



Lawrie Shabibi  
Adel Abidin – *Symphony*

Curated by Başak Şenova  
18 March – 18 April 2013

**Lawrie Shabibi**

**Adel Abidin**

# Adel Abidin

Adel Abidin was born in Baghdad in 1973, and currently lives in Helsinki. He has exhibited widely in group and solo exhibitions at renowned galleries and museums worldwide. Amongst his critically acclaimed works are *Three Love Songs* at Mathaf (Doha), and *The Consumption of War*, at the Iraq Pavilion of the 54th Venice Biennale. Previous group exhibitions include: the Arab Express group show at the Mori Art Museum (Tokyo), Kiasma Museum of Contemporary Art (Helsinki); the Centre of Contemporary Art (Salamanca); the 10th Sharjah Biennale; 17th Sydney Biennale; and the 52nd and 54th Venice Biennales. Abidin has had solo exhibitions at L'institut du Monde Arabe (Paris), Arter Gallery (Istanbul), Kunsthalle Winterthur (Winterthur, Switzerland), and the Mead Gallery (Warwick, UK). Participation in upcoming exhibitions includes: the Museum of Anthropology (Vancouver, Canada), and the 10th anniversary exhibition of the Mori Art Museum.

# Symphony

*Symphony* is a solo exhibition by internationally acclaimed artist Adel Abidin, curated by Başak Şenova that pays homage to the young Iraqi students who were stoned to death by religious extremists in Baghdad in March, 2012 for their characteristic 'emo' appearances. Abidin takes this single event and transforms it into an imaginative journey that examines death, the soul's quest for liberation and the tragic price paid in the name of freedom.

*Symphony* expands and develops upon the Iraqi artist's earlier two correlated works - a video and sculpture-based installation (which lends its name to the title of the exhibition) first exhibited at Arter, Istanbul in October 2012. These works explore the detrimental effects of discrimination, bigotry and prejudice that exist in many guises all over the world. Abidin articulates these two works by adding a large-scale sculptural installation and a video piece at Lawrie Shabibi along with an outdoor photographic work installed on the exterior wall of the gallery.

## *Al-Warqaa*, 2013



Suspended light-based sculpture tightened to a customized stone

Materials: Steel structure, acrylic and LED lights

Dimension: 190 cm height (head to leg)

600 cm width (wing to wing)

400 cm depth (head to tail)

74 3/4 in height (head to leg)

236 1/4 in width (wing to wing)

157 1/2 in depth (head to tail)

Editions: 3 + 2 APs



*Al-Warqaa*, 2013



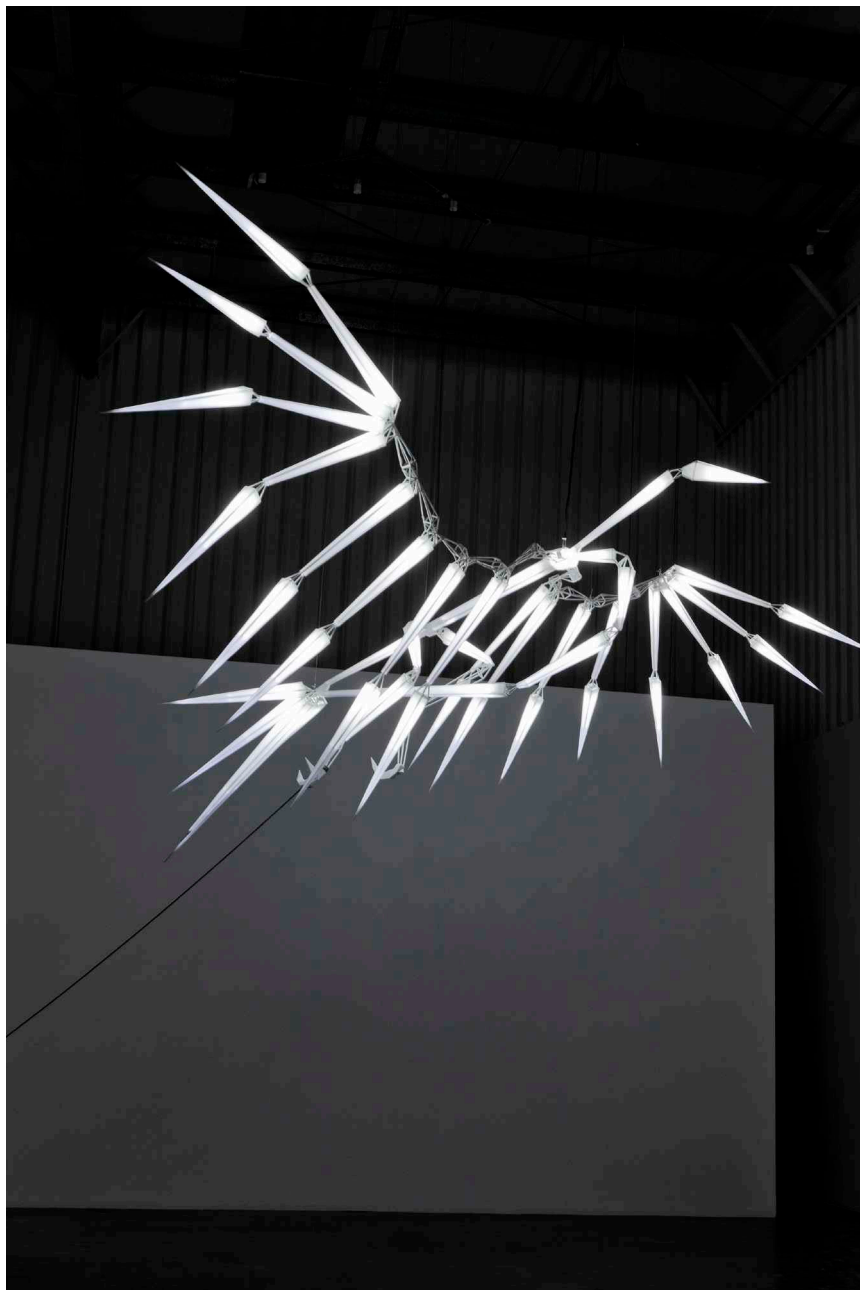
Side view of installation

## *Al-Warqaa*, 2013



Rear view of installation

*Al-Warqaa, 2013*



Side view of installation

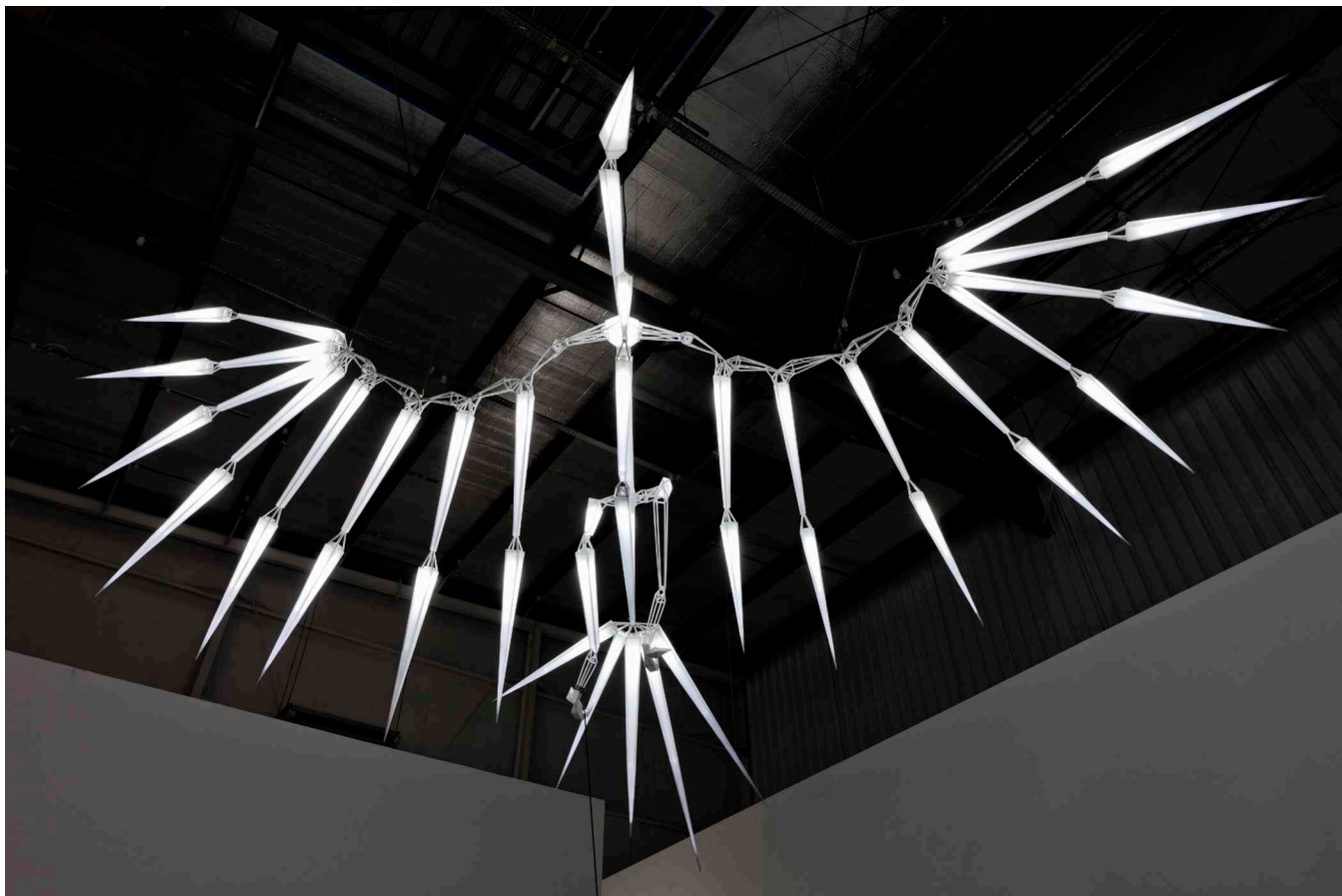


*Al-Warqaa, 2013*



Side view of installation

## *Al-Warqaa*, 2013



Front view of installation

## *Mass*, 2013



Photographic print

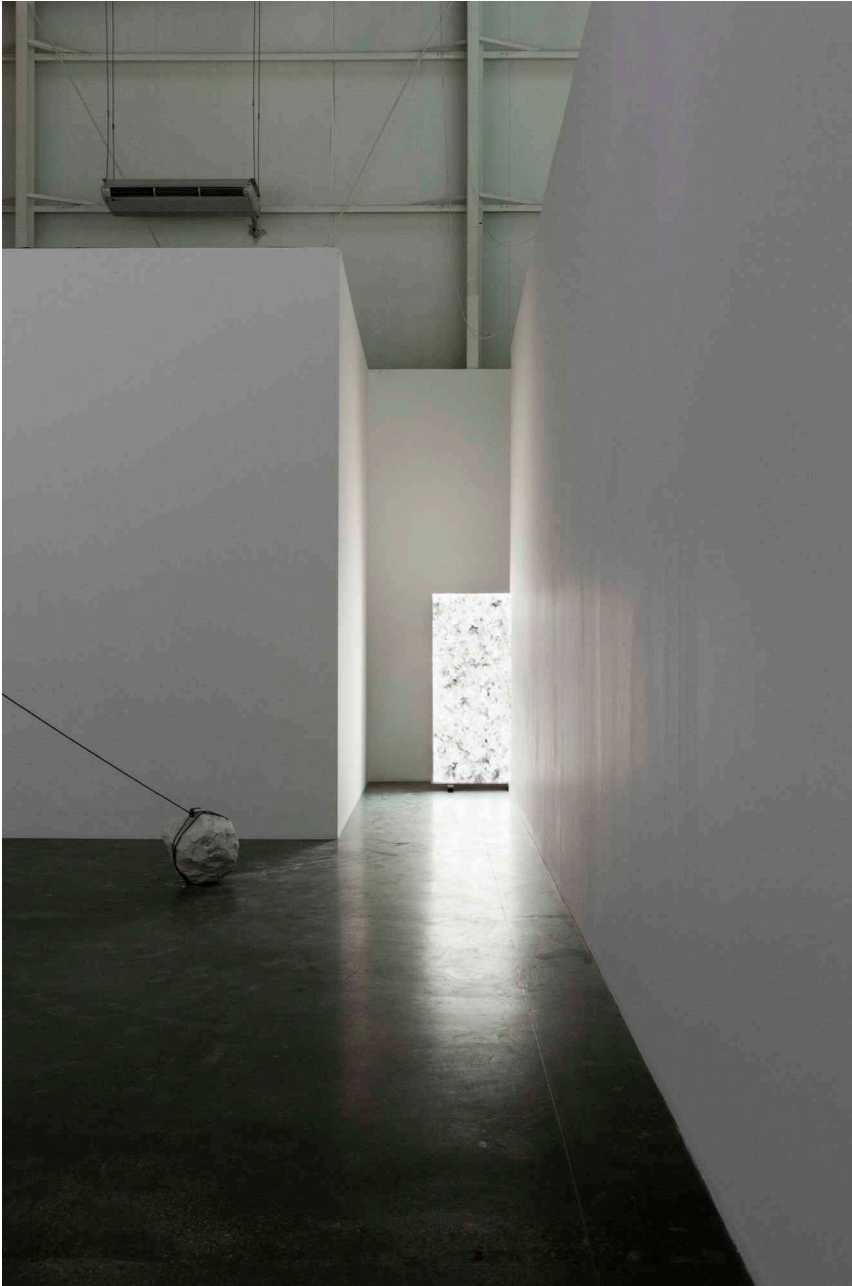
Dimension: 110 x 160 cm

43 1/4 x 63 in

Editions: 3 + 2 APs



## *Mass, 2013*



LED screen

Dimension: 200 cm x 100 cm  
78 3/4 x 39 3/8 in

Duration: Seamless

Aspect Ratio: 4:3

Editions: 5 + AP

## *Symphony I, 2012*



Sculpture-based installation

Material: Gypsum statues, painted acrylic door, sliding bed and MDF box

Dimension: 40 cm height (statue)

13 x 15 cm (door)

41 x 12 cm (sliding bed)

11 x 13 x 44 cm (box)

15 3/4 in (statue)

5 1/8 x 5 7/8 in (door)

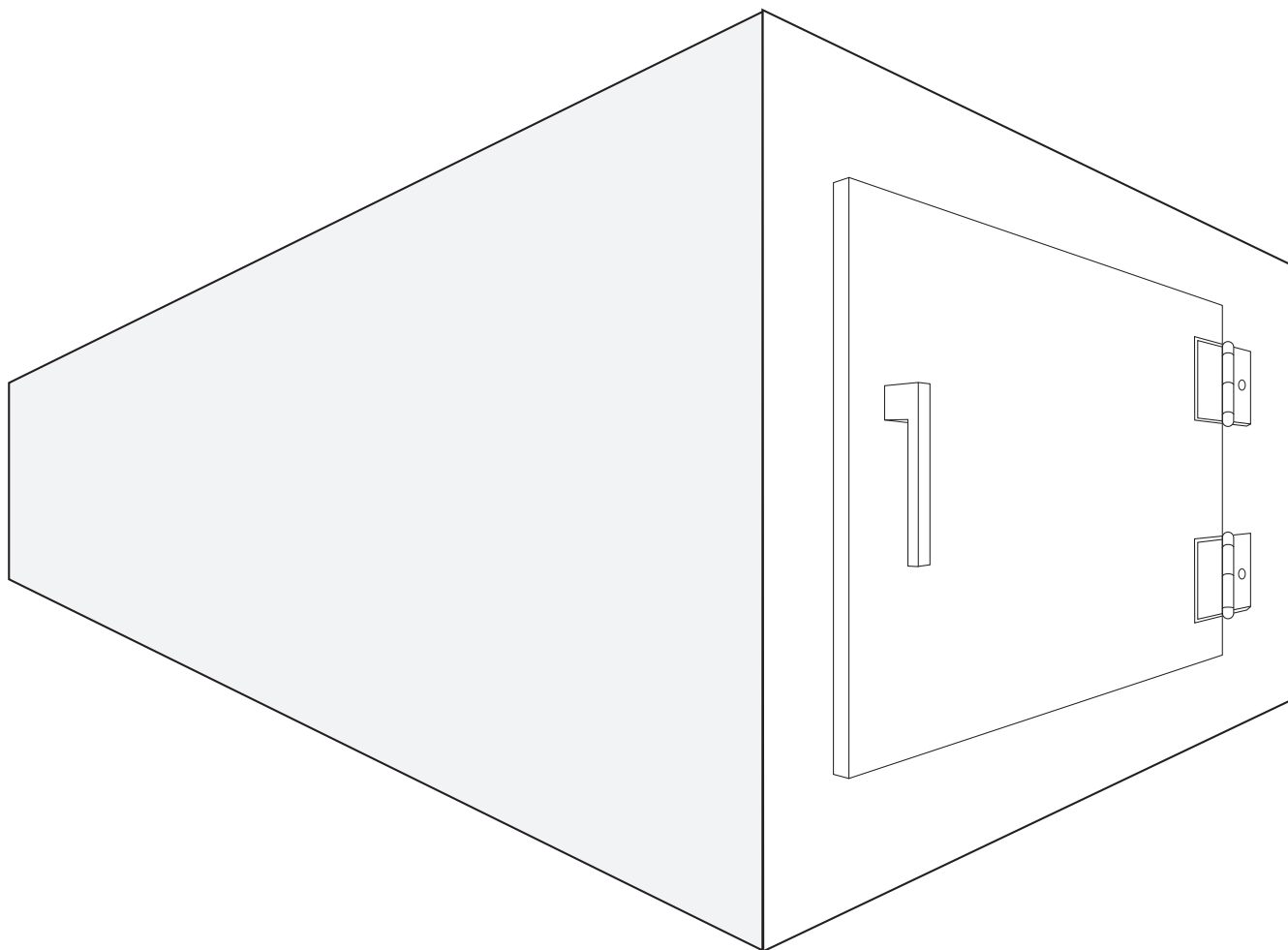
16 1/8 x 4 3/4 in (sliding bed)

4 3/8 x 5 1/8 x 17 3/8 in (box)

Editions: 5 + AP

(AA001)

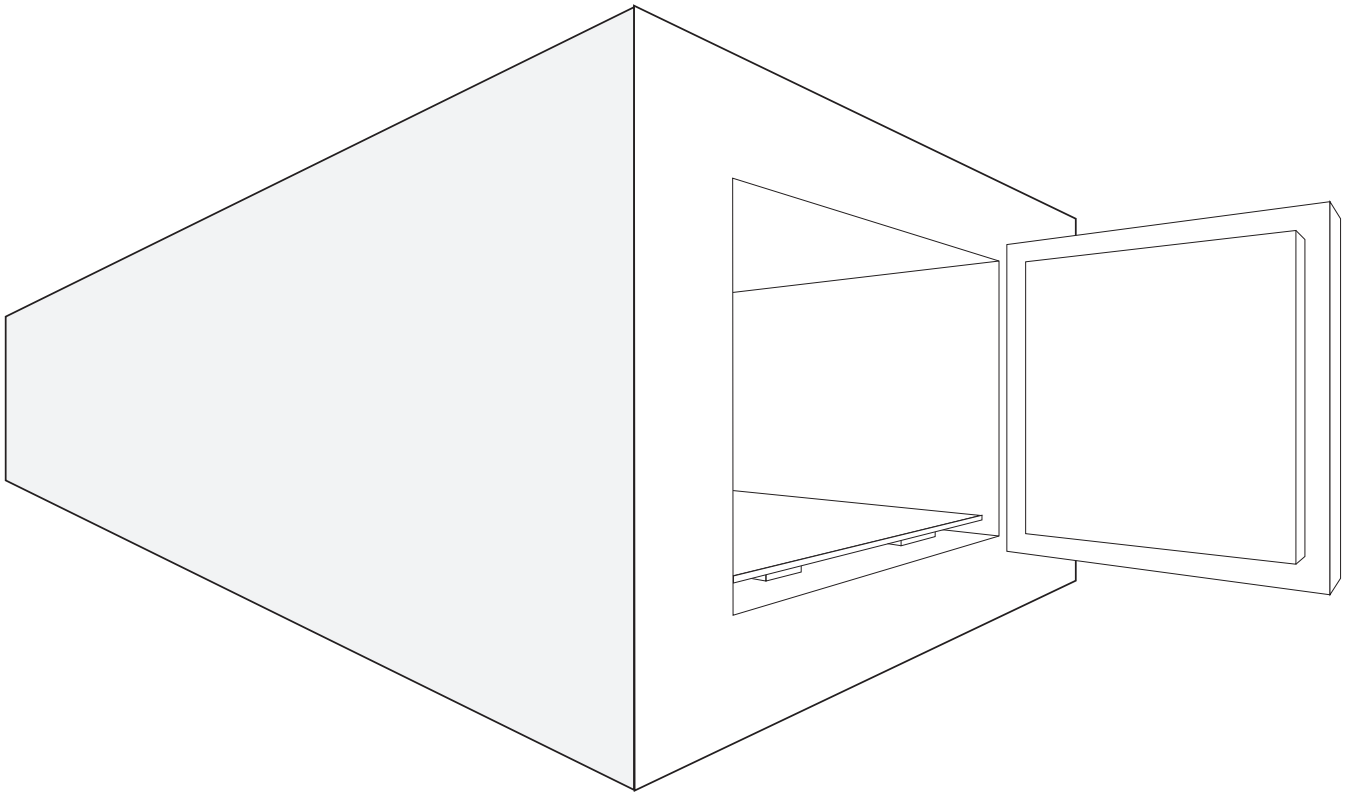
Adel Abidin  
*Symphony I*, 2012



Sculptural installation is also available in individual pieces installed in a white lacquered wooden box. The size of the box is 30 x 32 x 50 cm. Additional pieces can be installed in a custom made box to suit requirements.



Adel Abidin  
*Symphony I*, 2012



## *Symphony II, 2012*



One channel video installation

Duration: Seamless

Aspect Ratio: 3:4 (9:16 letter-boxed)-portrait

Sound: Stereo

Editions: 5 + AP

(AA002)

## *Symphony II, 2012*



Video still  
(AA002)

# Biography

Born 1973 in Baghdad, Iraq

Lives and works in Helsinki, Finland

## EDUCATION

- 2005 MFA, Academy of Fine Arts, Helsinki
- 2000 BA, Academy of Fine Arts, Baghdad
- 1994 B.Sc. in Industrial Management, Mansour University, Baghdad

## SOLO EXHIBITIONS

- 2013 Camel Toe, Turku Art Museum, Turku, Finland
- 2013 Blueprint, Maraya Art Center, Sharjah, UAE
- 2013 Symphony, LawrieShibibi Contemporary Art Gallery, Dubai, UAE
- 2013 Assumptions, Forum BOX Gallery space for Art, Helsinki, Finland
- 2012 Espace Croise, Roubaix, France
- 2012 Kunsthalle Winterthur, Winterthur, Switzerland
- 2012 Beyond, Arter- Space for Art, Istanbul, Turkey
- 2011 Adel Abidin, Darat al Funun - The Khalid Shoman Foundation, Amman, Jordan
- 2011 Ping Pong, Artopia Gallery, Milan, Italy
- 2011 Anne De Villepoix Gallery, Paris, France
- 2011 Ping Pong, Galeri Zilberman, Istanbul, Turkey
- 2011 Adel Abidin, Wharf: Centre D'art Contemporain de Basse, Normandy, France
- 2010 The DA2 Domus Artium 2002, Centre of Contemporary Art in Salamanca, Spain
- 2010 Location One Gallery, New York, USA
- 2010 Adel Abidin, KIASMA, Museum of Contemporary Art, Helsinki, Finland
- 2009 Jihad, Finnish Institute, Stockholm, Sweden
- 2008 Assume, MAC/VAL, Musée D'art Contemporain du Val-de-Marne, France
- 2008 Three Works, Gallery 300m3, Gothenburg, Sweden
- 2008 Abidin Travels, White Box Gallery, New York, USA
- 2008 Abidin Travels, SPACE/Contemporary Art Gallery, Bratislava, Slovakia
- 2008 Hypothesis, MUU Gallery, Helsinki, Finland
- 2007 Abidin Travels, Montalvo Arts Center, Triple Base, San Francisco, CA, USA
- 2006 Argument, Kluuvi Gallery, Helsinki, Finland
- 2006 Void, Premier of a short film, Kino Theatre, Helsinki, Finland
- 2006 About me, Huuto Gallery, Helsinki, Finland
- 2004 Two Projects, Art Academy Gallery, Helsinki, Finland

## GROUP EXHIBITIONS

- 2013 Love, Mori Art Museum, Tokyo, Japan
- 2013 From Geographies to Inner Landscapes in Arab, Iranian, and Turkish Contemporary Art, Museum of Anthropology, Vancouver, Canada
- 2013 Workplace, Mead Gallery, Warwick Arts Centre, UK
- 2012 In Other Words, Kunstraum Kreuzberg, Berlin, Germany
- 2012 Unveiled Body, Institut du Monde Arabe, Paris, France
- 2012 Aftermath, Akbank Art Center, Istanbul, Turkey
- 2012 Reoriented, Havremagasinet as Art Museum, Boden, Sweden
- 2012 Contemporary Art from the Arab World, Mori Art Museum, Tokyo, Japan
- 2012 Come Invest in Us. You Will Strike Gold, BrotKunsthalle, Vienna, Austria
- 2012 Move (Hamle), Arter- Space for Art, Istanbul, Turkey
- 2012 Bread of Life, Sous-face 37, Palais de Tokyo, Paris, France
- 2012 Consumption of War, CDA - Projects & Galeri Zilberman, Abu Dhabi Art, Abu Dhabi, UAE
- 2012 Adel Abidin – My Work, Internationale Kurzfilmtage, Winterthur, Switzerland
- 2011 54th Venice Biennale, Iraq Pavilion, Venice, Italy

2011 10th Sharjah Biennial, Plot for a Biennial, Sharjah, UAE  
 2011 SKMU Sørlandets Kunstmuseum, Kristiansand, Norway  
 2011 Continuity, Center for Contemporary Arts Celje, Slovenija  
 2011 Patria o Libertad! On Patriotism, Immigration and Populism, MOCCA, Toronto, Canada  
 2011 The Changing Room, Spazio Qubi in association with Metro Quadro Gallery, Turin, Italy  
 2011 Choosing another strategy, Machine-RAUM, Vejle Art Museum, Denmark  
 2011 Intolerance, Sergey Kuryokhin Contemporary Art Center, St. Petersburg, Russia  
 2011 Island Artists, Arts, Talks and Sensations, Abu Dhabi, UAE  
 2010 Told/Untold/Retold, Mathaf: Arab Museum of Modern Art, Doha, Qatar  
 2010 The Beauty of Distance, 17th Biennale of Sydney, Sydney  
 2009 Regis Center for Art- Minneapolis- USA  
 2009 Normal Invitation, Overgaden Institute of Contemporary Art, Copenhagen, Denmark  
 2009 Coping with contingency: Seven Methods, Art Moscow, Moscow, Russia  
 2009 Summertime, Moen44, Moen Island, Denmark  
 2009 Thinking About Death, MAP, Mobile Art Production, Stockholm, Sweden  
 2009 Variations on Transcending the Finiteness of Human Vision, Riga Exhibition Hall, Latvia  
 2009 Contact (Tawassol), Artericambi Gallery, Verona, Italy  
 2009 Crossings. Mawazine. Rythme du Monde, Rabat, Morocco  
 2009 Tracking Traces, KIASMA, Museum of Contemporary Art, Helsinki, Finland  
 2009 Abidin Travels - Video Screening, Impakt Festival, Utrecht, The Netherlands  
 2008 The Other, 11th Cairo Biennial, Cairo, Egypt  
 2008 Shrink-Wrapped, Or Gallery, Vancouver, Canada  
 2008 Crossings, Darb 1718, Cairo, Egypt  
 2008 Arctic Hysteria Onscreen, MoMA, Museum of Modern Art, New York, USA  
 2008 Utopia, Contemporary Art Tower, Vienna, Austria  
 2008 The Rebirth, Demolition Party, Hotel Royal Monceau, Paris, France  
 2008 The Contemporary European Art, Domaine Pommery, Reims, France  
 2008 Artget Gallery, Belgrade Cultural Center, Belgrade, Serbia  
 2008 The Natural Of Evil, Burg Schlaining's European Museum of Peace, Austria  
 2008 Traversées, Exhibition, Art Paris, Grand Palais, Paris, France  
 2008 East Without Borders, Espace Galley of Contemporary Art, Louis Vuitton, Paris, France  
 2008 Artist's symposium ORTung, Gallery 5020, Salzburg, Austria  
 2008 Nine Voices, Nine places, Camões Institute, Lisbon, Portugal  
 2008 Status, CRAC Alsace, Centre Rhénan D'art Contemporian, France  
 2008 Season screenings: Winter, Altı Aylik project, Space of Contemporary Art, Istanbul, Turkey  
 2008 On The Margins, The Mildred Lane Kemper Art Museum, St.Louis, USA  
 2007 Welfare – Fare Well, 52nd Venice Biennale, Nordic Pavilion, Venice, Italy  
 2007 Rethinking Dissent, Gothenburg Biennial, Gothenburg, Sweden  
 2007 The Renaissance Society, The University of Chicago, Chicago, USA  
 2007 The Rencontres Internationales, Film Festival, Paris, France  
 2007 Political/Poetical, Tallinna Kunstihoone, Tallinn, Estonia  
 2007 The Natural Of Evil, Museum of Photography, Helsinki, Finland  
 2007 IMPAKT Festival, Utrecht, The Netherlands  
 2007 Void, 37th Tampere Short Film Festival, Tampere, Finland  
 2006 Naked Life, MOCA, Museum of Contemporary Art, Taipei, Taiwan  
 2006 Art, Life & Confusion, October Saloon 47, Belgrade, Serbia  
 2006 5 Tage bis zum Ende der Kunst, Fredericianum Khunsthalle, Kassel, Germany  
 2006 Collective exhibition, Museum of Photography, Helsinki, Finland

- 2006 EXIT.SAW Video + Galerie Saw Gallery, Ottawa, Canada
- 2006 Images Festival, Toronto, Canada
- 2005 The Rencontres Internationales Paris, Berlin-art & action film festival, Paris, France
- 2005 Workshop, Istanbul Biennial, Istanbul, Turkey
- 2005 The Holden Gallery, Manchester, UK
- 2005 Galleria Rantakasarmin, Suomenlenna, Helsinki, Finland
- 2005 Tennispalatsi Art Museum, Helsinki, Finland
- 2004 Blank Space, Screening, New Contemporary Space, Sydney
- 2004 Seller, Katakomben, International Festival, Berlin, Germany
- 2004 Finnish - Russian Exhibition, Lahti, Finland
- 2004 Off Project, London Biennial, Area 10, London, UK

#### GRANTS & AWARDS

- 2012 The Art Council of Finland - Five year grant
- 2011 Ars Fennica nominee
- 2011 The Art Council of Finland - Exhibition Grant
- 2011 AVEK - Promotion for Audiovisual Culture - Production Grant
- 2011 09-11 Finnish Cultural Foundation - Three Years Grant
- 2010 Swedish Cultural Fund - Curating a group exhibition in Cairo
- 2010 AVEK - Promotion for Audiovisual Culture - Production Grant
- 2008 The Art Council of Finland - Exhibition Grant
- 2008 Alfred Kordelinin Foundation - Production Grant
- 2007 AVEK - Audio Visual Cultural Prize
- 2007 FRAME- FUND for Art exchange - Venice Biennial Project
- 2007 AVEK - Promotion for Audiovisual Culture - Venice Biennial Project
- 2007 Finnish Cultural Foundation - One Year Grant
- 2007 AVEK - Promotion for Audiovisual Culture - Production Grant
- 2006 Finnish Cultural Foundation - Production Grant
- 2006 AVEK - Promotion for Audiovisual Culture - Production Grant
- 2005 The Art Council of Finland - Travel Grant
- 2005 Finnish Cultural Foundation - Production Grant
- 2005 AVEK - Promotion for Audiovisual Culture
- 2005 LUKSUZ film festival - Audience award- Slovenia
- 2004 The Academy of Fine Arts - Graduation Production Grant
- 2003 The Arts Council of Finland - Exhibition Grant
- 2002 First Prize - Contest of Young Iraqi Artists/Painters
- 1999 Third Prize - Contest of new Iraqi Sculpture



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