

MALDA SMADI

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Education

- 2023** Rhode Island School of Design RI, USA
MFA in Painting
- 2008** American University in Dubai Dubai, UAE
BFA in Visual Communication, concentration in Creative Advertising

Fellowships & Residencies

- 2024** Penland Winter Residency NC, USA
- 2017** Salama bint Hamdan Emerging Artist Fellowship Abu Dhabi, UAE

Awards & Grants

- 2024** Curatorial project, *The Spiritual is Political*, selected for an exhibition at PS122 Gallery NYC, USA
- 2023** Nominated for the AICAD Teaching Fellowship USA
- 2021** Full MFA Scholarship from the Salama bint Hamdan Al-Nahyan Foundation Abu Dhabi, UAE
- 2016** 1st Place Winner – Fine Arts category, Sheikhha Manal Young Artists Award Dubai, UAE

Group Exhibitions

- 2026** *Out of Line*, James Town Art Center RI, USA (upcoming)
Founders and Inventors: Women Who Created Our World, Gather RI RI, USA (upcoming)
- 2025** *Put a Flower On It*, East Manning RI, USA
Long Transmission, Premier Building NY, USA
The Spiritual is Political, PS122 Gallery NYC, USA (curator & artist)
- 2024** *RISD Faculty & Staff*, Woods Gerry Gallery RI, USA
Mixotricha: Death of the Author, Rebus Cathedral RI, USA
Banat Al Hara, Arab Film & Media Institute, Selva Gallery NYC, USA
Show & Tell, Penland School of Craft NC, USA
- 2023** *Traversing Terrain*, Gilman Gallery RI, USA
Rota Fortunae, Field Projects NYC, USA
RISD Grad Show 2023, Convention Center RI, USA
Fractals of Fabulations, Nightingale–Brown House RI, USA
Painting with Butter, Sol Koffler, RISD RI, USA
The Space in Between, Old Library, RISD RI, USA
Field Works, Red Eye Gallery, RISD RI, USA
- 2022** *Triennial Exhibition*, Woods Gerry Gallery, RISD RI, USA
While the Coffee Grounds Settle, Fathom Gallery WA, USA
A Moment That Lasts Beyond, Sol Koffler Gallery, RISD RI, USA
- 2021** *Connected, Collected*, Sotheby's Dubai, UAE
The Disappearing Art Show, Warehouse 46, Alserkal Avenue Dubai, UAE
- 2020** *Playing Spaces*, Warehouse 44, Alserkal Avenue Dubai, UAE
- 2019** *House of Failure*, Tashkeel, Sikka Art Fair Dubai, UAE
- 2018** *Cry Me a River*, DAMAC Smart Heights Dubai, UAE
- 2017** *Art: Process & Practice (SEAF)*, Warehouse421 Abu Dhabi, UAE
- 2016** *Sheikha Manal Young Artist Award*, Citywalk Dubai, UAE
Rebirth/Transitions, Pro Art Gallery Dubai, UAE
- 2008** *Mother Series*, Sikka Art Fair Dubai, UAE
VC '08 Senior Show, The Courtyard Gallery Dubai, UAE

Public Projects

- 2026** Dirt Palace storefront showcase commissioned by Dirt Palace RI, USA (upcoming)
- 2019** *In-Transit Archives*, a series of recorded conversations with women based in the UAE from the MENASA diaspora.
Mural project with Blank Canvas at Al Wasla Festival, Burj Park Dubai, UAE
- 2015** Apprenticeship with visiting Columbian artist, Nicolas Paris, Sheikhha Salama Program, Art Dubai, UAE
Restart The Art, thejamjar Dubai, UAE
- 2006** *Flight of the Falcons* public art project, American University in Dubai, UAE

Select Press

- | Nadine Khalil, "The Suffering Body" Alserkal Avenue, October 06, 2021
- | Melissa Gronlund, "11 Artists in the UAE to Watch in the Coming Year" The National, December 04, 2020
- | Alexandra Chaves, "101 Presents New Ways of Buying and Experiencing Art" The National, November 23, 2020
- | Safa' Shebly, "OMG Boobies!" Raseef 22, December 26, 2018
- | Ghazal Salah, "Between Art and Taboo" CNN Arabic, December 19, 2018
- | Sarah Ben Romdane, "The Syrian Artist Celebrating Women's Bodies" Mille World, October 24, 2018
- | Fatma Atfeh, "15 Promising Artists Mark their Graduation in Community & Critique" Ittihad, September 18, 2017
- | "19 Winners of Young Artist Award Honoured in Dubai" Gulf News, December 05, 2016

Publications

- 2023** V1. Published by Rhode Island School of Design
- 2022** *While the Coffee Grounds Settle* Published by the UAE Embassy in Washington DC
- 2020** Discontent (issue 1) Published by Discontent Ltd
- 2015** A Magazine of Random Published by FN Designs

Panels & Talks

- 2025** Studio Visit with Malda Smadi and Xavier Patterson, Rhode Island School of Design RI, USA
The Spiritual is Political, Artist Talk, PS122 Gallery NYC, USA
- 2020** 'Is Bauhaus Possible Today?' part of a public programme designed by Kevin Jones at Jean-Paul Najar Foundation Dubai, UAE
- 2019** 'Vulnerability and Shared Voices' part of Banat Collective's public program at Art Dubai Dubai, UAE
'Taboo Art' with a presentation of my sculptural series OMG Boobies! on BBC Arabic's BBC Xtra* Beirut, Lebanon
- 2017** SEAF Cohort 4 'Community & Critique' at Warehouse421 Abu Dhabi, UAE

Teaching & Workshops

- 2025** Volunteer Artist Mentor, New Urban Arts RI, USA
Guest Critic, Studio Design Foundations, Rhode Island School of Design RI, USA
Guest Lecturer, Winter Session, Rhode Island School of Design RI, USA
- 2024** Guest Teaching Artist, *Markmaking*, University of Rhode Island RI, USA
- 2023** Guest Teaching Artist, *Color Theory*, University of Rhode Island RI, USA
STEAM Instructor, iCamp Westchester NY, USA
Teaching Assistant to Leigh Tarentino, *Accessorizing Painting*, Brown University RI, USA
- 2022** Teaching Assistant to Kevin Zucker, *Junior Painting*, Rhode Island School of Design RI, USA
(Re)Starting Your Creative Practice, Blank Canvas Abu Dhabi, UAE
Teaching Assistant to Dennis Congdon, *Sophomore Drawing*, Rhode Island School of Design RI, USA
- 2021** Teaching Assistant to Craig Taylor, *Junior Painting*, Rhode Island School of Design RI, USA
Hirfati Youth Program, Irthi Contemporary Crafts Council Sharjah, UAE
- 2020** *Portraiture Painting (Acrylic)*, Manarat Al Saadiyat and Warehouse421 Abu Dhabi, UAE
Colour, Texture, & Shape, Jameel Art Center Dubai, UAE
- 2019** *Clay Sculptures*, Jameel Art Center Dubai, UAE
Portraiture Painting (Oil), Jameel Art Center Dubai, UAE
- 2018** *Portraiture Painting (Acrylic)*, Blank Canvas and Medaf Dubai Dubai, UAE

Other Related Experience

- Current – Apr '24** Project Coordinator, Rhode Island School of Design RI, USA
- Sept & Nov '23** Assistant (internship), The Dirt Palace RI, USA
- Sept '23** Exhibition Assistant at SPRING(BREAK (internship), Field Projects NY, USA
- Aug '23** Gallery Installer, Heimbold Visual Arts Center NY, USA
- Aug '23** Residency Assistant (internship), The Peanut Factory NC, USA
- Sept '22 – May '23** Editorial Manager, V.1 Student Publication RI, USA
- Sept '22 – May '23** Woodshop monitor (Art Handler and gallery installer, Rhode Island School of Design RI, USA
- June '21 – Oct '18** Publishing Manager, Motivate Media Group Dubai, UAE
- Jan '18 – Feb '16** Account Manager, Scratch Advertising Dubai, UAE
- Jan '16 – Aug '15** Editorial Assistant, Canvas Magazine Dubai, UAE
- Aug – July '15** Freelance Contributing Writer, Brownbook Dubai, UAE
- June '15 – Oct '14** Editorial Assistant, Harper's Bazaar Interior Dubai, UAE
- Sept '14 – Nov '10** Graphic Designer, Virgin Megastore Dubai, UAE