

Born 1967 Cairo, Egypt, migrated to Australia in 1982
Lives and works in Melbourne, Victoria.

Education / Academic

2019–Current	Head of Painting / Senior Lecturer, Victorian College of the Arts, Melbourne
2014	PhD in Fine Arts, Monash University, Melbourne
2004	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

2023	<i>Eye Looking at Large Glass Broken</i> , Heide Museum of Modern Art, Melbourne
2021	<i>Eye Looking at Large Glass Broken Two</i> , Sutton Gallery, Melbourne
2018	<i>Chicken River</i> , Gertrude Contemporary, Melbourne <i>Withdrawal Courtesies</i> , Sutton Gallery, Melbourne
2017	<i>1977</i> , Sutton Gallery, Melbourne <i>Hebdomeros</i> , with Damiano Bertoli, Sutton Gallery, Melbourne
2016	<i>Bushrangers</i> , Platform Hero Billboard, Melbourne
2015	<i>Apnea</i> , Sutton Gallery, Melbourne <i>Collaborations, 2003-2015</i> , TCB, Melbourne
2014	<i>PhD exhibition</i> , Monash University Gallery, Melbourne
2012	<i>Nomination for the presidency of the new Egypt</i> , Sutton Gallery, Melbourne <i>Proposition for a banner march and a black cube hot air balloon</i> , with Tom Nicholson, Shepparton Art Museum, Victoria
2011	<i>Art Dubai</i> , with Sutton Gallery, United Arab Emirates <i>Congratulatory Notes on Ubiquity and Debacle</i> , Sutton Gallery, Melbourne
2010	<i>Raafat Ishak: Work in Progress</i> , Ian Potter Museum of Art, University of Melbourne
2009	<i>Responses to an Immigration Request From One Hundred And Ninety Four Governments</i> , Sutton Gallery, Melbourne
2007	<i>Raafat Ishak</i> , Sutton Gallery, Melbourne <i>Isle of the dead paintings from 1985 to 1995</i> , Ocular Lab inc, Melbourne
2006	<i>Raafat Ishak</i> , Sutton Gallery, Melbourne
2005	<i>Home Ground</i> , Ocular Lab inc, Melbourne <i>V</i> , Kaliman Gallery, Sydney
2004	<i>Paintings and wall works</i> , Kaliman Gallery, Sydney
2003	<i>Organisation for Future Good Steps</i> , Conical Gallery, Melbourne
2002	<i>River problem</i> , Townhouse Gallery, Cairo, Egypt
1999	<i>Gone Good Government</i> , First Floor, Melbourne <i>Correction</i> , Lovers Gallery, Melbourne
1997	<i>On Work</i> , Contemporary Art Centre of South Australia, Adelaide
1995	<i>Government</i> , 200 Gertrude Street, Melbourne

Selected Group Exhibitions

- 2024 *Splitting Hairs*, Green Floor Gallery, Melbourne
- 2023 *It's not you, it's me*, Fiona and Sydney Myer Gallery, University of Melbourne, Melbourne
The Night of Counting the Tears, Islamic Museum of Australia, Melbourne
- 2022 *Box Hill*, Five Walls, Melbourne
a do ocean, KINGS Artist-Run, Melbourne
XXX Celebrating 30 Years of Sutton Gallery, Sutton Gallery, Melbourne
Raafat Ishak and Lane Cormick, *Dean Barry*, Sutton Gallery, Melbourne
- 2021 *Surreal Landscapes*, Mornington Peninsular Art Gallery, Mornington
The Space We Live, the Air We Breathe, Counihan Gallery, curated by Jan Duffy and Matthew Perkins, Melbourne
- 2020 *TOWARDS REGROWTH*, Art Aid for Fire Relief, Sutton Gallery, Melbourne
12 Months, Rear 72 Smith Street, curated by Christopher L G Hill
#001, Niche Fetisch inaugural exhibition, Carlton
- 2019 *portico*, Connors Connors, Melbourne
- 2018 *Overdrawn*, Nanyang Academy of Arts, Singapore and Margaret Lawrence Gallery, Victorian College of the Arts, Melbourne
Monochromes, Margaret Lawrence Gallery, Victorian College of the Arts, Melbourne
- 2017 *Westspace fundraiser*, Melbourne
Untitled, Mornington Peninsula Regional Gallery, Mornington Peninsula
Untitled, Museum of the living west, Melbourne
World Backwards, Sutton Project Space, Melbourne
A decolonial geographic, Devonport Regional Gallery, Devonport
BOO, Blindside, Melbourne
Call of the Avant-Garde: Constructivism and Australian Art, Heide Museum of Modern Art, Melbourne
100 Masterpieces of Modern and Contemporary Arab Art, The Barjeel Collection, Institut du Monde Arabe, Paris
- 2016 *Borders Barriers Walls*, Monash University Museum of Art, Melbourne
Painting, More Painting, ACCA, Melbourne
- 2015 *Home Ground*, Agha Khan Museum, Toronto
Unintended Refrains, George Paton Gallery, University of Melbourne, Parkville
Maria, with Lisa Radford, Incidents Above a Bar, The Alderman, Brunswick
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

- 2012 *Art Dubai*, with Sutton Gallery, United Arab Emirates
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, 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, Melbourne
Drawing Folio, curated by John Nixon, Block Projects, Melbourne
Castlemaine State Festival, Castlemaine
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 *21st 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
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
 Clabburn, 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', <i>The Age</i> , 23 November, 2009
Crawford, Ashley	'Raafat Ishak', <i>Australian Art Collector</i> , issue 35, p.220, Jan-Mar, 2006 'Raafat Ishak', <i>The Age</i> , 5 March, 2006 'Raafat Ishak', <i>Australian Art Collector</i> , issue 31, Jan-Mar, 2005 'In the eye of the beholder', <i>The Age</i> , 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
Do Compo, Fernando	'A decolonial geographic', ex. cat., Davenport Regional Gallery, 2017
Feary, Mark	'The Other's Other', <i>Column 10</i> , Artspace, Sydney, 2012
Gaynor, Andrew	'Decadence of the nude', <i>Un Magazine</i> , issue 1, 2004
Goad, Philip	'The Mirror is ourselves', <i>Art + Events + Ideas</i> , The Ian Potter Museum of Art, Volume 10, January, 2011
Grishin, Sasha	<i>Art Monthly</i> , Issue 227, March, 2010 'Melbourne Now reflects the super state of the state's arts', <i>SMH</i> , 30 November, 2013
Harding, Leslie and Cramer, Sue	'Cubism and Australian Art', <i>The Miegunyah Press</i> , Melbourne, 2009
Hill, Kendall	<i>The Australian</i> , 25 July, 2009
Hill, Wes	'The Merging of Politics, materials and metaphysics', <i>Frieze</i> , no 163, May, 2014
Huppatz, D.J.	'Good ship', ex. cat., PB Gallery, Melbourne, 2000 'Personal Archive', <i>Art/Text</i> , no.67, Nov 1999 - Jan, 2000 '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', <i>Country Side: Sean Loughrey</i> , 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 'Exodus shows strength in adversity', <i>The Age</i> , 6 January 2021
Kent, Rachel	'Travelogue', ex. cat., Ian Potter Gallery, University of Melbourne, May, 1996
King, Natalie	'APT: That's entertainment', <i>Flash Art</i> , vol.43, no.271, Mar-Apr, 2010
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	<i>Herald Sun</i> , 29 October, 2007
McAuliffe, Chris	'Foreword', <i>Raafat Ishak: Work in Progress</i> , ex. cat., The Ian Potter Museum of Art, The University of Melbourne, 2010
McKenzie, Robyn	'Painting into Electronic Age', <i>The Age</i> , 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, 2013
- Michael, Linda 'Home and Away', ex. cat., Monash University, Melbourne, 2003
- Money, Lawrence *The Age*, 16 March, 2007
- Myson, Amille 'Chicken River, a review', *Right Now*, rightnow.org.au, September 12, 2018
- 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', *21st Century Modern: 2006 Adelaide Biennial of Australian Art*, ex. cat., Art Gallery of South Australia, Adelaide, 2006
- O'Brien, Kerrie 'Meet you under the colour-field: bold art coming to a station near you', *WAtoday*, August 2, 2022
- 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
- Parker, Francis 'Borders, Barriers Walls', ex. cat. Monash University Museum of Art, Melbourne, 2016
- 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: 6th Asia Pacific Triennial', ex. cat., Queensland Art Gallery, Brisbane, 2009

'In Conversation with Raafat Ishak', *Artlines*, no.4, 2009
- Richardson, Penelope 'Octopus 5', *Art Link*, vol.24, no. 3, 2004
- Scott, Hanna 'Voices of Revolution', *Surface Asia*, no.3, 2011
- Sedman, Romy 'ap.ro.pos – human rights in art', ex. cat., Bus Gallery, Melbourne, November, 2007
- Short, Linda 'Forever Young: The Heide Collection', ex. cat., Heide Museum of Modern Art, Melbourne, 2011
- Stanhope, Zara 'Hostings: Ocular Lab 2003-10', Margaret Lawrence Gallery, Victorian College of the Arts, Melbourne, 2012

'The World in Painting', ex. cat., Heide Museum of Modern Art, Melbourne, October, 2007
- Starr, Bala 'Interview with Raafat Ishak', *Raafat Ishak: Work in Progress*, ex. cat., The Ian Potter Museum of Art, University of Melbourne, 2010

'It's a beautiful day', ex. cat., Ian Potter Museum, University of Melbourne, and Art Gallery of New South Wales, Sydney, 2002
- Stephens, Andrew *The Age*, 23 January, 2010
- Smith, Damian 'Drawing the Line', ex. cat., Maroondah Art Gallery, Melbourne, January, 2008
- Takesh, Suheyla 'Al Seef', ex. cat., Contemporary Art Platform, Kuwait City, 2015
- Travis, Lara 'Raafat Ishak: Trans-contextual tendencies', *Field Work: Australian Contemporary Art 1968-2002*, ex. cat., The Ian Potter Centre: National Gallery of Victoria, Melbourne, 2003

Tu, Andrea

'Give me a home...', *And the Program*, ex. cat., June, 1996

Tutton, Sarah

'Raafat Ishak's Passage to Safe Harbour', *Eyeline*, no.67, 2009

Watts, Rachael

'Compartmentalised Beauty', *Broadsheet*, vol.38, 2009

Weber, Eleanor Ivory

'On collaboration', *Frieze online*, p.20, February, 2013

Wise, Kit

Frieze, January, 2008

Zagala, Stephen

'Where is contemporary art?', *Hostings: Ocular Lab*, 2003-10, 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

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

Heide Museum of Art

Artbank Australia

Private collections

Commissions

The Metro Tunnel Legacy Artwork Program, Victoria State Government, 2022

Un Magazine front cover and artist's pages, 2016

City of Melbourne, Laneway Commissions, 2008

Victoria Golf Club, 2005

Christian Brothers, 2004

SBS Radio, Federation Square, 2003

Grants

2016	Australia Council New Work Grant
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. and is represented in Australia by Sutton Gallery, Melbourne.