ICD Brookfield Place Present a Group Exhibition Featuring Talal Al Najjar, Ziad Al Najjar, and Miramar Al Nayyar, Entitled Postmordial Soup", October 2023
[Arte & Lusso](#), "Postmordial Soup: Talal Al Najjar and Ziad Al Najjar, and Miramar Al Nayyar", September 2023
[AboutHer](#), "Malak Abu-Oaoud: A Chat With Dubai's Curatorial Genius", September 2023
[TimeOut](#), "NYU Abu Dhabi Art Gallery unveils new showcase with Emirati artists", June 2023
[Yalla Abu Dhabi](#), "Explore the dualities of tradition and modernity at this NYUAD exhibition", June 2023
[Emirates News Agency](#), "Emirati artists Talal and Ziad Al Najjar illuminate hyperreality in 'Symbiotic' exhibition at NYUAD", May 2023
[Emirates 24/7](#), "Emirati Artists Showcase Balance Between Heritage and Modernity in The Project Space's Final Exhibition for the Season", May 2023
[Al Khaleej](#), "Symbiotic: Hyperreal", an exhibition by two Emirati brothers", May 2023
[Hyperallergic](#), "An Eclectic Bunch at ArtCenter's Open Studios", April 2023
 2022 [Artforum](#), Critic's Pick: Dubai, "Ybna Al3eid", October 2022
[The Culturist](#), "New season of exhibitions in Dubai, Sharjah, and Abu Dhabi", September 2022
[Gulf News](#), "Take a tour of Dubai's Bayt Al Mamzar", September 2022
[Dubai Culture](#), "Immersive VR & Metaverse journeys and inspiring GCC artworks in Sikka 2022", March 2022
 2021 [Appendix Projects](#), Anthropopeia: Talal Al Najjar, March 2021
[The Art Newspaper](#), "What to do when the tourists leave town? How the UAE art scene has innovated during the pandemic", February 2021
[VICE Arabia](#), "101: A New Platform to Support Emerging Artists in the UAE", January 2021
 2020 [Art Curator Grid](#), "WAW - we are wondering", December 2020
[Global Art Daily](#), "101 Strikes Again with Second Sale at Alserkal Avenue", November 2020
[The National](#), "101 presents new ways of buying and experiencing art: flashlight-viewings and late-night workshops", November 2020

- [Engage 101](#), *Playing Spaces: Talal Al Najjar*, November 2020
[Global Art Daily](#), "GAD Talk Series #3: When the Youth Takes Over: Reflecting on the Jameel Arts Centre 2020 Youth Takeover", November 2020
[VICE Arabia](#), "Youth Curating Youth: Encountering the UAE's New Artists at the Jameel Youth Takeover", November 2020
[Verticles](#), *The Youth Takeover: Talal Al Najjar*, November 2020
[ABC](#), "El dialogo cultural de Daniel H. Rey", November 2020
[Jameel Arts Centre](#), "The Youth Takeover 2020", October 2020
[The National](#), "Nine-01: Young Emirati artists transform mall space into art studio", August 2020
[Michael Rakowitz](#), "The Invisible Enemy Should Not Exist", 2020
2016 [Arabian Business](#), "8 of the Best Artworks at Sikka", March 2016

PUBLICATIONS

- 2023 **Ybna Al3eid** (Co-editor and writer, with Salem AlSuwaidi) / Publication / SWALIF Publishing House / June 2023
Logged In / Artist book / Self-published & ArtCenter Graduate Art Press / April 2023
Swamped / Group artist book / ArtCenter Graduate Art Press / April 2023

AWARDS

- 2024 *Italy & United Arab Emirates: Digital Arts As A Vehicle For Accessibility To Cultural Heritage*, Youth Exchange Residency, Rome, Italy
2023 ICD Brookfield Place Arts Residency, Dubai, UAE
2022 Dirwaza Creative Access Grant
2021-2023 Graduate Art Scholarship, *ArtCenter College of Design*
2016-2021 Good Academic Standing, *School of the Art Institute of Chicago*
2016-2021 Full scholarship, Undergraduate, from the *Ministry of Higher Education*, UAE
2016-2021 Creative Honours Scholarship, Undergraduate, from the *School of the Art Institute of Chicago*
2015 *The Duke of Edinburgh International Award*, Silver Award
2014 *The Duke of Edinburgh International Award*, Bronze Award
2013 *The Outward Bound Trust*

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

- 2025 **Experiential Artist Suhoor at Bayt AlMamzar**, Dubai Collection programming, collaboration with Ayesha Erkin / Dubai, UAE
Merin Pavilion Symposium 'Realms in Flux' at SIKKA 2025, Co-speaker with Rahel Aima of Panel Discussion titled "Futurity & Anxiety: (Re-evaluating) Contemporary Art in the Gulf", Hosted by Mabnai & SWALIF / Dubai, UAE
Istituto Marangoni, Visiting artist & lecturer / Dubai, UAE
2024 **MamarLab**, Moderator of Panel Discussion titled "Nausea: Artist's On Our Era's Anxieties" / Abu Dhabi, UAE
Level Shoes, Feature & Interview, "Dubai's 3 Most Exciting Young Artists", Editorial / Dubai, UAE
Art Dubai, Feature & Interview, "What's The Karak?: Episode 1" / Dubai, UAE
Dubai Collection, Feature & Interview / Dubai, UAE
Culture Summit Abu Dhabi, Speaker with the *Arab Gulf States Institute in Washington*, titled "Channeling the Uncanny in Counter-Futurisms" with Ayman Zedani, Ahaad Alamoudi, and Kristin Smith Diwan / Abu Dhabi, UAE / March 2024
GQ Magazine, Feature, "Cry Baby", May Issue / Photography by Yumna Al Arashi / Dubai, UAE
2023 **H&H**, Creative Specialist at *H&H Procurement & COLLECTIONAL* / Work scope includes acting as assistant curator at Gallery *COLLECTIONAL*; communication assistant; head of newsletter; creative direction for branding of development projects / Dubai, UAE / October 2023 - Present
DIESEL & Between Us Boys Studio, Feature, "Dubai Capsule" / Dubai, UAE
ICD Brookfield Place, Panelist & speaker, "Navigating the Art World: There's No Such Thing" panel discussion / Hosted in collaboration with Tabari Artspace / Moderated by Gaith Abdulla and Maliha Al Tabari / Dubai, UAE
2022 **ArtCenter College of Design**, Teacher Assistant for core faculty Shahryar Nashat, "A class on repetition, a class on repetition," Fall '22 / Pasadena, CA, USA

- ArtCenter College of Design**, Introduction to public lecture: "Kahlil Robert Irving in conversation with Jan Tumlr", Fall '22 / Pasadena, CA, USA
- Ybna Al3eid**, Co-hosted "Ybna ElNaqd", a critique session for the *Ybna Al3eid* exhibition, in collaboration with Salem AlSuwaidi & SWALIF Collective / Bayt AlMamzar / Dubai, UAE
- Fables Magazine & Between Us Boys Studio**, Feature & Interview, Issue 01 "AREA CODE" / Dubai, UAE
- 2020 **Zayed University**, Visiting artist & lecturer (online) / Dubai, UAE
- Zayed University**, Visiting artist & lecturer (online) / Abu Dhabi, UAE
- Engage 101**, Workshop host, "Introduction to Sculpture" / Alserkal Avenue / Dubai, UAE
- Global Art Daily**, Guest speaker, "Reflecting on the Jameel Arts Centre 2020 Youth Takeover" / Online (Dubai, Abu Dhabi, Tokyo)
- Nine-01**, Co-founder of pop-up art studio and exhibition space / Dubai, UAE
- Michael Rakowitz Studio**, Assistant sculptor/intern, for *The Invisible Enemy Should Not Exist* series / Chicago, IL, USA
- 2015 **Dubai Walls & Ron English**, Assistant painter for Ron English, large commission mural for City Walk / Initiated by Dubai Walls & Meraas Holdings / Dubai, UAE

SELECTED COLLECTIONS

Dubai Collection, Dubai, UAE
 The Mestelan Collection, Dubai, UAE
 Salam Art Collection, Sulaymaniyah, Iraq
 MamarLab, Abu Dhabi, UAE
 Works held in private collections in the UAE and USA

PUBLIC COMMISSIONS

- 2025 Commissioned by MamarLab to write and publish an essay reflecting on the regional art eco-systems / Abu Dhabi, UAE
- 2024 Commissioned by Salem AlSuwaidi for poster design for his Public Art Manifesto, for his 421 Homebound Residency exhibition entitled *Network Culture* / Abu Dhabi, UAE
- 2020 Commissioned by Daniel H. Rey, Jameel Arts Centre, for *Excrescence*, a 4 by 8 ft. sculpture, video, and sound installation, for the *Youth Takeover: Reassigning Values* exhibition / Dubai, UAE
- 2018 Commissioned to paint O-14 tower's outdoor sculpture, with Ziad Al Najjar / Dubai, UAE

BIO & ARTIST STATEMENT

Talal Al Najjar is an artist from the Emirates, based between Los Angeles and Dubai. Driven by researching, archiving, and distorting, his interdisciplinary practice recontextualizes material culture, artifacts, and imagery, tinged with irony. Defamiliarization and the uncanny prompt new anthropological and material questions in his work, utilizing an absurdist-alien lens. He produces sculpture, video, sound, CGI animation, painting, and installation, in addition to writing and curation. Primary concerns include ideas around simulation, postproduction, poor images, counter-futurisms, and the contention of postmodern conditions. He received his MFA from ArtCenter College of Design (2023), and his BFA from the School of the Art Institute of Chicago (2021). He has exhibited work in Dubai, Abu Dhabi, Chicago, and Los Angeles.

Recent exhibitions include: Art Dubai, Dubai (2024); The Space, ICD Brookfield Place, Dubai (2024, 2023); NYUAD, Abu Dhabi (2023); The Box Gallery, Los Angeles (2023); After the End, NADA, Online (2023); ArtCenter College of Design, Pasadena (2023, 2022, 2021); Yiwei Gallery, Los Angeles (2022); Bayt AlMamzar, Dubai (2022); Al Fahidi, Dubai (2022); 3FTD, Los Angeles (2021); Sotheby's, Dubai (2021); Alserkal Avenue, Dubai (2020); Jameel Arts Center, Dubai (2020), among others. He is a recipient of the ICD Brookfield Place Arts Residency (2023) and Dirwaza Creative Access Grant (2022).