
Cristea Roberts Gallery

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Artist Biography

Etel Adnan (1925 - 2021)

Etel Adnan (1925 - 2021), poet, writer and painter, was born in Beirut, Lebanon. She studied philosophy at the Sorbonne, Paris, and in 1955, she moved to the USA to pursue post-graduate studies at the University of California, Berkeley and Harvard. Acclaimed throughout her life for her writing, Adnan started painting in the 1960s, prompted by the violence of the Algerian War (1954-62) but it was not until her inclusion in Documenta 13, Germany, in 2012 that she came to prominence as a visual artist. Adnan's work explores the political and personal dimensions of violence and exile from familiar landscapes and languages. Her abstracted works are suggestive of landscapes and include forms that reference specific places, often painted from memory. Adnan made paintings, drawings, and tapestries. She incorporated printmaking into her practice in the final years of her life.

SELECTED EXHIBITIONS

- 2023 *Poetry of Colours*, Kunstsammlung Nordrhein-Westfalen, Düsseldorf, Germany
- 2022 *Etel Adnan*, Lenbachhaus, Munich, Germany
Colour as Language, Van Gogh Museum, Amsterdam, The Netherlands
Landscapes, VETA Galeria, Madrid, Spain
Behind the Horizon Line, TEA Tenerife Espacio de las Artes, Tenerife, Spain
- 2021 *Impossible Homecoming*, Pera Museum, Istanbul, Turkey
Light's New Measure, Guggenheim, New York, NY, US
- 2019 *Each day is a whole world*, Aspen Art Museum, Aspen, CO, US
Etel Adnan et les modernes, MUDAM, Luxembourg
Elsewhere, Alan Cristea Gallery, London, UK
- 2018 *Parler aux fleurs*, Galerie Lelong & Co., Paris, France
New Work, San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, San Francisco, CA, US
Zentrum Paul Klee, Bern, Switzerland
The dazzling gesture, Jan Michalski Foundation, Montricher, Switzerland
Tout ce que je fais est Mémoire, Château 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, US
Life is a weaving, Galerie Lelong & Co., Paris, France
- 2017 *Album à dessins*, Central Library, Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México, Mexico City, Mexico
Sea and Fog, Oakville Art Galleries, Ontario, Canada
FLAG Art Foundation, New York, NY, US
- 2016 *Painting. Drawing. Tapestry. Writing.*, Galerie Sfeir-Semler, Hamburg, Germany
Institut du Monde Arabe, Paris, France
The Weight of the World, Serpentine Gallery, London, UK
- 2015 Galerie Le Long & Co., Paris, France

- Museum Haus Konstruktiv, Zurich, Switzerland
Irish Museum of Modern Art, Dublin, Ireland
White Cube, Hong Kong
Galerie Lelong & Co., New York, NY, US
- 2014 Museum der Moderne, Salzburg, Austria
White Cube, London, UK
- 2014 Mathaf: Arab Museum of Modern Art, Doha, Qatar
Callicoon Fine Arts, New York, NY, US
cipM - Marseille International Center for Poetry, France
Galerie Claude Lemand, Paris, France
Galleria Continua, Beijing, China
- 2013 Documenta 13, Kassel, Germany
The Wattis Institute, San Francisco, CA, US
Maison de la Poésie, Paris, France
- 2012 Galerie Sfeir-Semler, Hamburg, Germany
- 2010 Galerie Sfeir-Semler, Beirut, Lebanon
- 2009 Bonnafont Gallery, San Francisco, CA, US
- 2007 Eileen Curtis Museum, Sausalito, CA, US
- 2006 Arte Mare, Bastia, Corsica, France
- 2004 Janine Rubeiz Gallery, Beirut
- 1998 Salazar Gallery, University of California, Sonoma, CA, US
- 1983 Alif Gallery, Washington, D.C., US
- 1979 Asilah Festival, Morocco
- 1977 Galerie La Roue, Paris, France
- 1973 Dar el Fan, Beirut, Lebanon
- 1971 The Cannery, San Francisco, CA, US
- 1963 Dominican College Gallery, San Rafael, CA, US
- 1961 O'Hanlon Center for the Arts, Mill Valley, CA, US

SELECTED PUBLIC COLLECTIONS

- AE Sharjah Art Museum, Sharjah
- CH Kunsthaus Zurich, Zurich
- FR Bibliothèque Nationale, Paris
Centre Pompidou, Paris
Institut du Monde Arabe, Paris
- HK M+, Hong Kong
- IE Irish Museum of Modern Art, Dublin
- IT Castello di Rivoli, Turin
- JO Royal Jordanian Museum, Ammam
- LB Nicholas Sursock Museum, Beirut
- PT Serralves Museum, Porto
- QA Mathaf: Arab Museum of Modern Art, Doha
- TN Museum of Modern Art, Tunis
- UK British Museum, London
Tate, London
- USA FLAG Art Foundation, New York, NY
Houston Museum of Fine Arts, Houston, TX
Museum of Contemporary Art, Los Angeles, CA
Museum of Modern Art, New York, NY
National Museum for Women in the Arts, Washington, DC
Whitney Museum of American Art, New York, NY