

## VIAN SORA

### BORN

1976 Baghdad, Iraq

Lives and works in Louisville, Kentucky, USA

### EDUCATION

2012 MBA, Bellarmine University, Louisville, Kentucky, USA

2007 Studied Printmaking, Istanbul Museum of Graphic Art (IMOGA), Istanbul, Türkiye

2000 BS, Computer Sciences, Al Mansour University, Baghdad, Iraq

### SOLO EXHIBITIONS

2025 *Vian Sora: Outerworlds*, Santa Barbara Art Museum, Santa Barbara, California, USA;  
Speed Art Museum, Louisville, Kentucky, USA; Asia Society Texas, Houston, Texas,  
USA

*Sky from Below*, David Nolan Gallery, New York, USA

2024 *House of Pearls*, The Third Line Gallery, Dubai, UAE

*Noosphere*, Independent New York, David Nolan Gallery, New York, New York, USA

2023 *End of Hostilities*, David Nolan Gallery, New York, New York, USA

2022 *Subduction*, Luis De Jesus Los Angeles, Los Angeles, California, USA

*What You Shout into The Woods Echoes Back*, Moremen Gallery, Louisville, Kentucky, USA

2021 *Floodgates*, Moremen Gallery, Louisville, Kentucky, USA

2019 *Unbounded Domains*, Moremen Gallery, Louisville, Kentucky, USA

2017 *Now Here*, Quappi Projects, Louisville, Kentucky, USA

2016 *Displaced Narratives*, 1619 Flux, Louisville, Kentucky, USA

2015 *Sacred Journeys*, Festival of Faiths, Actors Theater Gallery, Louisville, Kentucky, USA

2011 *Escape into Life*, US Chamber of Commerce, Washington DC, USA

2010 *Between Two Worlds*, The Green Building Gallery, Louisville, Kentucky, USA

2008 *Prophecy*, Aspen Gallery & Dar el Cid Museum, Kuwait City, Kuwait

2007 *Legends of Baghdad*, Showcase Art Gallery, Dubai, UAE

*Reflections: Istanbul to Baghdad*, IMOGA Art Gallery and Museum of Graphic Art, Istanbul,

- Türkiye
- 2006 *Voyage Into Arabia*, Aspen Gallery, Dar el Cid Museum, Kuwait City, Kuwait  
*Vian Sora: A Woman in Time*, Iraq Museum International Exhibition, Boston, Massachusetts, USA
- 2004 *Longing to Past*, Gallery Zamwa – Sulaymaniyah City, Iraq
- 2003 *Vian Sora: Selected Works*, Japanese Foundation Culture Center, Ankara, Türkiye
- 2003 *Neher, Sheher... Misafirah (River, City... Voyage)*, Topkapi Palace Museum, Istanbul, Türkiye
- 2002 *Periphrasis*, Baghdad, Grundfos Office Gallery, Baghdad, Iraq
- 2001 *Pulses, Shapes and Sense of Time*, Inaa Art Gallery, Baghdad, Iraq

### SELECTED GROUP EXHIBITIONS

- 2025 *The Only Way Out Is Through: The Twentieth Line*, curated by Shumon Basar, The Third Line, Dubai, UAE
- 2024 *Risky Business: A Painter's Forum*, Torrance Art Museum, Torrance, California, USA
- 2023 *Rounding the Circle: The Mary and Alfred Shands Collection*, Speed Art Museum, Louisville, Kentucky, USA
- 2022 *Crosscurrents: Contemporary Art from the Speed Art Museum Collection and Beyond*, Speed Art Museum, Louisville, Kentucky, USA  
*Breaking Water*, Contemporary Arts Center, Cincinnati, Ohio, USA
- 2021 *New Directions: The Shands Collection*, Quappi Projects, Louisville, Kentucky, USA
- 2020 *We All Declare For LIBERTY*, Quappi Projects, Louisville, Kentucky, USA
- 2019 *KMAC TRIENNIAL*, KMAC Museum, Louisville, Kentucky, USA  
*Imagined Monuments*, Louisville Metro Hall, Louisville, Kentucky, USA
- 2017 *Project 19: The Prolonged Gaze*, Zephyr Gallery, Louisville, Kentucky, USA
- 2011 *In the Course of Human Events 9/11-2011*, Louisville Visual Art Association, Kentucky, USA
- 2010 *Women Imagining Women*, Pyro Gallery, Louisville, Kentucky, USA
- 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, Türkiye
- 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*, 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** *Abzu*, Meridians at Art Basel Miami Beach, Miami Beach, Florida, USA
- 2023** *The Alfred R. Shands III and Mary N. Shands Master Series: Vian Sora*, in conversation with Contemporary Curator Tyler Blackwell, Speed Art Museum, Louisville, Kentucky, USA
- 2018** *Video Installation, Collaboration with the Louisville Orchestra, conductor Teddy Abrams, and composer Sebastian Chang*, Louisville, Kentucky, USA  
*Women Artists in the Age of Impressionism*, Audio Recording Project, The Speed Art Museum, Louisville, Kentucky, USA

## AWARDS/RESIDENCIES

- 2021** Great Meadows Foundation Art Residency Studio Program, Berlin, Germany
- 2018** Joan Mitchell Foundation Nominee Painter and Sculpture Award
- 2017** Great Meadows Foundation Artist traveling grant recipient
- 2003** Grundfos Art Residency Program August, Bodrum, Türkiye
- 2003** Grundfos Selected Portfolio Artist, Istanbul, Türkiye
- 2002** Grundfos Sponsored Artist, Copenhagen, Denmark

## COLLECTIONS

- AK Bank Collection, Istanbul, Türkiye
- Baltimore Museum of Art, Baltimore, Maryland, USA
- Brooke and Ambassador Matthew Barzun Collection, Louisville, Kentucky, USA
- Brooke and Pam Smith Collection, Louisville, Kentucky, USA
- Dar Al Cid Museum, Tareq Rajab Collection, Kuwait City, Kuwait
- Fidelity Art Collection, Boston, Massachusetts, USA

French Embassy, Baghdad, Iraq

Grinnell College Museum of Art, Grinnell, Iowa, USA

Henry Heuser, Jr. and Donald Whitfield Collection, Louisville, Kentucky, USA

Italian Embassy, Baghdad, Iraq

Jim and Irene Karp Collection, Charleston, Indiana, USA

Kadim al Sahir Paris, France

KMAC Museum, Louisville, Kentucky, USA

Leder Collection, New York, Kentucky, USA

Ministry of Culture Contemporary Collection, Baghdad, Iraq

Museum of Contemporary Art, San Diego, California, USA

Pizzuti Collection, Columbus, Ohio, USA

The Shands Collection, Louisville, Kentucky, USA

Santa Barbara Art Museum, Santa Barbara, California, USA

Shah Garg Collection, New York, Kentucky, USA

Speed Art Museum, Louisville, Kentucky, USA

Stephen Reily and Emily Bingham Collection, Louisville, Kentucky, USA