

## AbdulQader AlRais

Born in 1951 in Dubai. He holds a bachelor's degree in Sharia law from the University of Emirates in 1982. Commanding considerable renown in the United Arab Emirates, He explores the landscapes and traditions of his homeland.

A self-taught artist, Alrais primary form of expression is painting and his influences are largely from Dutch Masters and French Impressionists. His early works were realistic renderings of landscapes, traditional Emirati architecture, fishing boats and coastlines. His interest in old local architecture gems and nature were depicted in romantic realism.

Alrais stopped painting in 1974 until he graduated from Emirates University in 1982. More political themes permeated his work in the late 1980s and early 1990s, particularly in relation to Palestinian struggles. He later shifted his approach to a mixture of abstraction and calligraphy, focusing on the contours of Arabic letters using primarily water colors which are now regarded as his signature style. (As you can see).

He is a founding member of the Emirates Fine Art Society and is considered to be one of the pioneers of contemporary art in the UAE, noted for his mainly abstract artwork which has been widely exhibited both within the UAE and abroad.

His work has been presented in more than 36 solo exhibitions in the Middle East, Europe and the United States as well as many international group exhibitions, including 1980-Today exhibitions in the United Arab Emirates, UAE Pavilion, 56th Venice Biennale 2015, and Past Forward: Contemporary Art from the Emirates, Meridian International Center and UAE Embassy, Washington, D.C. 2014. Alrais's work was also part of a group exhibition represented by Mono Gallery in Beirut Art Fair 2019 and Misk Art Fair 2019.

AbdulQader's work has been collected by the British Museum in London, Mathaf Arab Museum of Modern Art Doha, Kuwait Museum of Modern Art, Sharjah Art Museum and Jordan National Gallery of Fine Arts, Amman.

His artworks can be also found in Emirati palaces, government offices and in the personal art collections of members of the royal family of Dubai.

Among his numerous awards are the Sheikh Khalifa Prize for Art and Literature, Abu Dhabi 2006, Golden Palm Award, Gulf Cooperation Council Art Exhibition, Doha 1999, first prize at The UAE in the Eyes of Its Artists, Abu Dhabi Cultural Foundation 1999, Sultan Alowais Award for Scientific Studies and Creativity, Dubai 1992, 1994, & 1996, and first prize at the UAE exhibition in China 1991.