

[Log In](#)[Price Database](#)[Auctions](#)[Artists](#)[Galleries](#)[Auction Houses](#)[Events](#)[News](#)

Huda Lutfi

(Egyptian, born 1948)

[Artworks](#)[Biography](#)[Dealers](#)[Events](#)

Timeline

Huda's artistic career stems directly from her academic career as a cultural historian. Her higher education was completed in Canada where she obtained a PhD in Islamic culture and history. Since then Huda has worked mainly in Cairo as an Associate Professor at the American university teaching Islamic culture and history. She worked briefly in Boston from 1991-1992 when she was invited to lecture in Arab history and culture at Harvard University. Huda is a self taught artist interested in cultural composition and bricolage, but did not start painting and producing installation work in a dedicated manor until 1992. Huda considers her artwork to link to parallel her historical research as a process of uncovering the past for reflection in a contemporary environment which necessarily distorts the original meanings and intentions. Huda has been exhibiting her work since the 1990's and has had numerous prestigious group and solo exhibitions in Cairo and the US. She won the second prize at the biennale for women artists of the Mediterranean in Marseilles 1996 and a Ford Foundation Artist Grant, Cairo 1999-2000. Huda's work can be seen in various museums and art institutions worldwide

including the Indianapolis Museum, The Hague World Bank and MOMA.

Since 1999 Huda has initiated a number of painting workshops with children which she considers a productive experience for both parties. These workshops have developed into exhibitions and collaborative projects with other international artists. Huda has a prestigious studio at the Townhouse gallery in Cairo from which she produces work for exhibition.

Huda's artwork began in the 1990's as experiments with collage and bricolage of imagery and historical references recontextualised but in recent years Huda has focused on installation and the use of the found object in new settings. As Huda is particularly interested in Islamic culture, but also the interaction with Western culture, her work frequently contains historical and tradition based references. She has frequently referred to her work as 'cultural play' or metamorphosis. She has practiced Arabic calligraphy and learnt Arabic art and architectural history which she frequently juxtaposed into modern settings. A lot of her imagery references the magical and spiritual past of the Arab, Coptic and Pharaonic worlds. Despite her references to the past Huda uses them for the contemporary moment, challenging the human condition in today's world. Like many artists in Egypt Huda is committed to the achievement of freedom of expression and human rights through art.

In 2006 Huda put together a collection called 'Arayis' in which she experimented with the use of dolls as installations. The dolls represented the feminine through their connection with the female through the local Egyptian tradition of female doll making. 'Arayis' included the installation that Le Violon Bleu is currently exhibiting 'Bounty Dolls Star'. These distinctive black dolls have the Egyptian saying 'Oh lovely people, bounty is for all' painted in Arabic lettering onto their surfaces. The dolls are a metaphor for the conventional female characteristics of generosity and peace. They carry, physically, the feminine potential for projecting the message of harmony and equity. Despite the traditional nature of the wording, Huda's installation has a contemporary message and presentation suitable for the modern world in a time of moral turmoil.

Exhibitions

- 2007 Occidentalism, Karim Francis Gallery, Cairo.
- 2007 Out of Place, Sfeir-Semler Gallery, Beirut.
- 2007 Ahmad Shawqi Museum, al-'Arusa, Cairo, Egypt (solo)
- 2007 The Egyptian Cultural Centre, Arabic Calligraphy, Vienna (solo)
- 2006 From Egypt with Love, The Third Line, Dubai, U.A.E. (solo)
- 2006 Arayis, Townhouse Gallery, Cairo, Egypt (solo)
- 2006 Fresh Cream, The Falaky Gallery, AUC, Cairo.
- 2006 The Art of Arabic Calligraphy, The Egyptian Cultural Center, Vienna.
- 2005 Recent Works by Egyptian Artists, Mashrabia Gallery, Cairo, Egypt
- 2005 Beyond the Surfaces of Things, Falaki Gallery, the American University in Cairo, Egypt (solo)
- 2005 Retrospective of Recent Works, al-Riwaq Gallery of Contemporary Art, Bahrain (solo)
- 2004 Making Faces, La Bodega Karim Francis Gallery, Zamalek, Egypt (solo)
- 2004 Femmes Plurielles, The French Cultural Center in Alexandria, Egypt (solo)
- 2004 Calligraphic Abstractions, La Bodega-Karim Francis Gallery, Cairo, Egypt (solo)
- 2004 Ramadan Lights, Goethe Cultural Institute and Mashrabia Gallery, Cairo, Egypt
- 2003 Found in Cairo, Townhouse Gallery, Cairo, Egypt (solo)
- 2003 Body, New Falaky Gallery, The American University in Cairo, Egypt
- 2002

Imagining the Book, Library of Alexandria,
Alexandria, Egypt

- 2002 Dawn Portraits, Fortis Circustheater Gallery,
The Hague, Holland (solo)
- 2002 Retrospective, La Bodega-Karim Francis Gallery,
Cairo, Egypt (solo)
- 2001 Paintings by a Contemporary Egyptian Artist,
The Muscarelle Museum of Art, Virginia, USA
(solo)
- 2001 Cairo Modern Art in Holland, Fortis
Circustheater Gallery, The Hague
- 2000 The T-Shirt, Mashrabia Gallery, Cairo, Egypt
- 1999 Mixed Media Works, Townhouse Gallery, Cairo,
Egypt
- 1998 Four Women Artists, Townhouse Gallery, Cairo,
Egypt
- 1997 Perspectives, Atelier du Caire Gallery, Cairo,
Egypt
- 1997 Biennial for Women Artists of the
Mediterranean, Marseille and Arles, France
- 1997 Recent Paintings, Xenios Gallery, Frankfurt,
Germany 2000 The New in the Old, Townhouse
Gallery, Cairo, Egypt (solo)
- 1997 Conjuring the Past, Mashrabia Gallery, Cairo,
Egypt (solo)
- 1996 Magic and the Image, Terra Viva Gallery, Uzes,
France (solo)
- 1996 Woman and Memory, Ewart Gallery, The
American University in Cairo, Egypt (solo)
-

[Price Database](#) [Market Alerts](#) [Analytics Reports](#) [Gallery Network](#) [Auction House Partnerships](#)

[About](#) [Contact](#) [Jobs](#) [FAQ](#) [Site Map](#) [Advertise](#) [Terms](#) [Privacy](#) [Cookies](#)

English (US)

©2020 Artnet Worldwide Corporation. All rights reserved.