



مجموعة أبوظبي للثقافة والفنون
Abu Dhabi Music & Arts Foundation

presents

'THREE GENERATIONS'



مجلس تنمية المنطقة الغربية
WESTERN REGION DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL

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مجموعة أبوظبي للثقافة والفنون
Abu Dhabi Music & Arts Foundation

www.admaf.org

Under the patronage of
His Highness Sheikh Hamdan bin Zayed Al Nahyan
Ruler's Representative of the Western Region



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Abu Dhabi Music & Arts Foundation

presents

'Three Generations'

at Sotheby's

34-35 New Bond Street, London W1

Open daily from 23 July to 9 August, 2013.

Open Monday to Friday, 10am-5pm.

Free admission.



Al Dhafra Camel Festival

A beauty pageant beyond compare, this festival is one of the world's finest gatherings of long-legged beauties. Camels from all over the region gather at Madinat Zayed every year for trading and a beauty contest. With thousands of camels, and an accompaniment of traditional sports, pastimes and crafts, this is a unique and fascinating festival



His Highness

Sheikh Hamdan bin Zayed Al Nahyan

Ruler's Representative of the Western Region
Patron of 'Three Generations' touring exhibition

The Founding Father of the UAE, the late Sheikh Zayed Al Nahyan said, "Whoever has no past has neither a present nor a future". As a cradle of history, Al Dhafra (the Western Region of the Emirate of Abu Dhabi) has and always will be a rich source of inspiration for creative minds and practitioners, today and tomorrow.

Arts and culture are deeply embedded in the vision of Al Dhafra. Today, this vast area is home to several cultural festivals that involve the local community and bring attention to the region. Through initiatives such as Al Dhafra Camel Festival, Liwa Dates Festival and Al Gharbia Falconry Festival, we recognise the economic and social value of culture - its ability to strengthen society, uphold identity, and share with others our traditions.

The visual arts has the power to transcend borders and boundaries. It ignites the imagination and encourages the pursuit of knowledge. I congratulate all the artists participating in the 'Three Generations' exhibition. They reflect a spirit of innovation that is rooted in the desert landscapes of Al Dhafra. Their creations resonate with the cultural heritage that they, as guardians, have inherited.

I congratulate the Abu Dhabi Music & Arts Foundation and Sotheby's. I hope that this exhibition opens the hearts and minds of audiences both far and wide.



His Excellency

Sheikh Nahayan Mubarak Al Nahyan

UAE Minister of Culture, Youth & Community Development
President & Patron, Abu Dhabi Music & Arts Foundation (ADMAF)

Since the founding of the United Arab Emirates in 1971, culture and heritage have been a source of creative inspiration. Today, the leaders of the UAE continue to encourage and support the multi-disciplinary activities of this dynamic sector.

'Three Generations' reflects this period of phenomenal creativity through the visual arts, and presents a selection of our national artists who reveal new and innovative ways to explore our past, our present and our future. Through their works, they make us think about who we are and help to communicate the essence of UAE cultural identity to the world.

I commend the achievements of the Abu Dhabi Music & Arts Foundation and the Western Region Development Council on the exhibition. I also express thanks for the support of Sotheby's in the UK and Cleveland Clinic Arts & Medicine Institute in the USA, esteemed partners that have made the international tour possible.

In celebrating Emirati creativity, I hope the exhibition shall deepen an understanding of the culture of the United Arab Emirates. I am hopeful that all those who experience this refreshing exhibition will be inspired by the voices they hear through the works presented.

FOREWORD



Her Excellency Hoda I. Al Khamis-Kanoo
Founder, Abu Dhabi Music & Arts Foundation (ADMAF)

For 17 years, education has been at the core of ADMAF's endeavours. Since 1996, the Foundation has been creating memorable and meaningful experiences for the general public, embedding an appetite for creativity in the hearts and minds of future generations, and creating unique opportunities for arts practitioners to explore beyond the horizons of convention.

Under the patronage of His Highness Sheikh Hamdan bin Zayed Al Nahyan, I am delighted that through this international tour, ADMAF is enabling new audiences to explore the UAE visual arts sector hand-in-hand with our partners: Sotheby's in the UK, Cleveland Clinic Arts & Medicine Institute in the USA; and, of course, the Western Region Development Council, who shall be welcoming the exhibition home to Al Dhafra following its world travels.

'Three Generations' provides a window into the cultural currents of the UAE through the eyes of some of its established and emerging creative minds. Artists are essential to society. They challenge commonly held perspectives with innovative thinking. They raise awareness about issues, break down barriers to cross-cultural understanding and encourage global dialogue. This exhibition is therefore a reflection of where the UAE has come from, where it is now, and where it is going. I sincerely hope that the range of styles, approaches and mediums used excites and informs all those who visit it.

By fostering a spirit of inquiry and openness through the arts, ADMAF is helping to sow the seeds for the development of the world's next cultural capital – Abu Dhabi.



Robin Woodhead

Executive Vice President & Chairman
Sotheby's International

With one of the most ambitious cultural programmes in the region, the United Arab Emirates has distinguished itself as a growing force on the international scene. More recently with the award of a permanent space at the Venice Biennale, the Emirati artistic scene has received more attention than ever before.

Sotheby's is pleased to showcase this snapshot of UAE artistic expression by welcoming a new initiative of the Abu Dhabi Music and Arts Foundation. 'Three Generations' brings

to London 12 divergent works by 12 different artists who represent the creative practices of three generations. Through this, we are able to see the evolution of contemporary artistic practices based upon a rich understanding of the local culture and heritage.

Cultural dialogues have long proven to be a highly effective means of promoting better understanding and interaction between nations. We hope that this particular project will be one such important dialogue.

Growth & The Gulf

Roxane Zand, Deputy Chair of the Middle East & Gulf Region at Sotheby's, introduces 'Three Generations' within the context of a rapidly changing continent.

Not so many years ago, when I first had the privilege of visiting Abu Dhabi and receiving a warm welcome from its cultural authorities, I remember thinking that the proposed artistic and cultural plans would take a very long time to unfold. Rome may not have been built in a day, but in today's fast-forward global growth, the old proverb seems to have taken something of a knock. For the pace of cultural growth in the Gulf region has been nothing short of astonishing.

From modest beginnings in 1996, the Abu Dhabi Music and Arts Foundation is now one of the more dynamic and exciting NGOs in the whole region, providing a calibre of artistic and cultural offering that is sometimes even hard to find in Western Europe. Internationally renowned musicians perform in Abu Dhabi, rubbing shoulders with Arab musicians in programmes of fusion and musical dialogue. Alongside these initiatives that bring the world to the Emiratis,

ADMAF has more recently begun to introduce the work and creative activities of Emiratis to an international platform. This kind of reciprocation enriches an understanding of both cultures, and the UK public will undoubtedly welcome seeing the creative expressions and preoccupations of 12 Emirati artists in an exhibition that brings together the vision of three generations.

A handful of the older practitioners will highlight core elements that form the fabric of traditional Emirati society, while the well-known Luqman produces distinctive Arab craftsmanship in an iconic portrait; some of the youngest artists such as the rising Al Suwaidi experiment with abstractions while others examine the psychology of modern society. Whatever our Western perceptions of these novel and deeply embedded artistic expressions, it is important to recognize the freshness and newly championed aspect of the work of these dynamic artists.

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ABOUT ADMAF

Through a range of year-round initiatives, the Abu Dhabi Music & Arts Foundation (ADMAF) seeks to benefit society and advance Abu Dhabi's cultural vision.

Established in 1996 by H.E. Hoda I. Al Khamis Kanoo, ADMAF is an independent, not-for profit organisation under the presidency and patronage of H.E. Sheikh Nahayan Mubarak Al Nahyan, UAE Minister of Culture, Youth and Community Development. Each year, it undertakes a broad range of community and education programmes, in addition to the internationally renowned Abu Dhabi Festival, often in partnership with leading national and international institutions.

ADMAF Education creates platforms of inspiration for children and young people so that they may develop their creative thinking, realise their talents, broaden their horizons and build upon the nation's cultural heritage. Last year, it delivered over 250 arts-based initiatives to over 9,000 children and young people of all abilities aged 18 months

upwards with six defined programmes seeking to nurture personal development, academic excellence, cultural identity and artistic talent. Community is another cornerstone of ADMAF's work. As the only independent cultural foundation in the Arab world with a dedicated community arts team, ADMAF uses the arts to engage, empower and encourage. Each year, it reaches out to citizens and residents across the UAE to create arts opportunities for everyone, regardless of their age, ability, location or circumstance. Over a year, ADMAF Community collaborates with a range of groups and associations across the 7 emirates to deliver an average of 70 initiatives involving 11,000 children, young people and adults.

ADMAF & The Visual Arts

The visual arts have played a major role throughout the 17 years of ADMAF's existence as a developmental tool in education, a means to strengthen civil society in the community, and as a platform to present the widest spectrum of artistic expression during the Abu Dhabi Festival.



Artist Abdulaziz Al Fadli runs a workshop for children.



Acclaimed Iraqi calligrapher Hassan Massoudy at his first solo exhibition in the Gulf, Abu Dhabi Festival 2012.

There is a growing demand for new skills that will enable young people to make sense of an increasingly visual world where creativity is as important as technical know-how. The visual arts give them the opportunity to develop their spatial abilities, reflection and experimentation, among other aptitudes, while discovering the world around them.

One of several initiatives in which ADMAF applies the visual arts within the educational environment is 'Ways of Seeing', which invites visiting artists to elaborate on their approach for the benefit of the country's visual arts undergraduates. It also facilitates sessions led

by Emirati artists that help develop children's cultural identity. ADMAF's 'Islamic Arts Series' enables young people to learn techniques ranging from mosaic to geometrical patterning that date back to the Golden Age of Islam (mid-8th to 13th centuries). In 2013, the inaugural 'Christo & Jeanne-Claude Award' was established to reward excellence among UAE undergraduates and recent graduates by giving one promising talent the chance to create a work of art that can be publicly exhibited and enjoyed. Under the Patronage of H.H. Sheikha Shamsa bint Hamdan Al Nahyan, the 2013 winner was 'Mirari' (Mirage) by Zayed University student, Sheikha Maryam bint Sultan bin Zayed Al Nahyan.



University students in a Ways of Seeing workshop.

Visual Arts & Society

ADMAF also uses the visual arts to generate awareness and understanding in the community and as a process through which sectors of society are empowered. 'Silent Voices' is an annual ADMAF exhibition of works made by survivors of human trafficking who have found refuge in Ewa'a Shelters for Women & Children.



Silent Voices raises awareness around human trafficking.

Strengthening familial bonds, the 'ADMAF Art Tent' provides a weeklong series of creative workshops every February for parents and children visiting Al Ain Wildlife Park & Resort. And in partnership with orphanages in the UAE, 'Let's Make Art' sessions help build children's cultural identity as well as basic skills. Finally, to complement existing therapies for children with special needs, ADMAF's 'Wednesday Wonders' visual arts workshop series helps cognitive and physical development, self esteem and communication.

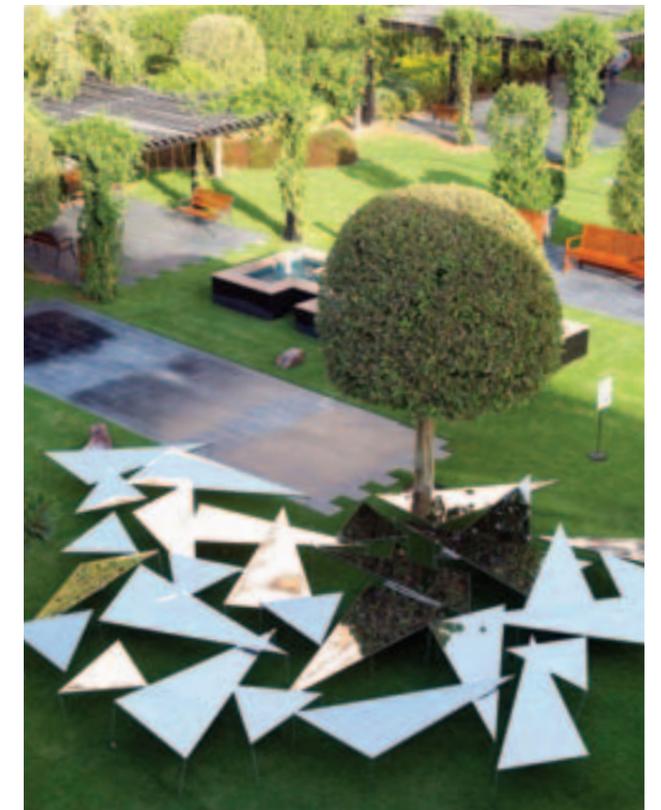
Professional Development

Since 2008, the Abu Dhabi Festival has staged major exhibitions that explore the work of leading practitioners from the Middle East and Arab world, including Nja Mahdaoui (Tunisia), Dia Al Azzawi (Iraq), Parviz Tanavoli (Iran), Adam Henein (Egypt), Rachid Koraïchi (Algeria) and Hassan Massoudy (Iraq). The free exhibitions seek to raise awareness and understanding of regional artistic practice and are accompanied by publications, guided tours, debates, workshops and lectures.

As an added incentive for emerging artists, the Abu Dhabi Festival Visual Arts Award welcomes entries from Emirati university undergraduates that respond to works exhibited.

When ADMAF was established back in 1996, the UAE was just 25 years old. Today, the country's visual arts sector continues to grow. Numerous organisations are currently supporting the professional development of artists across the UAE. ADMAF's contribution takes the form of an advocacy and information platform called The Nationals' Gallery: a permanent initiative that seeks to enhance and elevate the Emirati art scene through consultations, discussions, grants, commissions and exhibitions as well as a growing online library of artists' profiles via the ADMAF website.

In short, ADMAF is a firm believer that the arts hold the keys to creativity. Through the visual arts, ADMAF is empowering a nation and in doing so, securing a brighter future for the UAE's people, its communities and its artists.



'Mirari' (Mirage), the winner of The 2013 Christo & Jeanne-Claude Award.



VIEW
AUCTION
HIGHLIGHTS



CHANT AVEDISSIAN *ICONS OF THE NILE*, 1991-2010. ESTIMATE \$1,000,000-1,500,000 SOLD FOR \$1,565,000

HIGHEST RECORD ACHIEVED FOR A LIVING ARAB ARTIST
DOHA AUCTION APRIL 2013

THE AUCTION SET THE RECORD FOR THE HIGHEST CONTEMPORARY ART AUCTION
IN THE MIDDLE EAST AT \$15,199,750

ABOUT 'THREE GENERATIONS'

'Three Generations' was initially presented as part of the Arab world premiere of '25 Years of Arab Creativity' at the 2013 Abu Dhabi Festival. The specially curated section sought to complement the existing representation of Emirati artistic practice in the original exhibition presented in partnership with the Institut du Monde Arabe, Paris. In the latest version of this collective exhibition, the 12 divergent works by 12 different artists highlights the creative practices of three generations of Emirati visual arts practitioners. Together, they use a wide range of media in expressing a dynamic cultural identity that is both rooted in the traditions of the past while firmly focused on the present and the future.

Artists like Al Astad, Al Qubaisi, Luqman, Demithan, Al Shomaly and Bin Lahej seize upon core functional elements that form the fabric of Emirati traditional practices. By reappropriating them as objects of aesthetic appreciation, these elements become both representational forms and evocative statements entrenched in emotion and memory. From the functionality of 'kurab' (palm wood), once a staple source of firewood in the freezing desert nights, Al Qubaisi has transformed this most basic of raw materials into an object of design where form and function, the past and present, unite in a single chair. Demithan's examination of a bisht, a traditional symbol of male authority and social status, touches upon form, function and the memories held within. She explores the dichotomy of this robe that resonates with both strength and fragility, while capturing the spirit of Sheikh Rashid Bin Saeed Al Maktoum - not only the late ruler of Dubai but also a loving father and grandfather.

Al Astad calls upon Nature to play a deciding role in the creation of his works by giving the coastline a rich source of history and tradition

a blank canvas on which to leave its mark. Bin Lahej's sculpture 'Depth and Speed' is inspired by the lines and movement of calligraphy; transposing the progression of a reed across a page into an abstract form of steel that echoes the swift gallop of an Arabian horse.

Just as no man is an island, no country exists in isolation. Luqman's work 'The Hint of a Smile' brings together in one distinctive work traditional Arab craftsmanship with one of the world's most iconic portraits. In doing so, the artist highlights the parallel histories of two converging cultures. He presents an image of 'glocality' (one that is both local and global) which in essence reflects the dual identity of the UAE in today's world. Najat Makki draws upon the influences and experiences of her own creative journey from the UAE to countries far beyond its borders.

A snapshot of the breadth and depth of creative expression in the United Arab Emirates

The pieces by artists of the youngest generation including Al Suwaidi, Al Shamsi, Al Omaira, Abdulaziz and Al Mazrouei are preoccupied with the psychology of modern society and the almost performative role of the individual. They play on the often contradictory and contrasting nature of the public persona and the private person, in addition to that which is used to divide, protect and conceal.

While 'Three Generations' in no way seeks to present a comprehensive overview of Emirati visual arts practice, it endeavours to convey a snapshot of the breadth and depth of creative expression in the United Arab Emirates. In addition, the exhibition commemorates the commitment to the UAE visual arts sector by the Abu Dhabi Music & Arts Foundation through its initiative, The Nationals' Gallery.

MOHAMMED AL ASTAD

Artist and designer, Mohammed Al Astad Al Hammadi has been a member of The Emirates Fine Arts Society since 1987. Among his many accomplishments, he was the first Emirati to obtain a Bachelor's degree from the American University, Washington DC in Graphic Design (1998). Al Astad has participated in exhibitions on local, regional and international levels for 27 years; a total of over 300 group exhibitions and 20 solo shows (six in the USA). Al Astad established The Mohammed Al Astad Centre for Artistic Creativity - the first centre for visual art, design and photography in Abu Dhabi.

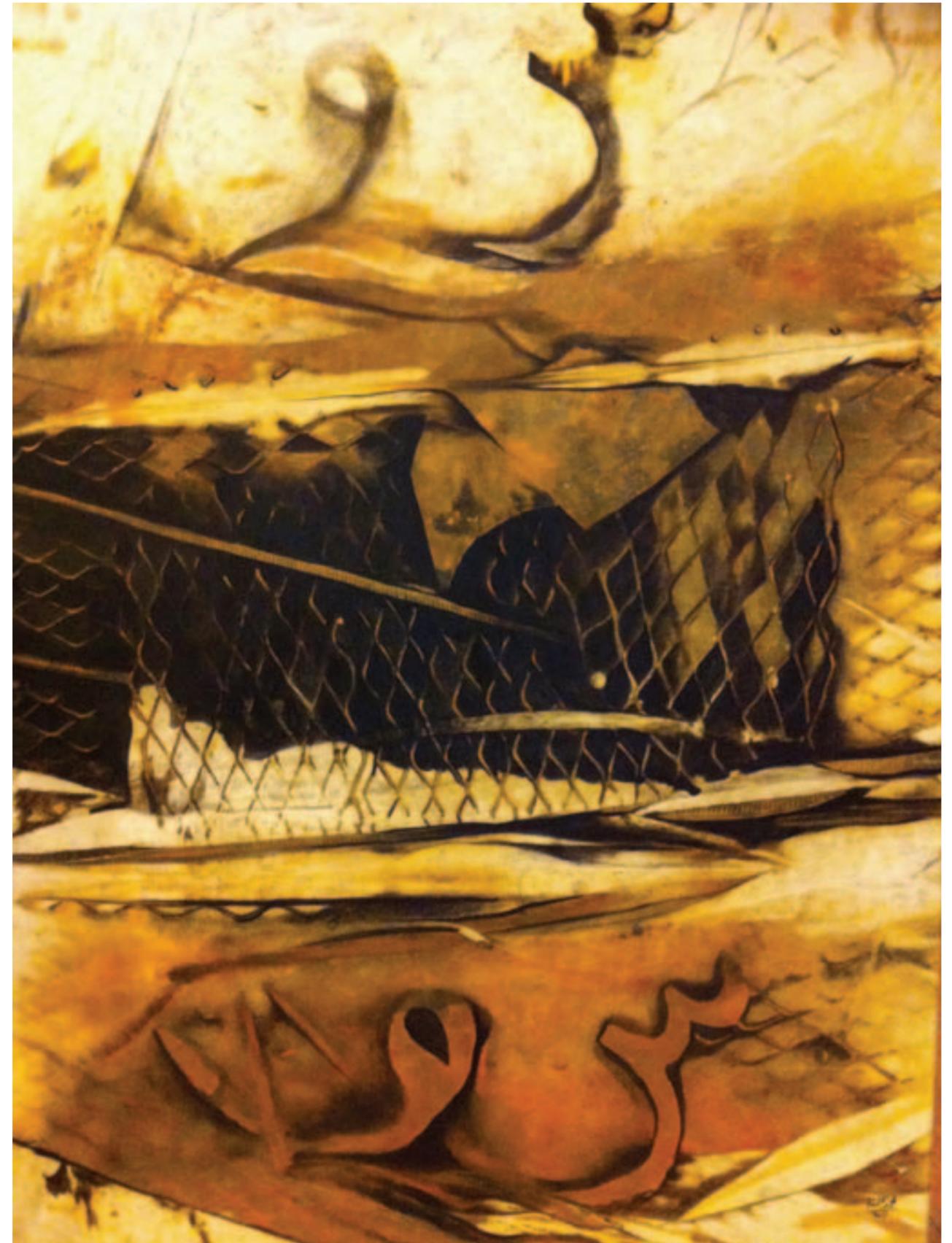
I wanted to strengthen my friendship with coastal nature

Having started out with a strong foundation in Realist drawing, his style has developed over the years, and his interest in Surrealism and Abstract art has grown. Most recently, Al Astad developed a new technique, which he has registered, where beaches become a sort of 'art grave'. The method employs the forces of nature. Iron is buried with canvas for 2-3 weeks, resulting in abstract works that bear

the imprints of rust. Each piece is unique and can never be replicated.

"The Art of Beach Tombs: I wanted to strengthen my friendship with coastal nature. I wanted a different art project in order to find new creations that add to the world of art. I came upon the art of beach tombs. In this kind of creative activity, I found another world of art; where boundaries vanish and where the imagination is the only limitation. I found painting, sculpture and printing together in one. This work is a common point between nature and myself. It allows me spontaneity in utilizing numerous colours. It also makes me see the different physical forms in a surrealist, abstract or symbolic fashion.

The work then becomes a source of joy for the spectator who is transported into the imagination and searches for the aesthetics in the world of beach tombs." M.A.



'Midnight.' 2012.
Iron, rust and acrylic on canvas.
120 x 100 cm.
Courtesy of the artist.

EBTISAM ABDULAZIZ

Born in 1975 in the United Arab Emirates, Ebtisam Abdulaziz lives in Sharjah. As a mathematics graduate and multi disciplinary artist, she works in video, photography and installation. She applies her scientific training in her works and she is also fascinated by the systematic reproduction of forms. Since 2000, she has been working for the magazine Al Tashkeel and also contributes to other art reviews and publications. She is a member of several associations, including the Emirates Fine Arts Society, Dubai Youth Theatre, and Art Atelier. Since 2001, her work has been featured in many solo and collective exhibitions in Dubai, New York and Germany.

The transformation of the human being into a code or a set of numbers

She has appeared in the 7th Sharjah Biennial in 2005. Her work is held in various collections: Deutsche Bank AG, Abu Dhabi's Ministry of Youth, Culture and Community Development, and in private collections across Europe and the Middle East.

"There is no doubt that a person's autobiography is based on central features, some of which are necessary and general, and some of which are facts and events associated to ideas, opinions, behaviour and relationships with society and others. In this work 'Autobiography 03-07' which I consider the second and completing part of 'Autobiography 03-05', I mix documentation as well as performance. The numbers are a summary of my autobiography for a certain period, and I employ it in the

framework of a performance that portrays the negative aspects of today's society, where the individual is rendered useless in the midst of consumerist societies that only recognise material profits. The video is of a deliberate moving scene, the same one we take part in every day, except I present it in a cynical manner that mocks class divisions. It is a cynical critique of consumerist societies signifying the transformation of the human being into a code or a set of numbers." E.A.



(still image) 'Autobiography 07'. 2003-2007. Edition 2/3.
Video installation
Image courtesy of the artist and The Third Line, Dubai.
The ADMAF Art Collection.

MAITHA DEMITHAN

Born in Dubai, Maitha Demithan combines several media; photography, scanography, painting, drawing and photo transfer. The first drawings she created were sketched in sand, which subsequently formed her appreciation for colour, texture, line and shadow. Demithan's most notable exhibition was in 2009 at Tashkeel (Dubai) entitled 'Documentation', where her first scanned self-portraits appeared. Later that year, she participated in 'Across the Gulf,' a group show that was part of the Arc Biennial of Art in Brisbane, Australia. Since then, she has participated in several exhibitions in Germany, USA, China, Spain, Korea, Italy, and France.

"I need to release the overwhelming stream of thoughts; to share a place only I see; to visually express my ideas. Recently, I have used scanography. Compared to photography, the difference is in the layers of construction and deconstruction that occur when creating an image.

With scanography, I feel that I'm painting with light. I work with different parts of the body separately and watch how the image grows. It is slower than photography, thereby closer to painting. I use a flatbed scanner to reproduce two-dimensional images/documents or to copy

With scanography, I feel that I'm painting with light

an original. I scan figures in parts and then reconstruct the images digitally. The composite result is both an objective and mechanical record. The pose, body language and quality carry an emotional statement. My thoughts arise from the world, the environment and the people I am close to. I live each moment as it comes. My pieces reflect this. The deconstruction and reconstruction in my works reflect my journeys and personal struggles that enable me to understand my state of being, my place and my role in this world.

In this work, the cloth ('bisht') belonged to Sheikh Rashid Bin Saeed Al Maktoum, late Ruler of Dubai (1958-1990). A humble man, he is still loved and looked upon with great admiration. The garment is a symbol of simplicity yet great hardship, exemplified by the stitches which are fragile and easily torn, yet hold two pieces of heavy cloth together. After the passing of Sheikh Rashid, Sheikh Mohammed gave this bisht to one of his father's close friends from whom I obtained it in order to create this artwork. The photograph of Sheikh Rashid with his grandson, Sheikh Saeed, is being revealed from beneath a fold. Sheikh Saeed as a young boy is embraced in his grandfather's arms - representing the embrace of the local culture, values and traditions." M.D.



'Rashid Bin Saeed.' 2011.
Scanography.
170 x 170 cm.
Courtesy of the artist.

MATTAR BIN LAHEJ

Mattar Bin Lahej was born in 1968 in Dubai and is among the second generation of Emirati arts practitioners. He is a self-taught artist, sculptor and photographer. An important aspect in Bin Lahej's art is movement; from his large scale oil and acrylic paintings with unique signature brushstrokes, to his equally powerful sculptures that capture split-second movement, especially those of horses. Bin Lahej has also successfully explored traditional styles of painting, mixing deep, warm and vivid colours with calligraphy.

As an artist, he is well aware of his role in society, and is increasingly concerned with addressing social issues. In addition to running his own gallery, Marsam Mattar, Bin Lahej nurtures young talent through an

annual summer camp for children. He also runs workshops across the UAE and curates exhibitions independently.

Bin Lahej has participated in exhibitions in the UAE, Germany, Morocco, Kuwait, Turkey and the USA. His works can be found in private collections throughout the region and have been featured in auctions.

As Director of the Cultural Committee of The Architectural Heritage Society, Lahej has supervised arts workshops and exhibitions throughout the UAE, both as a curator and an artist.

"I use the concept of movement in all of my art. As an artist, I insist on leaving my fingerprint on society." M.L.

I use the concept of movement in all of my art



'Depth & Speed'. 2011.
Stainless steel.
80 x 110 x 470 cm.
Courtesy of the artist.

JALAL LUQMAN

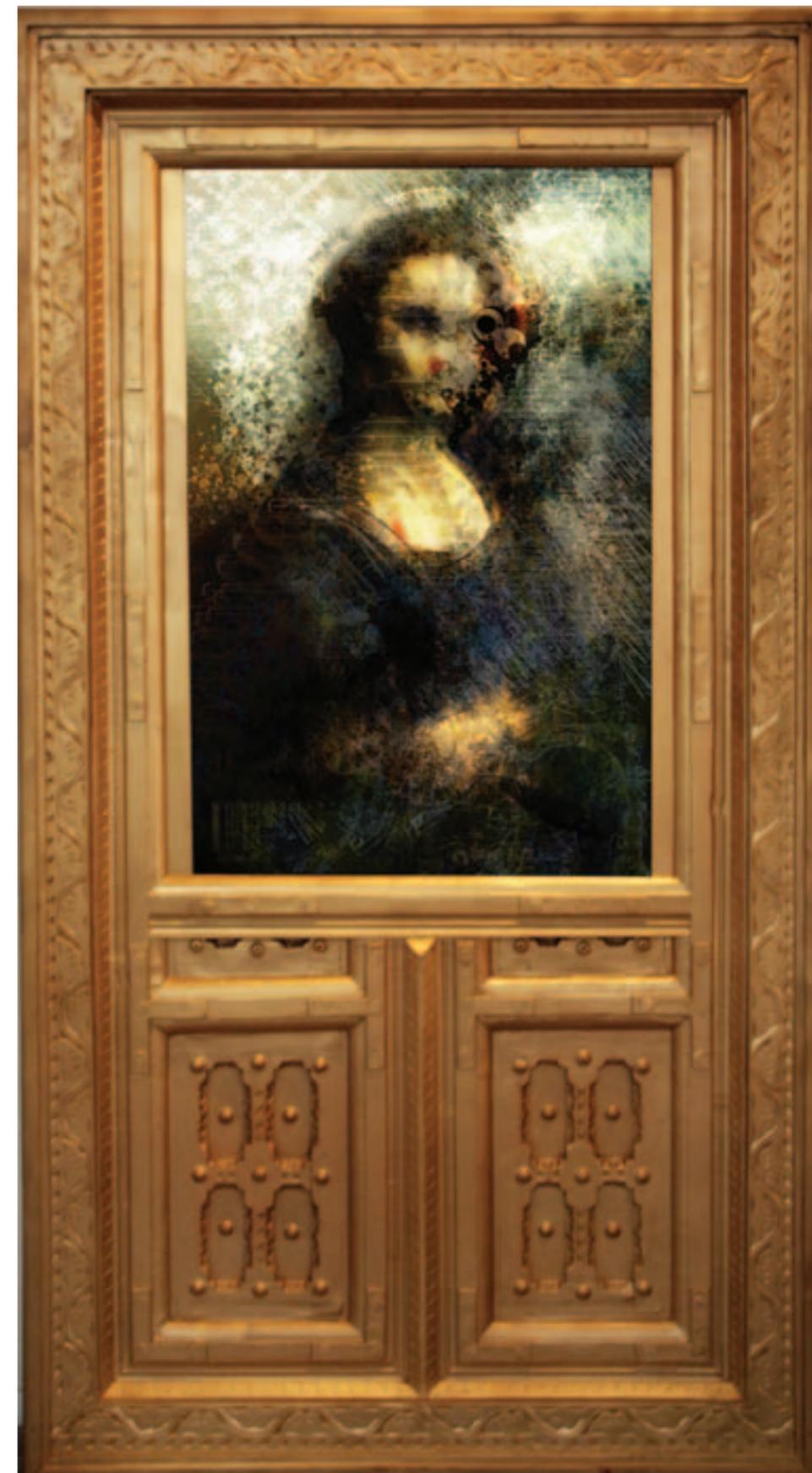
Mixed media artist Jalal Luqman introduced digital art to the UAE in 1996 and has been a pioneer ever since. His unflinching approach has landed him many career firsts; first Emirati digital artist; first Emirati freelance graphic designer; and first contracted Emirati website designer. Luqman's work is limitless in both meaning and material; transforming metals, wood and other common materials into pieces of art that transcend the limits of the frame and reach out to provoke the viewer.

A significant name on the Emirati art scene, Luqman has exhibited in USA, Kuwait, Japan, Egypt, Morocco, the Czech Republic, and China.

I wanted to present an Arabised version, digitally repainted

Today, he is a strong advocate for Emirati visual arts, conducting seminars and workshops in schools, colleges and universities nationally and internationally, in addition to public speaking engagements on the promotion of art in the UAE. Luqman is a frequent member of UAE delegations to international arts events.

"Heavily inspired by the classic masterpiece, I wanted to present an Arabised version, digitally repainted, where the smile remains the major part of the work, framed within an old Middle Eastern door. This work was first exhibited at Art Paris." J.L.



'The Hint of a Smile.' 2008.
Mixed media.
200 x 109 x 17 cm.
Courtesy of the artist.

NAJAT MAKKI

Najat Makki's artistic practice maintains a focus on rhythm and tone. The beginning of her career as a painter saw formal and focused creations, strong in symbolism and expressionism. She began by experimenting with phosphoric colours and held her first exhibition in Al Wasl Club, Dubai, in 1989. Over time, her style took to incorporating figurative elements where their association with each other on the canvas contributes to a certain rhythm and harmony.

The female figure has a strong presence in her artwork; tall and strong like a palm tree touching the sky, yet grounded with roots digging deep into the earth. Her work is replete with these iconic women who represent patience, ambition, optimism, struggle and

love. Colours serve to strengthen the density and dynamism, while strong lines define their own consistent rhythm.

Colours serve to strengthen the density and dynamism

Dr. Makki graduated from the Faculty of Fine Arts in Cairo in 1982, then went on to receive a doctorate in Fine Art in 2001 from the same university.

In 2008, she received the UAE National Award of Arts, Sciences and Literature. She has participated in many exhibitions around the Arab world. In 2012, she carried out a four-month residency in Paris at Cité des Arts with the support of the Emirates Foundation. During her residency, she was able to experiment with new methods and techniques, even incorporating French poetry in her compositions.



Untitled. 2011.
Mixed media and acrylic on canvas.
50 x 50 cm.
Courtesy of the artist.

DANA AL MAZROUEI

Dana Al Mazrouei's interest in art began at Latifa School for Girls in Dubai, where she received a GCSE and AS Level in Art, later graduating with a Bachelor's degree in Design. Al Mazrouei was awarded a Sheikh Mohammed Bin Zayed Scholarship to undertake a Master's Degree in Art History and Museum Studies at Sorbonne University with an internship at the Louvre in Paris.

Al Mazrouei's talents evolved throughout her studies, during which time she was exposed to different cultures during her travels around the world. Her work has been showcased in numerous public venues in the UAE, including Harvey Nichols, Bloomingdales, Dubai Media City, Bastakiya and Emirates Palace. She was selected to paint the 89th level of the world's tallest tower, Burj Khalifa, as well as one of the five life-size F1 replica cars during the Formula 1 Etihad Airways Abu Dhabi Grand Prix. In 2012, Al Mazrouei was

They hide the window to the soul; concealing emotions, evoking detachment

selected for a touring exhibition, part of the 'Art for All' initiative by The Sheikh Salama bint Hamdan Al Nahyan Foundation.

"Sunglasses transform from a tool protecting eyes from sunlight to a fashion statement, and a screen hiding an identity. By the early 20th century, celebrities used them as a public disguise. They became stylish and multipurpose. By covering one's eyes and avoiding eye contact an individual's private space is maintained. They hide the window to the soul; concealing emotions, evoking detachment and silently communicating. Sunglasses offer viewers a new perspective on the work; by looking through my eyes.

By viewing the artwork as a whole, viewers form a personal perspective in relation to the fashion statement. They become part of the installation as they explore and in turn, are viewed differently. Sunglasses filter the city of Abu Dhabi. The new perspective of the urban environment develops in the viewer's mind." D.M.



'Reflection.' 2012.
Acrylic 3D and acrylic paint.
120 x 56 cm.
Courtesy of the artist.

SHAMSA AL OMAIRA

Shamsa Al Omaira is a visual artist born in Abu Dhabi. Through her work, she conceptually explores philosophy and the mind, which is deeply embedded in personal experience. She expresses her ideas through a variety of media including photography, painting, printmaking, mixed media installation, and with found and collected materials. Through the process of creation, her work transcends and becomes a form for personal confessions, inspired by historical possessions and childhood memories. Intrigued by the machinations of the mind, Al Omaira enters a fascinating world through her creative practice, extensive research and philosophical theories. This leads her to create works questioning the complexity of the mind, the reflection of thought, and conceptually corresponds assorted mind theories with parallel personal experience. Al Omaira's work has been exhibited extensively both locally and internationally, including Zayed University, and 'Nishan' at Bastakiya Art Fair, Dubai. She has recently shown at 'Emerge II: Radiating Ports' at the Museum

The struggle to restrain my personality, and the frustration in wanting to be accepted

of Diocesano in Venice, Italy, in conjunction with the 2011 Venice Biennale. Her latest solo exhibition was 'Deer in the Headlights' at Ghaf Art Gallery in Abu Dhabi. A body of work entitled 'Muted Thoughts' was exhibited at the 2012 edition of Abu Dhabi Art.

"The work is a portrait capturing the struggle to restrain my personality, and the frustration in wanting to be accepted. It sums up what anyone would feel if they were asked to withhold their character and limit their reactions to a level that people can tolerate.

The lampshade diffuses light that hurts the eye, and in these drawings, it is used to limit my personality - to present only that which I choose to disclose. It is a metaphor for being trapped, hidden and concealed. The clowns symbolise curiosity, nosiness and the games people play. Viewing them from a distance, they are deliberately inconspicuous. Their size indicates insignificance and weak will." S.O.



'Diffused'. 2012.
Graphite and acrylic on wood.
91 x 112 cm.
Courtesy of the artist.

AZZA AL QUBAISI

Azza Al Qubaisi is a self-represented Emirati artist living and working in the Emirate of Abu Dhabi. She studied at Chelsea College of Art & Design and London Guildhall University.

A certified HRD diamond grader, she is pursuing an M.A. in Cultural and Creative Industries. Al Qubaisi is the UAE's first jewellery artist, corporate gift and awards designer. Founder of 2 public craft initiatives, she established the first platform for local crafts and design, 'Made in UAE'. She has won several awards including the British Council 2011 Young Creative Entrepreneur Award. In addition to lecturing in universities and colleges, Al Qubaisi has spoken at events including Dunyana: World Energy Forum Dubai and Abu Dhabi Festival. She was the first artist to exhibit at Dubai International Financial Centre in 2005. Her work has appeared in exhibitions and festivals in Qatar, Bahrain, Morocco, Egypt, UK and Belgium as well as The 1001 Steps Festival in Helsinki (2004) and 'Languages of the Desert', Abu Dhabi (2007). Her jewellery is featured in several publications. Al Qubaisi's most recent initiative 'ART Junction'

By experimenting with different materials, my work incorporates ancient and modern techniques

with students from the Higher Colleges of Technology campus in the Emirate of Fujairah supports creative, young Emiratis.

"The desert dunes, the shapes, patterns, texture and colour of the grains of sand highlighted by a few green strokes... There is movement in the far distance coming closer every minute until I can see my own reflection in the eyes of the wise man walking in front of a caravan... I imagine scenes like this every time my skin touches the sand. I seek to know how my ancestors felt, lived and travelled between their oases and islands, and to understand how they balanced their needs to sustain life. This feeds my inspiration. My work varies from small wearable pieces to large sculpture; each series representing different elements related to the environment, my culture and the world around me. By experimenting with different materials, my work incorporates ancient and modern techniques - evident in my full scale works with palm tree branches, a material that was the core fabric of Emirati life only five decades ago." A.Q.



Signature Chair 1. 2011. From the series 'Objects With Functionality'. Palm fronds. 60 x 50 x 120(H) cm. Courtesy of the artist.

HAMDAN BUTI AL SHAMSI

Hamdan Buti Al Shamsi was born in Al Ain in 1981. He is a self-taught photographer, graphic designer and writer. Since childhood, he has been fond of art and sketching and has won many school prizes and certificates of commendation. He went on to win first prize in drawing and short story writing as an undergraduate of UAE University. Today, he is a freelance website and graphic designer and often undertakes voluntary photography work. For the last five years, he has been working as a schoolteacher and has taught courses in graphic design and photography. Regarding his approach to art, Al Shamsi quotes John Updike,

'Whoever is used to a whole loaf of bread, is not satisfied by a bite'
(proverb)

'What art offers is space - a certain breathing room for the spirit.' Al Shamsi has participated in a number of group exhibitions around the UAE including Abu Dhabi and Dubai. He was recently commissioned to create site specific digital artworks for the Qattara Arts Centre in Al Ain.

"Whoever is used to a whole loaf of bread, is not satisfied by a bite' (proverb). This is my interpretation.

I believe that a person who aims high and who has great ambition to accomplish great things in life is someone who won't settle for less, who has a strong will and the determination to be innovative - no ordinary person." H.B.S.



'State of Mind.' 2011.
Digital mixed media.
100 x 95 cm.
Courtesy of the artist.

KARIMA AL SHOMALY

Born in 1965 in Sharjah, Karima Al Shomaly lives and works in the United Arab Emirates. After studying Economics and Accounting at the University of Sharjah, she studied in the UK at Chelsea College of Art and Design in London, where she obtained an MA in Fine arts. Her photographic work and installations focus on the role of man. Her work has featured in numerous exhibitions in the United Arab Emirates and abroad, especially in London, Vienna, Paris, Cairo, Belgium and Algeria. Al Shomaly's works have been acquired by galleries in London, New York, Dubai, Spain and France. Al Shomaly is currently studying for a PHD in Fine Arts at Kingston University, supported by ADMAF.

In 2002 and 2005, she received the Sultan Al Owais Award, and won second prize at the Sharjah Biennial.

A physical and symbolic expression of the invisible mask worn by people in their daily life

"Al Burqa: The Arabian burqa: a physical and symbolic expression of the invisible mask worn by people in their daily life. I explore, through my artwork, what exactly the Burqa means to the other. I study the new symbolism it would acquire when transferred from my country, the United Arab Emirates, to other cultural contexts from a psychological, mental and imaginative point of view. I survey the specific reactions to actually wearing a Burqa. As a result of this research, and by scrutinising contemporary lifestyles, I conclude that the invisible Burqa makes its user uncomfortable. Finally, I hope this work will also answer an interesting question I have been pondering; why do people feel driven to wear this invisible mask? Is that mask now a requirement of modern life?" K.S.



'Emirati Burqa'. 2012.
Acrylic on canvas.
120 x 120 cm.
Courtesy of the artist.

SUMAYYAH AL SUWAIDI

Sumayyah Al Suwaidi is a digital artist whose passion drives her to manipulate seemingly normal, boring photographs into masterpieces of emotions and sensuality. A giant in a small body, Al Suwaidi moves the skies, stretches the oceans and elevates humans to the clouds, and in it all brings out beauty in whatever painting she decides to bring to life.

Hailed as the first female Emirati digital artist, Al Suwaidi started her journey in 2001 with a series inspired by the late Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan. Her first exhibition was in 2003 and since then, she has participated in numerous exhibitions in the UAE, France, Germany, China, USA, Morocco and Kuwait. She has received commissions by entities such as the 50th level of Burj Khalifa, and the Embassy of the UAE to the USA. In 2007, Al Suwaidi established a curatorial career and went on to curate group exhibitions promoting UAE emerging talent. She is a judge and panelist for competitions and exhibitions, including Watani's art competition for the 2009 UAE National Day, Tashkeel's 'Biladi' exhibition, and the UAE Pavilion of the 2012 Shanghai Expo.

Hailed as the first female Emirati digital artist, Al Suwaidi started her journey in 2001

Al Suwaidi is the recipient of several awards, including L'OFFICIEL Arab Women Award 2010 for best new talent, later becoming a judge in 2011 and 2012; Emirates Woman Achievers Award 2011; Emirates Woman of the Year 2011; International Award of Petrochem GR8! Women Awards 2012. Al Suwaidi appears in the Ahlan! HOT100 and was the only Emirati female chosen by Olay Arabia as a brand ambassador for their Total 7 Effects campaign in 2011.

"This is one of a series of 10 artworks dedicated to those who worked hard their entire life to reach a stage where they feel liberated and free to think and do as they please. Those who decided to let go of negativity and hate and to embrace optimism, happiness and love. People who are driven by passion to succeed and make their own path, taking that difficult bumpy road to reach their goals and learning something new along the way, gaining all that experience and sharing it with others and giving a helping hand and support to all those who need it." S.S.



'Feminine Delicacy'. 2012.
Digital art.
200 x 100 cm.
The ADMAF Art Collection.

Abu Dhabi Music & Arts Foundation (ADMAF) is a non-profit organisation based in the capital of the United Arab Emirates

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