

Naz Shahrokh

M: 971 56 455 9492; E: nazshahrokh@gmail.com W: www.nazshahrokh.net



Artist Biography

Naz Shahrokh has worked as an artist and educator internationally in the United States, Egypt, and the UAE. She received a BFA and an MFA in Painting, and an MS in Art History from Pratt Institute, Brooklyn, NY, where she later taught Fine Arts and Art History from 1998 to 2008. She joined the faculty at the Performing and Visual Arts Department at the American University in Cairo, Egypt in 2004-2006, and has been teaching at Zayed University, Abu Dhabi, UAE since 2008.

Naz has exhibited her work internationally and awards for her work include the Change Inc. (the Rauschenberg Foundation) Grant, Captiva, FL, and the Artist-In-The-Marketplace Fellowship, the Bronx Museum, Bronx, NY. Her work has been reviewed in the New York Times, TimeOut Abu Dhabi, the Connecticut Post, the Advocate and Greenwich Time, Contemporary Practices, and ART PAPERS, and is included in private and public collections internationally.

Throughout her creative process and research, Naz investigates common challenges found within the environment with a focus of bringing forth in tactile matter an experience that is both pleasing to the eye as well as revealing. Naz is currently working on several projects connected to land art, where she is investigating the landscape of the UAE, as well as a body of work linked to Cartography.

ARTIST STATEMENT

Landscape and nature act as important sources of inspiration throughout my work. I am drawn to the tactile process of assembling, collecting, giving new meaning to materials. The process of creating order out of chaos is a meditation and process that is deeply meaningful.

As often as possible, I strive to find a connection in my studio practice that is significant in conjunction to society, the individual, personal experiences, and like a narrator or a poet, through the use of collecting objects and images, like words, I assemble visual narratives.

IMAGE SAMPLE INVENTORY & PROJECT DESCRIPTIONS:

A. Photography/Mixed Media/Work on Paper

In this body of work, I continue to investigate the landscape of my current environment in the UAE, as well as during my travels. The photographs are an initial start, and then with layers of color drawing media, ink and/or thread, I transform these images into a different form and narrative.

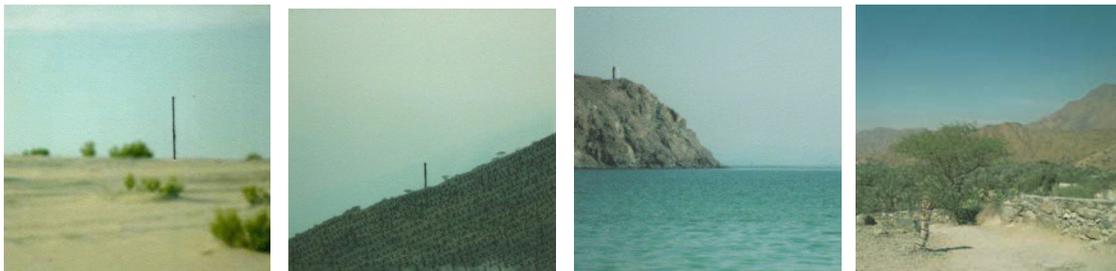
These drawings/photographs explore the concept of “we’re all connected”—this to me is vast and fluid. In this little world of ours, we’re all connected, spiritually, physically, and emotionally. One action offers a reaction and this can be either positive or negative. This connectedness can be both instrumental in the act of doing good, and providing kindness and care, as well as in the reverse if our actions are derivative of the opposite energy in negativity and selfishness. Being interconnected is both hidden and concealed, and it is when one quiets the mind and heart that it can be felt.



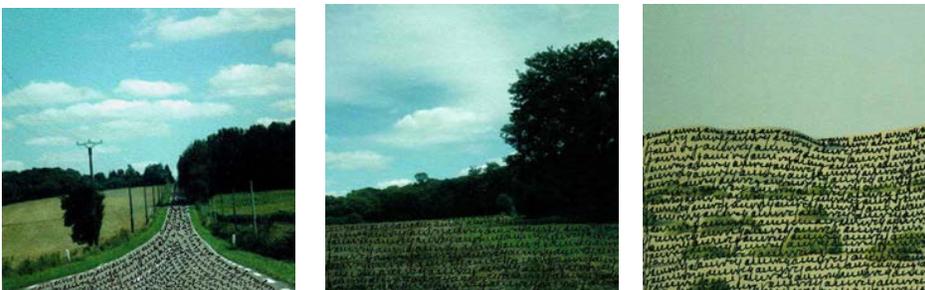
We're all connected, 2014-present
Digital C-print, color drawing media, silver thread and ink
4 x 4 inches (10.5 cm x 10.5 cm)



Ying and Yang Meet in the Desert, 2011
Digital C-print, thread, color drawing media and ink
6 x 6 inches (13 cm x 13 cm)



J'arrive, 2014
Digital C-print, color drawing media and ink
4 x 4 inches (10.5 cm x 10.5 cm)



B. Photography

For Adam: Study 1 (from the series *On the Road—For Jack Kerouac*), Diptych, 2013

Digital C-print

11 inches x 9 inches (27 cm x 22 cm)

Come with me (from the series *On the Road—For Jack Kerouac*), Diptych, 2013

Digital C-print

11 inches x 9 inches (27 cm x 22 cm)

This work is a continuous conversation with the energy of the Beat generation and the philosophy inherent with that period of Zen Buddhism, the practice of consciously living in the now, while walking through the journey of life.

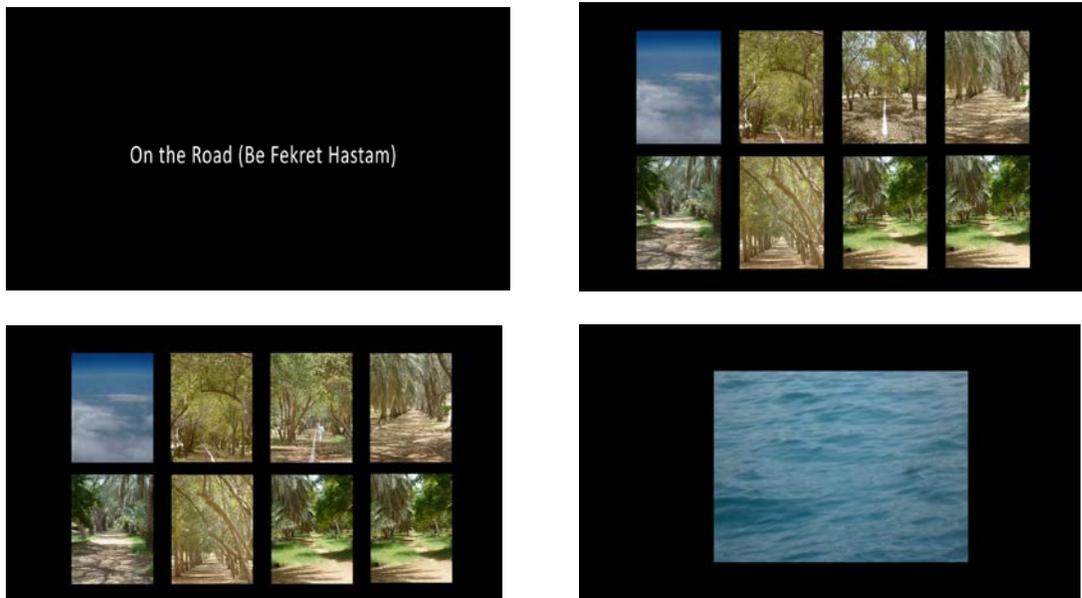


C. Video

on the road (be fekret hastam), 2013

Single channel video; 6:40 minutes

This work is a continuous conversation with the energy of the Beat generation and the philosophy inherent with that period of Zen Buddhism, the practice of consciously living in the now, while walking through the journey of life. This work is a narrative describing the theory in metaphysics of twin souls.



D. Land Art:

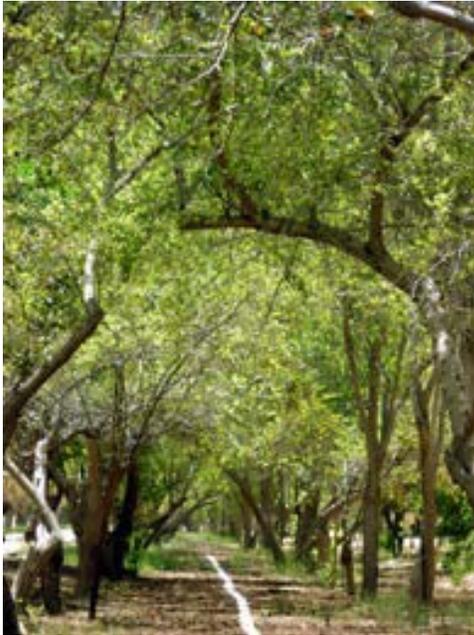
On the Road (for Jack Kerouac), 2013

Collected spices and herbs in plastic bags

288 feet x 6 ¾ inches (89 meters x 17cm) Installation at

the Royal Stables, Abu Dhabi, UAE

The work is a conversation with Jack Kerouac and his novel *On the Road*, and with the philosophy and energy of the Beat Generation. The scroll like form in the field of green represents Kerouac's process of working on the scroll, but I am also consciously bridging into the narrative the philosophy inherent with that period of Zen Buddhism, the practice of consciously living in the now, while walking through the journey of life.



E. Installation and Sculptural Objects

22.1 (*Homage to Dahi and Beuys*), 1995-2000

Found and collected materials in glass jars, folded linen shirts and silver spoon in suitcase 24 inches x 29 inches x 16 inches (60 cm x 73 cm x 40 cm)



Sand and Sky (Diptych), 2016

Collected, found and assembled materials in metal suitcases

17cm (6 ¾ inches) height x 61cm (24 inches) length x 31cm (12 ¼ inches) width, each suitcase

This project is site-specific and inspired from the inherent relationship of the nomadic nature of how we have derived our materials for consumption; from the ancient *Silk Road* to our current time. This work honors the journeys, the places and the people that were encountered and are responsible for this process.



Column, 2009-2010

Collected and folded newspaper from *The National* and fishing line against wall

10 ft x 7 inches x 11 ½ ft (305 cm x 18 cm x 29.5cm)

Installation at Ghaf Gallery, Abu Dhabi, UAE

In the *Column* series (an on-going project since 1995 when I began collecting the sheets of paper and newspaper materials) I investigate the corner, a compositional space often disregarded within the room. The project acts as a catalyst in measuring paper waste consumption by both society and myself. This body of work is linked to the Classical orders/Greek columns.



Artist Palette 1.A, 1999-2001

Collected earth pigments, glass jars, rocks, stems, metal brush, paint tube and feather in metal paint container

12 inches x 11 ½ inches x ¾ inches (30 cm x 29 cm x 10 cm)



G. Painting

Leaf Paintings:

Leaf Horizon (Study of the Emirates), 2010

Watercolour and acrylic on Silver Maple leaves

Various dimensions

Installation at Ghaf Gallery, Abu Dhabi

