

## **Raafat ISHAK: Curriculum Vitae**

1967 Born Cairo, Egypt  
1982 Arrived Melbourne, Australia  
Lives and works Melbourne, Australia

### **Education**

2014 PhD in Fine Arts, Monash University, Melbourne  
2004 Post Graduate Diploma, Architecture (history and conservation practice),  
University of Melbourne  
1990 Bachelor of Fine Art (Painting), Victorian College of the Arts, Melbourne

### **Selected Solo Exhibitions**

2015 *Apnea*, Sutton Gallery, Melbourne  
*Collaborations. 2003-2015*, TCB, Melbourne  
2012 *Nomination for the presidency of the new Egypt*, Sutton Gallery, Melbourne  
*Proposition for a banner march and a black cube hot air balloon*, (with Tom  
Nicholson), Shepparton Art Museum, Victoria  
2011 *Art Dubai*, with Sutton Gallery, United Arab Emirates  
*Congratulatory Notes on Ubiquity and Debacle*, Sutton Gallery, Melbourne  
2010 *Raafat Ishak: Work in Progress*, Ian Potter Museum of Art, University of  
Melbourne  
2009 *Responses to an Immigration Request From One Hundred And Ninety Four  
Governments*, Sutton Gallery, Melbourne  
2007 *Raafat Ishak*, Sutton Gallery, Melbourne  
*Isle of the dead paintings from 1985 to 1995*, Ocular Lab inc, Melbourne  
2006 Sutton Gallery, Melbourne  
2005 *Home Ground*, Ocular Lab inc, Melbourne  
V, Kaliman Gallery, Sydney  
2004 *Paintings and wall works*, Kaliman Gallery, Sydney  
2003 *Organisation for Future Good Steps*, Conical Gallery, Melbourne  
2002 *River problem*, Townhouse Gallery, Cairo, Egypt  
1999 *Gone Good Government*, First Floor, Melbourne  
*Correction*, Lovers Gallery, Melbourne  
1997 *On Work*, Contemporary Art Centre of South Australia, Adelaide  
1995 *And Government*, 200 Gertrude Street, Melbourne

### **Selected Group Exhibitions**

2016 *Painting, More Painting*, ACCA, Melbourne  
2015 *Al-Seef*, Art Platform, Kuwait  
*Maria*, Incidents Above a Bar, The Alderman, Brunswick, with Lisa Radford  
*Group Grope*, Incidents Above a Bar, The Alderman, Brunswick  
*Al Seef*, Contemporary Art Platform, Kuwait City  
2014 *Nahrain*, Casula Powerhouse Arts Centre, Sydney  
2013 *My Avant-Garde is Bigger than Yours*, Kings ARI, Melbourne

- Safar/ Voyage: Contemporary Works by Arab, Iranian and Turkish Artists*, Museum of Anthropology, University of British Columbia, Vancouver, Canada  
*Terms & Conditions*, Singapore Art Museum, Singapore  
*Art Dubai*, with Sutton Gallery, United Arab Emirates
- 2012  
*Shifting Geometries*, Embassy of Australia, Washington DC, USA  
*Art Dubai*, with Sutton Gallery, United Arab Emirates  
*The Other's Other*, Artspace, Sydney  
*On Collaboration*, Beenspace, Sydney  
*Ocular Lab Inc*, Margaret Lawrence Gallery, Victorian College of the Arts, University of Melbourne  
*Alienation*, Barjeel Art Foundation, Sharjah, United Arab Emirates  
*Drawing Folio Pt.2*, Block Projects, Melbourne
- 2011  
*The Future of a Promise*, Venice Biennale, Italy  
*The Rest is Silence*, curated by Elvis Richardson and Claire Lambe, Death Be Kind, Melbourne  
*Forever Young*, Heide Museum of Modern Art, Melbourne
- 2010  
*NEW010*, Australian Centre for Contemporary Art, Melbourne  
*Pulp*, Sutton Gallery, Melbourne
- 2009  
*Cubism and Australian Art*, Heide Museum of Modern Art, Melbourne  
*Asia Pacific Triennial of Contemporary Art*, Queensland Art Gallery/Gallery of Modern Art, Brisbane  
*The West Brunswick Sculpture Triennial*, various venues in Brunswick, Melbourne  
*Drawing Folio*, curated by John Nixon, Block Projects, Melbourne  
*Castlemaine State Festival*, Victoria  
*The Shilo Project*, curated by Chris McAuliffe, Ian Potter Museum of Art, The University of Melbourne; and Wangaratta Art Gallery, Victoria
- 2008  
*Premonitions: Monash University Collection from 1961 – 2007*, McClelland Gallery, Melbourne  
*The Monobrow Show*, Hell Gallery, Melbourne  
*Drawing the Line*, curated by Damian Smith, Maroondah Art Gallery, Melbourne  
*Primary Views*, Monash University Museum of Art, Melbourne
- 2007-2009  
*The World in Painting*, curated by Zara Stanhope, an Asialink and Heide Museum of Modern Art exhibition touring to: Chiang Mai University Gallery, Thailand; The Art Centre, Chulalongkorn University, Bangkok, Thailand; Yuchengco Museum, Makati City, Philippines; Newcastle Region Art Gallery, New South Wales; Latrobe Regional Gallery, Victoria; and Warrnambool Art Gallery, Victoria
- 2007  
*Black Box Project*, Ocular Lab inc, Melbourne  
Sutton Projects, Melbourne, including collaborations with Damian Bertoli, Sandra Bridie, Sean Loughrey, Tom Nicholson and Alex Rizkala  
*Ocular Notes*, George Paton Gallery, University of Melbourne  
*Funeral Songs*, curated by Daniel Mudie Cunningham, MOP Projects, Sydney  
*ap.ro.pos – human rights in art*, curated by Romy Sedman, Bus Gallery, Melbourne
- 2006  
*21<sup>st</sup> Century Modern*, 2006 Adelaide Biennial of Australian Art, Art Gallery of South Australia  
*Parallel Lives: Australian Painting Today*, TarraWarra Biennial, curated by Victoria Lynn, Yarra Valley, Victoria  
*Single Currency*, Victorian College of the Arts, Melbourne
- 2005  
*Ocular Lab: 12*, Spacement, Melbourne  
*Slave*, Victorian College of the Arts, Melbourne
- 2004  
*A pink idea*, Art Gallery of New South Wales, Sydney  
*Multiple Miscellaneous Alliances*, curated by Bianca Hester, Clubs Projects, Melbourne  
*Octopus5*, curated by Nicholas Chambers, Gertrude Contemporary Art Spaces, Melbourne  
*Australian Art Now*, (with Tom Nicholson), National Gallery of Victoria, Melbourne  
*Decadence of the nude*, Ocular Lab inc, Melbourne

- 2003 *Labrador*, Ocular Lab inc, Melbourne  
*The future in every direction*, curated by Kelly Gellatly, National Gallery of Victoria, Melbourne  
*Home and Away*, curated by Linda Michael, a Monash University travelling exhibition  
*Organisations*, Parasite, Hong Kong, and West Space, Melbourne  
*Fieldwork*, curated by Jason Smith and Charles Green, National Gallery of Victoria, Melbourne  
*Compost*, Sutton Projects, Melbourne, with Alex Rizkalla and Jason Workman  
*Melbourne Now*, National Gallery of Victoria, Melbourne
- 2002 *It's a beautiful day*, curated by Bala Starr, Ian Potter Museum of Art, Melbourne, and Art Gallery of New South Wales, Sydney,
- 2001 *Office of Utopic Procedures*, West Space, Melbourne  
*Fan Flag*, a collaborative project with Sean Loughrey, Ocular Lab inc, Melbourne  
*Mary Mary fire walk with me*, a collaborative project with Jonathan Nichols, West Space, Melbourne
- 2000 *Blink*, in collaboration with Sean Loughrey, as part of Next Wave Festival, Australian Centre for Contemporary Art, Melbourne
- 2000 *Microcosm*, PB Gallery, Swinburne University, Melbourne
- 1997 *Feeling Machines*, curated by Jonathan Nichols, Stripp Gallery, Melbourne
- 1996 *Monash Acquisitive Art Prize*, Monash University Gallery, Melbourne
- 1996 *Travelogue*, curated by Rachel Kent, Ian Potter Gallery, University of Melbourne
- 1995 *Decadence*, 200 Gertrude Street, Melbourne

### Selected Bibliography

- Barikin, Amelia *Proposition for a banner march and a black cube hot air balloon*, ex. cat., Shepparton Art Museum, Victoria, 2012
- Bertoli, Damiano 'Good Secret', ex. cat., Melbourne Art Fair, 2002
- Blakston, Angela *Around the world ...*, *The Age*, 24 July 2004
- Boscutti, Stefano *Gone Good Government*, ex. cat., First Floor, Melbourne, 1999
- Bridie, Sandra *Isle of the dead and paintings from 1985 to 1995*, ex. cat., Ocular Lab inc, Melbourne, December 2007
- Burns, Karen 'Return of the nude', *Decadence of the nude*, ex. cat., Ocular Lab inc, Melbourne, 2004
- Chambers, Nicholas *Octopus5*, ex. cat., Gertrude Contemporary Art Spaces, Melbourne, 2004
- Chapman, Christopher 'Respect', *Broadsheet*, vol.26, no.1, Autumn 1997
- Claburn, Anna 'Hybrids all, let us rejoice', *The Australian*, 12 July 2002
- Clemens, Justin *Trinity Nine: Ocular Lab Artists at Trinity College*, ex. cat. Trinity College, The University of Melbourne, 2006
- Coslovitch, Gabriella 'Home is Where the Art Is', *The Age*, 23 November 2009
- Crawford, Ashley 'Raafat Ishak', *Australian Art Collector*, issue 35, Jan-Mar 2006, p.220
- Crawford, Ashley 'Raafat Ishak', *The Age*, 5 March 2006
- 'Raafat Ishak', *Australian Art Collector*, issue 31, Jan-Mar 2005
- 'In the eye of the beholder', *The Age*, 6 September 2003
- Daftari, Fereshteh *Safar voyage*, ex. cat., Museum of Anthropology, University of British Columbia, Vancouver, Canada, 2013
- Delany, Max *Trinity Nine: Ocular Lab Artists at Trinity College*, ex. cat. Trinity College, The University of Melbourne, 2006
- Devery, Jane *Melbourne Now*, ex. cat., National Gallery of Australia, 2013
- Feary, Mark 'The Other's Other', *Column 10*, Artspace, Sydney, 2012
- Gaynor, Andrew 'Decadence of the nude', *Un Magazine*, issue 1, 2004
- Goad, Philip 'The Mirror is ourselves', *Art + Events + Ideas*, The Ian Potter Museum of Art, volume 10, January 2011
- Grishin, Sasha *Art Monthly*, issue 227, March 2010

- Grishin, Sasha 'Melbourne Now reflects the super state of the state's arts', *SMH*, 30 November 2013
- Harding, Leslie and Cramer, Sue *Cubism and Australian Art*, The Miegunyah Press, Melbourne, 2009
- Hill, Kendall *The Australian*, 25 July 2009
- Hill, Wes 'The Merging of Politics, materials and metaphysics', *Frieze*, no 163, May, 2014
- Huppatz, D.J. *Good ship*, ex. cat. PB Gallery, Melbourne 2000  
 'Personal Archive', *Art/Text*, no.67, Nov 1999 - Jan 2000  
*And Government*, ex. cat., 20 Gertrude Street, Melbourne, March 1995
- Ishak, Raafat *Retrospectives: Sandra Bridie*, ex.cat, Ocular Lab inc, Melbourne, 2007  
 'Good dog good dog', *Country Side: Sean Loughrey*, ex. cat., 1999  
*On Work*, ex. cat., Contemporary Art Centre of South Australia, Adelaide, 1997  
*Retrospectives: Sally Manall*, ex. cat. Ocular Lab inc, Melbourne, 2008
- Kent, Rachel *Travelogue*, ex. cat., Ian Potter Gallery, University of Melbourne, May 1996
- King, Natalie 'APT: That's entertainment', *Flash Art*, vol.43, no.271, Mar-Apr
- Lacy, Danny *Proposition for a banner march and a black cube hot air balloon*, ex. cat., Shepparton Art Museum, Victoria, 2012
- Lynn, Victoria *TarraWarra Biennial 2006 – Parallel Lives: Australian Painting Today*, ex.cat., TarraWarra, Victoria, 2006
- MacDonald, Anna *NEW010*, ex. cat., Australian Centre for Contemporary Art, Melbourne, 2010
- Makin, Jeff *Herald Sun*, 29 October 2007
- McAuliffe, Chris 'Foreword', *Raafat Ishak: Work in Progress*, ex. cat., The Ian Potter Museum of Art, The University of Melbourne, 2010
- McKenzie, Robyn 'Painting into Electronic Age', *The Age*, 26 April 1995
- McSpedden, Shelley 'An interview with Raafat Ishak and Tom Nicholson', *Discipline*, no.1, Winter 2011
- Merzaban, Mandy 'Interview with Raafat Ishak', *Alienation*, ex. cat., Barjeel Art Foundation, Sharjah, 2012
- Merzaban, Mandy *Exhibition Terms and Conditions*, ex. cat., Singapore Art Museum, Singapore
- Michael, Linda *Home and Away*, ex. cat., Monash University, Melbourne, 2003
- Money, Lawrence *The Age*, 16 March 2007
- Nelson, Robert 'Attempts at touching the void', *The Age*, 30 June 2010  
*The Age*, 30 August 2007
- Nichols, Jonathan 'Raafat Ishak's decadence', *Stamm*, June 2012:  
<http://www.stamm.com.au/2012/06/>
- Nicholson, Tom 'Interview with Raafat Ishak', *Art Territories*, April 2002:  
<http://www.artterritories.net/>  
 'Raafat Ishak', *21<sup>st</sup> Century Modern: 2006 Adelaide Biennial of Australian Art*, ex. cat., Art Gallery of South Australia, Adelaide, 2006
- O'Connell, Stephen *Feeling Machines*, ex. cat., Stripp Gallery, Melbourne, 1997
- Palmer, Daniel 'Australian Culture Now', *Art & Australia*, vol.42, no.2, Summer 2004
- Papastergiadis, Nikos 'Foreword', *Proposition for a banner march and a black cube hot air balloon*, ex. cat., Shepparton Art Museum, Victoria, 2012
- Raymond, Katrina *Voice*, The University of Melbourne, vol.6, no.6
- Richards, Bree 'Around the world in 80 shades: Raafat Ishak's pilgrimage in paint', *Art Monthly*, issue 236, December 2010  
*Pathways in Paint: 6<sup>th</sup> Asia Pacific Triennial*, ex. cat., Queensland Art Gallery, Brisbane, 2009  
 'In Conversation with Raafat Ishak', *Artlines*, no.4, 2009

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|----------------------|---|
| Richardson, Penelope | 'Octopus 5', <i>Art Link</i> , vol.24, no. 3, 2004  |
| Scott, Hanna         | 'Voices of Revolution', <i>Surface Asia</i> , no.3, 2011  |
| Sedman, Romy         | <i>ap.ro.pos – human rights in art</i> , ex. cat., Bus Gallery, Melbourne, November 2007  |
| Short, Linda         | <i>Forever Young: The Heide Collection</i> , ex. cat., Heide Museum of Modern Art, Melbourne, 2011  |
| Stanhope, Zara       | <i>Hostings: Ocular Lab 2003-10</i> , Margaret Lawrence Gallery, Victorian College of the Arts, Melbourne, 2012<br><i>The World in Painting</i> , ex. cat., Heide Museum of Modern Art, Melbourne, October 2007   |
| Starr, Bala          | 'Interview with Raafat Ishak', <i>Raafat Ishak: Work in Progress</i> , ex. cat., The Ian Potter Museum of Art, University of Melbourne, 2010<br><i>It's a beautiful day</i> , ex. cat., Ian Potter Museum, University of Melbourne, and Art Gallery of New South Wales, Sydney, 2002<br><i>The Age</i> , 23 January 2010<br><i>Drawing the Line</i> , ex. cat., Maroondah Art Gallery, Melbourne January 2008 |
| Stephens, Andrew     |   |
| Smith, Damian        |   |
| Takesh, Suheyla      | <i>Al Seef</i> , ex. cat., Contemporary Art Platform, Kuwait City   |
| Travis, Lara         | 'Raafat Ishak: Trans-contextual tendencies', <i>Field Work: Australian Contemporary Art 1968-2002</i> , ex. cat., The Ian Potter Centre: National Gallery of Victoria, Melbourne, 2003  |
| Tu, Andrea           | 'Give me a home...', <i>And the Program</i> , ex. cat., June 1996   |
| Tutton, Sarah        | 'Raafat Ishak's Passage to Safe Harbour', <i>Eyeline</i> , no.67, 2009  |
| Watts, Rachael       | 'Compartmentalised Beauty', <i>Broadsheet</i> , vol.38.4, 2009  |
| Weber, Eleanor Ivory | 'On collaboration', <i>Frieze online</i> , b20 February, 2013   |
| Wise, Kit            | <i>Frieze</i> , January 2008  |
| Zagala, Stephen      | 'Where is contemporary art?', <i>Hostings: Ocular Lab, 2003-10</i> , Margaret Lawrence Gallery, Victorian College of the Arts, Melbourne, 2012  |

### **Collections**

Barjeel Art Foundation, Sharjah, United Arab Emirates  
Michael Buxton Collection, Melbourne  
Monash University Museum of Art, Melbourne  
National Gallery of Victoria, Melbourne  
National Gallery of Australia  
Queensland Art Gallery / Gallery of Modern Art, Brisbane  
RACV, Melbourne  
SBS Radio, Melbourne  
State Government of Victoria  
The Ian Potter Museum of Art, University of Melbourne  
Private collections  
Art Gallery of New South Wales  
Art Gallery of Western Australia  
Museum of Contemporary Art, Sydney  
City of Melbourne  
Shepparton Art Museum  
Horsham Regional Art Gallery  
UQ Art Museum / The University of Queensland

### **Commissions**

City of Melbourne, Laneway Commissions, 2008  
Victoria Golf Club, 2005  
Christian Brothers, 2004  
SBS Radio, Federation Square, 2003

### **Grants**

2012 Australia Council, Cite Internationale Des Arts Studio, Paris

- 2007 Australia Council New Work Grant
- 2004 Arts Victoria Creative Grant
- 2001 Australia Council Development Grant

Raafat Ishak is a founding member of Ocular Lab Inc, Melbourne

**Raafat Ishak is represented in Australia by Sutton Gallery, Melbourne**