

Nja Mahdaoui

Nja Mahdaoui was born in Tunis in 1937.

He is a Graduate of the Academy of Arts of Santa Andrea in Rome and the Ecole du Louvre, Department of Oriental Antiquities.

He has received a number of distinctions and national and international prizes, including the “Grand Prix des Arts et des Lettres Tunisia.”

He takes part in group artistic exhibitions such as biennales, as well as events sponsored by museums and galleries, and takes part regularly in seminars and colloquia at universities in Tunisia and abroad.

Mahdaoui has organized performances of “Total Art” which is interactive communication between Arab and Western artists, on the theme “Language and register in exchanges in the visual arts” as well as theatre and dance on the theme of “Body-Writing” taking place in Tunisia, France, Italy, Denmark, Japan, Cuba, Canada, Germany and Jordan.

Exhibitions:

“Pictorial Mappings of Islam & Modernity,” Martin Gropius Bau Museum, Berlin, Germany

“International Exhibition of Calligraphy II,” Contemporary Museum of Calligraphy, Moscow, Russia

“Routes II,” Waterhouse & Dodd, London, UK

Rafia Gallery, Damascus, Syria

Saatchi Gallery, London, UK

“Perspectives: Arab & Iranian Modern Masters,” Montcalm Gallery, Gatineau, Canada

Dar Al Funoon, Kuwait.

“Routes I,” Waterhouse & Dodd, London, UK

Hunar Gallery, Dubai, UAE

Silk Road Festival, Sharjah, UAE

Hewar Art Gallery, Riyadh, KSA

“Word into Art,” British Museum, Dubai, UAE

“The Brush Dances & the Ink Signs,” Hermitage Museum, St-Petersburg, Russia

Meem Gallery, Dubai, UAE

“The Brush Dances & the Ink Signs,” State Museum of Oriental Art, Moscow, Russia

Tehran Biennale (Guest of Honor and jury member), Iran

Sharjah Arab Art Biennale (Guest of Honor and jury member), UAE

“Word into Art,” British Museum, London, UK

Tunisian Great Prize of Arts & Letters, Tunisia

Art Craft Unesco Prize, Paris, France.

International Jury member of the Unesco Arts Prize

Gulf Air 50th Anniversary

“Signs, Traces and Calligraphy,” Barbican Centre, London, UK

Leighton House Museum, London, UK

“Images d’Afrique,” Barbican Center, London, UK

“Images d’Afrique,” Kit Museum, Amsterdam, Holland

“Images d’Afrique,” Odense Museum, Denmark

“Arab Book Art,” Bibliothèque Nationale, Paris, France

ART Basel, 1982

Gold Medal of the City of Jeddah, KSA

Iwalewa Center, Bayreuth, Germany

Wilfred Lam Modern Art Center, Cuba

The Ludwig Museum, Aachen, Germany

Poster for Amnesty International

Galerie COBOL, Copenhagen, Denmark

Duo with Wolfgang Heuwinkel at UNESCO, Paris, Berlin and the Gutenberg Museum in Mayence, Germany

“La Hune,” Paris, France

Rochan Gallery, Jeddah, KSA

Dakar Biennale (Jury member)

USIA Invitation in the USA

Citibank “International Album”

The Arab Woman Court organized by “El Taller” in Beirut and Beijing

ATCE (Tunisian Foreign Co-operation Agency) Tunisia

Icograda Zanders Calendar (UN & Unesco), New York & Paris.

The International Peace Book (Chantal Bernard, UNESCO),
France

Graphic Design Biennale of Brno, Czechoslovakia