

# DAVID NOLAN GALLERY

## VIAN SORA

Born 1976, Baghdad, Iraq  
Lives and works in Louisville, Kentucky

### Education

- 2012 MBA, Bellarmine University, Louisville, Kentucky 2020
- 2007 Printmaking, Istanbul Museum of Graphic Art (IMOGA), Istanbul, Turkey
- 2000 BS, Al Mansour University, Baghdad, Iraq

### Solo Exhibitions

- 2025 *Outerworlds*; Santa Barbara Museum of Art, Santa Barbara, CA; Speed Art Museum, Louisville, KY;  
Asia Society Texas Center, Houston, TX  
*Sky from Below*, David Nolan Gallery, New York, NY
- 2024 *House of Pearls*, The Third Line Gallery, Dubai, UAE  
*Noosphere*, Independent New York, David Nolan Gallery, New York, NY
- 2023 *End of Hostilities*, David Nolan Gallery, New York, NY
- 2022 *Subduction*, Luis De Jesus Los Angeles, Los Angeles, CA  
*What You Shout into The Woods Echoes Back*, Moremen Gallery, Louisville, KY
- 2021 *Floodgates*, Moremen Gallery, Louisville, KY
- 2019 *Unbounded Domains*, Moremen Gallery, Louisville, KY
- 2017 *Now Here*, Quappi Projects, Louisville, KY
- 2016 *Displaced Narratives*, 1619 Flux, Louisville, KY
- 2015 *Sacred Journeys*, Festival of Faiths, Actors Theater Gallery, Louisville, KY
- 2011 *Escape into Life*, US Chamber of Commerce, Washington D.C.
- 2010 *Between Two Worlds*, The Green Building Gallery, Louisville, KY
- 2007 *Legends of Baghdad*, Showcase Art Gallery, Dubai, UAE  
*Reflections: Istanbul to Baghdad*, IMOGA Art Gallery and Museum of Graphic Art, Istanbul, Turkey
- 2006 *Voyage into Arabia*, Aspen Gallery, Dar el Cid Museum, Kuwait City, Kuwait  
*Vian Sora: A Woman in Time*, Iraq Museum International Exhibition, Boston, MA
- 2004 *Longing to Past*, Gallery Zamwa – Sulaymaniyah City, Iraq
- 2003 *Vian Sora: Selected Works*, Japanese Foundation Culture Center, Ankara, Turkey  
*Neher, Sheher... Misafir (River, City... Voyage)*, Topkapi Palace Museum, Istanbul, Turkey
- 2002 *Periphrasis, Baghdad*, Grundfos Office Gallery, Baghdad, Iraq
- 2001 *Pulses, Shapes and Sense of Time*, Inaa Art Gallery, Baghdad, Iraq

### Selected Group Exhibitions

- 2024 *In The Making: Contemporary Art at the SBMA*, Santa Barbara Museum of Art, Santa Barbara, CA  
*Exposure Therapy*, KMAC Museum, Louisville, KY  
*Risky Business: A Painter's Forum*, Torrance Art Museum, Torrance, CA  
*Crosscurrents: Contemporary Art from the Speed Art Museum Collection and Beyond*,  
curated by Tyler Blackwell, Speed Art Museum, Louisville, KY
- 2023 *Rounding the Circle: The Mary and Alfred Shands Collection*, Speed Art Museum, Louisville, KY
- 2022 *Breaking Water*, curated by Amara Antilla and Clelia Coussonnet, Contemporary Arts Center, Cincinnati, OH
- 2021 *New Directions: The Shands Collection*, curated by Julien Robson, Quappi Projects, Louisville, KY
- 2020 *We All Declare For LIBERTY*, curated by John Brooks, Quappi Projects, Louisville, KY
- 2019 *KMAC TRIENNIAL*, Curated by Joey Yates, KMAC Museum, Louisville, KY  
*Imagined Monuments*, curated by Keith Waits, Louisville Metro Hall, Louisville, KY
- 2017 *Project 19: The Prolonged Gaze*, curated by Miranda Lash, Zephyr Gallery, Louisville, KY
- 2011 *In the Course of Human Events 9/11-2011*, Louisville Visual Art Association, KY

- 2010 *Women Imagining Women*, Pyro Gallery, Louisville, KY
- 2009 *Spring Show*, Total Arts Gallery at the Courtyard, Dubai, UAE
- 2008 *Selected works by four artists*, Aspen Gallery, Kuwait City, Kuwait  
*Istanbul*, Graphic artist annual exhibition, Istanbul Museum of Graphic Art (IMOGA), Istanbul, Turkey
- 2007 *One Stroke*, Lahd Art Gallery, Riyadh, Saudi Arabia
- 2006 *East West Dialogues, Mysticism*, Tugra Gallery, London, UK
- 2005 *Art from the Islamic World*, Aya Gallery, London, UK  
*Women through War*, Al Wasity Art Ministry of Culture Gallery, Baghdad, Iraq
- 2004 *Autumn Exhibition*, curated by Merriam Lequesne, Gallery M, Paris, France
- 2002 Four Artist group show, Zamaan Art Gallery, Beirut, Lebanon  
*Baghdad Art*, International Art Festival, Baghdad, Iraq
- 2001 Sharjah Biennial, Sharjah, UAE

### Special Projects

- 2023 Art Basel Miami Beach, Meridians, *Abzu*  
The Alfred R. Shands III and Mary N. Shands Master Series: Vian Sora, in conversation with Contemporary Curator Tyler Blackwell, Speed Art Museum, Louisville, KY
- 2018 *Video Installation*, Collaboration with the Louisville Orchestra, conductor Teddy Abrams, and composer Sebastian Chang, Louisville, KY  
*Women Artists in the Age of Impressionism*, Audio Recording Project, The Speed Art Museum, Louisville, KY

### Awards and Residences

- 2025 Fellowship, Civitella Ranieri Foundation, Visual Arts Residency, Umbria, Italy
- 2021 Great Meadows Foundation Art Residency Studio Program, Berlin, Germany
- 2018-20 Joan Mitchell Foundation Nominee Painter and Sculpture Award
- 2017-19 Great Meadows Foundation Artist traveling grant recipient
- 2003 Grundfos Art Residency Program August, Bodrum, Turkey  
Grundfos Selected Portfolio Artist, Istanbul, Turkey
- 2002 Grundfos Sponsored Artist, Copenhagen, Denmark

### Selected Bibliography

- 2024 Talass, Rawaa. "Vian Sora's Vivid Paintings Reflect on Survival Through Abstraction," *Artsy*, Nov. 14.  
Yerebakan, Osman Can. "Vian Sora, the Iraqi-American Painter, Explores the Realities of Displacement and Being a Refugee," *Architectural Digest Middle East*, Jul. 16.  
Crista Terry, "Art as Resistance: Vian Sora On Veiled Meaning and Unleashed Expression", *Observer*, May 7
- 2023 Randone, Amanda. "Iraqi-American Painter Vian Sora Makes A Bold Debut In New York," *Vogue Arabia*, Dec. 13  
Veronica Esposito, "Iraqi-born Artist Aho Grew Up Under a Dictator," *The Guardian*, October 23  
Katie White, "Iraqi-American Artist Vian Sora Evokes the Splendor of Eden and Ancient Assyria in Her Paintings," *Artnet*, November 17  
Rawaa Talass, "Iraqi-American Artist Taps Into 'Personal Anguish' With Latest Work," *Arab News*, August 10  
Rawaa Talass, "Iraqi-American Painter Vian Sora's Work Finds the Beauty in Decay," *Arab News*, January 27
- 2022 Annabel Keenan, "Vian Sora's Vibrant Paintings Shine in the Darkest of Times," *Cultbytes*, November 5  
Ayanna Dozier, "The 10 Best Booths at The Armory Show 2022," *Artsy*, September 9  
Alitzah Oros, "June Editor's Picks: Vian Sora at Luis De Jesus Los Angeles," *Contemporary Art Review.LA*, June 16  
Alexander Martin, "Interview with Vian Sora," *UnderMain Magazine*, June 13  
Connie Springer, "Breaking Water Group Exhibit at the CAC Explores Water, Fluidity, and Feminism," *Soapbox Cincinnati*, June 7  
Steven Rosen, "New Contemporary Arts Center Show Explores the Ways of Water," *Cincinnati Magazine*, May 6  
Natalie Weis, "Joy and Terror Coexist in Vian Sora's Unsettling Paintings," *Hyperallergic*, March 30  
"Contemporary Arts Center Announces Programming for 2022," *Resnicow and Associates*, January 27
- 2021 Stephanie Wolf, "Destruction, rebirth: Louisville painter Vian Sora finds inspiration in Berlin," *89.3 WFPL News*, October 7
- 2020 Natalie Weis, "We All Declare for Liberty at Quappi Projects, Louisville," *Burnaway*, October 27
- 2019 Natalie Weis, "In Search of Bodies Lost: Surveying the Internal Landscapes of Vian Sora," *UnderMain Magazine*, August 24  
Dylon Jones, "Artist Vian Sora Finds a Home in Abstraction," *Louisville*, May 17

- Jessica Oberdick, "'Unbounded Domans,' duality of light, dark," *Leo Weekly*, May 1  
2018 Julie Engelhardt, "Vian Sora, Iraqi-American Artist: FACES of Louisville," *StyleBlueprint*, July 22  
Marty Rosen, "Orchestra classics concert, a radical format," *Leo Weekly*, January 31  
2016 Kaylyn Taylor, "Visual Voice for the Displaced," *Louisville.com*, October 22

### **Public Collections**

AK Bank Collection, Istanbul, Turkey  
Baltimore Museum of Art, Baltimore, MD  
Brooke and Ambassador Matthew Barzun Collection, Louisville, KY  
Brooke and Pam Smith Collection, Louisville KY  
Dar Al Cid Museum, Kuwait City, Kuwait  
French Embassy, Baghdad, Iraq  
Fidelity Art Collection, Boston, MA  
French Embassy, Baghdad, Iraq  
Grinnell College Museum of Art, Grinnell, IA  
Henry Heuser, Jr. and Donald Whitfield Collection, Louisville, KY  
Italian Embassy, Baghdad, Iraq  
Jim and Irene Karp Collection, Palm Beach, FL  
Kadim al Sahir Paris, France  
KMAC Museum, Louisville, KY  
Leder Collection, New York, NY  
Ministry of Culture Contemporary Collection, Baghdad, Iraq  
Museum of Contemporary Art San Diego, CA  
Pizzuti Collection, Columbus, OH  
The Shands Collection, Louisville, KY  
Santa Barbara Art Museum, Santa Barbara, CA  
Shah Garg Foundation, New York, NY  
Speed Art Museum, Louisville, KY  
Stephen Reily and Emily Bingham Collection, Louisville, KY  
Tareq Rajab Collection, Kuwait City, Kuwait