

# Etel Adnan

Born 1925 in Beirut, Lebanon. Died 2021 in Paris, France.

## EDUCATION

Paris-Sorbonne, Paris, France  
Harvard University, Cambridge, MA  
University of California, Berkeley, CA

## SELECTED SOLO EXHIBITIONS

- 2022 *Etel Adnan: Colour as Language*, Van Gogh Museum, Amsterdam, Netherlands  
*Behind the Horizon Line*, TEA Tenerife Espacio de las Artes, Tenerife, Spain  
*Etel Adnan: Discovery of Immediacy*, Galerie Lelong & Co., New York, NY
- 2021 *Etel Adnan: Light's New Measure*, Guggenheim Museum, New York, NY
- 2020 *Leporellos*, Galerie Lelong & Co., Paris, France
- 2019 *Etel Adnan et les Modernes*, Musée d'Art Moderne Grand-Duc Jean, Luxembourg  
City, Luxembourg  
*Each Day is a Whole World*, Aspen Museum of Art, Aspen, CO
- 2018 *Etel Adnan: Talking to Flowers*, Galerie Lelong & Co., Paris, France  
*Etel Adnan: New Work*, SFMoMA, San Francisco, CA  
*Etel Adnan*, Zentrum Paul Klee, Lucerne, Switzerland  
*The dazzling gesture*, Jan Michalski Foundation, Montricher, Switzerland  
*Etel Adnan: Tout ce que je fais est mémoire*, Chateau La Coste, Le Puy-Sainte-  
Réparate, France  
*A yellow sun A green sun a yellow sun A red sun a blue sun*, Massachusetts Museum of  
Contemporary Art, North Adams, MA  
*Etel Adnan: Live is a Weaving*, Galerie Lelong & Co., Paris, France
- 2017 *Album à Dessins*, Biblioteca Central, Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México,  
Mexico City, Mexico  
Museum of European and Mediterranean Civilisations, Marseille France  
*Etel Adnan: Sea and Fog*, Oakville Galleries, Ontario, Canada
- 2016 *Etel Adnan*, Institut du monde Arab, Paris, France  
*The Weight of the World*, Serpentine Galleries, London, England  
*Etel Adnan, Paintings, Drawings, Tapestry, Writing*, Sfeir-Semler Gallery,  
Hamburg, Germany
- 2015 *Etel Adnan: La joie de vivre*, Museum Haus Konstruktiv, Zürich, Switzerland  
*Nouvelles estampes*, Galerie Lelong, Paris, France  
*Etel Adnan*, Galerie White Cube, Hong Kong, China  
*Etel Adnan*, Irish Museum of Modern Art, Dublin, Ireland  
*Etel Adnan*, Galerie Lelong, New York, NY
- 2014 *Etel Adnan. Writing Mountains*, Museum der Moderne, Salzburg, Austria  
*Etel Adnan*, White Cube, London, England  
*Etel Adnan in All Her Dimensions*, Mathaf: Arab Museum of Modern Art, Doha, Qatar  
Callicoon Fine Arts, New York, NY

- 2013 cipM – Centre International de poésie, Marseille, France  
*Etel Adnan*, Sfeir-Semler Gallery, Beirut, Lebanon  
*Etel Adnan*, Galleria Continua, San Gimignano, Italy  
*Words and Places: Etel Adnan*, Wattis Institute for Contemporary Arts,  
San Francisco, CA
- 2012 *Etel Adnan, Works 1965 – 2012*, Galerie Sfeir-Semler, Hamburg, Germany  
Callicoon Fine Arts, New York, NY
- 2010 *Etel Adnan*, Galerie Sfeir-Semler, Beirut, Lebanon  
*Etel Adnan*, Europe Gallery, Paris, France
- 2009 Bonnafont Gallery, San Francisco, CA
- 2007 *Etel Adnan*, Janine Rubeiz Gallery, Beirut, Lebanon  
*Etel Adnan*, Eileen Curtis Museum, Sausalito, CA
- 2006 *Arte Mare*, Bastia, Corsica, France
- 2004 Janine Rubeiz Gallery, Beirut, Lebanon
- 1992 Gallery 50x70, Beirut, Lebanon
- 1991 Institut du Monde Arabe, Paris, France  
*20 ans, 20 artistes*, L'Atelier, Rabat, Morocco; Mediatheque, Mureaux, France;  
Unesco, Paris, France  
Institut du Monde Arabe, Paris, France
- 1990 Evenements urbains, Grenoble, France  
Villa Croce, Genoa, Italy  
Kufa Gallery, London, England
- 1989 Salazar Library, Univ. of California, Sonoma, CA
- 1988 Administration Bldg, Fort Mason, San Francisco, CA
- 1987 Samy Kinge Gallery, Paris, France
- 1986 Marin County Civic Center, San Rafael, CA
- 1985 Perception Gallery, San Francisco, CA
- 1984 Perception Gallery, San Francisco, CA
- 1983 Perception Gallery, Fort Mason, San Francisco, CA  
Alif Gallery, Washington D.C.
- 1982 Al Sultan Gallery, Kuwait
- 1979 Asilah Festival, Morocco
- 1978 Galerie L'Atelier, Rabat, Morocco
- 1977 Galerie La Roue, Paris, France
- 1973 Dar el Fan, Beirut, Lebanon
- 1971 *Sight & Insight*, the Cannery, San Francisco, CA
- 1969 Dominican College gallery, San Rafael, CA
- 1968 Unitarian center, San Rafael, CA
- 1965 Karamanduca Gallery, San Francisco, CA  
Mount Angel College Gallery, Mount Angel, OR
- 1964 Karamanduca Gallery, San Francisco, CA
- 1963 Dominican College Gallery, San Rafael, CA
- 1961 O'Hanlon Gallery, Mill Valley, CA

## SELECTED GROUP EXHIBITIONS

- 2022 *Etel Adnan and Lynn Marie Kirby: THE WEATHER IS NOWADAYS CRAZY*, Cushion Works, San Francisco, CA  
*Shifting the Silence*, San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, San Francisco, CA  
*Courage Before Expectation*, FLAG Art Foundation, New York, NY
- 2021 *Suspension/Stillness*, Carré d'Art, Musée d'Art Contemporain de Nîmes, France  
*The Rain Forever Will be Made of Bullets*, Sharjah Art Foundation, Sharjah, United Arab Emirates  
*A Roof for Silence*, Lebanese Pavilion, Venice Architecture Biennale 2021, Italy  
*Hiding in Plain Sight*, Pace Gallery, New York, NY  
*Another Energy: Power to Continue Challenging, 16 Women Artists from around the World*, Mori Art Museum, Tokyo, Japan  
*When our eyes touch*, Maison Louis Carré, Bazoches-sur-Guyonne, France  
*Coming to our senses*, Kunsthalle, Helsinki, Finland  
*Ecrire c'est dessiner [Writing is Drawing]*, Centre Pompidou Metz, Metz, France  
*Elles font l'abstraction*, Centre Pompidou, Paris, France; Guggenheim Billbabo, Spain  
*Earthbound: Contemporary Landscape from the Roberts Institute of Art*, Millennium Gallery, Sheffield, United Kingdom  
*Horizons*, Lévy Gorvy, Paris, France  
*New Prints and Editions*, Galerie Lelong & Co., New York, NY
- 2020 *25 Years of Mudam Collection*, Mudam Luxembourg, Musée d'Art Moderne Grand-Duc Jean Luxembourg City, Luxembourg  
*A Sun Yellow With Anger*, Galerie Sfeir-Semler, Hamburg, Germany  
*Red*, Galerie Lelong & Co., New York, NY (online exhibition)  
*Small Works*, Galerie Lelong & Co., New York, NY (online exhibition)  
*Drawing 2020*, Gladstone Gallery, New York, NY  
*Accelerate your escape, Gary Hume explores the Hiscox Collection*, Whitechapel Art Gallery, London, United Kingdom  
*Do it (Home)*, Reykjavik Art Museum, Reykjavik, Iceland  
*TRANSFORMACIONES - Mujeres artistas entre dos siglos*, Fundación CajaCanarias, Santa Cruz de Tenerife, Spain  
*Taking Shape: Abstraction from the Arab World, 1950s-1980s*, Grey Art Gallery, New York University, New York  
*Etel Adnan, Kahlil Robert Irving, and Colter Jacobsen*, Callicoon Fine Arts, New York, NY  
*There, Where We Promenade*, Freelands Foundation, London, United Kingdom  
*Where Do You Want Ghosts to Reside?*, Southern Exposure, San Francisco, California  
*Where the Lemons Bloom...*, Galerie Sfeir-Semler, Hamburg, Germany  
*Tales of Thread*, Custot Gallery, Dubai, United Arab Emirates
- 2019 *Peindre la nuit*, Centre Pompidou Metz, Metz, France  
*It's Urgent! – Part II*, Lumawestbau, Zurich, Switzerland  
*Downtown Painting*, presented by Alex Katz, Peter Freeman Inc., New York, NY  
*Luogo e Segni*, Palazzo Grassi, Punta della Dogana, Venice, Italy  
*Sophie Whettnall – Etel Adnan*, La ville le stad, Brussels, Belgium  
*Alvaro Barrington : Artists I Steal From*, Galerie Thaddaeus Ropac, London, United Kingdom  
*Sophie Whettnall – Etel Adnan*, La ville le stad, Brussels, Belgium  
*Le monde n'est pas nécessairement un empire*, Lille Métropole Musée d'art moderne, d'art contemporain et d'art brut, Lille, France  
*Etel Adnan und Salomé Bäümlin*, da Mihi Gallery, Bern, Switzerland  
*So wie wir sind 1.0*, Weserburg | Museum für moderne Kunst, Bremen, Germany

- A la plume, au pinceau, au crayon: dessins du monde arabe*, Institut du Monde Arabe, Paris, France  
*Climbing through the tide*, Kamel Lazaar Foundation, Tunis, Tunisia  
*At the still point of the turning world, there is the dance*, Sursock Museum, Beirut, Lebanon
- 2018 *Painting the night*, Centre Pomidou Metz, Metz, France  
*Lydia Cabrera and Edouard Glissant: Trembling Thinking*, Americas Society, New York, NY  
*Of the Self and Of the Other*, Galerie Lelong & Co., New York, NY  
*Home Beirut. Sounding the Neighbors*, MAXXI Museum, Rome, Italy  
*Hot Sun, Late Sun*, Fondation Vincent Van Gogh, Arles, France  
*Garden of Memory*, Musee Yves Saint Laurent, Marrakech, Morocco  
*Focus 2*, Mathaf, Doha, Qatar  
*Melancholia*, Boghossian Foundation, Brussels, Belgium
- 2017 *All the words for rock, Nature and Conflict*, Visual Arts Center Fundacion Helga de Alvear, Caceres, Spain  
*Take Me (I'm Yours)*, Pirelli Hangar Bicocca, Milan, Italy  
*From Ear to Ear to Eye*, Nottingham Contemporary, Nottingham, England  
*Three Women: Three Eyes on the World*, Contemporary Art Center of the EAP, Chatellerault, France  
*Women to the Front*, Lumber Room, Portland, OR  
*human · NATURE*, Goya Contemporary, Baltimore, MD  
*Making Space: Womens Artists and Postwar Abstraction*, Museum of Modern Art, New York, NY  
*Color*, Waddington Custot, London, England  
*L'emozione dei COLORI nell'arte*, GAM, Castello di Rivoli, Italy  
*Etel Adnan | Gerhard Richter*, The Flag Art Foundation, New York, New York  
*Outside*, Karma Gallery, Amagansett, NY
- 2016 *Outside*, Karma Gallery, Amagansett, NY  
*Towards a Larger World*, Moderna Museet, Malmö, Sweden  
*Looking at the World Around You*, Fundación Santander, Madrid, Spain
- 2015 *Intimacy in Discourse*, Mana Contemporary, Jersey City, New Jersey  
*Nel Mezzo del Mezzo*, Palazzo Riso - Museo d'Arte Contemporanea della Sicilia, Palermo  
*Follia Continua!*, Le CENTQUATRE, Paris, France  
*Albert the kid is ghosting*, The David Roberts Art Foundation, London, England  
*Too Early, too late. Middle East and Modernity*, Pinacoteca Nazionale, Bologna, Italy  
*Sharjah Biennial 12: the past, the present, the possible*, Sharjah International Art Biennial, Sharjah, United Arab Emirates  
*The Sea - Salut D'honneur Jan Hoet*, PMMK - Museum voor Moderne Kunst, Oostende, Belgium  
*Looking Back / The 9th White Columns Annual - Selected by Cleopatra's*, White Columns, New York, NY
- 2014 *Here and Elsewhere*, New Museum, New York, NY  
*Whitney Biennial*, Whitney Museum of American Art, New York, NY  
*What Remains: Part II*, Rose Issa Projects, London, United Kingdom  
*The Printed Room: read the room/you've got to*, SALTS, Birsfelden, Switzerland  
*A Special Arrow Was Shot In The Neck*, The David Roberts Art Foundation, London, United Kingdom  
*Paysages, Entre Reel Et Imaginaire*, Galerie Claude Lemand, Paris, France

- Paysage Et Modernite Arabe*, Espace Claude Lemand, Paris, France  
*5 billion solar years*, Galerie Rainhard Hauff, Stuttgart, Germany  
*the secret world that exists right there in public*, RAMPA Istanbul, Istanbul, Turkey  
*Rose*, CEAAC - Centre européen d'actions artistiques contemporaines, Strasbourg, France
- What We Want to Show*, Heidelberger Kunstverein, Heidelberg, Germany  
*Poetry will be made by all*, LUMAS Editions Galerie, Zurich, Switzerland
- 2013 *Calligraffiti: 1984 - 2013*, Leila Heller Gallery, New York, NY  
*Hiwar, Conversations in Amman*, Darat al Funun-The Khalid Shoman Foundation, Amman, Jordan  
*Tajreed. A selection of Arab Abstract Art: 1908-1960*, CAP Kuwait, Kuwait City, Kuwait  
*Ici, ailleurs*, Tour-Panorama – friche belle de mai, Marseille, France
- 2012 *Documenta 13*, Kassel, Germany  
*The Emerald City*, Thomas Solomon Gallery, Los Angeles, CA  
*Art from Lebanon - Modern and Contemporary artists: 1880 – 1975*, Beirut Exhibition Center, Beirut, Lebanon  
*De Menocchio, nous savons beaucoup de choses*, Bétonsalon, Paris, France  
*Papierwelten*, Galerie nächst St. Stephan - Rosemarie Schwarzwälder, Vienna, Austria  
*On the Edgware Road*, Serpentine Gallery, London, United Kingdom  
*The Art of Friendship*, New Britain Museum of American Art, New Britain, CT
- 2011 *The Last Grand Tour*, Museum of Cycladic Art, Athens, Greece 2009 *Tafsir*, Martin-Gropius-Bau Berlin, Berlin, Germany
- 2007 *5 Artists*, State Hermitage Museum, St. Petersburg, Russia  
*5 Artists*, The State Museum of Oriental Art, Moscow, Russia 2006 British Museum, London, United Kingdom
- 2004 *Palacio Reale*, Naples, Italy
- 2003 *Musée Municipal de Thionville*, Thionville, France  
*Joerdxan National Gallery*, Amman, Jordan 2001 *Galerie Claude Lemand*, Paris, France  
*L'art du Livre Arabe*, Bibliothèque nationale de France, Paris, France 2000 *Art Paris*, Le Carrousel du Louvre, Paris, France
- 1998 *Bradford-Smock Gallery*, San Francisco, CA  
*London Artists' Book Fair*, Barbican Center, London, United Kingdom
- 1997 *London Artists' Book Fair*, Barbican Center, London, United Kingdom  
*Bradford Gallery*, San Anselmo, CA  
*Fine Arts Gallery*, University of Arkansas, Lafayette, Arkansas
- 1996 *Book Art VIII*, National Museum for Women in the Arts, Washington, D.C.  
*Andre Demedthuis*, Wielsbeke, Belgium 1995 *Chicago Cultural Center*, Chicago, Illinois  
*Inter-American Gallery*, Dade Wolfson Campus, Miami, Florida  
*Le Arie del Tempo*, Studio Alaya, Genoa, Italy
- 1994 *Forces of Change*, National Museum for Women in the Arts, Washington, D.C.  
*4 Women Artists*, Alif Gallery, Washington, D.C. *Galerie de Paperbusse*, Ostende, Belgium  
*Harelbeke Demedthuis*, Wielsbeke, Belgium
- 1993 *André Demedthuis*, Wielsbeke, Belgium *Galerie Natkin-Berta*, Paris, France
- 1991 *Institut du Monde Arabe*, Paris, France  
*20 ans, 20 artistes L'Atelier*, Rabat, Morocco; *Mediatheque*, Mureaux, France; *Unesco*, Paris, France
- 1990 *Evenements urbains*, Grenoble, France  
*Villa Croce*, Genoa, Italy

## AWARDS

- 2021 Lichtwark Prize  
2014 Women Playwrights International Honours  
Chavelier des Arts et des Lettres, France  
Lifetime Achievement Award, Radius of Arab American Writers Inc. (RAWI)  
2013 California Book Award for Poetry for *Sea and Fog*  
LAMBDA Literary Award for Poetry for *Sea and Fog*  
2010 Arab American Book Award for *Master of the Eclipse*, Arab American National  
Museum  
PEN Oakland Josephine Miles Book Award for *Master of the Eclipse*  
1977 Amitié Franco-Arab Prize, Association de Solidarité Franco-Arabe, for *Sitt Marie Rose*

## MONOGRAPHS

- Etel Adnan: Tout ce que je fais est mémoire*. Barcelona, Spain: AGPOGRAF, 2018.  
Obrist, Hans Ulrich, Kaelen Wilson-Goldie, Robert Grenier, et al. *Etel Adnan: Weight of the World*. London: Serpentine Galleries and Koenig Books, 2016.  
*Etel Adnan*. Paris: Galerie Lelong, 2015.  
*Premonition*. Berkeley: Kelsey Street Press, 2014.  
*To look at the sea is to become what one is: An Etel Adnan Reader*. Brooklyn & Callicoon, New York: Nightboat Books, 2014.  
*The Ninth Page: Etel Adnan's Journalism 1972-1974*. CCA Wattis Institute for Contemporary Arts, 2013.  
*Homage to Etel Adnan*. Sausalito: The Post-Apollo Press, 2012.  
*Sea and Fog*. Callicoon, New York: Nightboat Books, 2012.  
*Etel Adnan: On Love and the Cost We Are Not Willing to Pay Today: 100 Notes, 100 Thoughts: Documenta Series 006*. Ostfildern: Hatje Cantz Verlag, 2011.  
*Master of the Eclipse*. Northampton: Interlink Books. Winner of the Oakland Pen Award, 2010.  
*Seasons*. Sausalito: The Post-Apollo Press, 2008.  
*In the Heart of the Heart of Another Country*. San Francisco: City Lights Books, 2005.  
*In/somnia*. Sausalito: The Post-Apollo Press, 2003.  
*There in the Light and the Darkness of the Self and of the Other*. Sausalito: The Post-Apollo Press, 1997.  
*Paris, When It's Naked*. Sausalito: The Post-Apollo Press, 1993.  
*Of Cities and Women: Letters to Fawwaz*. Sausalito: The Post-Apollo Press, 1993.  
*The Spring Flowers Own & The Manifestations of the Voyage*. Sausalito: The Post-Apollo Press, 1990.  
*The Arab Apocalypse*. Etel Adnan. Sausalito: The Post-Apollo Press, 1989.  
*Journey to Mount Tamalpais*. Illustrated by Etel Adnan. Sausalito: The Post-Apollo Press, 1986.  
*Sitt Marie-Rose*. Georgina Kleege. Sausalito: The Post-Apollo Press, 1982.  
*The Indian Never Had a Horse & Other Poems*. Illustrated by Russell Chatham. Sausalito: The Post-Apollo Press, 1985.  
*From A to Z*. Sausalito: The Post-Apollo Press, 1982.  
*Five Senses for One Death*. New York: The Smith, 1971.

*Moonshots*. Beirut: BEYROUTH, 1966.

## **PUBLIC COLLECTIONS**

Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, New York, NY  
Banco de Espana, Spain  
Barjeel Art Foundation, Sharjah, United Arab Emirates  
Bibliothèque Nationale Paris, France  
Bibliothèque Sainte-Genevieve, Paris, France  
Birzeit University Museum, Birzeit, occupied Palestinian territories  
British Museum, London, England  
Carré d'Art - Musée d'art contemporain de Nîmes, Nîmes, France  
Castello di Rivoli, Torino, Italy  
Centre Pompidou, Paris, France  
Château La Coste, Le Puy-Sainte-Réparade, France  
Colby Museum of Art, Waterville, Maine  
Dalloul Art Foundation, Beirut, Lebanon  
Flag Art Foundation, New York, NY  
Fondation Louis Vuitton, Paris, France  
Fondation Luma, Arles, France  
Fondation Saradar, Beirut, Lebanon  
FRAC Auvergne, Clermont-Ferrand, France  
Frank F. Yang Collection, Hong Kong, Hong Kong  
Herbert F. Johnson Museum at Cornell University, Ithaca, NY  
Houston Museum of Fine Arts, Houston, Texas  
Huma Kabakçı Collection, Istanbul, Turkey  
Institut du Monde Arabe, Paris, France  
Irish Museum of Modern Art, Dublin, Ireland  
John F. Kennedy Presidential Library, Boston, MA  
Jordan National Museum of Fine Arts, Amman, Jordan  
Kadist Art Foundation San Francisco, San Francisco, CA  
Kunsthaus Zurich, Switzerland  
Kunstsammlung, Nordrhein-Westfalen, Germany  
LAM, Lille, France  
M+, Hong Kong  
Maraya Art Centre, Sharjah, United Arab Emirates  
Mathaf: Arab Museum of Modern Art, Doha, Qatar  
Moderna Museet Malmö, Malmö, Sweden  
Musée National d'Art Moderne (MNAM), Paris, France  
Musée National d'Art Moderne et Contemporain, Tunis, Tunisia  
Museo Helga de Alvear, Caceres, Spain  
Museum of Arts and Design, New York, NY  
Museum of Contemporary Art, Chicago, IL  
Museum of Contemporary Art, Los Angeles, CA  
Museum of Fine Arts, Houston, TX  
Museum of Modern Art, New York, NY  
Museum of Modern Art, Tunis, Tunisia

Museum Voorlinden, Wassenaar, Netherlands  
National Museum for Women in the Arts, Washington, DC  
New Orleans Museum of Art, New Orleans, LA  
New York Public Library, New York, NY  
Nicolas Sursock Museum, Beirut, Lebanon  
Royal Jordanian Museum, Amman, Jordan  
Serralves Museum, Porto, Portugal  
Sharjah Art Museum, Sharjah, United Arab Emirates  
Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum, New York, NY  
Stedelijk Museum, Amsterdam, Netherlands  
Sursock Museum, Beirut, Lebanon  
Tate, London, England  
Tunis Modern Art Museum, Tunisia  
UBS Art Collection, Zurich, Switzerland  
Walker Art Center, Minneapolis, MN  
Whitney Museum of American Art, New York, NY  
World Bank Collection, Washington, DC  
Written Art Collection, Ingelheim, Germany