



*For the Attention of the Culture / News Department  
Press Release  
For immediate release*

## **Commemorating Zayed: The Soft Power, Abu Dhabi Music & Arts Foundation Unveils Eight Stunning Artworks at Abu Dhabi Art 2018**

*A dynamic programme of events, tours and talks at the Pavilion invited young aspiring creatives to gain exposure to inspiring contemporary artworks created by Emirati & UAE resident artists*

*Specially designed artwork also unveiled at Abu Dhabi Art, created in collaboration with Ewa'a Shelters for Victims of Human Trafficking in Abu Dhabi and ADMAF*

**(Abu Dhabi, 17 November 2018):** As part of Abu Dhabi Art 2018, Abu Dhabi Music & Arts Foundation (ADMAF) displayed in its Pavilion a selection of artworks by eight Emirati and UAE-based artists reflecting the core values of the late Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan. Aligning with the celebration of the Year of Zayed, ADMAF's pavilion was themed *Zayed: The Soft Power* and was opened by H.E. Huda I. Alkhamis-Kanoo, Founder of ADMAF and Artistic Director of the annual Abu Dhabi Festival.

The specially curated exhibition showcased the works of Abdelghani Al Nahawi, Ebtisam Abdulaziz, Dr. Ahmed Al Faresi, Nayef AlBalooshi, Maha Ali Abdullah, Hussain AlMoosawi, Patricia Millns and Ranim Orouk. Each artist was selected following an open call across the UAE for submissions of proposals or completed artworks.

**Upon visiting the fair, H.E. Huda I. Alkhamis-Kanoo, Founder of ADMAF,** said: "In the past decade, the UAE has made great strides in the promotion and sharing of creative and artistic knowledge. Abu Dhabi's cultural identity is built on the importance of safeguarding our heritage and development for the future, and 'Soft Power' has played an integral role in the development of our nation. In keeping with the commemoration of Sheikh Zayed's legacy in this Year of Zayed, ADMAF is proud to dedicate its Abu Dhabi Art Pavilion theme to celebrating "Zayed: The Soft Power", which features eight unique and diverse masterpieces inspired by his core values: Wisdom and Peace, Tolerance and Respect, Unity, Sustainability and the Environment, Human Development and Knowledge. The Foundation's unwavering support and nurturing of Emirati and UAE-based talent continues to be a force for good in delivering on the promise of culture."



During the fair, ADMAF also displayed an emotive and unique piece of art by the Ewa'a Shelters for Victims of Human Trafficking in Abu Dhabi. Conceptualised by the artist Jennifer Simon in collaboration with ADMAF, *Skittles*, was the result of an intense two years of work by more than 20 survivors of human trafficking. It featured 10 individually painted and decorated, human-sized bowling pins standing before a ball featuring the word 'life' in English and Arabic. The artwork embodies the struggles of the survivors, inspiring them to rise up in the face adversity.

Visitors to Abu Dhabi Art were invited to participate in a programme of free sessions alongside students from many of ADMAF's university partners. The programme ran on November 14 and 15, with specially designed student tours for young and aspiring creatives to gain valuable exposure to inspiring contemporary artwork from the MENA region and beyond. Those looking to gain further insights into contemporary artworks featured throughout the fair were invited to sign up for a guided tour by longstanding resident and featured artist, Patricia Millns, on November 16. Budding photography enthusiasts were also taken on a 'mobile photography tour' led by Mahra Almheiri for insights and guidance on how to take interesting photographs of artworks.

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#### **About the Abu Dhabi Music & Arts Foundation**

*Patron: H.E. Sheikh Nahayan Mubarak Al Nahayan, UAE Minister of Tolerance*

Founded in 1996, ADMAF is one of the oldest, not-for-profit cultural organisations in the Arabian Gulf. Pioneering new artistic practices, it seeks to deepen global cross-cultural dialogue and inspire a renewed interest in the creativity of the UAE and Arab world. Often in partnership with leading national and international institutions, it delivers multidisciplinary initiatives for people of all ages, backgrounds and nationalities through the Abu Dhabi Festival, year-round youth platforms and community programmes. For more information, please visit [www.admaf.org](http://www.admaf.org)