

YOUSSEF NABIL

BORN

1972 Cairo, Egypt

Lives and works between Paris, France and New York, USA

SELECTED SOLO EXHIBITIONS

2026 To Dream Again, Musée d'Orsay, Paris, France

2025 Now Showing: Youssef Nabil's I Saved My Belly Dancer, Los Angeles County Museum of Art, Los Angeles, CA, USA

2022 The Beautiful Voyage, The Third Line, Dubai, UAE

Memory of a Happy Place, Nathalie Obadia Gallery, Paris, France

2020 Youssef Nabil: Once Upon A Dream, Palazzo Grassi, Venice, Italy

2019 Youssef Nabil, Institut du Monde Arabe, Turcoing, France

2017 I Saved My Belly Dancer, Pérez Art Museum Miami (PAMM), USA

2016 I Saved my Belly Dancer, The Third Line, Dubai, UAE

2015 I Saved my Belly Dancer, Galerie Nathalie Obadia, Paris, France

2013 Time of Transformation, The Third Line, Dubai, UAE

2012 Retrospective, La Maison Europeenne de la Photographie, Paris, France

You Never Left, Galerist, Istanbul, Turkey

2011 You Never Left, Galerie Nathalie Obadia, Paris, France

2010 I Live Within You, Savannah College of Art and Design-SCAD, Savannah, USA

Youssef Nabil, Yossi Milo Gallery, New York, USA

2009 Youssef Nabil, Galerist, Istanbul, Turkey

I Live Within You, Savannah College of Art and Design-SCAD, Atlanta, USA

I Won't Let You Die, Villa Medici, Rome, Italy

I Will Go to Paradise, The Third Line, Dubai, UAE

Youssef Nabil, Galerie Volker Diehl, Berlin, Germany

Youssef Nabil, The Third Line, Doha, Qatar

2008 CINEMA, Michael Stevenson Gallery, Cape Town, South Africa

2007 Sleep in my arms, Michael Stevenson Gallery, Cape Town, South Africa

Portraits / Self Portraits, The Third Line, Dubai, UAE

- 2005 Youssef Nabil Portraits, The Third Line, Dubai, UAE
Realities to Dreams, Townhouse Gallery of Contemporary Art, Cairo, Egypt
- 2003 Pour un Moment d'Eternité, Rencontres Internationales de la Photographie, Arles, France
- 2001 Obsesiones, Centro de la Imagen, Mexico City, Mexico
Rétrospective, Centre Culturel Français, Alexandria, Egypt
Youssef Nabil, Townhouse Gallery of Contemporary Art, Cairo, Egypt
- 1999 Premiere, Cairo—Berlin Art Gallery, Cairo, Egypt

SELECTED GROUP EXHIBITIONS

- 2025 The Only Way Out Is Through: The Twentieth Line, curated by Shumon Basar, Dubai, UAE
L'horizon sans fin, Musée des Beaux-Arts de Caen, Caen, France
Timeless Gazes: From Pharaohs to the Present Day, Villa Empain, Boghossian Foundation, Brussels, Belgium
2025 Tasweer Photo Festival, Doha, Qatar
Hot Spots, Sotheby's DIFC, Dubai, UAE
- 2024 Exils, Musée du Louvre, Lens, France
Le Temps d'un Rêve, Musée des Confluences, Lyon, France
De Renava - Biennale d'Art Contemporain de Bonifacio, La Corse, France
- 2023 Lee Alexander McQueen: Mind, Mythos, Muse. The Los Angeles County Museum of Art, LACMA, LA, USA.
15 Year Anniversary Brussels, Galerie Nathalie Obadia, Brussels, Belgium
Coups de Cœur, Galerie Tanit, Beirut, Lebanon
- 2022 Lee Alexander McQueen: Mind, Mythos, Muse. The Los Angeles County Museum of Art, LACMA, LA, USA.
Art Dubai with The Third Line, Dubai, UAE
Perpetual Inventory, Volume 1: An Exercise in Looking, The Third Line, Dubai, UAE
- 2021 Beyond Colour, Black and White in the Pinault Collection, Couvent des Jacobins, Rennes, France
Reflections, Contemporary Art of the Middle East and North Africa. The British Museum, London, UK
A Boundless Drop to a Boundless Ocean, Orlando Museum of Art, Florida, USA
- 2020 There Is Fiction In The Space Between, The Third Line, Dubai, UAE

- Histories of Dance, MASP Museu de Arte de São Paulo, São Paulo, Brazil
Orientalisms, IVAM Institut Valencià d'Art Modern, Valencia, Spain
- 2019 Eyes East Bound, The 13th International Cairo Biennale, Cairo, Egypt
Climbing Through the Tide, B7L9, Kamel Lazaar Foundation. Tunis, Tunisia
- 2018 The Shapes of Birds: Contemporary Art of the Middle East and North Africa, Newport Art Museum, Newport, USA
Boundaries and Tresholds, 4th Mardin Biennial, Mardin, Turkey
- 2018 Al Musiqqa, Cité de la Musique - Philharmonie de Paris, Paris, France
- 2016 Hips Don't Lie, Centre Pompidou, Malaga, Spain
The Blue Hour, Centro Cultural de Santa Cruz, Biennale of Visual Arts of Santa Cruz, Bolivia
Portrait of the Artist as an Alter, FRAC Haute-Normandie, Sotteville-lès-Rouen, France
Dream Light, Perez Art Museum Miami, Florida, USA
- 2015 Botticelli Reimagined, Victoria and Albert Museum, London
Looking at the world around you: Contemporary Art from the Qatar Museums, Fundaciòn Banco Santander, Madrid
The Botticelli Renaissance, Staatliche Museen ze Berlin, Germany
Home Ground: Contemporary Art from the Barjeel Art Foundation, Aga Khan Museum, Toronto, Canada
View from Inside: Contemporary Arab Photography, Video and Mixed Media Art, Abu Dhabi Festival, Emirates Palace, Abu Dhabi, UAE
The Divine Comedy: Heaven, Hell, Purgatory, Smithsonian National Museum of African Art, Washington DC, USA
Islamic Art Now: Contemporary Art of the Middle East, LACMA, Los Angeles, USA
- 2014 Harlem Postcards Fall/Winter 2014-15, Studio Museum Harlem, New York, USA
The Divine Comedy: Heaven, Hell, Purgatory, Museum fur Modern Kunst, SCAD Museum of Art, Savannah, USA
TBD, Barjeel Art Foundation, Sharjah, UAE
The Divine Comedy: Heaven, Hell, Purgatory, Museum fur Modern Kunst, Frankfurt, Germany
Germany
Ri-conoscere Michelangelo, Galleria dell'Accademia, Florence, Italy
Tea with Nefertiti, Staatliches Museum Ägyptischer Kunst München, Germany

- 2013 Matisse in Nice: Palm Trees, Palms and Palmettes, Musee Massena, Nice, France
Tea With Nefertiti, L’Institut du Monde Arabe, Paris, France and
Institut Valencia d’Art Modern, Valencia
25 Years of Arab Creativity, National Museum of Bahrain, in collaboration with
L’Institut du Monde Arabe, Manama, Bahrain
Sous influences, arts plastiques et psychotropes, La Maison rouge, Paris, France
Safar/Voyage, Museum of Anthropology, Vancouver, Canada
Ici, ailleurs, Friche la Belle de Mai, Marseille, France
- 2012 Le Corps Decouvert, The Institute Du Monde Arabe, Paris, France
Light from the Middle East: New Photography, The Victoria & Albert Museum, London, UK
The Royal Academy of Arts Encounter, Culture Village Foundation Katara, Doha, Qatar
Light from the Middle East: New Photography, The Victoria & Albert Museum, London, UK
Tea with Nefertiti, MATHAF Arab Museum of Modern Art, Doha, Qatar
Édouard et Cléopâtre, égyptomanies depuis le xixe siècle, Boghossian Foundation,
Brussels, Belgium
Pose/Re-Pose: Figurative Works Then and Now, SCAD Museum of Art, Savannah,
Georgia, USA
- 2011 Facing Mirrors, Museum of Photography, Thessaloniki, Greece
Images Affranchies, Marrakech Art Fair, Marrakech, Morocco
Of Women’s Modesty and Anger, Boghossian Foundation, Brussels, Belgium
- 2010 Told / Untold / Retold, Mathaf: Arab Museum of Modern Art, Doha, Qatar
- 2009 Unconditional Love, 53rd Venice Biennale, Venice, Italy
Arabesque, Arts of The Arab World, The Kennedy Center, Washington DC, USA
- 2008 Far from Home, North Carolina Museum of Art. North Carolina, USA
Portraits II, Galeria Leme, São Paulo, Brazil
Last of the Dictionary Men: BAL TIC, Newcastle, UK
Disguise, Michael Stevenson Gallery, Cape Town, South Africa
Regards des Photographes Arabes Contemporains, Musée National d’Art Moderne et
Contemporain,
Alger, Algeria
Perfect Lovers, Art Extra, Johannesburg, South Africa

- 2007 Gegenwart aus Jahrtausenden, Zeitgenössische Kunst aus Ägypten, Kunst, Museum Bonn, Germany
Dialogues Méditerranéens, Saint-Tropez, France
- 2006 Arabiske Blikke, GL Strand Museum, Copenhagen, Denmark
Word into Art, The British Museum, London, UK
Images of the Middle East, Danish Centre for Culture and Development, Copenhagen, Denmark
19 miradas. Fotógrafos árabes contemporáneos, Centro Andaluz de Arte Contemporáneo, Sevilla, Spain
- 2005 Regards des Photographes Arabes Contemporains, Institut du Monde Arabe, Paris, France
Nazar, Photographs from the Arab World, The Aperture Foundation Gallery, New York, USA
L'Égypte, Saline Royale d'Arc et Senans, France
- 2004 Arab Eyes, FotoFest Houston, Texas, USA
Nazar: Noorderlicht, The Fries Museum, Leeuwarden, The Netherlands
Rites sacrés, Rites profanes: Zeitgenössische Afrikanische Fotografie, Kornhausforum, Bern, Switzerland
Staged Realities: Exposing the Soul in African Photography 1870—2004, Michael Stevenson Contemporary Gallery, Cape Town, South Africa
À Bamako, Le Caire, La FNAC, Paris, France
Bamako 03: Contemporary African Photography, Centre de Cultura Contemporània de Barcelona, Spain
- 2003 Rites sacrés, Rites profanes, Rencontres Africaines de la Photographie, Bamako, Mali

MONOGRAPHS

- 2020 Once Upon A Dream, Youssef Nabil – Marsilio
- 2013 Youssef Nabil – Flammarion
- 2008 I Won't Let you Die, Youssef Nabil - Hatje Cantz
- 2007 Sleep in my Arms, Youssef Nabil - Autograph & Michael Stevenson

VIDEOS

- 2021 The Beautiful Voyage, With Charlotte Rampling and Youssef Nabil, 8 mins
- 2016 Arabian Happy Ending, 28 mins

2015 I Saved My Belly Dancer, With Salma Hayek and Tahar Rahim, 12 mins

2010 You Never Left, With Fanny Ardant and Tahar Rahim, 8 mins

AWARDS

2021 Artist of the Year, GQ Middle East

2003 The Seydou Keita Prize for Portraiture, Rencontres Africaines de la Photographie, Bamako, Mali

RESIDENCIES

2003 Cité Internationale des Arts, Paris, France

ACQUISITIONS

Pérez Art Museum Miami (PAMM), Miami, USA

Collection François Pinault, Paris, France

The Louis Vuitton Foundation, Paris, France

The Studio Museum in Harlem, New York, USA

La Maison Européenne de La photographie, Paris, France

The Los Angeles County Museum of Art, LACMA, LA, USA

The Orlando Museum of Art, Florida, USA

The British Museum, London, UK

The Victoria & Albert Museum, London, UK

The Guggenheim Museum, Abu Dhabi, UAE

Mathaf Arab Museum of Modern Art, Doha, Qatar

Sindika Dokolo Foundation, Luanda, Angola.

SCAD Museum of Art, Savannah, GA, USA

Centro De La Imagen, Mexico City, Mexico

Musée Réattu, Arles, France

UBS Art Collection, Zurich, Switzerland

Barjeel Art Foundation, UAE

Museum of Photography, Thessaloniki, Greece