

Sudanese Art

Nubia to Sudan

Nubia—Kush, Meroe, Kerma

History:

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-LnkAYFjbJM> (12 mins—use this)
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0qF9ZptoA18> (13 mins 1992)
- https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=InoqlCV_z4 (good overview—25mins)
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cPpcnqMCRFE> (Nubia and Rome)

Nubia

Nubia, ancient region in northeastern [Africa](#), extending approximately from the [Nile River](#) valley (near the first cataract in [Upper Egypt](#)) eastward to the shores of the [Red Sea](#), southward to about [Khartoum](#) (in what is now [Sudan](#)), and westward to the [Libyan Desert](#). Nubia is traditionally divided into two regions. The southern portion, which extended north to the southern end of the second cataract of the Nile was known as Upper Nubia; this was called [Kush](#) (Cush) under the 18th-dynasty pharaohs of [ancient Egypt](#) and was called Ethiopia by the ancient Greeks. Lower Nubia was the northern part of the region, located between the second and the first cataract of Aswān; this was called [Wawat](#).

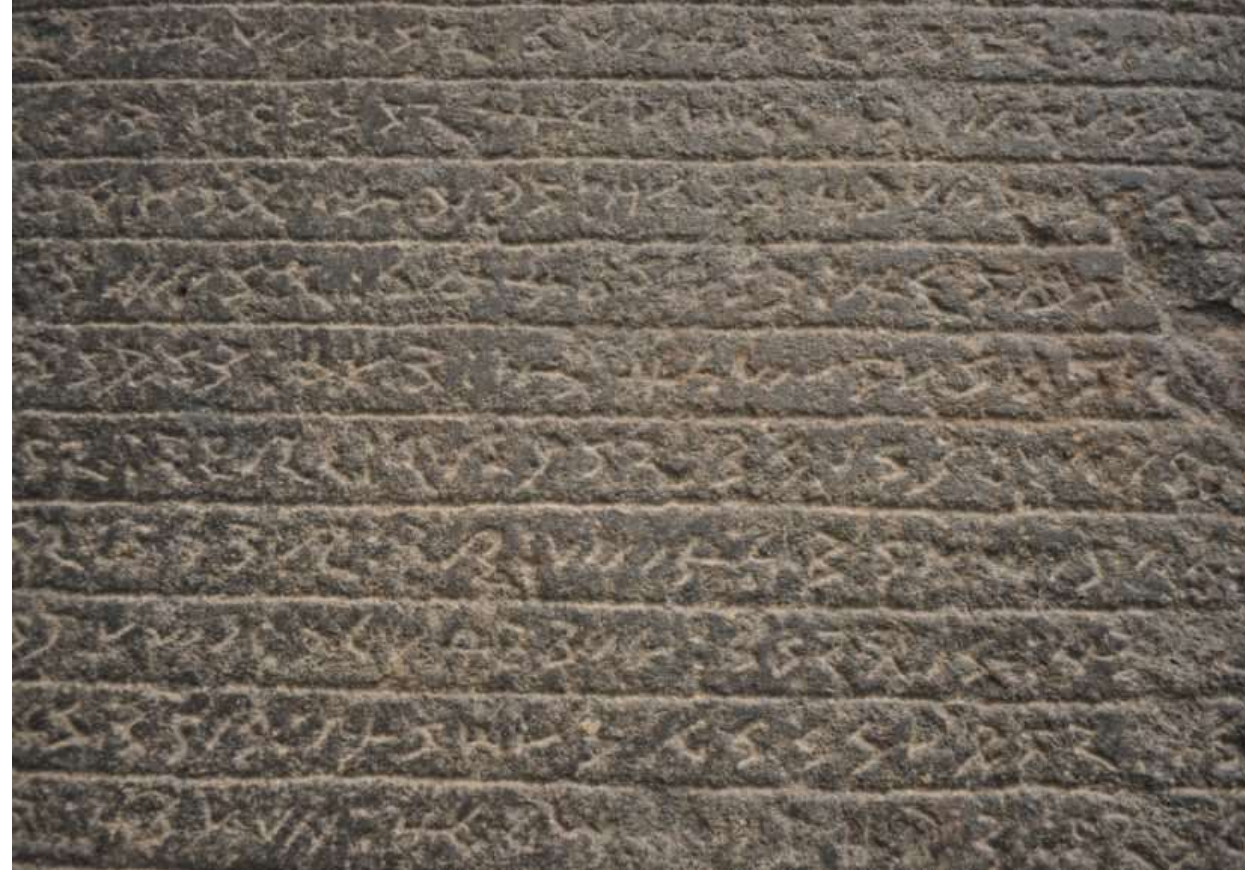


Meroitic

Meroitic stela, Kushite period, about 24 B.C.E., from Hamadab, Sudan, 236.5 cm high
(© [The Trustees of the British Museum](#))

An inscription in Meroitic cursive script is carved on the lower part of the stela. Meroitic was the indigenous language of the Kingdom of Kush. It is one of the few ancient languages yet to be deciphered. The alphabet consisted of 15 consonants, four vowels and four syllabic characters but the meaning of the words is not known.

In this inscription, the names of Amanirenas and Akinidad are recognizable. It is thought that Amanirenas was the Kushite ruler during the Kushite conflicts against the Romans in the late first century B.C.E. This inscription may commemorate a Kushite raid on Roman Egypt in 24 B.C.E.



Kushite/Nubian Art

The Kushite arts were inspired by the Egyptians, but were drastically African. Most remarkable among these was Kushite relief sculpture, which adorned the walls of palaces or pyramids. The cuts that are on the walls are deeper and more strategic than Egyptian hieroglyphics. There are many reliefs scattered across the land of Africa. They mostly depict scenes from African daily life and animals. Reliefs depicting battle scenes or kings are somewhat less common.

- https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=t_eoEdyWWdw (3 mins)
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VBn-OkxRW1E> (MFA)
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vDaDWfUgYWQ> (6 mins Netherlands)
- <https://smarthistory.org/pyramids-of-sudan/> (architecture 2 mins)





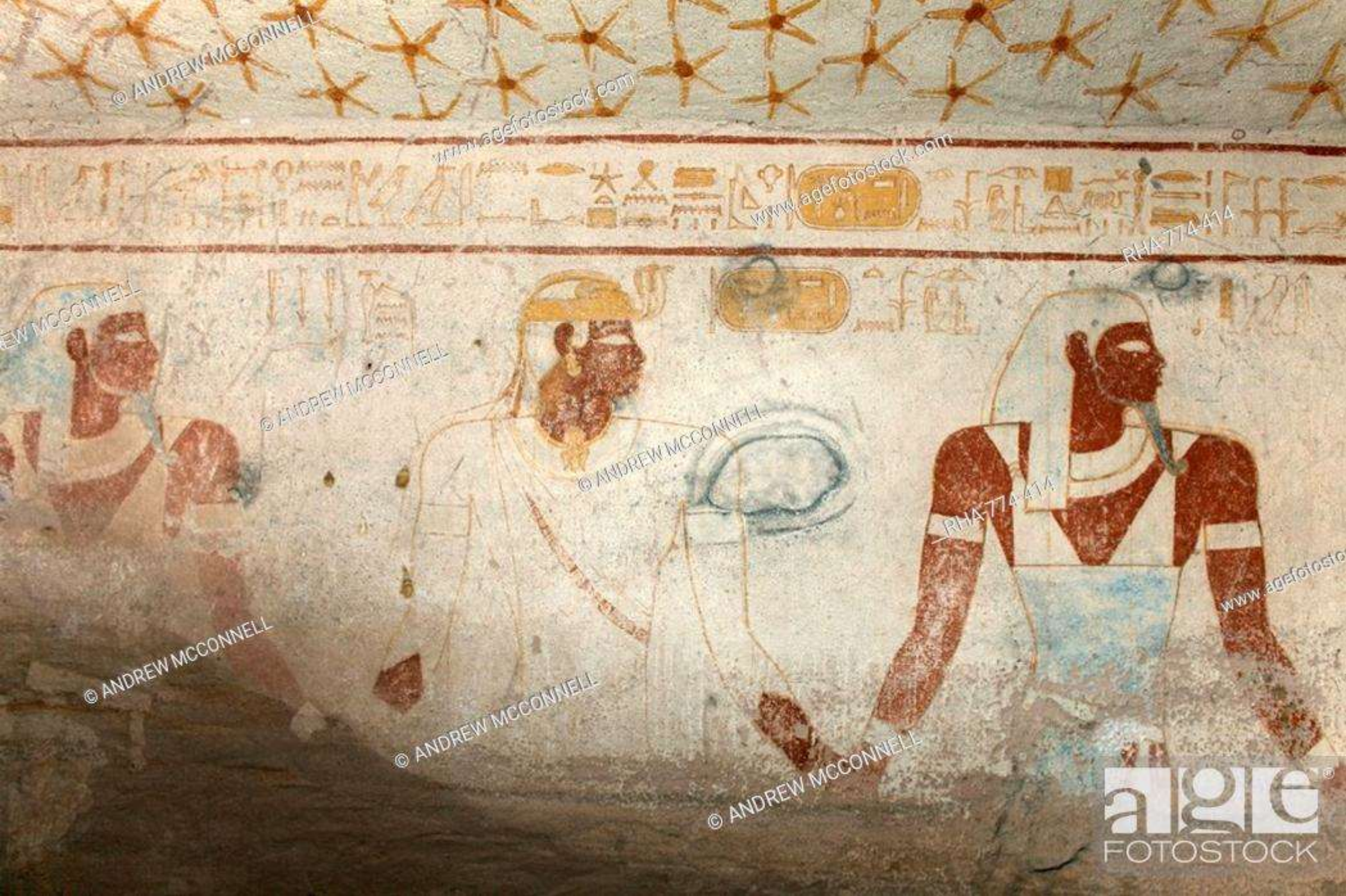














Pottery

The first settlers in northern Sudan date back 300,000 years. It is home to the oldest sub-Saharan African kingdom, the kingdom of Kush (about 2500–1500 B.C.E.). This culture produced some of the most beautiful pottery in the Nile valley, including Kerma beakers.

<https://smarthistory.org/ancient-nubia-kingdom-kush-intro/>

<https://www.metmuseum.org/art/collection/search/545772>















Jewelry











Ibrahim El-Salahi

Ibrahim El-Salahi is a Sudanese painter, former public servant and diplomat. He is one of the foremost visual artists of the "Khartoum School", considered as part of African Modernism and the Hurufiyya art movement, that combined traditional forms of Islamic calligraphy with contemporary artworks.

- <https://fanack.com/faces-en/ibrahim-el-salahi~106379/> (2:30 mins)





The Inevitable

Often considered El-Salahi's masterpiece, 'The Inevitable' was first conceived by the artist during his wrongful imprisonment. Deprived of paper, El-Salahi would sketch out plans for future paintings on the back of small cement casings, before burying them in the sand whenever a guard would come near. Working in this manner led to the artist developing a new style, one seen in 'The Inevitable', where a painting spreads out from what he refers to as the 'nucleus', or the germ of an idea, with a meaning hidden even from the artist himself until the work is finished. Only when he saw 'The Inevitable' completed did El-Salahi realise how clear the message was; that people must rise up and fight tyranny and those that suppress them. This was something he felt was relevant not just to his own life when he created the work in the mid-eighties, but to all of Sudan.

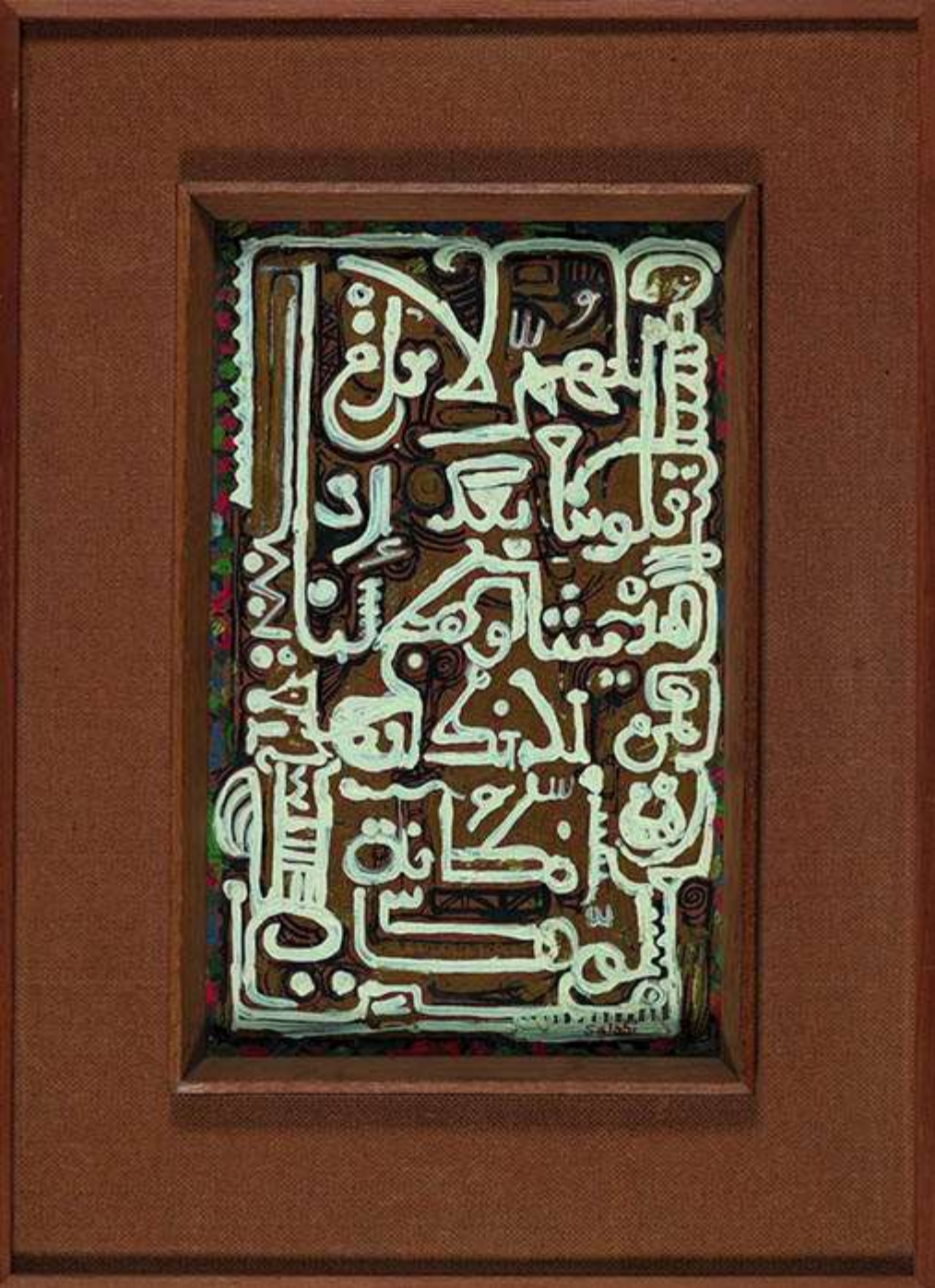
<https://fanack.com/faces-en/ibrahim-el-salahi~106379/>

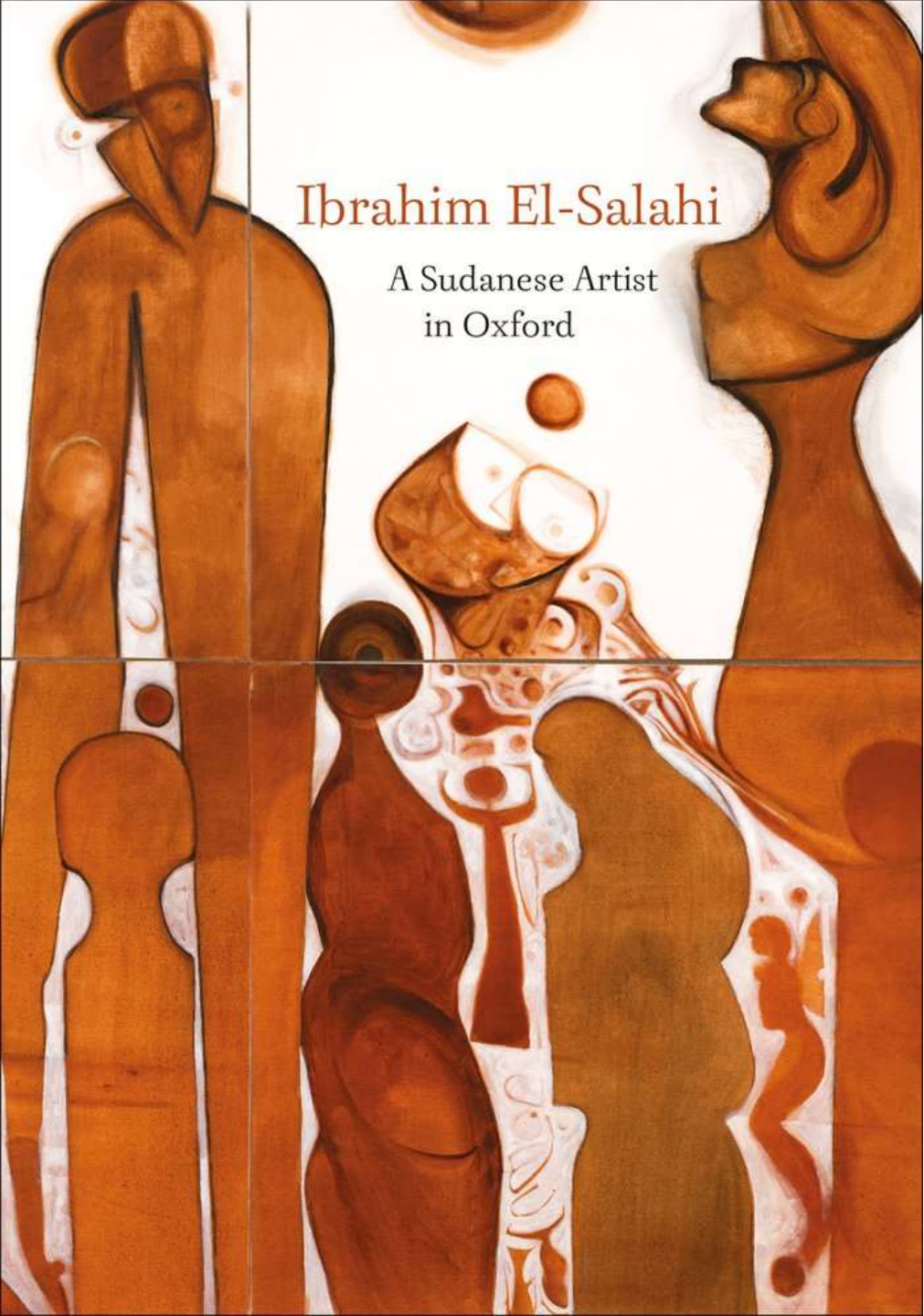
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=D9B7NIIQw1A> (Meschec and Ibrahim)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=srWleMyQcgk&list=TLPQMjYwOTIwMjL6xI4yJXsjsQ&index=2> (use this—15 mins Tate Modern)









Ibrahim El-Salahi

A Sudanese Artist
in Oxford





Savahi 2001

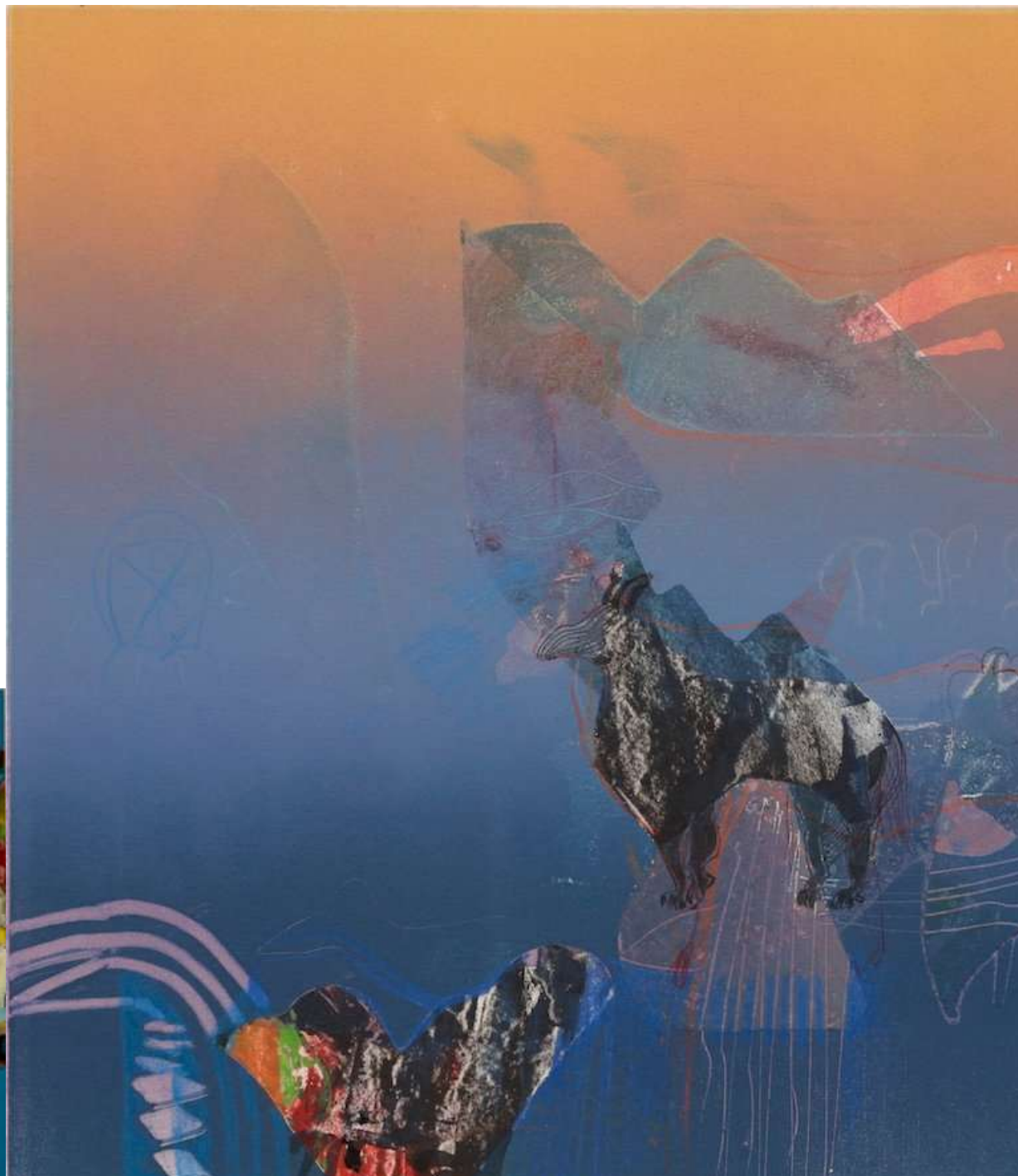


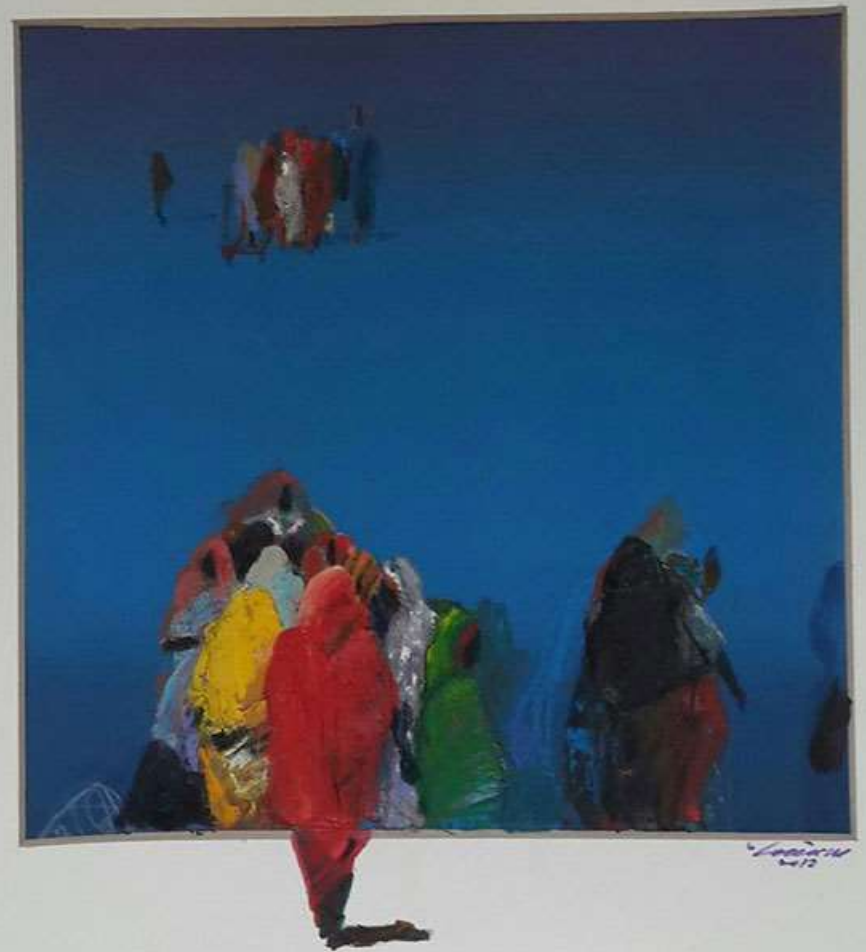
BEKHAHA

Rashid Diab

- Rashid Diab is a Sudanese painter, visual artist and art historian.
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=16OrtLJzIC0>









Kamala Ibrahim Ishag

Kamala Ibrahim Ishaq is a Sudanese artist and art teacher, known as one of the founders of The Crystallist conceptual art group in Khartoum.

Kamala Ibrahim Ishag has been a pioneer in African visual art since the 1960s. Among the first women to graduate from the College of Fine and Applied Art in Khartoum, in 1960 she was a foundational figure in the modern art movement in Sudan. She was associated with the Khartoum School, which forged a modern artistic identity for the newly independent nation, drawing on both its Arab and African traditions. A decade later, Ishag's ideas had evolved. She rejected the Khartoum School's emphasis on heritage and its seemingly male-dominated world view. With a number of her students, she founded what came to be known as the Crystallist Group.

- <https://princeclausfund.org/laureate/kamala-ibrahim-ishag>











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Reem Al Jeally

- <https://www.thomsonfoundation.org/latest/encounters-with-a-sudanese-artist-pushing-for-a-brighter-future/>











نورا تحلم
بي وجود ما مشيت
بينو القيود، أفضل
أفضل بكثير

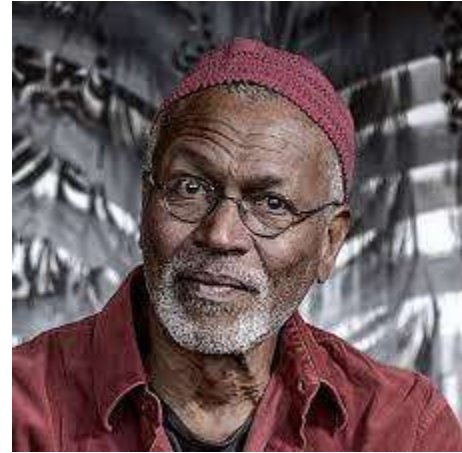
لا درادر، لا عساكر
لا مقاليم، لا مقالمة

بوطن من
غير حدود

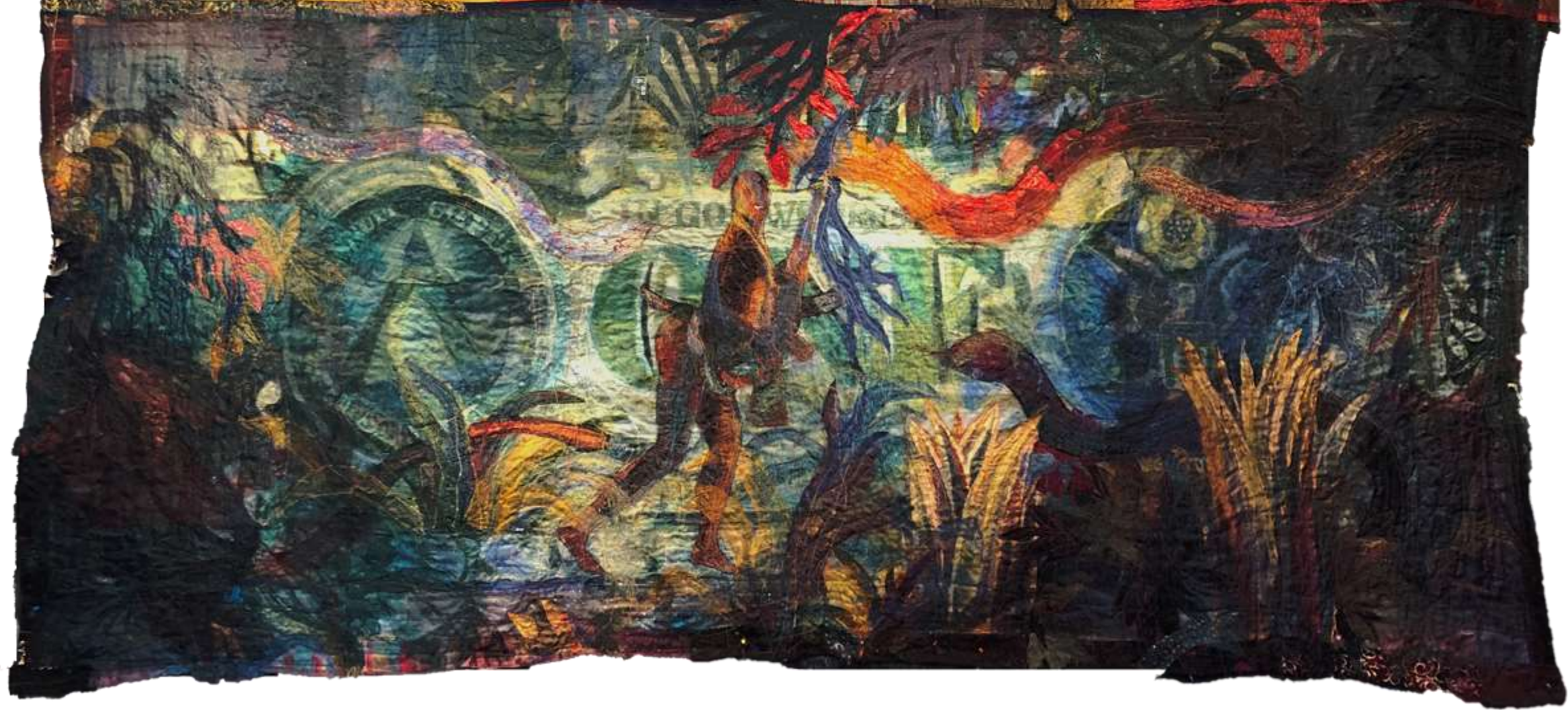
Hassan Musa

Born in 1951 in El Nuhud, Sudan and currently working in Domessargues, France; Hassan Musa is one of the Sudanese pioneers in contemporary art and zoomorphic calligraphy.

<https://vimeo.com/391805148>



la charmeuse de serpents









Assignment Suggestions...

- Create an artwork inspired by the Kerma ceramics (red, black, red, and white)
- Incorporate a famous artwork into a creation of your own (e.g., Hassan Musa)
- Gather gold jewelry and/or gold objects and photograph them or create an artwork inspired by them.
- Create an artwork made up of separate panels put together