

Jamila Boughelaf

Visual and Performance Artist

Website: brush.bio/jamilaboughelaf

Instagram: @jamila_b_arts

A London-based artist of Algerian and Italian descent, my work spans visual and performance art, incorporating improvisational techniques to explore themes of social justice, identity, and the inner child. My figurative paintings, created with oil, charcoal, or watercolours, evoke a child-like sensibility, drawing from personal memories and relationships. I express social justice and empowerment through mixed media, natural materials such as henna, beeswax, and sand, and experimental performance art. Embracing unconventional materials, I often work with unstretched canvases and fabrics, pushing the boundaries of spatial and material exploration. I hold a Certificate in Fine Art from the Art Academy London and have exhibited internationally and within the UK, including at the Venice Biennale (2024), P21 Gallery London (2021, 2024), and XYZ Gallery London (2025).

EXIBITIONS

12.03.2025 - 29.03.2025	<i>Drawing Humans</i> , XYZ Gallery , London, UK
03.09.2024 - 03.11.2024	<i>The Path</i> , during Venice Biennale, Palazzo Pisani-Revedin , S. Marco, Venezia, Italy Curated by Amy Jackson and powered by SHIM Art Network
20.06.2024 - 23.06.2024	<i>Art Academy London Graduate Show</i> , Art Academy London , Mermaid Court, London
21.09.2024 - 21.09.2024	<i>DZ Festival</i> , P21 Gallery , London, UK
30.09.2022 - 08.10.2022	<i>Elle-Djazair</i> - DZ Festival, P21 Gallery , London, UK, Exhibition and performance

PERFORMANCE

Jan 2017 - Present	Co-founder and dancer of Hawiyya Dance Company Producer of 'Curfew' Produced and performed in a sell-out dance production 'Curfew' in partnership with El-Funoun Palestinian Dance Troupe, funded by British Council and Arts Council England. List of major performances include: <ul style="list-style-type: none">October 2023 'Breeze Beneath' Dance performance, Rich Mix, PalArt Festival, London, UKJuly 2022 'Curfew' Contemporary Dance Performance, Bloomsbury Theatre, London, UK (in collaboration with MARSM UK)July 2022 'Curfew' Contemporary Dance Performance, Unity Theatre, Liverpool Arab Arts Festival, Liverpool, UKMay 2018 'Safar: Journeys' Contemporary Dance Performance, Shakespeare's Globe, London, UK A dance production devised and performed in collaboration with refugee women as part of Refugee Week, 2018
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- March 2018
'Curfew' Contemporary Dance Performance, Rich Mix, London, UK (in collaboration with Arts Canteen)

Sept 2019 – Oct 2024 **Co-founder and co-director of Bahatha Theatre**
Facilitated dance – theatre workshops exploring identity and migration

May 2013 – Jan 2014: **Al-Zaytouna Dance Theatre** – committee member and dancer
'Unto the Breach' dance performance, Vienna, Austria and Southampton, UK.

June 2013: **WOMAD 2013 opening event.**
Trained primary and secondary school students to perform at the opening ceremony of the WOMAD festival in 2013. The project aimed to provide young people with a wider understanding of the Arab world through dance, music, and performing arts.

RESIDENCIES & WORKSHOPS

November 2024 *Haramacy artist residency*
Mentor for participating artists in the development of an innovative performance piece, performed at The Albany, Deptford, London, UK

March 2024 *COMMUN Online workshop on 'Visual Improvisation'.*
A workshop exploring the links between sound, mark making and movement improvisation.

March 2023 One-week Dance (dabke and contemporary) and visual improvisation workshops with young people in refugee camps in Bethlehem, West Bank.

Oct – Nov 2021 *Haramacy artist residency and performance, The Albany, Deptford, London, UK*
Two-week residency with multi-disciplinary artists aimed at developing a final performance piece, coordinated by COMMUN

EDUCATION

Jan 2022 – June 2024 **Certificate, Fine Art, Art Academy London**

Sep 2009- Sep 2010: **MA, City University London, Social Sciences.**
MA in Communities, organisations and social change **Grade: Distinction.**

Sep 2006- July 2009: **BA, Università degli Studi di Milano, Political Sciences. Milan, Italy**
BA in International Communication - **Grade: Distinction**

Sept 2008- Feb 2009: **Erasmus exchange programme, Université Denis-Diderot, Paris 7, Social Sciences**