



SARAH HUSSEIN

Egypt

Visual Art

Where material, memory, and inquiry converge —
Sarah Hussein reshapes the boundaries of contemporary expression.

Sarah Hussein

Emerging from a multidisciplinary foundation that intertwines scientific inquiry with artistic exploration, Sarah Hussein has cultivated a visual language in which material presence becomes a conduit for intellectual and emotional depth. Her practice unfolds across painting and sculpture, creating multidimensional spaces where fragility and force intersect, where memory negotiates with form, and where personal experience resonates within broader social and political contexts. Rather than illustrating narratives, Hussein constructs environments of tension and reflection — spaces that encourage viewers to slow down, observe, and sense the subtle exchanges between gesture, structure, and silence.

Her international trajectory reflects both the relevance and versatility of her work. Exhibitions across Europe, North America, and the Middle East have positioned her within a global conversation about contemporary artistic practice. Highlights include her participation in the Peru Biennial, the Classical Roman Arts Foundation in Rome, and the Dai Festival for Arab Youth in Egypt. Recognition from institutions such as the World Art Forum Foundation, Katara, and the Christian Pfeiffer Poster Contest in Germany underscores the resonance of her visual voice.

Collectors across the USA, Canada, Italy, England, Greece, and Egypt have been drawn to the striking balance in her work — a balance between visual poetry and structural intensity, between intimate vulnerability and sculptural authority. What emerges in Hussein's oeuvre is a sustained inquiry: how does form hold emotion, and how can material articulate the unspoken dimensions of lived experience? Her art offers not answers, but openings — invitations to engage with complexity, nuance, and the evolving architecture of contemporary expression.

Artist Statement

My work is a continuous exploration of the human soul—its fragility, intensity, and transformation. Through painting and sculpture, I seek to express what lies beneath the surface: the silent emotions, the internal dialogues, and the psychological layers that shape our identities. Using a vivid color palette, dynamic compositions, and expressive gestures, I aim to capture moments of vulnerability, resilience, and emotional tension. My practice often draws inspiration from dreams, memory, poetry, and the human body, treating each artwork as a visual poem or emotional landscape. I am particularly drawn to the theme of transition—the space between what was and what is becoming. This in-between state fuels much of my work, reflecting personal experiences of waiting, searching, healing, and transformation. I believe that art is not just a form of expression but a process of uncovering truth and a tool for emotional connection and healing. Ultimately, my artistic vision is rooted in honesty and intensity. I want my work to move people—to make them pause, feel, and reflect. I embrace imperfection, contradictions, and the unseen, inviting viewers to engage with their own inner worlds through the work I create.

Sarah Hussein

Interview with Sarah Hussein



Your work often merges sculpture and painting—how do you decide which medium best conveys a particular emotion or idea?

"I usually follow my emotional instinct when choosing the medium. Sometimes, I feel the need to sculpt—especially when I want to create a three-dimensional form, explore texture, and give the emotion a tactile presence. Other times, I'm drawn to watercolors for their fluidity, spontaneity, and playful freedom—they're perfect for expressing subtle moods or fleeting feelings. When I want to capture something more grounded, detailed, or intense, I turn to oil paints for their depth, richness, and ability to highlight form and expression. It's always about what the moment asks for emotionally."

You hold a degree in science—how has your academic background influenced your artistic vision and methodology?

"I truly enjoyed studying science at university. Spending long hours in labs surrounded by chemical tools and scientific instruments had a deep impact on how I approach my art. The precision, structure, and experimentation I experienced in the lab now echo in my studio practice. Whether I'm working with pigments, textures, or materials, there's always a scientific curiosity behind it. I see strong parallels between science and art—both seek to understand and express the world, just through different languages. Artists like Leonardo da Vinci are a perfect example of how both disciplines can beautifully intersect."



Much of your art carries a sense of emotional urgency. What themes or personal experiences drive your creative expression?

"My work is deeply driven by emotions and the inner lives of people. I'm often inspired by personal experiences, dreams, thoughts, and the emotional reactions people have to different situations. I'm especially drawn to expressing solitude—whether it's someone who is physically alone or surrounded by people but still emotionally isolated. I want the viewer to feel something, not just see an image. My goal is always to create an emotional connection, to translate feelings into color, texture, and form."

You've exhibited internationally—from Taiwan to Italy to the USA. How does your identity as an Egyptian woman shape your reception abroad?

"Being an Egyptian woman is a core part of who I am, and it naturally influences how I see the world and how I create art. I've often felt that international audiences are curious and open to hearing different voices—especially from regions like the Middle East. There's a sense of appreciation for the emotional depth, storytelling, and symbolism that come from my cultural background. Still, I don't aim to represent a stereotype. My work speaks to human emotions—loneliness, connection, dreams—that transcend nationality or gender. I create from a personal place, but I hope it resonates universally."



Memory and collective consciousness seem to echo through your pieces. What role does storytelling play in your work?

"Storytelling is at the heart of my work. I always want each painting to tell a story—or at least invite the viewer to wonder about one. I love it when someone looks at a piece and asks, 'What's the story behind this woman or that man?' I want people to feel part of the moment, to imagine and emotionally connect. I've always had a deep passion for film directing, and in many ways, painting has become my way of directing visual scenes. Through color, composition, and gesture, I try to build a narrative that lingers in the viewer's mind."

You've received numerous awards and grants. Which recognition has felt most meaningful to you, and why?

"One of the most meaningful recognitions was winning the Katara Novel and Fine Arts Competition multiple times. It's a rare award that combines literature and visual arts, which deeply resonates with my storytelling approach to painting. I also felt proud receiving the Classical Roman Arts Foundation award in Rome—it showed me that my work could emotionally connect with very different audiences."



How do you approach the tension between aesthetic beauty and socio-political critique in your art?

"I see beauty as a way to draw people in—to make them stop and look. Once they're there, the deeper layers unfold. My work often starts from personal emotion or a symbolic scene, but there's always a layer of social reflection. I don't separate the aesthetic from the message—they work together to reach both the eye and the conscience."

Your work is featured in various literary and cultural magazines. What is the intersection between visual art and written language in your practice?

"I feel a strong connection between visual art and written language. Sometimes a word or a poem inspires a whole painting. I often write short texts or titles with my work—not to explain it, but to add another emotional layer. Both words and images help me express what I feel deeply."



Can you describe a moment of transformation—personal or artistic—that shifted the trajectory of your creative journey?

"Seeing Degas' ballerina sculpture was a turning point for me. It deeply moved me—how he showed both strength and fragility. Since then, I've felt a strong urge to express and tell emotional stories through my own art."



What kind of dialogue do you hope to spark with audiences encountering your work for the first time?

"I hope my work sparks a feeling of healing and peace. That's always the message I try to share—something that touches the soul and makes people feel seen, comforted, or simply not alone."



Sarah Hussein (Egypt)

Visual Art

Email: sarahhusseinc@gmail.com
Saatchiart.com: Sarah Hussein Alwassief
Instagram: @137sarahhussein

LUMEN ART GALLERY

www.lumenart.gallery

