



Afaf Zurayk

Beirut, Lebanon
b. 1948

Studies

M.A., Fine Arts - (Harvard University, Cambridge, Massachusetts, USA, 1972)

B.A., Fine Arts - [with distinction] (American University of Beirut, Beirut, Lebanon, 1970)

Collections

Afaf Zurayk's artwork is in the permanent collections of the British Museum, London; Barjeel Art Foundation, Sharjah; the Sursock Museum, Beirut; Darat al-Funun, Amman.

Gallery Representation

Saleh Barakat Gallery, Beirut

Accomplishments

painter | Washington, DC, USA and Beirut, Lebanon, 1986 - Present

Work in watercolor, ink, acrylic, oil and mixed media. Sixteen solo and eighteen group exhibitions. Exhibitions reviewed in The Washington Post, Al-Hayat, L'Orient-Le Jour, and other publications.

instructor, therapeutic painting | Graduate Art Therapy Program, George Washington University, Washington, DC, USA, 2011 - 2016

adjunct lecturer, painting & foundation | American University of Beirut, Beirut, Lebanon, 2007- 2016

Taught at various times Painting I and II. Both courses introduce students to the basics of artistic expression through mastery of technique and reliance on the imagination. Foundation in Drawing and Painting is a general introduction to the art of drawing and painting which trains students to see well and to render in thought out compositions.

adjunct lecturer, painting | Lebanese American University, Beirut, Lebanon, 2007 - 2013

Taught Painting I and II. Both courses introduce students to the basics of artistic expression through mastery of technique and reliance on imagination.



lecturer, drawing & painting | Corcoran College of Art and Design, Continuing Education Program, Washington DC, USA, 2002 - 2006
Designed and taught regularly three painting courses [Abstract Art, Mixed Media Painting, Developing Personal Imagery]. Worked closely with a number of students to develop and create a personal visual vocabulary. Encouraged and guided students in experimental work to further their potential.

workshop instructor | Graduate Art Therapy Program, George Washington University, Washington, DC, USA, 2002 - 2005
Trained students in the use of art materials and techniques as tools for identifying and perceiving client issues.

art manager | Alif Gallery, Arab American Cultural Foundation, Washington, DC, USA, 1983 - 1985
Conceptualized, designed and installed exhibitions of contemporary art [all media] by artists from the Arab world. Wrote press releases and critical essays for catalogues and brochures.

instructor of fine arts | Beirut University College [now Lebanese American University], Beirut, Lebanon, 1974 - 1983
Taught introductory and advanced courses in Studio Art and Art History. Studio Art courses: Introduction to Art; Two-Dimensional Design; Drawing I and II [sole drawing courses offered]; Painting I; Painting IV. Art History courses: Modern Western Art; Survey of Art History; Islamic Art.

part-time director of student activities | Beirut University College, Beirut, Lebanon, 1974 - 1976
Served on the Executive Council of the College; advised Student Council and supervised all co- curricular student activities.

assistant director | Ahliah School for Girls [K - 12], Beirut, Lebanon, 1971 - 1973
Designed & implemented curriculum; provided academic direction for faculty members & students; coordinated student-faculty relations, academic counseling & co-curricular activities.

Solo Exhibitions

Saleh Barakat Gallery | Beirut, Lebanon, 2023
'beirut octet' exhibition of paintings and prose texts. Design by Twig Collaborative

The Upper Gallery, Saleh Barakat Gallery | Beirut, Lebanon, 2021
'white', mixed media paintings on canvas



Saleh Barakat Gallery | Beirut, Lebanon, 2019

'return journeys' retrospective curated by Sylvia Agémian coordinated by Twig Collaborative

Beit Beirut | Beirut, Lebanon, 2019

'shifting lights' exhibition in collaboration with Rami Saab & Noel Nasr. Designed by Twig Collaborative

Janine Rubiez Gallery | Beirut, Lebanon, 2013

oil paintings on canvas and ink drawings on paper

Janine Rubiez Gallery | Beirut, Lebanon, 2012

'scripted on water', two artist exhibition with Cornelia Krafft

Maqam Gallery | Beirut, Lebanon, 2010

artist book: My Father. Reflections. Photography by Noel Nasr

Janine Rubiez Gallery | Beirut, Lebanon, 2008

mixed media paintings on paper, oil paintings on canvas

Janine Rubiez Gallery | Beirut, Lebanon, 2001

watercolor and acrylic paintings on paper

Janine Rubiez Gallery | Beirut, Lebanon, 1997

mixed media paintings on paper and canvas

Foundry Gallery | Washington, DC, USA, 1995

oil paintings on paper

Theatre De Beyrouth | Beirut, Lebanon, 1994

mixed media paintings on paper

Foundry Gallery | Washington, DC, USA, 1993

mixed media paintings on paper

Foundry Gallery | Washington, DC, USA, 1991

mixed media paintings on paper

Goethe Institut | Beirut, Lebanon, 1980

oil paintings on canvas and ink drawings on paper

Smuggler's Inn | Beirut, Lebanon, 1978



watercolor paintings on paper

Selected group exhibitions

‘Faith in the Forming’, The Upper Gallery, Saleh Barakat Gallery | Beirut, 2024

‘Taking Shape, Abstraction in the Arab World, 1950-1980’, Grey Art Gallery | New York, 2020

‘From Pen to Brush’ | Sursock Museum, Beirut, 2006

‘In/Visible: Contemporary Art by Arab Americans’, Arab American National Museum | Dearborn, Michigan, 2005

‘Forces of Change: Artists of the Arab World’ National Museum of Women in the Arts, Washington, DC; Chicago Cultural Center, Chicago, Illinois; Miami-Dale Community College, Miami, Florida; Nexus Contemporary Art Center, Atlanta, Georgia; Bedford Gallery, Regional Center for the Arts, Walnut Creek, California, 1994

‘Four Arab Artists from the United States’ | Shoman Foundation, Amman, 1993

published art books

the view from within, limited edition | Twig Collaborative, Beirut, Lebanon, 2021

A book based on two lectures I gave in Beirut (2015) and New York and Washington DC (2020) where the development of my art is explored as a process and a thought unfolding in space.

Beyond art, limited edition | Twig Collaborative, Beirut, Lebanon, 2020

Realized at the height of the Covid epidemic, this book of poetry and paintings is a reflection and a positioning in a world constantly changing its givens.

return journeys | Twig Collaborative, Beirut, Lebanon, 2019

Eponymous publication of the retrospective exhibition held in 2019 at Saleh Barakat Gallery, Beirut. It documents the artist’s creative journey over the last several decades and includes a collection of voices from colleagues, students and friends who reflect on the artist’s oeuvre.

drawn by light | American University of Beirut Press, Beirut, Lebanon, 2019



A sequence of twenty pairs of images and texts that span forty years of artistic growth forming a dialogue between experience and thought that looks within and yet also observes from without.

shifting lights | Librairie Antoine Distributor, Beirut, Lebanon, 2018
eponymous catalogue of the Shifting Lights exhibition, Beit Beirut Dec 2017-Jan 2018.

drawn poems | Limited Edition, 2012
Ink Drawings.

lovesong | Rimal Publications, Nicosia, Cyprus, 2011
A portfolio of poems and paintings that unfold rhythmically to echo love as it moves forward and backward in time. The presence of the past and the future in each present moment highlights the precious and endearing nature of love and loving.

my father. reflections | Librairie Antoine Distributor, Beirut, Lebanon, 2010
An experiential multimedia exploration of a complex relationship. [Sculpture, Photography, Music. Noel Nasr, Photographer]

Lectures

DC Cultural Majlis | 'The View from Within', Washington, DC, USA, 2020

NY Cultural Majlis | 'The View from Within', New York, USA, 2020

Ahliah School Centennial Exhibit | 'Drawn by Light', Beirut, Lebanon, 2017

American University of Beirut | 'The Road Less Traveled: the Shaping of a Life in Art', Beirut, Lebanon sponsored by karaz w laimoon and WAAAUB, 2015