

SARA ABDU

Born 1993 in Jeddah, KSA

Lives and works between Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, and Berlin, Germany.

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EDUCATION

2017 B.A in English Language & Literature, The Arab Open University, Jeddah, KSA

2012 Graphic Design Diploma, Future Institution of Higher Education and Training, Jeddah, KSA

SELECTED SOLO EXHIBITIONS

2025 *Intimate Architectures of Belonging*, ATHR Gallery, AlUla, KSA

2021 *I Only Meant To Visit*, Cromwell Place, London, UK

I Only Meant To Visit, 21,39. ATHR Gallery, Jeddah, KSA

2014 *The Intangible Bonds in Our Existence*, ATHR Gallery, Jeddah, KSA

SELECTED GROUP EXHIBITIONS

2026 *Space Without Measure*, Desert X, Al Ula, KSA

I Am Not What I Am, I Become, ATHR Gallery, Jeddah, KSA

Red Wind, Coral Worlds, Hayy Jameel, Jeddah, KSA

2025 *The Desert has no Shadow*, Galerie Krinzinger, Vienna, Austria

Personal Narratives, Intangible Histories at World Expo, The Saudi Pavillion EXPO 2025
OSAKA, Kansai, Japan

2024 *After Rain*, Artistic Director: Ute Meta Bauer, Diriyah Contemporary Art Biennale,
Riyadh, KSA

Common Ground, Beneath The Gaze of Palms, Riyadh, KSA

2023 *Strangers in the Palace. Chapter 1*, International Biennale of Contemporary Art of the
South, National Museum of Decorative Arts, Buenos Aires, Argentina

Imagine: Fantasies, Dreams, Utopias, Saudi Arabia Museum of Contemporary Art
(SAMOCA), Riyadh, KSA

Strangers in the Palace. Chapter 2, Museo de Artes Decorativas - Palacio Taranco,
Montevideo, Uruguay

Blur of the Wells, ATHR Gallery, Al Ula, KSA

2022 *Amakin*, Curated by Ventia Porter, Ithra, Dammam, KSA

Amakin, Curated by Ventia Porter, 21,39 Jeddah Arts 9th Edition, Jeddah, KSA

Artist Showcase, ATHR Gallery, AlUla, KSA

2021 *The Artist's Room*, Very Public, JAX, Riyadh, KSA

- 2019** *Zamakan*, Ithra, Damam, KSA
Out of Place, ATHR Gallery, Jeddah, KSA
- 2018** *The Clocks Striking Thirteen*, curated By Maya El-Khalil ATHR Gallery, Jeddah, KSA
Opening Remarks, ATHR Gallery, Jeddah, KSA
La Collection Bic, CENTQUATRE-PARIS (Le Centquatre), Paris, France
- 2017** *Letters*, ATHR Gallery, Jeddah, KSA. *Safar*, 21,39, Jeddah, KSA
Safar, Curated by Sam Bardaouil & Till Fellrath, 21,39 Jeddah Arts 9th Edition, Jeddah, KSA

ART FAIRS

- 2025** Abu Dhabi Art Fair
- 2024** Abu Dhabi Art Fair
 FRIEZE, London, UK
 Art Basel, Paris, France
- 2023** Abu Dhabi Art Fair, Abu Dhabi, UAE
- 2021** Cromwell Place, UK
 Artissima Art, Torino, Italy
 Abu Dhabi Art, Abu Dhabi, UAE
 Shara Art Fair, Saudi Arts Council, Jeddah, KSA
- 2018** Art Dubai, Dubai, UAE
 Abu Dhabi Art, Abu Dhabi, UAE
- 2017** Art Dubai, Dubai, UAE
 Abu Dhabi Art, Abu Dhabi, UAE
- 2016** Abu Dhabi Art, Abu Dhabi, UAE
 Art Dubai, Dubai, UAE
- 2014** START Art Fair, London, UK
 Art Dubai, Dubai, UAE
- 2013** Abu Dhabi Art, Abu Dhabi, UAE

COLLECTIONS

Abdul Latif Jameel Foundation
 The BIC Collection
 The Greenbox Museum
 Imago Mundi Collection

RESIDENCIES

- 2022** Intermix, Riyadh, KSA
- 2017** La Cite Internationale des arts Paris France

COMMISSIONS

- 2026** *A Kingdom Where No One Dies: Contours of Resonance*, Desert X, Al Ula, KSA
- 2025** *Anatomy Of Remembrance, The Infinite Now* and *Now That I've Lost You in My Dreams, Where Do We Meet?*, Saudi Pavilion at the World Expo, Osaka, Japan
- 2024** *Now That I've Lost You in My Dreams, Where Do We Meet?*, Diriyah Biennale Foundation, Riyadh, KSA
- 2022** *To See the Infinite Within Me*, Noor Riyadh, Riyadh, KSA
- 2022** *The Infinite Now*, 21,39 Jeddah Arts 9th Edition, Jeddah, KSA.

LECTURES/ PANELS

- 2024** Panelist, *Knowledge in Materials and Spiritual Intelligence: Sara Abdu, Renan Laruan, Regina Maria Möller, Susanne Pfeffer*, Diriyah Biennale Foundation, Riyadh, KSA
- 2022** Panelist, *We Dream of New Horizons*, Noor Riyadh, Riyadh, KSA

PUBLICATIONS

- 2025** *Contemporary Kingdom* (Second Edition), Part II: *The Artists*. Canvas Central × Visual Arts Commission, Ministry of Culture, Saudi Arabia, 2025.
- 2024** *Noor Riyadh: A New Visual Culture*. Featured artist. Assouline × Riyadh Art, 2024

SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY

- 2026** Zaman, Aisha. "The Monumental Desert X AlUla Installations Turning the Ancient Valleys and Canyons Into an Open-Air Museum." *AD Middle East*, January 2026.
<https://www.admiddleeast.com/story/the-monumental-desert-x-alula-installations-turning-the-ancient-valleys-and-canyons-into-an-open-air-museum>
- Bager, Jasmine. "Sara Abdu Discusses Her Solo Show 'Intimate Architecture Of Belonging' In AlUla". Arab News, April 2026.
<https://www.arabnews.com/node/2639291/lifestyle>
- Alturki, Nada. "Desert Dreamers: Highlights From This Year's Desert X AlUla". Arab News, January 2026. <https://www.arabnews.com/node/2631019/lifestyle>
- Ghali, Maghie. "Desert X AlUla Brings Immersive Art To The Saudi Desert Landscape". Interior Design, January 2026.
<https://interiordesign.net/designwire/desert-x-alula-2026-exhibition-saudi-arabia/>
- 2024** Blecher, David. "At Frieze London, Arab Artists Look Inward", The New York Times, October 2, 2024
<https://www.nytimes.com/2024/10/02/arts/design/frieze-london-athr-gallery.html>
- Khalil, Nadine. "Curator Ute Meta Bauer Picks Artists to Watch at the Diriyah Biennale." *Art Basel*, 2024. <https://www.artbasel.com/news/ute-meta-bauer-diriyah-biennale>

- Smolik, Noemi. "Diriyah Contemporary Art Biennale 2024". Artforum, May 2024.
<https://www.artforum.com/events/noemi-smolik-diriyah-contemporary-art-biennale-2024-various-venues-2024-553023/>
- 2022** Bager, Jasmine. "Saudi Arabia's Ithra hosts 'Amakin' art exhibit, straight from Jeddah". Arab News, July 2022. <https://www.arabnews.com/node/2116606/saudi-arabia>
- Fareeed, Saleh. "A place called home: Artists reveal their favorite places at 21,39 Jeddah Arts". Arab News, March 2022. <https://www.arabnews.com/node/2039566/saudi-arabia>
- Maad, Rama. "The Circular Strokes: Sara Abdu". Destination Jeddah, January 2022. <https://destinationksa.com/the-circular-strokes-sara-abdu/>
- 2021** Chaves, Alexandra. "Abu Dhabi Art 2021 promises plenty of opportunities for change after the pandemic". The National, November 2021. <https://www.thenationalnews.com/arts-culture/art/2021/11/15/abu-dhabi-art-2021-promises-plenty-of-opportunities-for-change-after-the-pandemic/>
- Saleh, Hams. "Yemeni artist Sara Abdu's Jeddah show explores science of memory". Arab News, August 2021. <https://www.arabnews.com/node/1909926/lifestyle>
- 2017** Anne Proctor, Rebecca. "An Exhibition Of Saudi Contemporary Art Explores The Universal Elements Of Time And Space". Harper's Bazaar Arabia, August 2019. <https://www.harpersbazaararabia.com/culture/art/art-exhibitions/a-saudi-contemporary-art-exhibition-at-ithra-explores-universal-elements-of-time-and-space>
- 2018** Alaquil, Abdulaziz. "Where We Are Going Today: Athr Gallery". Arab News, March 2019. <https://www.arabnews.com/node/1460016/art-culture>
- Al-Khudair, Deema. "Zamakan: Saudi-based artists ponder universal questions through art". Arab News, March 2019. <https://www.arabnews.com/node/1475161/saudi-arabia>
- "The Works of Saudi Arabia's Top Contemporary Artists Is Currently on Display at Ithra". About Her, 2019. <https://www.abouthier.com/node/21791/entertainment/art-books/works-saudi-arabia%E2%80%99s-top-contemporary-artists-currently-display>
- 2018** Gronlund, Melissa. "How the Saudi art scene is determined to keep up with the changes of its country". The National, February 2018. <https://www.thenationalnews.com/arts-culture/art/how-the-saudi-art-scene-is-determined-to-keep-up-with-the-changes-of-its-country-1.704341>
- 2017** Ansari, Saffiya. "Only Saudi gallery at Art Dubai 2017 boasts unexpected art". Arab News, March 2017. <https://www.arabnews.com/node/1069006/art-culture>