

Sumayyah Samaha
New York, NY

b.1939. Shweir, Lebanon

EDUCATION

B.A. American University of Beirut
M.A. University of Pittsburgh

AWARDS & GRANTS

Emily Harvey Foundation Residency Venice, Italy, 2018, 2010
Pollock-Krasner Individual Grant, 2016
Adolph and Esther Gottlieb Foundation Grant, 2015
Finalist: Adolph and Esther Gottlieb Foundation's Individual Support program, 2008

SOLO EXHIBITIONS

2019 Carter Burden Gallery, "Sumayyah Samaha: Lines, Forms, Substance," New York, NY
2017 Carter Burden Gallery, "On the Wall," New York, NY
2017 Artscoops.com, Featured Artist Online Exhibition
2010 Art Circle Gallery, "Aesthetics: Art & Politics," Beirut, Lebanon
2008 Skoto Gallery, "Darkness Ushers Dawn," New York, NY
2007 Wilmer Jennings Gallery at Kenkeleba House, "Love, Life and Pain," New York, NY
2004 Blink Gallery, "Personal Landscapes," Andes, NY
2002 Denise Bibro Fine Art, "Strange Fruit," New York, NY
2000 Denise Bibro Fine Art, "Recent Paintings," New York, NY
1999 Denise Bibro Fine Art, "Beyond the Brush," New York, NY
1998 Farleigh Dickinson University, "Paintings," Hackensack, NJ
1997 Denise Bibro Fine Art, "Recent Paintings & Pastels," New York, NY
1995 Denise Bibro Fine Art, "Works in Process," New York, NY
1994 Denise Bibro Fine Art, "Landscapes: Where My Soul Roams," New York, NY
1993 Kenkeleba Gallery, "Sumayyah Samaha," New York, NY
1982 22 Wooster Gallery, "New York, NY 1981," New York, NY
1981 22 Wooster Gallery, "Sumayyah Samaha," New York, NY

MUSEUM EXHIBITIONS

2005 The Arab American National Museum, "In/Visible: Contemporary Art by Arab American Artists," Dearborn, MI
1994 Southern Alleghenies Museum of Art, "American Abstraction: A New Decade," Loretto, PA

SELECTED GROUP EXHIBITIONS

- 2022 CITYarts SoHo Artist History Walk, CITYArts, New York, NY
- 2020 Zurcher Fine Arts, "Salon Zurcher: Eleven Spirited Women," New York, NY
- 2019 Artscoops.com, Auction, Beirut, Lebanon
- 2019 El Barrio's Artspace PS109, "Abstract Vision," New York, NY
- 2016 Carter Burden Gallery, "Group Show," New York, NY
- 2015 Westbeth Gallery, "Figuring Abstraction," New York, NY
- 2013 The Elizabeth Foundation for the Arts, "The Emo Show," New York, NY
- 2012 Berlin Biennale, ArtWiki: Digital Venue of the 7th Berlin Biennale for Contemporary Art, "25 Years Anniversary Show Part 2," Curated by Kazuko Miyamoto
Gallery onetwentyeight, "Group Show," New York, NY
Skoto Gallery, "Exhibition of Drawings," New York, NY
- 2011 Skoto Gallery & Curate NYC, "Towering," Curated by Hoong Yee Lee Krakauer, Executive Director, Queens Council on the Arts, New York, NY
Skoto Gallery, "Summer Show," New York, NY
- 2010 Virginia Commonwealth University School of the Arts in Qatar: VCUQ Gallery, "New York Chronicles," Doha, Qatar
- 2009 Skoto Gallery, "Group Exhibition," New York, NY
Washington Square Gallery, "Small Works: 30 Seconds," New York, NY
- 2008 US Embassy, "Art in Embassies," Kuwait City, Kuwait
- 2007 Blink Gallery, Three-Person Show
- 2006 The Bridge Gallery, "3 Arab Painters in New York: Samia Halaby, Sumayyah Samaha, Athir Shayota," Curated by Maymanah Farhat, New York, NY
Blink Gallery, Three-Person Show, Andes, NY
- 2005 Gallery onetwentyeight, "Real Compared to What: Artistic Expression as a wrench in the system—not a cog in the wheel," New York, NY
Gallery onetwentyeight, "Pieces 6," New York, NY
- 2004 Viridian Gallery, "YW [Why War, Why Dubya?]," New York, NY
- 2003 Albert Knox Museum Gallery, "New York Collection 2002," Buffalo, NY
Judson Memorial Church, "WAR ART," New York, NY
Udi Aloni Project Room, "DEFIANCE," New York, NY
- 2002 Albert Knox Museum Gallery, "New York Collection 2002," Buffalo, NY
- 2001 Gallery onetwentyeight, "Ceramic and Oils, Three-Person Show," New York, NY
- 2000 Williamsburg Art and Historical Center, "Local Papers," Brooklyn, NY
A.I.R. Gallery, "Generations II: Survey of Women Artists at the Millennium," New York, NY
Gallery onetwentyeight, "Invitational Exhibition," New York, NY
- 1999 American Embassy International Exhibitions, "Art in Embassies," Beirut, Lebanon
Albright Knox Museum Gallery, "New York Abstractions," Buffalo, NY
Denise Bibro Fine Art, "Group Invitational," New York, NY
- 1995 Gallery onetwentyeight, "Group Exhibition," New York, NY
- 1992 Denise Bibro Fine Art, "Abstraction I," New York, NY
SoHo Art Space, "Juxtapositions: Four Artists," Curated by Virginia Cuppaidge, New York, NY
Marine Midland Bank, "Spare Parts: Collages from the 19 Painters and Printmakers," Curated by Peggy Hadden, New York, NY
- 1991 Platform Gallery, "Three Painters," Beirut, Lebanon
- 1990 Triplex Gallery: Borough of Manhattan Community College, "Shapeshifters," New York, NY
International Monetary Fund, "Two Person Exhibition," Washington, D.C.

SELECTED GROUP EXHIBITIONS (CONTINUED)

- 1989 The Studio American Collection, "Traveling Exhibition," Poland
480 Broome Street, Funded by Con Edison and New York Community for Artists, "Cityscapes: Window Installation," New York, NY
- 1988 Kufa Gallery, "Contemporary Lebanese Artists," London, England
- 1986 US-Arab Chamber of Commerce, "Contemporary Arab Art in the US," New York, NY
Galerie Pablo Picasso, "Chenal Group," Denain, France
- 1985 22 Wooster Gallery, "Two Person Exhibition," New York, NY
Northside Arts Industries, "Artists at Northside," Brooklyn, NY
Espace Vendome, "Chenal Group," Paris, France
Peri-Renneth Gallery, "Two Person Exhibition," Westhampton Beach, NY

PUBLIC COLLECTIONS

American Collection, Centrum Sztuki, Warsaw, Poland
Arab American National Museum, Dearborn, MI
Bank Audi, Beirut, Lebanon
Chemical Bank, New York, NY
Kenkeleba House, New York, NY
New York City Health and Hospitals Corporation, New York, NY
Pfizer Pharmaceutical, New York, NY
Prudential Insurance

PUBLICATIONS

At the Edge of the City: Reinhabiting Public Space Toward the Recovery of Beirut's Horsh Al-Sanawbar
Fadi Shayya (Editor), George Arbid (Foreword), Danny Khoury (Designer); First edition in 2010, Published by
DISCURSIVE FORMATIONS. Beirut's park and public space, an effort towards understanding contextual
meanings and practices of public life and public space in the Mediterranean context of Beirut. Features
"Pine trees don't make pine nuts," 2006

Oweis, Fayege; Encyclopedia of Arab American Artists; Greenwood Press, Westport, CT, 2008

Khal, Helen; The Women Artists in Lebanon; Prepared for the Institute of Women's Studies in the Arab World

"A Gathering of the Tribes" Volume 4, No. 1, 1995 Black & White Photo, page 21

"IBM Nachrichten 45," HEFT 323, 1995, color photos of ceramic/mixed media work, page 54-55, 57-58, 61

REVIEWS

"Beyond Good & Evil," NOW Lebanon, Hannah Jewel, June 11, 2010
al Akhbar newspaper, Z. Ghanem, June 18, 2010
"Fait la guerre à la guerre," Femme Magazine, Frida Debanné, June 2010
"L'art engagé (et enragé)," L'Orient le Jour - Maya Ghandoor Hert, June 5, 2010
"Three Arab Painters in New York," Palestine Chronicle, Remi Kanazi, 2006

REVIEWS (CONTINUED)

"In/Visible," Nafas Art Magazine, 2005

"In/Visible," Bidoun; Art and Culture from the Middle East, Kate McClellan, Fall 2005

"Sumayyah Samaha Explores Issues of War and Occupation," Maymanah Farhat, ArteEast, June 5, 2005

"Le Fruit Défendus," L'Orient Le Jour, Sylviane Zehil, October 2, 2002, Beirut, Lebanon

"Sumayyah Samaha: The Form of Passion," Catalog essay by Garrit Henry for 1997 Exhibition, New York, NY

"Fecondité d'Invention pour un Trio Seducteur," L'Oreint Le Jour, May Makarem, August 2, 1991, Beirut, Lebanon

"Sumayyah Samaha," Sayyidati, (Elle Magazine, Arabic Edition), Thérèse Basbous, Spring 1992, Paris, France

"Samaha, Rameh, Demeulnaere," Al Nahar, August 9, 1991, Beirut, Lebanon

ArtSpeak, November 1982, New York, NY

AARG (Association of Artist Run Galleries), December 1982, New York, NY

ArtSpeak, February 1981, New York, NY

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS AND EXPERIENCE

Co-founded and was an active member of 22 Wooster Gallery, 1978-1988

The Network of Arab American Professionals (NAAP) November 17, 2007, New York

Panelist, "Turning Writing into Art: Artists Talk on Art" at the New York University Department of Middle Eastern Studies, March 20, 2009

Panelist, "With Each Stroke: The Role of Art in Activism and Social Change," Fourth Annual NAAP National Conference

Juror, Painting Award, New York Foundation for the Arts, 1998