

**Atef Al Jaffal**  
Graphic Designer



Atef Al Jaffal, b. in Baghdad 2000, is a graphic designer, performance artist and sound designer. Since 2018, he is a member of Tarkib and the collective's graphic designer and video editor. His works is shaped by an interdisciplinary nature. He often merges his different interests to create something new. His sound composition are playing with design patterns and his designs try to find the ideal composition. His performances are researches, examining psychological experiences and trauma and how to heal these trauma.

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**SANTA**



# SANTA

Performance  
2023

The Arabic word "Santa" describes the status of pure silent without any sounds or voices. This status is for Atef one expression of the phenomena of procrastination. Procrastination, or the conscious put off of tasks, is an emotion regulation problem. People who are procrastinating are aware that they are avoiding the task in question, instead doing something else and they know that doing so is probably a bad idea or can have negative consequences. And yet, they are doing it anyway.

Procrastination is not a defect in one's character or an inability to time management, but a way of coping with challenging emotions and negative moods: boredom, anxiety, insecurity, frustration, resentment, self-doubt, to name only a few.



9. *Tarkib Baghdad Contemporary Arts Festival, 2023*

# SANTA

Performance  
2023

Procrastination is a common syndrome, also in Iraq. But, Iraqi people are not aware about it, because it is not publicly discussed like in other countries in the world. Atef Al Jaffal uses the medium of performance to create an awareness among the community about certain mental health challenges.

In his performance SANTA, he is exploring the feelings and the inner struggle of a person who is procrastinating. In contrast to his previous performances with a lot of actions, the performance is slow, like the conscious process of a procrastinating person. In order to profound understanding and visualization, he moved from one letter sign sketched on paper to the next.



*9. Tarkib Baghdad Contemporary Arts Festival, 2023*



**SANTA**

**CAN'T REMEMBER**



## CAN'T REMEMBER

Sketch Book  
2022

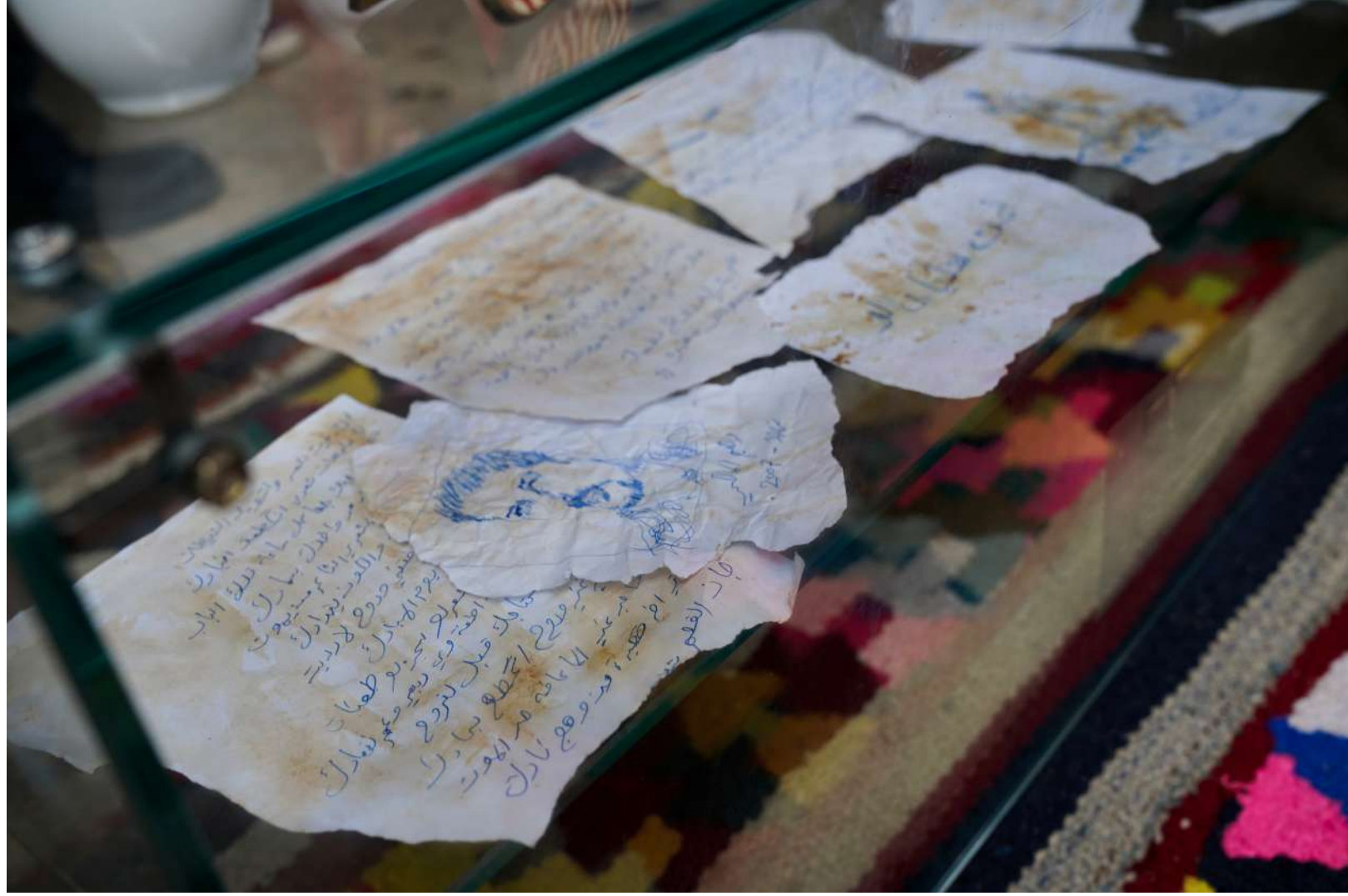
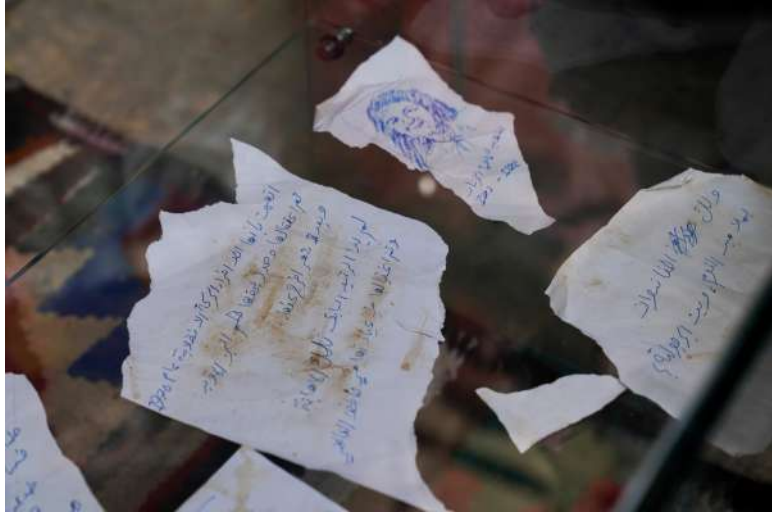
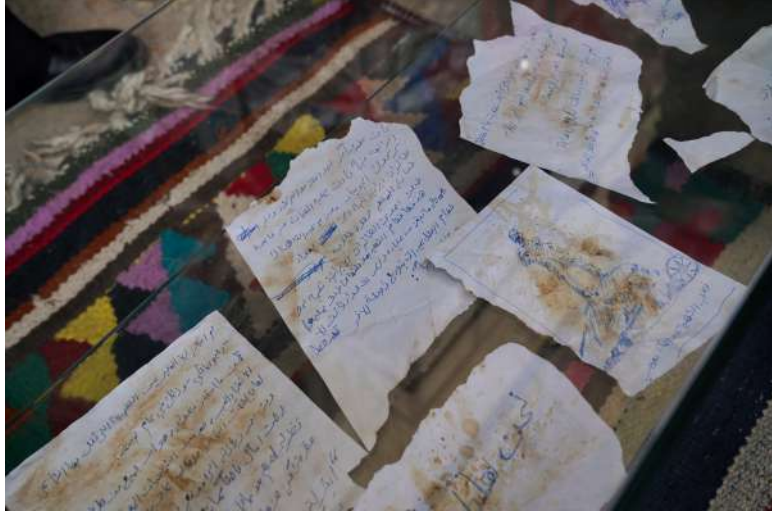
**CAN'T REMEMBER** is a memorial for martyrs in Iraq. Atef Al Jaffal depicted the real story of three martyrs, representatives of different political eras of modern Iraq: Fatimah Al Kharasan (1928-1972), Abdullah Laaibe and Raheem Al Maliki (1962-2007). He presented from each martyr a sketched portrait, the story about her or his killing and the message the person wrote down before she or he got killed. To remember martyrs is important to Atef, as they lost their life while doing something for the community. The three chosen stories are in place for many in Iraq.



5. BAGHDAD WALK, Al Rasheed Street, 2022



**CAN'T REMEMBER**



**CHILDHOOD ANXIETY**



## **CHILDHOOD ANXIETY**

Performance  
2022

Anxiety is a feeling of fear, dread and uneasiness, that can be a result of a childhood experience. Since 2020, Atef Al Jaffal devoted himself to performances that are dealing with specific psychological conditions Iraqi people are suffering from.



Born in 2003 he is addressing in his performance "CHILDHOOD ANXIETY" especially the feelings of fear, dread and uneasiness from the 2000 generation of Iraqi young people. Their memories are on chains, like his body is on chains during the performance. Dimmed light underlines the condition of feeling uneasiness. The performance starts with the birth, the innocence stage. During the journey of growing up there might be an experience, that psychologically effect you and you might think about suicide, the moment in the middle of the performance. It ends with the status of falling to sleep, the start of a new beginning. Each single element and movement in the performance is very much connected to the energy of the people who will enter his circle. He reacts to the person, to give her or him the feeling not to be alone and vice versa.

8. *TARKIB Baghdad Contemporary Arts Festival, 2022*



## **BAGHDAD WALK IN BERLIN**

Group Exhibition

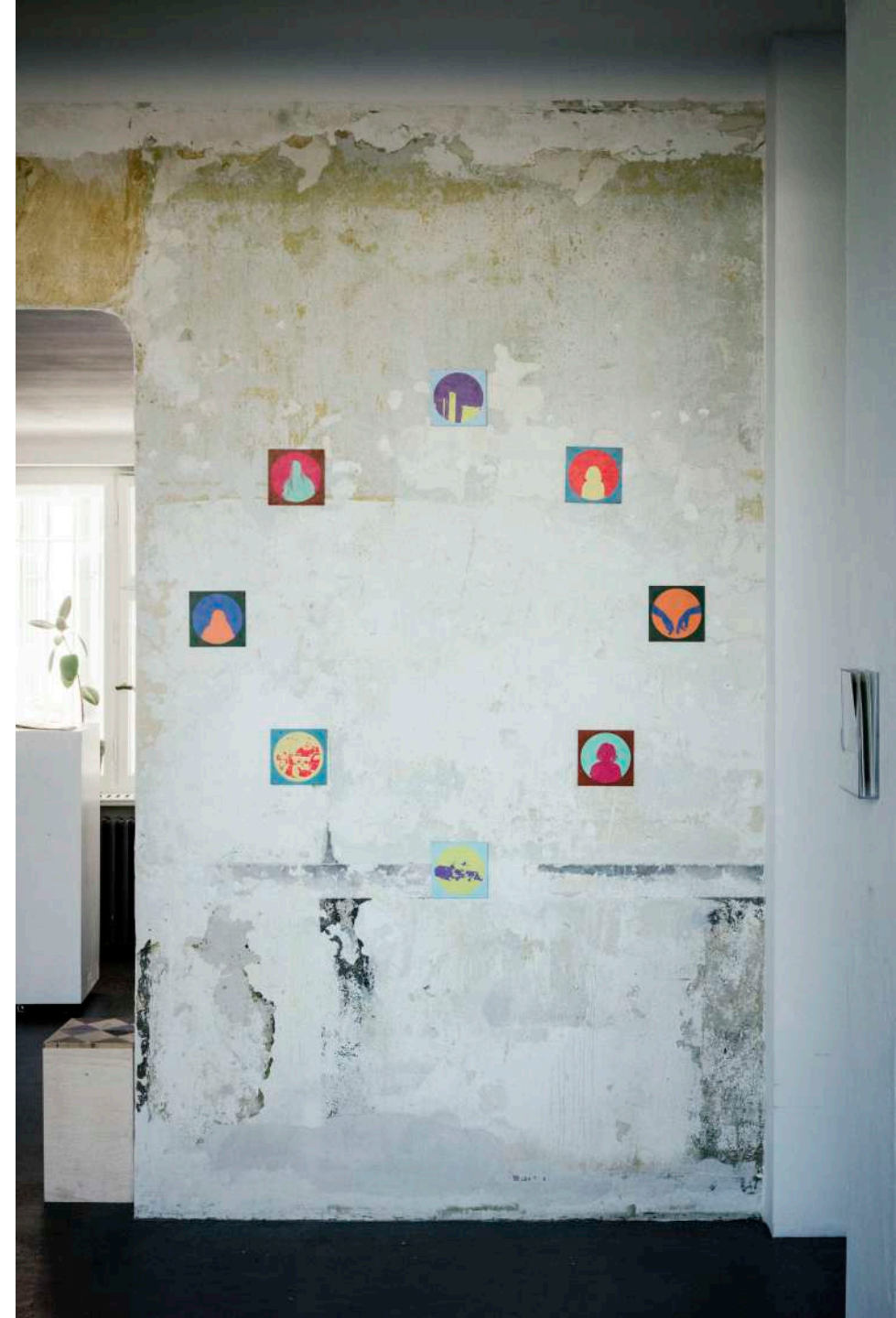
23.06.-26.06.2022

Salon am Moritzplatz, Berlin

BAGHDAD WALK is an annual group exhibitions series which takes place in public spaces across the city of Baghdad, since 2018.

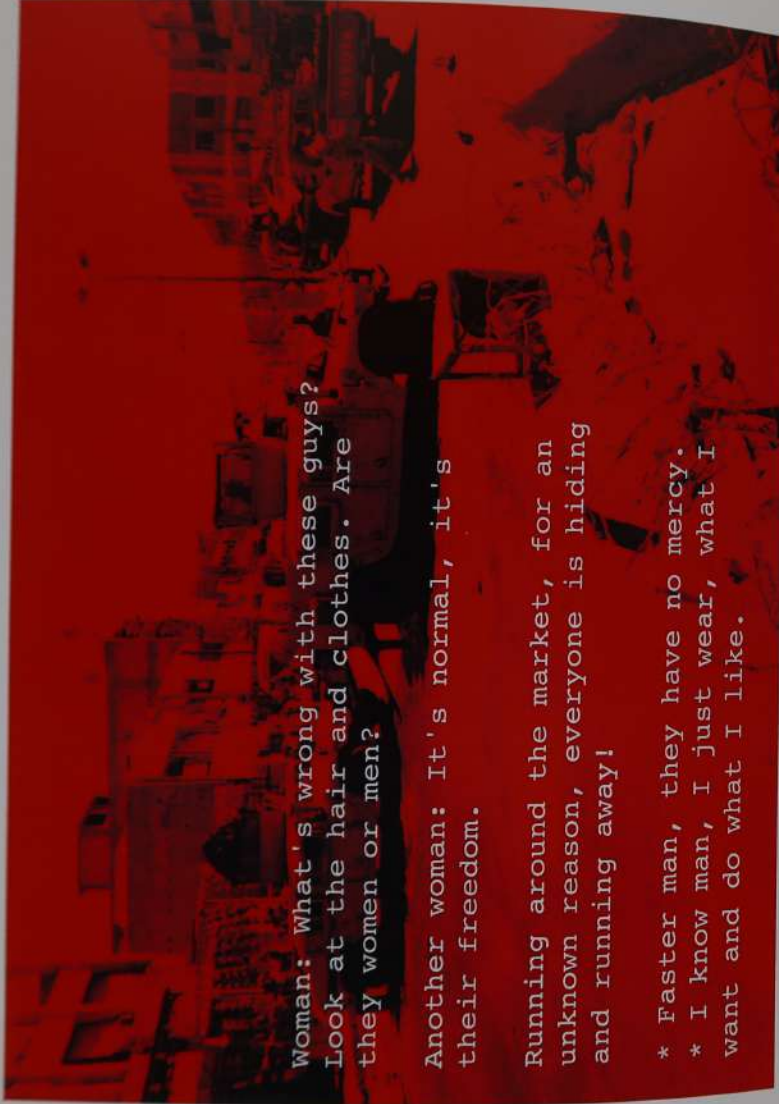
The exhibition BAGHDAD WALK IN BERLIN revealed how the participating artists developed artistic strategies and narratives in Baghdad's public space and presented selected works from the last four editions. The exhibition featured the works "CIRCLE", "MISSING" and a video of his performance "BIPOLAR DISORDER".

**CIRCLE**  
Design on a mural  
2018





**BIPOLAR DISORDER**  
Video of a performance  
2021



Woman: What's wrong with these guys?  
Look at the hair and clothes. Are  
they women or men?

Another woman: It's normal, it's  
their freedom.

Running around the market, for an  
unknown reason, everyone is hiding  
and running away!

\* Faster man, they have no mercy.  
\* I know man, I just wear, what I  
want and do what I like.

# MISSING

MISSING  
Art booklet  
2019





# AM

Performance

Atef Al Jaffal, Muhaned Taha

07.05.2022 @ Bait Tarkib

AM is an acronym.

AM is an artistic investigation.

AM is a joint performance by Atef Al Jaffal and Muhaned Taha.

Both are interested in interdisciplinary arts and performance. With interdisciplinary arts and performance, artists create new ways to express, perform and experience.

In his newly presented works, Atef Al Jaffal was investigating psychological diseases. Muhaned Taha was investigating the synergy effect between human beings and environment. The first performance by AM merge their interests and is investigating the effect of environmental pollution.





AM

# BINARY FISSION



# **BINORY FISSION**

Performance  
Al Jaffal Family  
2021

Fission, in biology, is the division of a single cell into two or more cells and the regeneration of those parts to separate cells resembling the original. **BINARY FISSION** by Al Jaffal Family adapt the process of cell division and brings it into our everyday life. Two children, one in black, one in white, are playing on a white and black ground. Each of them in their own part. Crossing lines is not permitted. They act together, performing the same games or everyday life doings, each of them in their own way, but jointly. The performance mirrors a symbiosis of two different individuals that can be beneficial for both partners.

*7. TARKIB Baghdad Contemporary Arts Festival, Al Zawraa Park, 2021*



# BINARY FISSION



**BIPOLAR DISORDER**



# BIPOLAR DISORDER

Performance  
2021

BIPOLAR DISORDER is an audience-participatory performance. The artist covered himself with medical strips and bandages, performed inside a circle taped to the floor in the main train station's entrance hall. Bipolar disorder, which is formerly known as manic depression, causes extreme mood shifts ranging from depression to mania. Atef Al Jaffal portrayed a person suffering bipolar disorder and invited visitors to enter his circle and to take over an active counter part. Reactions were different, ranging from fighting to sitting quietly to together in a circle. The performance ended when the participating visitors calmed him down and released him from its bandages.



4. BAGHDAD WALK, Baghdad International Train Station, 2021

**BIPOLAR DISORDER**





**PINKY**



# PINKY

Video-Art

Atef Al Jaffal in collaboration with Hella Mewis and Tabi  
2020

<https://youtu.be/EUDHlbJ5tfY>

Birds carry the messages  
The idea comes from humans  
Humans go to the place  
The place takes the idea  
The idea goes to humans  
Humans send messages  
Birds carry the messages



6. TARKIB Baghdad Contemporary Arts Festival, Online, 2020

**PINKY**



**MISSING**



# MISSING

Art book, mobile library  
2019

MISSING is an artist book by Atef Al Jaffal that narrates moments in Iraq's recent history, specifically, events and incidents that have caused people to go 'missing' in Baghdad's community. The artist intentionally worked with not addressing what one cannot forget yet cannot face again. One will always remember – there are places that are part of society's trauma as well as of a person's everyday urban environment. Ingrained in their memory, there are these blind spots, or rather spots that blind memory's vision. Presented in a mobile library in the form of a circular shelf on wheels, the artist's stories could be read in front of the Latin Church on Al Masraf Street, a known place of destruction and 'missing persons' in the collective memory of the city.



TISHREEN REVIEW – Group Exhibition, Bait Tarkib, 2019

**MISSING**



# SPACE



# SPACE

Room-Installation

Design on alu-dibond

2019

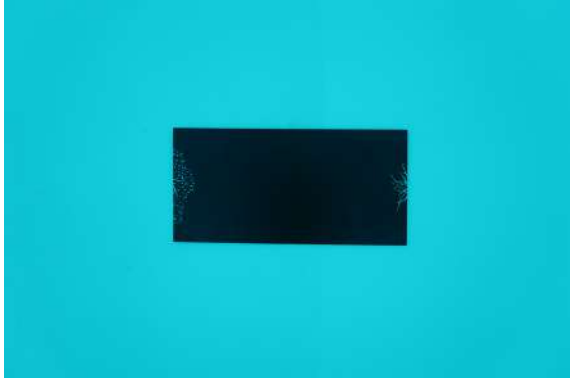
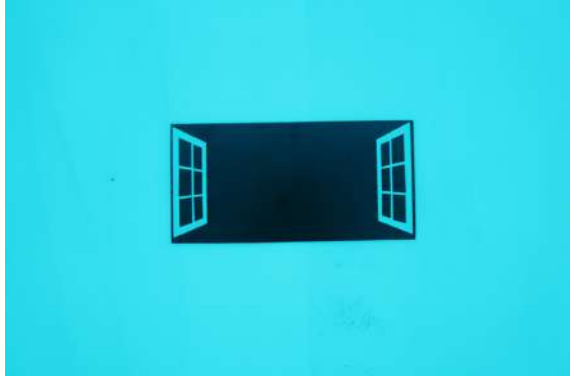
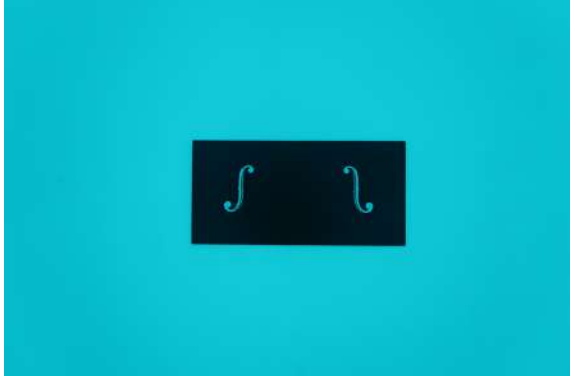
Space is one of the classic seven elements of art, which refers to the distance or areas around, between and with- in components of a piece. Space can be positive or negative, open or closed, shallow or deep, two-dimensional or three-dimensional. Find yourself in space!



5. TARKIB Baghdad Contemporary Arts Festival, Abu Nawas Theater, 2019



# SPACE



**CIRCLE**



# CIRCLE

Design on a mural  
2018

CIRCLE is a mural by the young designer Atef Al Jaffal. He painted a circle on the exterior wall of an ordinary one family house, showing eight design plates. Each design mirrors an issue of dispute within the Iraqi community: traditions versus modern life, same-gender love, walls, control and others. Atef Al Jaffal sees the country Iraq as a big family. He thinks, that to be able to live a normal life, the people should start to learn to respect each other and allow for different ways of being part of a community. The artist chose this ordinary family house in order to render a clear connection between the bonds of family life and how we operate in the larger community.



1. BAGHDAD WALK, *Karada Dajel*, 2018

**CIRLCE**

