

## **Nadia Ayari** Biography & CV

**Born** 1981.

**Lives and works** in Brooklyn, New York

Nadia Ayari is a Tunisian American painter known for her distinctively textured paintings that balance abstraction and figuration while exploring themes of survival. 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.

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.

Nadia Ayari's work has been shown in several internationally renowned institutions and biennials, including MoMA PS1, New York, US; Saatchi Gallery, London, UK; Des Moines Art Center, Iowa, US; Museum of African Contemporary Art Al Maaden, Marrakech, Morocco; State Museum of Contemporary Art, Thessaloniki, Greece; American University Museum, DC, US; 12th Cairo Biennial (2010), Cairo, Egypt; 3rd Thessaloniki Biennale of Contemporary Art (2011), Thessaloniki, Greece.

Ayari's work can be found in many prestigious collections such as the Collection Pinault, Paris, France; the Dalloul Art Foundation, Beirut, Lebanon; The X Museum, Beijing, China; The Salamoun Collection, Dubai, UAE; 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 Art 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

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

### **Selected Solo Exhibitions**

**2026**

Oblivion Rains: Notations of Gravity, Light, and Resistance, curated by Fawz Kabra. Selma Feriani Gallery. Tunis. Tunisia

**2024**

Tell it to Me Again. Lisa Kandlhofer. Vienna. Austria

About Surrender. Double Q Gallery. Hong Kong. China

**2023**

Glitches, Amplifications. Cadet Capela. Paris. France

**2022**

Eyelash in the Unknown. Nina Johnson Gallery. Miami. US

Wave. 89 Greene at Signs and Symbols. New York. US

**2021**

We Saw Stars. Taymour Grahne Projects. London. UK

**2020**

New Drawings. Taymour Grahne Projects (online)

**2019**

8 Ways of Holding On. Taymour Grahne Projects. London. UK

**2016**

Alien. Untitled Miami Beach. Taymour Grahne Gallery. Miami. US

Bricks. Taymour Grahne Gallery. New York. US

**2013**

The Fountain and the Fig. The Third Line. Dubai. UAE

**2011**

This Place. Monya Rowe Gallery. New York. US

**2009**

Nadia Ayari. Luce Gallery. Turin. Italy

**Selected Group Exhibitions**

**2025**

Je suis verticale, mais je voudrais être horizontale, curated by Victor Secretan and Lena Sorokina. Le Château – Centre d'Art Contemporain et du Patrimoine d'Aubenas. France

**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. US

Kawkaba: Highlights from the Barjeel Art Collection. Christie's. London. UK

Immersed. Jack Siebert Projects. Los Angeles. US

## **2022**

States of Becoming. Independent Curators International. The Africa Center. New York. US  
Landscape. Woaw Gallery. Hong Kong. China  
Density's Glitch. Fine Arts Work Center. Provincetown. Massachusetts. US  
Intimacy. Taymour Grahne Projects. London. UK  
The Entelechians. Eric Ruschman. Chicago. US

## **2021**

Trove. Artsy, Edition. Miami. US  
Art, a Serious Game. MACAAL. Marrakech. Morocco  
Greater New York. MoMA PS1. New York. US  
Ridiculous Sublime. SFA Advisory. New York. US

## **2020**

El que busca, encuentra...y sigue encontrando. White Columns. New York. US

## **2018**

Cinnamon. Produce Model Gallery. Chicago. US

## **2017**

Between Two Rounds of Fire, the Exile of the Sea. American University Museum.  
Washington. DC. US  
Volley. Abrons Arts Center. New York. US  
Immigrancy. Samson Projects. Boston. Massachusetts. US  
Through Thick and Thin: Image Painting Today. Erin Cluley Gallery. Dallas. Texas. US  
100 Chefs D'Oeuvre. Institut du Monde Arabe. Paris. France

## **2016**

A Verdant Summer. Taymour Grahne Gallery. New York. US  
Me, My, Mine. DC Moore Gallery. New York. US

## **2015**

Walls and Margins. Maraya Art Centre. Sharjah. UAE  
EXPO Chicago. Taymour Grahne Gallery. Chicago. US  
Seducers. Greenpoint Terminal Gallery. Brooklyn. US

## **2014**

Hudson Guild. New York. US

## **2013**

Diamonds, Diamonds. Gallery Diet. Miami. US

## **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. US

## **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. Rhode Island. US

## **Residencies**

2014 A.i.R Dubai. Dubai. UAE

2009 Fine Arts Work Center. Provincetown. US

2006 Skowhegan School of Painting and Sculpture. Madison. ME. US

## **Curatorial Projects**

2014 *Didn't Start the Fire*. Taymour Grahne Gallery. New York. US

2011 *Our Backs Against the Wall*. Josée Bienvenue. New York. US

2009 *Across Histories: Artist and Curator Talks*. ArteEast. Cabinet Space. Brooklyn. New York. US

## **Collections**

Collection Pinault. Paris. France

Kamel Lazaar Foundation. Tunis. 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 Art Foundation. Sharjah. UAE

The Salamoun Collection. Dubai. UAE

State Museum of Contemporary Art. Thessaloniki. Greece

Saatchi Collection. London. UK

## **Awards**

2019 Lotos Foundation Prize. Lotos Foundation. New York. US

2009 Robert Motherwell Award. Fine Arts Work Center. Provincetown, Massachusetts. US

2006 Matching Scholarship. Skowhegan School of Painting and Sculpture. Madison. ME. US