

Areas of Research Interest & Expertise:

Arabic Language and Culture
Arabic Calligraphy, Arabic/Islamic Arts and Visual Culture
Arab American Community: History, Identity, Arts, Religion, and Culture

Education:

- 2001** **Ph.D. in Interdisciplinary Studies with Concentration on Arabic and Islamic Studies focusing on Creative & Visual Arts.**
Dissertation: The Elements of Unity in Islamic Art
Union Institute & University - Cincinnati, Ohio.
- 1998** **B.S. Applied Science and Technology**
Thomas Edison State College - Trenton, New Jersey.
- 1984- 1988** **General Education/ Undergraduate Studies**
San Francisco State University - San Francisco, California.

Certifications:

- **American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages – ACTFL**
Arabic Proficiency Certification, Rated: Superior.
- **Arab Translators Network – Certified Arabic/ English Translator.**

Academic & Teaching Experience:

- 09/05 - Present** **Lecturer - Arabic Language & Culture**
Department of Modern Languages and Literatures
Santa Clara University, 500 El Camino Real Santa Clara, CA 95053
Courses taught: First & Second Year Arabic Language & Culture
- 08/03 - Present** **Lecturer - Arabic Language & Culture**
Intercultural/International Studies Division
De Anza College, 21250 Stevens Creek Blvd., Cupertino, CA 95014
Courses taught: Arabic Language (Introductory through Intermediate).
- 08/03 – 05/06** **Lecturer - Arabic Language & Culture**
Department of Foreign Languages & Literatures – College of Humanities
San Francisco State University, 1600 Holloway, San Francisco, CA 94132
Courses taught: Arabic Language (Introductory through Intermediate),
Spoken Arabic (Eastern Dialect), and the Art of Arabic Calligraphy.
- 06/01- 01/05** **Director - Arabic Language Program**
Arab Cultural Center, 2 Plaza Avenue • San Francisco, CA 94116
Courses taught: Arabic Language (Introductory through Advanced),
Colloquial Arabic, Arabic Culture, and Islamic Arts.
- 1993 - 1999** **Adjunct Faculty/ MFA Directed Study Advisor**
Academy of Art College, 79 New Montgomery • San Francisco, CA 94105
Courses taught: Computer Graphics, 3D Modeling, CAD, and Directed Study.

1987 - 1990 **Part-Time Instructor**
San Francisco State University – Extended Education
1600 Holloway • San Francisco, CA 94132.
Courses taught: Computer Aided Design (CAD)

Professional Experience:

- 03/06 – Present** **Arabic Linguist/ Localization**
Review and Approve Arabic User Interface
International Localization Team
Google Inc.
1600 Amphitheatre Parkway • Mountain View, CA 94043
- 05/05 – 08/05** **Arabic Linguist / Consultant**
Speech Recognition and Natural Language Processing
Sehda, Inc. • 465 N. Fairchild Drive, Suite 123 • Mountain View, CA 94043
- 06/96 – 01/05** **Founder, Managing Director and Digital Artist**
Graphic Design, Visual Communications, Digital Art, Identity Designs
Visual Imaging • 190 8th Street • San Francisco, CA 94103
- 01/02- 12/02** **Arabic School Director**
Curriculum Development, Staff training, and School Management for weekend
school at the Arab Cultural and Community Center, San Francisco, CA.
- 03/91- 05/96** **Co-Founder and Managing Director**
Graphic Design, Visual Communications, Large Format Imaging
Digital Edge - San Francisco, California.
- 1988- 1994** **Arabic Translation Consultant**
Arabic-English Translation, Arabic Typesetting Consultant
Benemann Translation Center – San Francisco, California.

Publications & Articles:

- **Nahda Salah Balaa: Opening Doors for Arab Art.** *Al-Jadid, A Review & Record of Arab Culture and Arts* Vol. 11 No. 53. Los Angeles, California. 2006.
- **Pocket Guide to Arabic Script.** New York, NY: Hippocrene Books, Inc., 2005. ISBN: 0-7818-1104-X
- **The Multicultural Roots of Andrea Ali's Art.** *Al-Jadid, A Review & Record of Arab Culture and Arts* Vol. 11 No. 52. Los Angeles, California. Summer 2005.
- **Adnan Charara's Art Inspired by Styles, Symbols of Identity.** *Al-Jadid, A Review & Record of Arab Culture and Arts* Vol. 11 No. 52. Los Angeles, California. Summer 2005.
- **Arab Cultural Mural, the Oasis Comes to San Francisco.** *Al-Jadid, A Review & Record of Arab Culture and Arts, 10 (46/47).* Los Angeles, California: *Al-Jadid*, pp 48-53, 2002.
- **The Role of the Community in a Cultural Mural.** *Arab Cultural & Community Center's Newsletter.* San Francisco, California: June 2003.
- **The Elements of Unity in Islamic Art.** Parkland, Fl.: Brown Walker Press, 2002.
- **Islamic Art as an Educational Tool about the Teaching of Islam.** *Art Education Journal, 55 (2).* Reston, Virginia: National Art Education Association, pp 18-24, 2002.

- **The Art of Arabic Calligraphy. *An Educational Guide to the Arab and Muslim World.*** San Francisco, California: Arab Cultural Center, 2001.

Work in Progress:

- Artists from Arab American Culture, a Biographical Dictionary. A book to be published by Greenwood Press, June 2007.

Conference Papers, Lectures & Workshops:

- **Arab American National Museum, DIWAN: Forum on the Arts.** Paper/ Presentation: *Visual Interpretations of Arabic Words and Letters.* Dearborn, Michigan: April 2006.
- **San Francisco State University, Humanities: Cultural Expression in Islam.** Guest Lecture: *Arabic Calligraphy: A Unifying Element in Islamic Art.* Sept. 2005.
- **The Chicago Department of Cultural Affairs, The World of Writing:** Calligraphy to Graffiti. Presentation: *The Art of Arabic Calligraphy.* March 2005.
- **San Francisco State University, Philosophy: Islamic Political Philosophy.** Guest Lecture: *Diversity in the Work on Ikhwan al-Safa.* October 2004.
- **Middle East Studies Association, MESA Conference 2004.** Paper: *The Arab Cultural Mural of San Francisco: The Role of the Community.* San Francisco, CA: November 2004.
- **Georgetown University, Palestine Lecture Series.** Presentation: *The Cartoons of Naji al-Ali: Characters, Symbols & Relevance.* Washington, DC: November 2004.
- **San Francisco State University, Celebrating World Languages & Cultures Month.** Lecture/ Presentation: *Arabic Calligraphy: Geometry of the Spirit.* San Francisco, CA: May 2004.
- **Princeton University, Arabic Lecture Series.** Paper/ Presentation: *Arabic Calligraphy: Spiritual and Artistic Identity.* Princeton, NJ: March 2004.
- **Zawaya Cultural Event.** Arab Artists: Their words and works. Lecture/ Presentation: *The Cartoons of Naji Al-Ali: Icons and Symbolism.* San Francisco, CA: February 2004.
- **San Francisco State University, International Education Week.** Lecture/ Presentation: *The Art of Arabic Calligraphy, Development & Continuity.* San Francisco, CA: November 2003.
- **Cultural Connexion / United Theological Seminary/ University of Minnesota.** Presentations: *Arabic Calligraphy as a Unifying Element in Islamic Art.* St. Paul/ Minneapolis, MN: April 2003.
- **San Francisco University High School.** International Cultural Week. **Workshop:** *Islamic Art, Arabic Language and Calligraphy.* San Francisco, CA: March 2003
- **Arab Cultural and Community Center. Workshop:** *The Major Styles of Arabic Calligraphy.* San Francisco, CA: March 2003.
- **Windows on the Arab World, Symposium 2001,** San Francisco, California. Presentation: *The Art of Arabic Calligraphy as a Cultural Identity.* Dec. 2001.

Reviews and Featured Work:

- Lecturer writes 'Pocket Guide to Arabic Script' SFSU NEWS, San Francisco State University. March 21, 2006.
- "Artwork by Fayeq Oweis." Al-Jadid Magazine, A Review & Record of Arab Culture and Arts. Vol 11, Nos. 50/51 Winter/Spring 2005.
- "Waging Peace: Naji al-Ali's cartoons still relevant today" by Laila Al-Arian. Washington Report on Middle East Affairs. Washington, DC: Jan. 2005
- "Palestinian Cartoonist Naji al-Ali's Life and Work Celebrated" by Elaine Pasquini. Washington Report on Middle East Affairs. Washington, DC: Sep. 2004.
- "Using art in the battle for hearts and minds. Group works to challenge Western stereotypes of Arabs" by Brooke Anderson. The Daily Star, Beirut, Lebanon, August 2004.
- "Admirers celebrate Chilean poet's birthday" by Joshunda Sanders. San Francisco Chronicle, July 15, 2004.
- "Zawaya Presents: Arab Artists: Their Words and Works" by Elaine Pasquini. Washington Report on Middle East Affairs. Washington, DC: May 2004.
- "Drawn to Islam: Exhibit shows the wonders of calligraphy" by Maria Elena Baca. Star Tribune, Minneapolis, Minnesota: May 24, 2003
- "Arabic Mural Brightens Tenderloin, Artwork Helps Local Community Feel Represented" by Jose Antonio Vargas. San Francisco Chronicle, November 2003.
- "Marhaba: Hello in Arabic" by Stephanie Lim. San Francisco State University, Golden Gate Xpress, September 2003.
- "Alumnus Uses State-of-the-Art Digital Media to Broaden Understanding of Traditional Islamic Art and Arabic Calligraphy" by Mary Beth Orth. Network, Publication of Union Institute & University, Fall 2002.

Art Exhibitions:

- "Tarab ~ the Color of Music," Group exhibit at Jerusalem Fund Gallery, Washington DC. May 2005.
- "Arabic Calligraphy: Geometry of the Spirit," *Solo Exhibit* at the College of Humanities, San Francisco State University. San Francisco, CA: May 2004.
- "Look! This is love, Islam: A Cultural Experience," a calligraphic exhibition sponsored by Cultural Connexion. United Theological Seminary- Minneapolis, MN: March 26- May 19, 2003, and at Ramsey County Historical Society Gallery/Landmark Center, St Paul, MN: May 22- June 28, 2003.
- "True Colors: Meditations on the American Spirit," an international traveling exhibit sponsored by Meridian International Center, Washington, DC, as an artistic response to the tragic events of 9/11. February 2002- August 2005.
- "Islamic Art: Development and Continuity," *Solo Exhibit* at the Arab Cultural and Community Center. San Francisco, CA: September 9-22, 2001.
- "MESA Art Exhibit," a group exhibit sponsored by the Middle East Studies Association. MESA 2000 Conference, Orlando, Florida: November 2000.

Creative and Design Projects:

- **Arab American National Museum**, Dearborn, Michigan: Designed the Museum's entrance murals, 24x16 feet, 21x17 feet (implemented in mosaics) and created the calligraphy for the interior of the museum's dome.
- **Arab Cultural & Community Center**, San Francisco: Co-Director/ Designer for the Arab Community Cultural Mural Project, 54x30 feet (Location: Market Street, San Francisco). Dedicated November 2003.

- **Glide Memorial Church**, San Francisco: A member of the design/ artistic team for the Peacemakers Mural Project, 6x160 feet. (Location: Mason Street, San Francisco). April 2003.
- **Arab Cultural Festival 2002**: Design and Production of festival identity and promotional materials.
- **ASAWT** (Bay Area Arab Community Ensemble): *Seyyid Darwish Mural*, Digital Design and Print, 14x16 feet, stage backdrop. November 2002.

Recognitions and Awards:

- Recognition by the Arab American National Museum for the design of the entrance murals and the calligraphy of the museum's dome.
- Community Service Award by Deir Debwan Charity Association.
- Award for role in the design and implementation of the Arabic Cultural Mural by the Arab Cultural and Community Center.
- Recognition by the International Education Office at San Francisco State University for the success of the International Education Week 2004.
- Recognition for volunteering at the Arab Cultural Festival 2003.

Professional Affiliations:

- Member of Middle East Studies Association (MESA)
- Member of Historian of Islamic Arts (HIA)
- Member of American Association for Teachers of Arabic (AATA)
- Member of American Translators Association (ATA).
- Member of Northern California Translators Association (NCTA).

Volunteer work & Community Affiliations:

- Member and volunteer with the Arab Cultural and Community Center, San Francisco, CA.
- Board member of ZAWAYA, a non-profit organization dedicated to Arabic Arts and Culture. Also, a ZAWAYA Organizer of community events.
- Member of the American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee.
- Faculty Advisor for Arab Cultural Society (Santa Clara University)
- Former Faculty Advisor for Silk Road Society (San Francisco State University)
- Community Volunteer with the Arab Film Festival.
- Volunteer with the Islamic Society of San Francisco, Islamic Center of San Jose, Glide Memorial Church, and St. Nicholas Church.