

# Alexander Gray Associates

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## HASSAN SHARIF

Born 1951, Bandar Lengeh, Iran

Died 2016, Dubai, United Arab Emirates

## EDUCATION

1984 Diploma in Fine Art and Design, Byam Shaw School of Art, London, United Kingdom

## SELECTED ONE-PERSON EXHIBITIONS

- 2025 *The Storyteller*, Gallery Isabelle, Dubai, UAE
- 2024 *Hassan Sharif: Gathering*, Alexander Gray Associates, New York, NY  
*Solo show*, Galleria Franco Noero, Turin, Italy
- 2022 *Hassan Sharif: Political Paintings (2008-2009)*, Alexander Gray Associates, New York, NY  
*184 Nails*, Gallery Isabelle, Dubai, United Arab Emirates
- 2021 *Hassan Sharif: I Am the Single Work Artist*, The Musée d'art moderne et contemporain de Saint-Étienne Métropole (MAMC+), Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes, France
- 2020 *Hassan Sharif: I Am the Single Work Artist*, Malmö Konsthall, Sweden  
*Hassan Sharif: from daily experience to collective stories*, gb agency, Paris, France  
*Hassan Sharif: I Am the Single Work Artist*, KW Institute for Contemporary Art, Berlin, Germany
- 2019 *Hassan Sharif: Blue*, Gallery Isabelle, Dubai, United Arab Emirates
- 2018 *Hassan Sharif: Semi-Systems*, Alexander Gray Associates, New York, NY
- 2017 *Reading is Making: Books and Boxes*, gb agency, Paris, France  
*Hassan Sharif: I Am The Single Work Artist*, Sharjah Art Foundation, United Arab Emirates  
*Hassan Sharif: Expérimentations*, La Patinoire Royale, Brussels, Belgium
- 2016 *Hassan Sharif*, Alexander Gray Associates, New York, NY  
*Hassan Sharif: Objects and Files*, Mathaf: Arab Museum of Modern Art, Doha, Qatar
- 2015 *Barjeel Art Foundation Collection*, Whitechapel Gallery, London, United Kingdom  
*The Physical is Universal*, gb agency, Paris, France  
*Images*, Gallery Isabelle, Dubai, United Arab Emirates
- 2014 *Hassan Sharif*, Alexander Gray Associates, New York, NY
- 2013 *Approaching Entropy*, IVDE Gallery, Dubai, United Arab Emirates

- 2012 *Hassan Sharif Works 1979-2011*, Sfeir-Semler Gallery, Beirut, Lebanon  
*Hassan Sharif*, Alexander Gray Associates, New York, NY  
*Hassan Sharif*, Level One, Paris, France
- 2011 *Hassan Sharif Experiments & Objects 1979-2011*, Qasr Al Hosn, Cultural Quarter Hall, Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates
- 2009 *Press Conference*, 1x1 Contemporary, Dubai, United Arab Emirates
- 2007 Sharjah Art Museum, United Arab Emirates
- 2003 Sharjah International Arts Biennial, United Arab Emirates
- 2001 Sharjah International Arts Biennial, United Arab Emirates
- 1995 Sharjah International Arts Biennial, United Arab Emirates
- 1986 Emirates Fine Art Society, Sharjah, United Arab Emirates
- 1985 Emirates Fine Art Society, Sharjah, United Arab Emirates
- 1976 *Caricature*, Central Public Library, Dubai, United Arab Emirates

## SELECTED GROUP EXHIBITIONS

- 2024 *Hour Eternal - Emirati Abstraction*, Bassam Friha Art Foundation (BFAF), Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates  
*Matters Through Matter*, Sharbatly House, Al-Balad, Jeddag, Saudi Arabia  
*After Rain*, Diriyah Contemporary Art Biennale, JAX District, Diriyah, Riyadh, Saudi Arabia
- 2023 *Triennale Art & Industrie: Chaleur Humaine*, Frac Grand Large - Hauts-de-France, Dunkerque, France  
*Between Looking and Seeing*, gb agency, Paris, France  
*The Art Library: Manal AlDowayan and Hassan Sharif*, Misk Art Institute, Riyadh, Saudi Arabia  
*Long Story Short*, The Museum of Contemporary Art, Los Angeles, CA
- 2022 *In the Heart of Another Country: The Diasporic Imagination in the Sharjah Art Foundation Collection*, Deichtorhallen Hamburg, Germany  
*Khaleej Modern: Pioneers and Collectives in the Arabian Peninsula*, The Art Gallery at NYU Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates  
*Stories of Paper*, Louvre Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates  
*Dance of Life*, gb agency, Paris, France  
*The Living Studio*, Whitechapel Gallery, London, United Kingdom
- 2021 *Taking Shape: Abstraction from the Arab World, 1950s to 1980s*, McMullen Museum of Art at Boston College, Boston, MA; University of Michigan Museum of Art, Ann Arbor, MI
- 2020 *To Speak with Many Tongues: Selections from the Sharjah Art Foundation Collection*, Royal College of Art, London  
*Taking Shape: Abstraction from the Arab World, 1950s to 1980s*, Grey Art Gallery, New York University, New York; Mary and Leigh Block Museum of Art, Northwestern University, Evanston, IL; Herbert F. Johnson Museum at Cornell University, Ithaca, NY
- 2019 *Contemporary Art. Asia, Australia and the Pacific: Selection of the Asia Pacific Triennial of the Queensland Art Gallery | Gallery of Modern Art*, Centro Cultural la Moneda, Santiago, Chile  
*Popular Culture & the City*, Manarat Al Saadiyat, Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates

- 2018 *Uniques: Cahiers écrits, dessinés, imprimés*, Fondation Martin Bodmer, Geneva, Switzerland  
*Artists and the Cultural Foundation: The Early Years*, Cultural Foundation, Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates  
*Crude*, Jameel Arts Centre, Dubai, United Arab Emirates  
*The Monochrome Revisited*, Jean-Paul Najar Foundation, Dubai, United Arab Emirates  
The 9th Asia Pacific Triennial of Contemporary Art, Queensland Art Gallery and Gallery of Modern Art (QAGOMA), Brisbane, Australia  
*Ways of Seeing*, New York University Abu Dhabi Art Gallery, United Arab Emirates  
*Collection David H. Broliet, Geneva: 40 Years of Collector's Passion*, Fondation Fernet-Branca, Saint-Louis, France  
*A Century in Flux: Highlights from the Barjeel Art Foundation*, Sharjah Art Museum, United Arab Emirates  
*We Began By Measuring Distance*, Musée d'art moderne et contemporain, Geneva, Switzerland  
*Odradek*, Malmö Konsthall, Malmö, Sweden  
*From Barcelona to Abu Dhabi*, Manaret Al Saadiyat, Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates
- 2017 *Ways of Seeing*, ARTER– Space for Art, Istanbul; Villa Empain, Boghossian Foundation, Brussels, Belgium  
*Good Printing*, Gallery Isabelle, Dubai, United Arab Emirates  
*Viva Arte Viva*, 57th Venice Biennale, Italy  
*100 Masterpieces of Modern and Contemporary Art*, Institut Du Monde Arabe and The Barjeel Art Foundation, Paris, France  
*The Creative Act: Performance • Process • Presence*, The Guggenheim Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates  
*But We Cannot See Them: Tracing a UAE Underground, 1988-2008*, New York University Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates  
*Restless Earth*, The Trussardi Foundation, Milan, Italy
- 2016 *Paper Stories*, Level One, gb agency, Paris, France  
*For an Image, Faster Than Light*, Yinchuan Biennale, The Museum of Contemporary Art Yinchuan, China  
*Portrait of a Nation*, Emirates Palace, Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates  
*Haptic*, Alexander Gray Associates, New York, NY  
*Looking at the World Around You. Contemporary Works from Qatar Museums*. Santander Art Gallery, Madrid, Spain  
*Do It [In Arabic]*, Sharjah Art Foundation, United Arab Emirates  
*In Search of Lost Time*, Brunei Gallery, London, United Kingdom  
*White Cube...Literally: on form and convention of display*, Gallery Isabelle, Dubai, United Arab Emirates  
*Emirates Fine Arts Society's 34th Annual Exhibition*, Sharjah Art Museum and Manarat Al Saadiyat, United Arab Emirates  
*The Books of Asia, Part II*, Asian Culture Institute, Gwangju, South Korea  
*Inventing the Museum: Works from Mathaf: Arab Museum of Modern Art*, Fundación Banco Santander, Madrid, Spain
- 2015 *Abu Dhabi Art*, Gallery Isabelle, Manaret Al Saadiyat, Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates  
*A Prologue to the Past and Present State of Things*, Delfina Foundation, London

- 1980–Today: *Exhibitions in the United Arab Emirates*, United Arab Emirates Pavilion, 56th Venice Biennale, Italy
- Sharjah Biennial 12: The past, the present, the possible*, United Arab Emirates
- Adventures of the Black Square: Abstract Art and Society 1915–2015*, Whitechapel Gallery, London, United Kingdom
- 2014 *Mathaf Collection, Summary, Part 1*, Mathaf: Arab Museum of Modern Art, Doha, Qatar
- Here and Elsewhere*, New Museum of Contemporary Art, New York, NY
- Une Histoire, Art, Architecture et Design, Des Années 80 à Aujourd’hui*, Centre Pompidou, Paris, France
- artevida corpo [body]*, Fundação Casa França-Brasil, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil
- 1a Bienal Internacional de Arte Contemporáneo*, Cartagena de Indias, Columbia
- 2013 *New Beginnings*, Salwa Zeidan Gallery, Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates
- Trade Routes*, Hauser & Wirth, London, United Kingdom
- Broken Spaces: Cut, Mark, and Gesture*, Alexander Gray Associates, New York, NY
- Two Parallel Lines: Hassan Sharif and Luis Camnitzer*, Satellite, Dubai, United Arab Emirates
- 2012 18th Biennale of Sydney, Art Gallery of New South Wales, Sydney, Australia
- MinD. Dubai Contemporary*, Dubai Contemporary Theatre and Arts Centre, Dubai, United Arab Emirates
- Systems and Patterns*, The International Centre of Graphic Arts, Ljubljana, Slovenia
- Paper*, Musée d’Art Moderne et d’Art Contemporain, Nice, France
- 2010 *Vis Roboris*, AB Gallery, Lucerne, Switzerland
- Dropping Lines*, Salwa Zeidan Gallery, Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates
- Interventions*, Mathaf: Arab Museum of Modern Art, Doha, Qatar
- Arab world meets Zurich*, AB Gallery, Zurich, Switzerland
- 2009 *Across the Gulf*, ARC Biennial, Brisbane, Australia
- It’s Not You, It’s Me*, United Arab Emirates National Pavilion, La Biennale di Venezia, 53rd International Art Exhibition, Venice, Italy
- ADACH Platform for Visual Arts*, La Biennale di Venezia, 53rd International Art Exhibition, Italy
- Golden Gates, Contemporary Art from the Middle East*, Paris, France
- Performance Art of the 1980s. A Comparison*, The Prague Contemporary Art Festival, Prague, Czech Republic
- Contemporary Emirati Art*, Salwa Zeidan Gallery, Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates
- 2008 *Season of Art*, DIFC, Dubai, United Arab Emirates
- The Flying House First Group Show*, Mashreq Bank, Dubai, United Arab Emirates
- The Flying House at the Creek Art Fair*, Al Bastakiya, Dubai, United Arab Emirates
- Selected United Arab Emirates Contemporary Artists Expo*, Saragossa, Spain
- Breaking News. Contemporary Art from the Middle East*, Paris, France
- Contemporary Emirati Art*, Salwa Zeidan Gallery, Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates
- 2007 *The Masters*, Royal Mirage, Dubai, United Arab Emirates
- The Emirates and its Renowned Arab Artists*, Dubai Community Theater and Art Center, Mall of the Emirates, Dubai, United Arab Emirates
- 2006 *Window, 16 United Arab Emirates Artists*, Total Art Gallery, Dubai, United Arab Emirates

- 2005 *Cultural Diversity Exhibition*, Sharjah Art Museum, United Arab Emirates  
*Languages of the Desert*, Kunst Museum, Bonn, Germany  
 The 7th Sharjah International Art Biennial, United Arab Emirates
- 2003 The 6th Sharjah International Art Biennial, United Arab Emirates
- 2002 *5 UAE*, Ludwig Forum for International Art, Aachen, Germany
- 2001 The 5th Sharjah International Art Biennial, United Arab Emirates
- 2000 *Emirates Identities*, French Cultural Center, Dubai, United Arab Emirates  
*The Contemporary Arts of the Arab World*, Shoman Foundation, Darat AL Funun, Amman, Jordan  
 The 7th Havana Biennial, Cuba
- 1999 The 4th Sharjah International Art Biennial, United Arab Emirates
- 1998 *United Arab Emirates Contemporary Art*, Institute of Arab World, Paris, France  
 The 7th Cairo International Biennial, Egypt
- 1997 *United Arab Emirates Artists*, French Cultural Center, Dubai, United Arab Emirates  
 The 3rd Sharjah International Art Biennial, United Arab Emirates
- 1996 *The Six Exhibition*, Sharjah Art Museum, United Arab Emirates
- 1995 *Emirates Art*, Sittard Art Centre, Sittard, The Netherlands  
 The 2nd Sharjah International Art Biennial, United Arab Emirates
- 1994 *Five Artists Exhibition*, Emirates Fine Arts Society, Sharjah, United Arab Emirates
- 1993 The 1st Sharjah International Art Biennial, United Arab Emirates
- 1990 *Exhibition of the Emirates Fine Art Society in the Soviet Union*, Soviet Union of Fine Art, Moscow, USSR
- 1988 The 3rd Cairo International Biennial, Egypt
- 1985 *Sea and Desert*, Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates  
*One Day Exhibition*, Almirajah Art Atelier, Sharjah, United Arab Emirates
- 1984 *Central Market*, Sharjah, United Arab Emirates
- 1983 *-/+ (minus/plus)*, Al Ahli Club, Dubai, United Arab Emirates
- 1976 *Second Youth Exhibition*, Dubai National Theatre, United Arab Emirates
- 1974 *First Youth Exhibition*, Dubai National Theatre, United Arab Emirates

## **PUBLIC COLLECTIONS**

Aldar, Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates  
 Barjeel Art Foundation, Sharjah, United Arab Emirates  
 Centre Pompidou, Paris, France  
 Fondation Louis Vuitton, Paris, France  
 Frac Bretagne, Rennes, France  
 Guggenheim Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates  
 Solomon R. Guggenheim, New York, NY  
 Jameel Arts Centre, Dubai, United Arab Emirates  
 JP Morgan Chase Art Collection, New York, NY  
 Louvre Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates

M+ Museum, Hong Kong  
Mathaf: Arab Museum of Modern Art, Doha, Qatar  
Musée d'art moderne et contemporain, Geneva, Switzerland  
Museum of Contemporary Art, Yinchuan, China  
NYU Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates  
Salama bint Hamdan Foundation, Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates  
Sharjah Art Foundation, United Arab Emirates  
Sharjah Art Museum, United Arab Emirates  
Tate Modern, London, United Kingdom  
Ullens Center for Contemporary Art, Beijing, China  
Zayed University, Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates

## **AWARDS**

2012 Alice Award for Solo Exhibition in a Public Gallery  
John Jones Art on Paper Award  
2009 Emirates Foundation Competitive Arts Grant

## **SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY**

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"Abu Dhabi Tourism & Culture Authority Celebrates the Opening of The Creative Act: Performance, Process, Presence, Second Exhibition from The Guggenheim Abu Dhabi Collection." *PR Newswire*, March 9, 2017.  
Abu Louz, Yousif. "The Merchant of Fake Jewelry." *Al Khaleej*, April 19, 1999.  
"ADACH hails three month Experiments & Objects exhibition a tremendous success." *WAM Emirates News Agency*, June 19, 2011.  
"ADACH launches monograph of Emirati artist Hassan Sharif's work at Venice Biennale." *WAM Emirates News Agency*, June 4, 2011.  
"ADACH opens monographic exhibition." *WAM Emirates News Agency*, March 18, 2011.  
"ADACH to organise first major monographic exhibition of Emirati artist Hassan Sharif." *WAM Emirates News Agency*, March 15, 2011.  
Ahmad, Shahira. Translated by Dr. Hassan El-Rayah. "Hassan Sharif Exclusively to Al Bayan." *Al Bayan*, June 10, 1989.  
Ahmed, Nizar. "Winners of 20th Ismailia Int'l Film Festival announced." *Egypt Today*, April 21, 2018.  
Aima, Rahel. "The Best Shows to See in Dubai Right Now." *Frieze*, April 15, 2025.  
\_\_\_\_\_. "On the Ground: Dubai." *Artforum*, December 8, 2017.  
\_\_\_\_\_. "Real Surreal." *Artforum*, March 20, 2017.  
"Alexander Gray Associates: 'Hassan Sharif.'" *Hamptons Art Hub*, April 6, 2016.

Al Ghanim, Nujoum. Translated by Mohamed Aydabi. "Where is Plastic Art in the Gulf Going?" *Al Ittihad*, April 20, 1986.

Al Halyan, Maray. Translated by Dr. Hassan El-Rayah "The Six Exhibition and Discussion on the Concept of Art." *Al Bayan*, October 9, 1996.

Al Qasimi, Hoor. *Hassan Sharif: I am the Single Work Artist*. Sharjah: Sharjah Art Foundation, 2020.

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Al Qasimi, Hoor. "Hassan Sharif: I Am The Single Work Artist, An Introduction." In *Universes in Universe*, 2017.

Al Rashid, Khalid. Translated by Dr. Hassan El-Rayah. "Hassan Sharif the Experimentalist." *Al Ittihad*, April 6, 2000.

Al Rashid, Khalid and Hassan Sharif. Translated by Dr. Hassan El-Rayah. "A Personalized Dialogue with Artist." *Al-Khaleej*, February 1, 1999.

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Al Shatti, Nouriah. "The Artists That Helped Shape the UAE Contemporary Art Scene." *Vogue Arabia*, March 6, 2017.

Ansari, Saffiya. "Art Dubai Paints Picture of Diverse Culture." *Arab News*, March 16, 2017.

\_\_\_\_\_. "Louvre Abu Dhabi set to open its doors to the world." *Arab News*, November 8, 2017

"Arab Artists: Hassan Sharif turns the ordinary into extraordinary." *Al Arabiya News*, September 30, 2012.

"Artists Interconnect to Define Guggenheim." *Khaleej Times*, March 6, 2017.

Ayad, Myrna. "Abdulraheem on Hassan: My Brother, My Friend, My Teacher." *Selections*, October 6, 2021.

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Bardaouil, Sam and Till Fellrath. *Summer, Autumn, Winter...and Spring: Conversations with Artists from the Arab World*. Skira: Milan, Italy, 2014.

Badr, Khalid. "The works of Hassan Sharif: A post-Modernism Medium." *Al Ittihad*, May 1, 1997.

Ball-Lechgar, Lisa. "Hassan Sharif, Minimal Excess." *Canvas Magazine*, Vol. 4, Issue 1, January 2008.

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Bedirian, Razmig. "Twenty years of Emirati abstract art on show in new Bassam Freiha Art Foundation exhibition." *The National*, October 23, 2024.

\_\_\_\_\_. "What to expect from Mohamed Ahmed Ibrahim's exhibition at Venice Biennale 2022." *The National News*, April 18, 2022.

Behan, Rosemary. "Where local art takes flight." *The National*, August 10, 2008.

Bishop, Claire. "Opening Gambit." *Artforum* 48.1, September 2009.

"Bonhams Celebrates Emerging Contemporary Emirati and Iranian Artists." *Middle East Company News*, November 10, 2008.

Bonomi, Bianca. "All about Arab art at Frieze." *The National*, October 10, 2012.

Brady, Anna. "Global Ambitions: Art Dubai Comes of Age." *Harpers Bazaar Arabia*, March 14, 2017.

"Capturing the Elusive." *The National*, March 17, 2013.

Carver, Antonia. "Antonia Carver on Hassan Sharif." *Art in America*, August 1, 2017.

Chaves, Alexandra. "UAE at 50: artist Mohammed Kazem reflects on the rapid rise of the country's art scene." *The National News*, January 22, 2022.

\_\_\_\_\_. "A look back: the five UAE artists who shaped the country's contemporary art scene." *The National News*, December 2, 2020.

\_\_\_\_\_. "Berlin looks back at the work of late Emirati artist Hassan Sharif." *The National*, March 4, 2020.

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Cotter, Holland. "Far From Home, an Arab Summer." *The New York Times*, July 17, 2014.

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e reflects modernity and tradition." *The National*, May 6, 2015.

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de Buchet, Valery. "Dubai: Mine D'Art." *Madame Figaro*, August 29, 2014.

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Demirkazik, Gökcan. "Happy Birthday, Zayed!" *Artforum*, November 25, 2018.

de Marchi, Cristiana. "Starting with empty spaces." *Interventions*. Exhibition catalogue. Arab Museum of Modern Art, Doha, Qatar, 2010, pp. 78-87.

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Espósito, Ana Laura. "La Biennale Non É Viva? Niente Affatto!" *Exibart.com*, July 9, 2017.

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\_\_\_\_\_. "Sharjah Art Museum: new exhibition sheds light on Aran Modernism." *The National*, May 13, 2018.

\_\_\_\_\_. "UAE Pavilion's Venice Biennale exhibitions on display at Warehouse421." *The National*, March 8, 2018.

\_\_\_\_\_. "What to expect at Abu Dhabi Art 2017." *The National*, November 6, 2017.

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"Hassan Sharif: a retrospective of his work at the MAMC." *Kawa*, August 2, 2021.

"Hassan Sharif's exhibition at Qasr Al Hosn secures international recognition." *Middle East Online*, June 2012.

"Hassan Sharif, Experimentations." *Hoom Art Gallery*, April 17, 2017.

"Hassan Sharif 'I am the single Work Artist' at Musée d'art moderne et contemporain de Saint-Étienne métropole." *Mousse Magazine*, September 24, 2021.

Hattar, Ruba. "Hassan Sharif: I Am The Single Work Artist Exhibit Travels from Sharjah, UAE to Malmö, Sweden." *Al Bawaba*, October 13, 2020.

Holland, Jessica. "Craftsmanship is in play at Hassan Sharif's exhibition in New York." *The National*, January 27, 2014.

"Interview with Hassan Sharif." *Qantare Magazine*, July 2007.

Johnson, Alice. "How to continue the growth of Emirati art." *The National*, April 24, 2012.

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\_\_\_\_\_. "Creativity in the mundane." *Gulf News*, December 5, 2013.

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Zbigniew Libera from the 1970s and 1980s." *Tina b. 2009, The Prague Contemporary Art Festival*. Exhibition catalogue. pp. 78–82, Prague 2009.

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"L'art critique de Hassan Sharif." *L'Orient le Jour*, April 10, 2012.

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"Look: Louvre Abu Dhabi's 'Stories of Paper.'" *Gulf News*, April 20, 2022.

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"Louvre Abu Dhabi's New Exhibition, Stories of Paper, Opens To The Public." *Outlook*, April 29, 2022.

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Mania, Astrid. "Art Dubai." *Art Agenda*, March 20, 2013.

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