

## Edward Shahda

Born in 1952 is a contemporary Syrian painter and sculptor. He began his creative journey in 1968 at the Suheil Ahdab Center in Hama before joining the Faculty Of Fine Arts in Damascus (1976-1971). He then resided at the Anatoli Klankov Atelier in Russia (1992-1991). As early as 1980 the artist has participated in several solo and collective exhibitions throughout the Middle East and internationally including his Hometown, Russia, Lebanon, Egypt, Dubai, Turkey, USA, Canada, France, Switzerland and China. Exhibitions include the Biennale exhibition in China in 2005 and 2008, as well as The Arab World Institute (IMA) exhibition in Paris in 2008.

His work ranges from acrylic and oil paintings to collages and China ink on rice paper. It exposes an underlying tension in line thicknesses and colour contrast. Surfaces of strong, lively colours often fade out and blurry outlines come together to create vaguely defined shapes with colour gradation. Figurative and symbolic shapes, portraiture, and female figures are predominant.

To Shahda, the human subject is the main concern in painting, and colour treatment and juxtapositions are his preoccupation during the painting process. Figures are central to his painting. They define the expression of space and frame the meaning of "place". Unconventional in his representation of women, the artist is also known for his ability to create vibrant and emotional images from real life scenes. He bends and sometimes breaks perspective rules in favour of strong, contrasting and dynamic colours. Contrasting colour with emotion, the artist often incorporates symbolism and mythology even when he tackles contemporary themes.

### Solo Exhibitions:

- 2015 Icarus, Art on 56th Gallery, Beirut, Lebanon
- 2013 Art on 56th Gallery, Beirut Lebanon
- 2011 To Mahdmoud Darwich, Tajalliyat Art Gallery, Damascus, Syria
- 2006 Atassi Gallery, Damascus , Syria
- 2002 Atelier Fateh Al Moudarres, Damascus, Syria
- 1995 Ishtar Gallery, Damascus, Syria
- 1992 Exhibition in Stavropol, Russia
- 1983 Damascus Military Housing Foundation
- 1981 Russian Cultural Center, Damascus, Syria

## Collective Exhibitions:

- 2025 Hope Haven, Art on 56th Gallery, Beirut, Lebanon
- 2022 Comeback Cairo, Egypt Int'l Art Fair, Cairo, Egypt
- 2021 Regeneration, Art on 56th Gallery, Beirut, Lebanon
- 2020 Comeback exhibition, Art on 56th Gallery, Beirut, Lebanon
- 2014 Art London 14, Art on 56th Gallery, London, UK
- 2013 Contemporary Istanbul, Art on 56th Gallery, Istanbul Turkey
- 2013 Summer Collective Exhibition, Art on 56th Gallery, Beirut, Lebanon
- 2013 Beirut Art Fair, Art on 56th Gallery, Beirut, Lebanon
- 2012 Beirut Art Fair, Art on 56th Gallery, Beirut, Lebanon
- 2009 Damascus seen by Paris' exhibition, National Museum, Damascus, Syria
- 2009 Dubai Arts exhibition, Dubai, UAE
- 2009 Ghayath Al Akhrass tribute exhibition
- 2008 Damascis seen by Paris' exhibition, Institute of Arab World, Paris, France
- 2008 Camel Arts Gallery opening exhibition
- 2008 Syrian artists exhibition in Fort Hamilton Gallery, New York
- 2008 Third International Biennale Beijing exhibition, China
- 2006-7 Project Tal Al Hijara (Artists' street)
- 2005 Little Painting exhibition, Canada
- 2005 Artists exhibition in Istanbul, Turkey
- 2005 Second International Biennale Beijing exhibition, China
- 2004 Co-exhibition in Dar Culture and Art Gallery, Drousha
- 2004 The Little Painting, Souad Issawi Gallery, Jordan
- 2003 Europe Art exhibition in Geneva, Switzerland
- 2001 Pinnelli, Alexandria
- 2000 Monterosa Forum in collaboration with Lebanese artists
- 1998 Life's Theater in the French Cultural Center, Damascus
- 1996 Exhibition with Karam Maatouk and Ghassan Nana in Al-Khanji Gallery in Aleppo, Syria
- 1996 Exhibition with the sculptor Zaki Salam, Al Shaeb Gallery in Homes
- 1992 Exhibition with 3 Russian artists in Stavropol, Russia
- 1984 Exhibition with Assem Al Basha, George Maher, Ghassan Nana at Al Shaeb Gallery Damascus