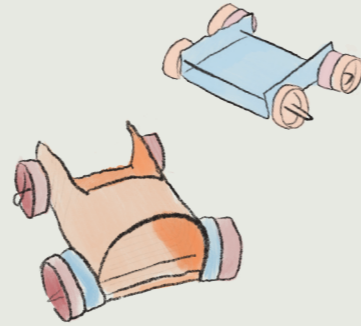


Hussein Sharif حسين شريف

عادة صياغة الواقع REFRAMING REALITY



Educator Resource

Hussein Sharif: Reframing Reality presents the diverse works of Emirati artist Hussein Sharif, a pioneering figure in conceptual art and experimental practices in the UAE. Born in Dubai in 1961, Hussein experimented with various forms of artistic expression, including painting, caricature, drawing, sculpture, and installation art throughout his career. A pivotal moment in his creative journey occurred during his studies in Theatre Design at the Higher Institute of Dramatic Arts in Kuwait from 1983 to 1986. This formative experience profoundly influenced his artistic style, contributing to the distinctive presentation of his works.

In the 1980s, Hussein exhibited alongside a group of prominent Emirati artists that included Mohamed Ahmed Ibrahim, Mohamed Kazem, Abdullah Al Saadi, and Hussein's brother Hassan Sharif, together they became known as 'the Five'. Around the same time, he also co-founded the Emirates Fine Art Society along with a number of other leading artists, this provided a supportive community that played a pivotal role in the growth and development of the UAE's early contemporary art scene.

Hussein's interest in international art movements and Western art history significantly influenced his practice, contributing to the distinctive and eclectic nature of his works. His art beautifully bridges the gap between art and life, inviting us to contemplate our relationship with the world, nature, and the effects of the choices we make as consumers.

OBSERVE & DISCUSS

Use the following observation and discussion questions to encourage critical thinking and the interpretation of Hussein Sharif's artworks. Adapt the questions according to your students' interests and grade levels.

Select an artwork to discuss together...

- What is this work made of? Make a list of the materials you see.
- Can you identify any elements in the artwork that resonate with you personally or that evoke memories? Explain your response.
- How are these materials or objects usually used?
- Why do you think the artist selected these specific materials? What could they mean to him?
- What do you notice about the arrangement of the objects, colours, or shapes in Hussein Sharif's work? Describe what they make you think about or feel.
- Which five words come to mind when you look at Hussein Sharif's work? Explain why you chose these words.

CREATE

Activity 1: Collage

From a young age, Hussein Sharif developed an early passion for experimenting with art, which included activities such as drawing on magazines. This interest later influenced both his ink drawings and collages. Despite the seemingly abstract appearance of his collages, he skilfully combines layers and components from newspaper ads, magazines, paint, and his own ink drawings. His works vividly capture the influence of consumer life, as represented by the widespread presence of advertisements, images, and signs.

To begin the activity, introduce students to Hussein Sharif and discuss the themes evident in his work, such as consumerism, or allow students to choose their own theme or subject. Inspired by Hussein's collages, ask students to create their own collage using a mix of images from magazines, newspapers, and personal drawings to reflect the chosen theme or subject. After completing their collages, encourage students to present and discuss their artworks.

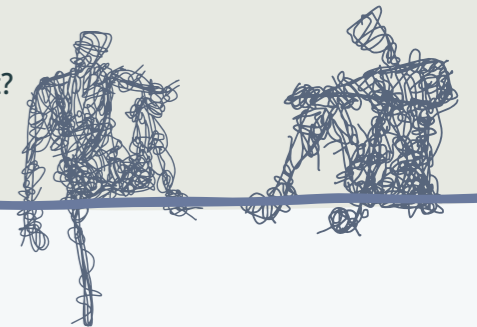
Activity 2: Sculpture

Hussein Sharif transforms everyday mass-produced objects into works of art by reshaping, combining, or relocating them. His sculptures prompt us to contemplate the extent of our consumption and the quantity of materials we accumulate and discard.

Ask students to create sculptures using mass-produced materials from their daily lives. Encourage them to select objects that hold personal significance and to experiment with new ways to transform and reinterpret these materials.

After completing their sculptures, ask students to present and discuss their artworks, addressing questions such as:

- Why did you choose these objects?
- How did you transform the original appearance of the materials?
- What methods did you use to connect the different materials?
- Can your sculpture stand on its own, or did it require additional support?
- What emotions or messages does your sculpture convey?



VISITING THE EXHIBITION

The exhibition **Hussein Sharif: Reframing Reality** is open to school groups free of charge. All school groups must pre-book in advance of their visit.

To schedule a guided or self-guided visit, please email info@culturalfoundation.ae or call +971 2 657 6348.

Gallery Etiquette

To help prepare for your visit, please take note of the following guidelines, and discuss them with your students:

- For your safety and the safety of the artworks, please do not touch the artworks in the exhibition.
- Please note that food, drinks, and chewing gum are not allowed in the exhibition.
- Use pencil for writing or sketching.
- Use a soft voice to avoid distracting other groups in the galleries.

We look forward to welcoming you and your students to the Cultural Foundation for the *Hussein Sharif: Reframing Reality* exhibition.