

Nadia Ayari

Biography & CV

Born 1981. Tunis, Tunisia

Lives and works Brooklyn, New York

Nadia Ayari is a Tunisian American painter based in New York known for her distinctively textured paintings that balance abstraction and narration while exploring themes of survival.

Ayari moved to the United States in 2000, earning a Bachelor's degree in Art History from Boston University and a Master's degree of Fine Arts in Painting from the Rhode Island School of Design. Straddling abstraction and figuration, her work often negotiates the personal and the political. Employing a set of protagonists inspired by the flora of her native North Africa, she creates compositions that are visual representations of our Anthropocene condition. She renders these scenes in thick, methodically applied oil-paint to give the characters and the plastic space they inhabit substantial skin, making them physically relatable.

Her works can be found in collections of the Collection Pinault, Paris, France; the Dalloul Art Foundation, Beirut, Lebanon; The X Museum, Beijing, China, The Kamel Lazaar Foundation, Tunis, Tunisia; The Scantland Collection, Columbus, Ohio; Fundación Medianoche, Grenada, Spain; Museum of African Contemporary Art Al Maaden, Marrakesh, Morocco Barjeel Foundation, Sharjah, UAE; State Museum of Contemporary Art; Thessaloniki, Greece; Saatchi Collection, London, UK.

Education

2007 MFA in Painting, Rhode Island School of Design, Providence, RI

2005 CFA in Painting, Brandeis University, Waltham, MA

2004 BA in Art History, Boston University, Boston, MA

Selected Solo Exhibitions

2026 Selma Feriani, Tunis, Tunisia (upcoming)

2024 Lisa Kandlhofer, Vienna, Austria

About Surrender, Double Q Gallery, Hong Kong

2023 *Glitches, Amplifications*, Cadet Capela, Paris, France

2022 *Eyelash in the Unknown*, Nina Johnson Gallery, Miami, FL

Wave, 89 Greene at Signs and Symbols, New York, NY

2021 *We Saw Stars*, Taymour Grahne Projects, London, UK

2020 *New Drawings*, Taymour Grahne Projects (online)

8 Ways of Holding On, Art Genève, Taymour Grahne Projects, Geneva, Switzerland

2019 *8 Ways of Holding On*, Taymour Grahne Projects, London, UK
 2016 *Alien*, Untitled Miami Beach, Taymour Grahne Gallery, Miami, FL
Bricks, Taymour Grahne Gallery, New York, NY
 2013 *The Fountain and the Fig*, The Third Line, Dubai, UAE
 2011 *This Place*, Monya Rowe Gallery, New York, NY
 2009 *Nadia Ayari*, Luce Gallery, Turin, Italy

Selected Group Exhibition

2024 *Spectre Visible*, Christie's, Paris, France
 2023 *One Wall a Web Through Which the Moment Walks*, 1/9 unosunove, Rome, Italy
States of Becoming, Independent Curators International, Center for Art Design and Visual Culture, Baltimore, MD
Kawkaba: Highlights from the Barjeel Art Collection, Christie's, London, UK
Immersed, Jack Siebert Projects, Los Angeles, CA
 2022 *States of Becoming*, Independent Curators International, The Africa Center, New York, NY
 1:54 Contemporary African Art Fair, Taymour Grahne Projects, London, UK
Landscape, Woaw Gallery, Hong Kong
Density's Glitch, Fine Arts Work Center, Provincetown, MA
Intimacy, Taymour Grahne Projects, London, UK
The Entelechians, Eric Ruschman, Chicago, IL
 2021 *Trove*, Artsy, Edition, Miami, FL
Art, a Serious Game, MACAAL, Marrakech, Morocco
Greater New York, MoMA PS1, Queens, NY
Ridiculous Sublime, SFA Advisory, New York, NY
 2020 *El que busca, encuentra...y sigue encontrando*, White Columns, New York, NY (online)
 2018 *Cinnamon*, Produce Model Gallery, Chicago, IL
 2017 *Between Two Rounds of Fire, the Exile of the Sea*, American University Museum, Washington, DC
Volley, Abrons Arts Center, New York, NY
Immigrancy, Samson Projects, Boston, MA
 Dallas Art Fair, Taymour Grahne Gallery, Dallas, TX
Through Thick and Thin: Image Painting Today, Erin Cluley Gallery, Dallas, TX
100 Chefs D'Oeuvre, Institut du Monde Arabe, Paris, France
 2016 *A Verdant Summer*, Taymour Grahne Gallery, New York, NY
Me, My, Mine, DC Moore Gallery, New York, NY
 Dallas Art Fair, Taymour Grahne Gallery, Dallas, TX
 Art Dubai, Taymour Grahne Gallery, New York, NY
 2015 *Walls and Margins*, Maraya Art Centre, Sharjah, UAE
 EXPO Chicago, Taymour Grahne Gallery, Chicago, IL
Seducers, Greenpoint Terminal Gallery, Brooklyn, NY
 2014 Art Dubai Projects, Dubai, UAE

Hudson Guild, New York, NY
2013 *Diamonds, Diamonds*, Gallery Diet, Miami, FL
2011 *Domino*, Biennale: 3, Thessaloniki Biennale of Contemporary Art, Thessaloniki, Greece
2010 *United States Pavilion*, 12th International Cairo Biennale, Cairo, Egypt
Mutual Migration, Michael Rosenthal Gallery, San Francisco, CA
2009 *Unveiled: New Art from the Middle East*, Saatchi Gallery, London, UK
On Paper, Galleria Monica De Cardenas, Zuoz, Switzerland
May December, Memorial Hall Gallery, Providence, RI

Curatorial Projects

2014 *Didn't Start the Fire*, Taymour Grahne Gallery, New York, NY
2011 *Our Backs Against the Wall*, Josée Bienvenue, New York, NY
2009 *Across Histories: Artist and Curator Talks*, ArteEast, Cabinet Space, Brooklyn, NY

Residencies

2014 A.i.R Dubai, Dubai, UAE
2009 Fine Arts Work Center, Provincetown, MA
2006 Skowhegan School of Painting and Sculpture, Madison, ME

Collections

Collection Pinault, Paris, France
Kamel Lazaar Foundation, Tunisia
Dalloul Art Foundation, Beirut, Lebanon
The X Museum, Beijing, China
The Scantland Collection, Columbus, Ohio
Fundación Medianoche, Grenada, Spain
Museum of African Contemporary Art Al Maaden, Marrakesh, Morocco
Barjeel Foundation, Sharjah, UAE
State Museum of Contemporary Art, Thessaloniki, Greece
Saatchi Collection, London, UK

Awards

2019 Lotos Foundation Prize, Lotos Foundation, New York, NY
2009 Robert Motherwell Award, Fine Arts Work Center, Provincetown, MA
2006 Matching Scholarship, Skowhegan School of Painting and Sculpture, Madison, ME