

Ashraf Atraqchi

Artist, Arts Critic and Curator – Iraq/Sweden

Fine Arts Institute Mosul

Mosul's cultural movement

Producer Cultural radio programme

literary and artistic criticism

Express yourself with Art"

The independent artist and writer Ashraf Atraqchi (1980) is a graduate from the Fine Arts Institute in Mosul, northern Iraq. He comes from a family of artists and academics in Mosul and has been active in Mosul's cultural movement since he was a student. He has worked as a producer of a cultural radio programme and he has published many pieces of literary and artistic criticism in Iraqi newspapers and Arabic websites. Ashraf's writings focus on the arts, particularly the protection of historical and contemporary sculptures in Mosul city, as well as the biographies of Iraqi artists. His articles have been published widely in various newspapers, magazines and cultural websites, such as the weekly Iraqiyoon (Iraqis) newspaper, al-Tarbiya (Education) magazine and Thakirat Madina magazine (A Memory of a City).

After years of pressure, threats, an attempt on his life and finally the occupation of Mosul by IS in 2014 he fled from his home town. He continued to write articles about art and sculpture from exile.

Ashraf Atraqchi arrived to Stockholm with his wife and children in May 2015 and he began to work with the culture house of the city in 2016 for the young refugees' integration. He is the origin of a few projects between Stockholm, Uppsala and Nyköping which all target children and teenagers, such as "Express yourself with art" in Lava Library.

