

سكة
sikka

مهرجان سكة للفنون والتصميم
SIKKA ART & DESIGN FESTIVAL



SIKKA 2024 GUIDE

موسم دبي الفني
DUBAI ART SEASON

INITIATIVE OF
مبادرة من
دبي
للثقافة
Culture

متحف
الشندغة
AL SHINDAGHA
MUSEUM

AN INITIATIVE UNDER
مبادرة ضمن
جودة الحياة
في دبي
QUALITY OF LIFE IN DUBAI



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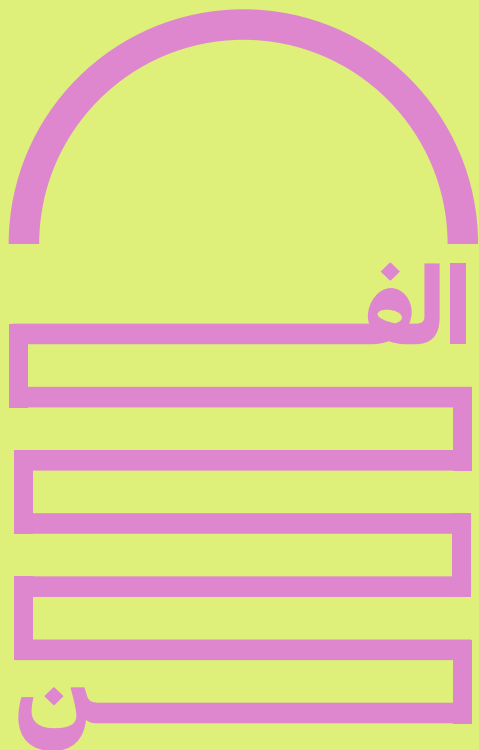
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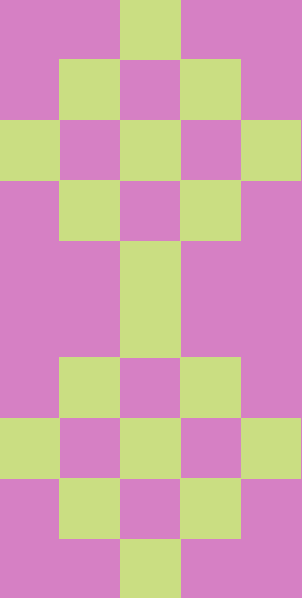
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ABOUT
SIKKA



SIKKA ART & DESIGN FESTIVAL

The Sikka Art and Design Festival, held under the patronage of Her Highness Sheikh Latifa bint Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Chairperson of the Dubai Culture and Arts Authority, is one of the key components of Dubai's creative scene and falls under the umbrella of the Dubai Art Season. The festival aims to provide an innovative platform that brings together various art forms while celebrating Emirati and UAE & GCC-based emerging talent, artists and designers. Through this festival, Dubai Culture seeks to strengthen Dubai's cultural and creative industries and create a sustainable, supportive ecosystem that enriches the local art scene. This reflects Dubai's cultural vision of being a global centre for culture, an incubator for creativity, and a thriving hub for talent.

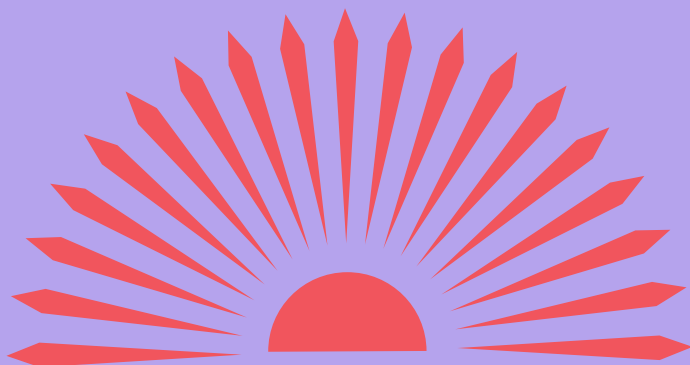


The 13th edition of the festival will take place from January 31 to February 9, 2025 in Al Shindagha Historic District under the Dubai Quality of Life Strategy. The festival offers the public a diverse array of artworks created by Emirati and UAE & GCC-based artists. It also features various workshops and discussions across the cultural and creative industries, public art installations, live performances, homegrown F&B concepts and other activities, all set in an inspiring atmosphere that showcases Dubai's creative capabilities.



Sikka 2025 guide

**SIKKA
HOUSES**



HOUSE 1 | VISITORS CENTRE

WORLD UNSEEN EXHIBITION

The World Unseen exhibition, launched by Canon, invites both sighted and visually impaired individuals to experience photography in a transformative way. It features photographs enhanced with raised prints, audio descriptions, soundscapes, and Braille, allowing all visitors to engage with the artwork beyond just visual perception. This initiative showcases Canon's commitment to accessibility, inclusivity, and creative innovation. With exhibitions already held in multiple cities worldwide, the World Unseen campaign uses Canon's technology to make art and photography accessible to everyone, promoting a more inclusive way to experience imagery.

Artists:

Bernard Jouaret - Kalimat Foundation

Bill Smith

Brent Stirton

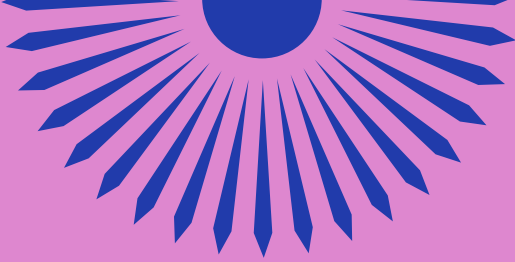
Mustapha Azab

Naim Chidiac

Samo Vidic

Yaghoub Alhammadi





HOUSE 341 | REALITY HOUSE

"Bridging Realities" is an exploration of the interplay between tradition and innovation, where the echoes of heritage meet the rhythms of the future. This exhibition reimagines cultural narratives through the lens of technology, weaving together the past and the present to shape visions of tomorrow.

Through interactive installations, generative art, and digital forms, the artworks on display serve as portals—inviting viewers to reflect on the evolution of identity, memory, and design in an age of rapid transformation. From ancestral patterns reinterpreted through algorithms to kinetic sculptures that respond to human touch, "Bridging Realities" celebrates the fluid dialogue between history and progress. At its core, this exhibition highlights the power of technology as both a preserver and disruptor—transforming timeless traditions into dynamic expressions of contemporary culture. It asks us to consider how art and innovation can connect us across time, redefining our relationship with heritage in a world driven by constant change. "Bridging Realities" is not just an exhibition; it is a space for contemplation, conversation, and connection—an invitation to journey between what was, what is, and what could be.



ART + TECH COLLECTIVE

DR. AHMAD ALATTAR

UAE

AT THE SPEED OF SADU | MIXED MEDIA, 2025

This artwork features rotating sadu disks projected onto the façade of an old heritage house in Al Shindagha, symbolizing the dynamic and ever-evolving nature of culture. The traditional sadu patterns, deeply rooted in Emirati heritage, come to life as they spin at varying speeds, creating a mesmerizing interplay of movement and light against the stillness of the historic architecture. The speed of the rotations evokes a parallel with the speed of light, suggesting how quickly culture can adapt and transform when propelled by innovation and change.

This contrast highlights the coexistence of tradition and progress, reflecting how culture, while grounded in its origins, evolves at a pace shaped by contemporary influences. The artwork invites viewers to contemplate the fluidity of identity, the rapidity of adaptation, and the delicate balance between preserving heritage and embracing the future in an ever-accelerating world.

Instagram: @ahmad.al.attar

HASSAN AL-ALI

UAE

AL-BARIHA – THE FUTURE OF AL-AYYALA | AUDIO, 2025

This musical piece revolves around coastal maritime Ayyala, envisioned through a futuristic lens. Al-Ayyala has long been one of the most prominent coastal arts celebrated by the people of the UAE on various occasions. This work seeks to reinterpret this art form, infusing it with a futuristic character while preserving the authenticity of this heritage.

Al-Bariha is a folkloric chant from the Al-Ayyala repertoire, traditionally sung by men as they reflect on the challenges they face during their pearl diving journeys. The choirs of this chant have been performed using artificial intelligence techniques.

'ana albariha ma dhiqt 'ana alnawm
w eayni ealaa rabei suhayra.

Last night, no sleep could find my eyes,
Awake, beneath the starlit skies.
My gaze upon my friends did stay.

Instagram: @31h3





MOHAMAD AL HAMADI, DR. AHMAD ALATTAR

UAE

PEARLS OF IMPERFECTION | MIXED MEDIA, 2025

This installation presents a collection of imperfect pearls, shimmering with light and reflecting the rich heritage of UAE pearl diving. These displays of pearls honor the courage and dedication of the divers who risked their lives to uncover treasures from the deep. Through its focus on imperfection, the artwork celebrates the idea that true beauty lies in authenticity, mirroring the challenges and unpolished realities of the divers' lives. The interplay of light and form invites viewers to reflect on the value of imperfection.

Instagram: @keef_art, @ahmad.al.attar

MOHAMAD AL HAMADI, DR. AHMAD ALATTAR

UAE

TIDES OF BEING | MIXED MEDIA, 2025

This installation features holographic screens depicting the rhythmic rise and fall of waves, capturing the essence of life's inherent ebb and flow. Each screen reflects a unique pattern of motion, inviting viewers to immerse themselves in the symbolic rhythm of existence. The artwork speaks to the universality of life's highs and lows, encouraging contemplation of resilience, balance, and the beauty found in motion and change.

Instagram: @keef_art, @ahmad.al.attar

DR. AFRA ATIQ, DR. AHMAD ALATTAR

UAE

GARGOOR EL HAYAT | MIXED MEDIA, 2025

The artwork celebrates the essential role of the traditional Emirati fishing dome, the gargoor, in sustaining life and livelihoods. This metallic structure, once a symbol of survival and connection to the sea, is reimagined as a dynamic and interactive artwork. When touched, the gargoors respond with a symphony of musical melodies, inviting viewers to engage with their story. This fusion of tradition and innovation transforms a historical tool into a modern expression of cultural appreciation, bridging the past and the present through sound and touch.

Instagram: @ahmad.al.attar, @afraatiq





MOHAMMED ALAWADHI

UAE

ECHOES OF THE CREEK | MIXED MEDIA, 2025

This interactive artwork features intricately hand-painted models of traditional abras, the iconic wooden boats of Dubai Creek. Positioned gracefully along the water, each abra is brought to life when touched, producing harmonious sounds that echo the stories of the creek. The piece pays tribute to the vital role Dubai Creek has played in shaping the city's identity, serving as a hub of trade, culture, and community. By blending art and sound, the installation invites viewers to connect with the rich heritage of the creek and reflect on its enduring importance as the lifeblood of Dubai's past, present, and future.

Instagram: @eroxr

MOHAMAD AL HAMADI, DR. AHMAD ALATTAR

UAE

DIGITAL PORTAL TO AL SHINDAGHA'S PAST | DIGITAL MEDIA, 2025

The artwork features a captivating series of old black-and-white photographs of Al Shindagha displayed along a wall, each capturing the essence of this historic Dubai neighborhood. When viewed through a provided tablet, these static images spring to life through augmented reality (AR), transforming into dynamic, interactive experiences. This innovative blend of past and present invites viewers to step back in time, immersing themselves in the rich history and culture of Al Shindagha. As the photographs animate, they reveal stories and movements, offering a compelling and engaging way to relive and connect with the neighborhood's vibrant past. This artwork not only preserves the historical essence of Al Shindagha but also makes it accessible and relevant to contemporary audiences, celebrating its heritage through the lens of modern technology.

Instagram: @keef_art, @ahmad.al.attar

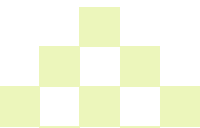
DR. AHMAD ALATTAR

UAE

DATES = IR | ORGANIC DATES AND METAL CONDUCTORS, 2025

This artwork is a captivating art installation that harmonizes the timeless essence of nature with the contemporary era of technology. Through a series of meticulously adorned dates, the artwork symbolizes the resurgence of the palm tree as a provider of energy in today's world. Once essential lifelines in the UAE, palm trees offered shade, sustenance, and shelter to communities. Despite technological advancements diminishing traditional reliance on palm trees, this artwork serves as a poignant reminder of nature's enduring power. Each date, infused with energy-producing potential, represents the palm tree's continued relevance as a sustainable source of vitality, transforming from a staple of survival to a symbol of resilience and adaptation in the face of changing times.

Instagram: @ahmad.al.attar



REALITY

UAE BASED

MOSS-BEHAVING | VIDEO, 2025

This artwork presents a thought-provoking exploration of reality and artifice by blending traditional photography with AI-generated alterations. A photo of the historic Al Shindagha neighborhood in Dubai is processed through a generative AI model, which introduces elements of moss to the scenes. Some of the results are so seamlessly integrated that they challenge our perception of reality, blurring the lines between the authentic and the artificial. However, other outputs are exaggerated, with the moss overtaking the scenes in ways that are clearly unreal. This contrast invites viewers to consider where the boundary lies between enhancement and distortion, prompting reflection on the point at which technology's influence becomes too overt, shifting from subtle augmentation to something obviously fabricated.

Instagram: @reality.art

DR. AHMAD ALATTAR

UAE

THE OASIS WITHIN | DIGITAL MEDIA, 2025

This artwork presents a beautiful transformation: a photograph of barren, cracked earth and a lifeless palm tree, brought to life through generative AI. The image is imbued with vibrant greens and thriving foliage, reimagining the scene as it might appear if the land had been carefully nurtured. The revitalized palm, once dry and desolate, now stands tall amidst lush surroundings, hinting at the untapped potential within nature when given attention and care.

This digital intervention invites viewers to reflect on the possibilities of revival, sparking a hopeful contemplation of what could be if we prioritized the land's restoration.

Instagram: @ahmad.al.attar

REALITY

UAE BASED

ROOTS AND TOWERS | DIGITAL MEDIA, 2025

This artwork is a series of three holograms depicting the evolving relationship between tradition and modernity in the UAE. In the first hologram, a towering structure gradually replaces a palm tree, symbolizing the encroachment of modernity upon heritage. In the second, the palm tree and tower stand side by side, representing a delicate balance between past and present. In the third, the two forms merge into a seamless hybrid, illustrating a future where cultural roots and technological advancement are intertwined. This progression captures the UAE's journey, honoring its past while embracing a vision where tradition and innovation coexist harmoniously.

Instagram: @reality.art

OMAR ALHAMMADI, MARWAN SHARAF

UAE

TEMPO OF EMOTIONS | MIXED MEDIA, 2025

The artwork features a unique clock integrated with a camera that employs an AI algorithm to predict the viewer's mood. This innovative piece connects the subjective experience of time with emotional states, dynamically adjusting the speed of the clock based on the viewer's detected mood. When the viewer is happy, time seems to fly as the clock speeds up, reflecting the common feeling of joy making moments pass quickly. Conversely, when the viewer is sad, the clock slows down, mirroring the sensation of time dragging during periods of melancholy. This thought-provoking installation explores the intimate relationship between our emotions and our perception of time, offering a reflective and immersive experience that underscores the fluid nature of time as influenced by our inner world.

Instagram: @jumeirarchives, @om.3x

OMAR ALHAMMADI

UAE

EMOTIONAL ENTANGLEMENT | DIGITAL MEDIA, 2025

This artwork is an evocative artwork inspired by the principles of quantum physics. It features a screen displaying binary code in distinct colors. Initially, the binary codes remain separate, symbolizing individual streams of information. Gradually, the codes begin to intermix, representing human communication and connection. As the screen reaches a balanced mix of both colored codes, the artwork beautifully illustrates love and harmony, reflecting the synchronization of two souls. Suddenly, the colors retreat to their original corners, depicting separation. Yet, traces of the foreign binary code persist, conveying that those we connect with leave an indelible mark, a piece of them always residing within us. This artwork sheds light on the enduring impact of love and communication, reminding us that those we connect with leave a lasting imprint on our souls.

Instagram: @om.3x

DR. AHMAD ALATTAR

UAE

MOMENTS | MIXED MEDIA, 2025

This artwork is a profound exploration of the intricate rings of life, depicted through a series of metallic rings of varying diameters, all rotating about an axis. These rings, driven by a motor, converge at a single point, symbolizing the intersection of different lives at a particular moment in space and time. As the rings rotate, they occasionally clash, producing sounds that echo the interactions—both significant and fleeting—that occur in these chance encounters. The artwork serves as a metaphor for the connections we often overlook, reminding us of the profound impact of these coincidences. At times, the rings pause, creating a moment of silence that reflects the interruptions in life's continuous flow. These moments invite viewers to pause and reflect on the value of the brief intersections we experience with others, emphasizing the fragile and interconnected nature of our existence.

Instagram: @ahmad.al.attar



MAITHA ALMEHAIRI, SHAMMA KHOORY, MARWAN SHARAF

UAE | ART + TECH COLLECTIVE, SUPPORTED BY REALITY

EPOCHS OF MEMORIES | MIXED MEDIA, 2025

The artwork captures the transformation of memories through analog photography and AI. It highlights the fragmented and elusive nature of their memories—mirrored in the half-burned analog images. In an attempt to restore the gaps in memories, Powered by human input, AI can reconstruct and reimagine these lost fragments. The more detailed the input, the more precise and vivid the restoration. It is here that the line between recollection and creation blurs—where technology becomes a conduit for mnemonic imagination, allowing us to push the boundaries of what can be imagined. We show the iterative nature of memory in which multiple refinements bring the restoration closer to reality, demonstrating how AI can deepen our connection to memories that might otherwise be discarded. Through this process, we begin to see that memories, like the images, are never truly lost, only waiting to be restored.

Instagram: @maithabm, @jumeirarchives, @shammako_

MARWAN SHARAF

UAE | ART + TECH COLLECTIVE, COLLABORATION WITH REALITY

SHIFTING SANDS | DIGITAL, 2025

A generative digital artwork that visualizes the ever-changing patterns of sand dunes through dynamic flow fields. Tiny particles, symbolizing grains of sand, follow random yet intentional pathways, forming and dispersing into intricate, shifting patterns. Using gradients that reflect natural desert light, the piece captures the beauty of dunes shaped by invisible forces, inviting viewers to contemplate nature's quiet resilience and timeless patterns.

Like the desert, this digital representation studies ephemerality and resilience, reminding us that while sand may seem transient, its forms are timeless and endlessly renewing. The piece contemplates the subtle forces shaping our world and the quiet, persistent beauty of nature's most intricate patterns. Each viewing reveals a unique, unrepeatable moment in this fluid desert landscape.

Instagram: @jumeirarchives

GUEST ARTIST

LATIFA SAEED

UAE

DUST DEVIL 1 | MIXED MEDIA, 2025

This installation offers a never before seen technological and sensory experience based on a fundamental cosmogonic narrative. Referring to the mysteries of nature in the age of global warming, rooted in a cultural language that has evolved from the UAE's distinct desert landscape, the installation translates an atmospheric phenomenon that can be experienced in the desert with an electromagnetic sand tornado. This installation invites us into a sensory experience made of vibrations and movements more than anthropomorphic or recognizable representations. In doing so the artist presents a reminder of the fragility and resilience of the traditional landscape in the critical age of Anthropocene.

Instagram: @latifasaheedstudio





ART + TECH TRAINING PROGRAM GRADUATES, SUPPORTED BY REALITY

TALA HAMMOUD ATROUNI

PALESTINE

**THE FROGS IN THE POND | STAINLESS STEEL, LINEAR ACTUATORS,
WOOD, MAGNETS, IRON, ALUMINIUM, SHABAKA ARDUINO BOARD,
WIRES, ELECTRICITY, 2025**

The Frogs in the Pond transforms traditional Palestinian patterns into a living, evolving experience. Inspired by the fleeting nature of memory, the installation reflects the tension between visibility and erasure. Patterns emerge and dissolve, echoing the delicate balance between cultural loss and resilience. Opaque layers obscure the intricate designs beneath, inviting viewers into a meditative process of discovery and renewal.

Much like frogs appearing and vanishing in a still pond, the artwork evokes the cyclical nature of heritage—always shifting, yet deeply rooted. By merging the ephemeral with the timeless, the piece becomes a poetic metaphor for the fragility of memory and the enduring power of tradition in the face of change.

Instagram: @artbytala

SHAMMA ALI AL AMERI

UAE

**O JUSTICE | 7 SERVO MOTORS, METAL SET UP AND COMPUTER GEN-
ERATED CODE, 2025**

Inspired by the infinite monkey theorem and quantum entanglement, O Justice explores the relationship between perception and meaning, order and chaos, intention and synchronicity. It poses the hypothesis: Can human consciousness affect computer-generated code?

The installation is driven by seven arms, each powered by an independent servo motor connected to a network, generating random movements based on the premise that the presence of a viewer introduces a human bioenergetic field—an intersection of consciousness and quantum mechanics—potentially influencing particle behavior.

O Justice generates a sequence of probabilities and unpredictable outcomes, questioning whether ultimate synchronicity—or even absolute order—can ever be attained.

Instagram: @13th.heaven



KHAWLA ABU SALEH

SYRIA

THE DANCE OF HORIZONS | STEPPER MOTOR, SENSOR, AND PROGRAMMABLE BOARD, METAL COMPONENTS, ILLUMINATED SPHERES WITH LED LIGHTS, 2025

This artwork explores the intricate relationship between time and human consciousness. Through the seamless motion of two illuminated spheres—representing the sun and the moon—viewers are invited to reflect on the fluidity of time. As they approach, the movement slows, echoing the way mindfulness can stretch moments, while distance accelerates the rhythm, mimicking the unnoticed passage of time.

Encased within a minimalist hourglass-like frame, the installation asks: Do we shape time with our awareness, or does time shape us? By intertwining light, motion, and interaction, this artwork offers a poetic meditation on the interplay of presence, perception, and the short-lived nature of existence.

Instagram: @khawlaabousaleh

DR. NAHED CHAKOUF

BRITAIN

THE SACRED MATRIX | 51 3D-PRINTED MUQARNAS UNITS, EACH INTEGRATED WITH A SERVO MOTOR, 2025

The Sacred Matrix reimagines the timeless geometry of Islamic Muqarnas as a living, breathing cosmos of radiance and motion. Patterns emerge and dissolve in a mesmerising dance, drawing visitors into an ethereal interplay of colour, shadow, and form.

This kinetic installation bridges ancient tradition and contemporary design, blending heritage with innovation to create a meditative yet dynamic experience. The Sacred Matrix is a reflective exploration of infinity, divine connection, and the resilience of culture, inviting participants to engage with the beauty and significance of Muqarnas in a modern, ever-evolving context.

Instagram: @nj_architecture

DR. AFRA ATIQ

UAE

QASEEDA BELA KALIMAT (A POEM WITHOUT WORDS) | MIXED MEDIA, 2025

This artwork reimagines the rhythm and meter of Arabic poetry as a multidimensional experience, fusing art and technology. Eight transparent cylinders, arranged to resemble poetic verses, rotate to generate sound patterns inspired by the Bahar Al Baseet, an Arabic poetry meter. The cylinders produce sounds as they rotate, via coding and motors, making the rhythmic patterns audible and offering a sensory experience of the meter.

The work is accompanied by poetry written in the same meter, highlighting the universality of



poetic rhythm. The wood supporting piece symbolizes the balance and structure created by the meter, transforming poetic rhythm into a multi-faceted experience. Qaseeda Bela Kalimat invites the audience to explore poetry as a rhythm that transcends words.

Instagram: @afraatiq

SALMA HANI ALI

SUDAN

METAMORPHIC FORMS. STUDY 21 | MILD STEEL SCULPTURE WITH LINEAR ACTUATORS, 2025

This metal sculpture explores Basic Architectural principles of spatial interaction, materiality, and the relationship between form and void. Featuring movable pieces, the sculpture transforms into multiple iterations, showcasing how space can be redefined and reimaged through movement. It invites viewers to engage with the evolving interplay of solid and void, highlighting themes of temporality, adaptability, and transformation. Each configuration shifts the perception of space, emphasizing the dynamic relationship between form and its surrounding environment. The project celebrates the ever-changing nature of space, material, and form, encouraging reflection on how spatial boundaries can be fluid and open to reinterpretation.

Instagram: @salma.hani.ali

DR. AHMAD ALATTAR

UAE | ART + TECH COLLECTIVE, BY REALITY

MELODIES OF A MASHTAL | ORGANIC PLANTS WITH METAL CONDUCTORS, 2025

The artwork is a vibrant outdoor installation designed as a "mashtal," or traditional plant shop garden, offering visitors an immersive experience as they stroll through a lush, interactive landscape. In this garden, each plant is equipped with sensors that produce unique sounds when touched, creating an auditory experience. As guests interact with the plants, they generate a symphony of sounds, enhancing the sensory experience and deepening their connection with the environment. This interactive element transforms the garden into a living, breathing soundscape, inviting visitors to explore and engage with nature in a harmonious and playful manner, while reflecting on the symbiotic relationship between humans and the natural world.

Instagram: @ahmad.al.attar





TECH ART CIRCLE

AMIR SULEYMANI

UAE | TECH ART CIRCLE, COLLABORATION WITH REALITY

WHAT'S NOT A NFT? | NFT, 2025

What's Not a NFT? by Amir Soleymani is a thought-provoking digital artwork that challenges the boundaries of art in the blockchain era. By questioning the legitimacy and value of NFTs, the piece invites viewers to reflect: Are NFTs genuine art or digital commodities? Soleymani blurs the lines between physical and digital, sparking a dialogue about creativity, ownership, and the evolving definition of art. In a time when the art world is divided on NFTs, this work serves as a platform for debate, urging us to consider whether art's authenticity lies in its medium or the emotional and intellectual responses it evokes. Through this bold exploration, Soleymani provokes a rethinking of art's place in a rapidly changing digital landscape.

Instagram: @mondoir

REALITY

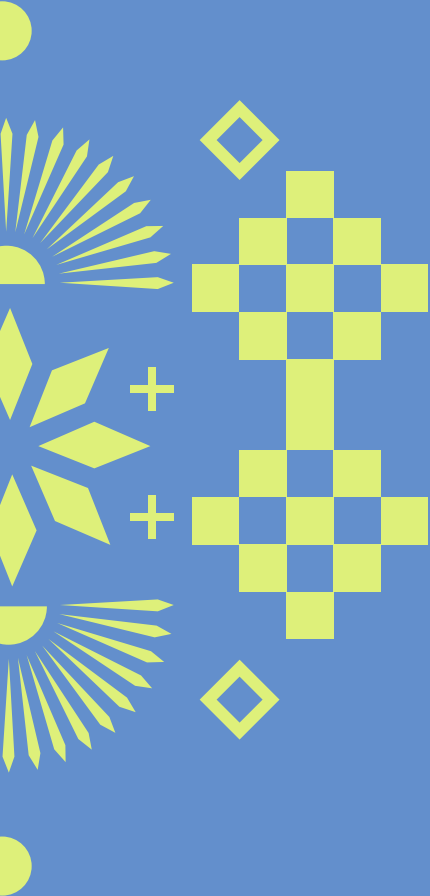
UAE BASED

SEEDS OF TOMORROW | MIXED MEDIA, 2025

This interactive artwork features a QR code embedded on the floor, inviting viewers to engage with their surroundings through technology. When scanned with a phone camera, an augmented reality (AR) experience unfolds as a majestic palm tree grows from the floor, towering over the viewer. The palm tree, a symbol of life, resilience, and heritage in the UAE, represents the nation's remarkable progress and growth. The integration of AR technology emphasizes the role of innovation in shaping the UAE's future, blending tradition with modernity. This piece invites viewers to reflect on how the roots of heritage and the branches of innovation come together to build a sustainable and forward-thinking tomorrow.

Instagram: @reality.art





HOUSE 206 | THE HOUSE IN THE BACK OF YOUR MIND

This journey you are about to embark on takes you through the metaphysical spaces within us all—whether mental, emotional, or beyond. While physical space shapes our reality, our experience of it is deeply intertwined with the inner landscapes we carry, which in turn guide how we navigate the world.

The selected artworks draw on elements of our physical reality to explore both conscious and subconscious realms, delving into the vast possibilities and inherent boundaries of each dimension. As you step into this space, you are invited to reflect on the parallels between the external environment you are about to encounter and the internal landscapes that reside within you.

ABDELGHANI ALNAHAWI

PALESTINE

UNDERWATER TUNNEL | MIXED MEDIA, 2025

Parallel loops of lines weave connections between creatures dwelling at the intersection of ocean and desert. Drainage pipes extend from wooden limbs, steel wires sprout through weathered logs, and cement blocks assemble into towering trees. An underwater forest begins to emerge—a convergence of natural and industrial forms, blurring the boundaries of ecosystems in flux.

Instagram: @abdelghani.alnahawi

AHED AL KATHIRI

DOMINICA-YEMEN

I HEARD LONGING IN JADA'S THROAT | SOUND, ACRYLIC, INK ON PAPER, 2024

This sound installation plays recordings of my grandmother singing Yemeni traditional bridal hymns in her Radaai accent and my voice singing and learning the hymns with her. The diagram on the wall identifies the places of articulation of Arabic letters while the printed score traces my grandmother's breath and longing.

Instagram: @ahedskathiri

ASEEL AZIZIEH

JORDAN

SYMMETRY 1. (40X50CM) | SYMMETRY 2. (40X50CM) | SYMMETRY 3. (50X60CM)

PAINTINGS, ACRYLIC ON CANVAS, MIXED MEDIA, 2020

Sometimes two things are symmetrical, symmetry does not always mean agreement, but rather to me it means equality. Sometimes there is a difference, for example things are similar in nature and different in function. We are all similar as humans and at the same time we are different, but we complete each other.

Instagram: @aseel.azizieh_art

KRISTINA VEGERA AND UKIYO, RACIYA BAGDAD, SOFIST, DX2OV, MISHXN, LA PETITE MORTE, FAIZAN SHAIKH, DANIIL KARKOZOV

RUSSIA, INDIA, PHILIPPINES

WATERS | MULTIMEDIA, FILM PHOTOGRAPHY, SOUND ART, VISUAL ART, 2023 - 2025

WATERS. A captivating audiovisual journey exploring the infinite power of water.

WIND MOOD

SPLASHES DANCE ON THE OCEAN FLOOR

HATTA

CHARYN

THE SEA OF JAPAN





This captivating audiovisual journey explores the infinite power of water through film photography, visual design and individually curated music.

The 5 series are a collection of curated experimental film photography explored through visual artistry and elated through soundscapes from different parts of the world.

Kristina Vegera has soaked in local of the captured location to reveal the unique texture of its imaginary mineral memory and unexplored mythology.

UKIYO has blended visuals inspired by the ebb and flow of water, dance movements, and the mystery of life.

The music production interprets and creates the photographic texture, enhancing the tangible dimension of an elusive, intuitive narrative.

Instagram: @vegeravvenera, @ukiyoshmi, @raciyabagdad, @so.fist, @dx2ov, @mishxn, @_x_alvarez, @danabellegutierrez, @pueraeturnus, @polzovatelbuser

DIVYAAUNSHI PUROHIT

INDIA

WITHOUT A VOICE, GRIEF TAKES SHAPE IN SILENCE | RELIEF SCULPTURE, 2025

This piece presents abandoned houses that, over time take on emotional qualities, absorbing the residual feelings of their departed inhabitants. As they decay, they express dread, confusion, and sorrow, reflecting the isolation and neglect they endure. The work communicates the swift passage of time with the way spaces carry the emotional weight of human presence.

Instagram: @divyaaunshi

FERWA IBRAHIM

PAKISTAN

MEGH VARIATIONS | OIL PAINTING, 2022

Megh Variations' explores poetic and psychological dimensions of water and its interaction with the human imagination. Letting the viewer ride the waves of emotion and flow to meet the ground horizontally. Water has an amazing power to heal, wash wounds, and eventually fill the deepest crevasses of our mind and soul.

Instagram: @ferwaibrahim

HAMAD ALSHAMSI

UAE

THE SPIRIT OF NOBILITY | OIL PAINT ON CANVAS, 2025

A portrait capturing the beauty and strength of the Arabian horse's head, exuding majesty and elegance. It symbolizes the deep-rooted heritage of Arab culture and its enduring spirit.

Instagram: @HMD



HANA EL-SAGINI

EGYPT

THE GREENEST ROOM | CERAMICS INSTALLATION, 2024-2025

The Greenest Room explores love, time, resilience, and growth through ceramics. Plants flourish indoors, nourished by the care of those living within the space. This sanctuary symbolizes how human connection sustains life, defying expectations. The ceramics intertwine nature and humanity, celebrating growth inspired by love, and proving beauty thrives even in unlikely spaces when nurtured with care.

Instagram: @hanasagini

HESHAM ALI ABD EL AZIZ

EGYPT

EGYPTIANS | 3D ART, 2024

A delicate three-dimensional ode to Egyptian life, where every detail and aesthetic unfolds in miniature, weaving a tapestry of culture and beauty in its smallest, most profound form.

Instagram: @hesham.ali.714

JAAFAR ALHADDAD

BAHRAIN

MAP OF IMAGINATION | INSTALLATION, WOOD AND FABRIC WITH LIGHT PROJECTION, 2024

Jaafar's childhood memories of walking to the bakery for his grandmother, weaving tales inspired by his hometown of Alhoora, sparked a lifelong fascination with the power of place. This installation invites viewers to join him on a journey of rediscovery, where childhood imagination intertwines with the realities of the past, blurring the lines between reality and fantasy.

Instagram: @jaafar.alhaddad

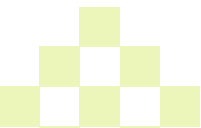
JI-HYE KIM

SOUTH KOREA

THE STORY OF LIGHT, WATER AND STONE | CYANOTYPE ON HANJI (KOREAN HANDMADE PAPER), 2024

This artwork explores the delicate interplay of light, water, and stone, inspired by Petra's monumental landscapes. Through the cyanotype process, it mirrors nature's forces, reflecting on time, transformation, and the profound connection between life, creation, and the natural world that continuously shapes our existence.

Instagram: @jihye_dubaiprintmaker



KHALID ALSAABRI

UAE

THE ETHEREAL ISLANDS | FILM PHOTOGRAPHY, 2023-2024

This body of work invites the viewer to step outside the conventional boundaries of color and light, challenging their perception of the natural world. Photographs shot entirely in expired film using a 1964 Pentax Spotmatic camera in two distinct locations and yet, are speaking to one another.

Instagram: @Khplid, @Khplid.film

KHOULA HAMAD

BRAZIL

TRACES OF HOME | DIGITAL PHOTOGRAPHY, 2024

My photography explores the notion of individuals trapped within the fleeting nature of life, caught in monotonous routines that repeat day after day. The spaces they inhabit, once filled with meaning, have become mere remnants of home, offering no true sense of belonging. Through my work, I seek to capture the quiet struggle of these individuals, trying to hold on to their identity and memories within the confines of familiar walls and furniture. In a world constantly in flux, these photographs reflect the search for stability and connection, revealing we create spaces to anchor ourselves, even when the idea of "home" is slowly fading.

Instagram: @khoulahamad

LAIA LOPEZ

SPAIN

LAST TRIBES IN SIBERIA | PHOTOGRAPHY, 2021

Ancestral ways of life are disappearing on the planet. This is one of the last chances to witness the tribes living in the wild and inclement landscape of Siberia.

Instagram: @laialopez

MAHRA ALFALAH

UAE

FLOWERS OF MY COUNTRY | SCULPTURE, 2025

The sculpture is of two types of flowers. The first is Morning Glory (مأخر), a native plant to the UAE. It is a perennial herb that grows in Abu Dhabi and Dubai. The second is Ipomoea biloba Forssk (قشاع لا بلق), an introduced plant to the UAE. It is a prostrate, or a climbing, glabrous perennial plant that grows in Abu Dhabi, Dubai, and Fujairah.

Instagram: @mahralfalahi

MARIAM AL KHOORI

UAE

FORM AND FLUX | MIXED MEDIA, 2023- 2024

An Exploration of Tension and Harmony
that delves into the relationship between nature industry, using palm wood and copper to

symbolize balance between fluidity and solidity, chaos and order. Chemical reactions on copper create organic patterns, reflecting life's uncertainty. It examines art as a dynamic force, bridging past, present, and future in harmonious compositions.

Instagram: @msalkhour

MARYAM ALHASHMI

UAE

ATTEMPT TO CONNECT | AUDIO, 2022

This work is an auditory experience reflecting our attempts to connect with ourselves in a world focused on external communication. Through sound, it portrays the struggle between our desire to understand and the soul's need to express, raising questions about how we communicate internally and interpret what remains unsaid.

Instagram: @mryam.alhashmi

MEZNA SUWAIDAN

UAE

CACOPHONY | VINYL, WOOD, PAINT, 2024

"Cacophony" draws inspiration from dreams. Turning the intangible chaos of dreams into a physical environment. It merges visuals resembling the unstable nature of some dreams mixed in with elements of old forgotten memories.

Instagram: @mezna.art

MOHAMMAD AHMAD AHLI

UAE

WHEN LAVA BECOMES LAND | PHOTOGRAPHY LIGHTBOX AND VIDEO PROJECTION, 2025

This series captures the powerful transformation of molten lava into solid land, showcasing Earth's raw and dynamic energy. Using photography and video projection, to manifest the artist's journey.

Instagram: @mohdaahli

NADA BARAKEH

SYRIA

WINDSHIELD | PHOTOGRAPHY SERIES, VIDEO INSTALLATION, 2024

"Windshield" is a photo series shot in Riyadh (2024) and Istanbul (2023) over a single day in each city. Capturing car interiors through windshields, it explores the states of drivers and passengers, drawing connections and offering insights into the social fabric of both cities. Displayed as a video installation with a built-in rear end mirror in an angled box.

Instagram: @nada.barakeh





ONE THIRD STUDIO - AMNA BIN BISHR, DUNA ALAJLAN, DANIA ALAJLAN

UAE / IRAQ

CRADLE OF CREATION | PAINTED RATTAN, METAL STRUCTURE, 2025

In Surah Al-Rahman, verse 22 ﴿نَاجٍرَمَلًاوُلُولًا اَمَّوَنِم جَرَنِي﴾ (From both of them emerge pearl and coral), the verse highlights the divine creation of two remarkable treasures. Both gems form in layers, symbolizing gradual perfection over time. When a foreign object, like a grain of sand or small organism, enters their bodies, it prompts the secretion of substances that coat and protect it, eventually forming pearls and coral. Though they thrive in saltwater, some coral species also grow in freshwater, reflecting the balance of creation. This adaptability symbolizes resilience and beauty born from challenges. Our research explores the merging and layering of materials from coral and pearl, experimenting with different types of water to observe their interactions and potential for new material development.

Instagram:

@one.thirdstudio

LANIA JISHI

PALESTINE

A MOTHER'S KITCHEN | MIXED MEDIA INSTALLATION, 2025

This installation explores motherhood, diaspora, and the future through a fragmented kitchen. A wall piece of women making Shish Barak reflects belonging, ceramic tiles reveal invisible maternal labor and lost recipes, and a painted window of the lush greenery of the levant symbolizes a distant dream, intertwining food, identity, and cultural preservation.

Instagram: @raniajishi.art

RAWAN MOHI

IRAQ

SILENT OBSERVER | SCULPTURE INSTALLATION (CERAMIC, MIXED MEDIA), 2024

Silent Observer is an evocative installation featuring a ceramic eye at its core, encircled by intricate sculptures and a video installation. The piece contemplates the quiet tension of presence and absence, unraveling layers of unease and emotional resonance through its enigmatic gaze.

Instagram: @rawanmohi


RUQAYA ALHASHMI

UAE

WHERE ROOTS SPEAK | ACRYLIC, LED STRIP LIGHTS, CONTROL PANEL, 2025

What if trees could communicate with us? How would they reach out, bridging the stillness to draw us closer? Could a palm tree, ancient and steady, extend her presence toward us, offering a quiet invitation? How might she express herself—through the soft glow of light, the subtle rhythm of movement, or the unseen pulse of life coursing through her roots?





In this silence, we are invited to notice, to sense the gentle call of nature, and to imagine how it might reach out to us, if only we were attentive enough to perceive it.

Instagram: @ruqaya_alhashmi

SALMAH AL MANSOORI

UAE

TESTIMONIES OF A CITY | SCULPTURE, 2025

The sculptures reflect Ghayathi's transformation, capturing its traditional elements lost to urbanization. Modern designs replace heritage, reshaping the town's cultural identity. This work honors Ghayathi's resilience, bridging past and present, and celebrating its history amid modernization. It serves as a testament to the community's evolving yet enduring legacy.

Instagram: @visualsalmah

SARA AL KHAYYAL

UAE

CONTROL DIES HERE | MIXED MEDIA, 2025

Pieces explores the tension between control and identity, reflecting on the elusive nature of existence. No motion, no decision, no moment is ever fully replicated. Control is an illusion; every action, thought, and gesture is both an attempt to shape the world and a surrender to its unpredictability.

Instagram: @saraalkhayyal.art

SHADEN ALMUTLAQ

SAUDI ARABIA

FIRES THAT COOK I | FLAX FIBRE, 2024

In a continuous process of agitation using the body followed by compression, the unruly nature of flax evolves into a matted landscape that highlights the fluidity of form in a constant state of becoming. Over time, environmental factors will challenge imposed actions and initiate further cycles of transformation.

LABOUR OF LOVE | METAL, WOOL, 2023

Instagram: @shaden.almutlaq

SHAH D SULTAN

UAE

THE DOUBLE EGG YOLK | SCULPTURE, 2024

A double-yolked egg is often seen as a symbol of good luck, a sign of exciting new beginnings, or even a significant change within the family.

Instagram: @snveart



SHAHD MOHAMED ALBLOOSHI

UAE

HOMELAND ECHOES | PRINTMAKING, INK ON PAPER, ACRYLIC, 2024

Home is a complex emotion. This abstract art project explores diverse feelings about home – comfort, loss, belonging – through layered words and textures. Overlapping texts mirror the complexity of shared human experiences, while shifting shadows and blurred words reflect the ever-changing nature of home. By sharing stories and inviting reflection, the project emphasizes empathy and understanding of diverse perspectives on what home truly means.

Instagram: @shaahaddm

THOMAS STOLLAR

USA

CLOUDS IN MY SKY | WOOD, VINYL, RESIN, 2024

This work is based around those experiences and artifacts that relate to the everyday. In this case, the unreality of reality. Clouds look so phony.

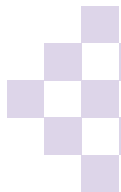
ULKU CAGLAYAN

TURKEY

BRINK OF THE ABYSS | INSTALLATION, 2023

Exploring themes of transformation, mortality, and the sacred, this work captures pivotal moments—such as love or loss—that disrupt life's continuity. The suspended glass bow and arrow embody the tension of anticipation while subverting their original purpose, emphasizing fragility and non-functionality. It reflects on ancient rituals, contemplating the delicate balance between life's transitions and the reverence for pivotal moments.

Instagram: ulkusu_____





HOUSE 436 | THE HOUSE ON A TWO-WAY STREET

The journey ahead examines the give-and-take relationships humans have with the environments they create. It reflects on how human-made spaces offer shelter, functionality, and comfort, while also questioning what these constructed environments receive in return. Transactional dynamics are fundamental to any human society, and the very space you stand in today is a testament to this exchange.

Al Shindagha, once the bustling heart of Dubai's trade, served as a vital artery in the region's trade routes—a place where exchanges of goods, ideas, and culture shaped its identity. Through this showcase, artists explore their own environments and the transactions that unfold within them, uncovering the cycles of give and take and the traces left behind in the process.

The viewer is invited to consider their own interactions with the spaces they inhabit, reflecting on the exchanges that shape both their environments and themselves.

AISHA ALHAMMADI

UAE

EMERGENCE | MARBLE SCULPTURE, 2024

"Emergence" reinterprets Islamic geometric patterns within the contemporary art scene. Traditionally carved fully on buildings, the pattern is gradually disintegrated here, questioning the presence and absence of shapes. Through repetitive, meditative carving, the work becomes a contemplative act, embodying a sense of wonder as it echoes the disintegration of patterns.

Instagram: @aishaa.i

ALIA ADNAN SHARAFI

UAE

FRIDAY PRAYER | SCREENPRINT AND EMBOSSED ON INK JET PRINT, 2025

This series of five prints contemplates tension between faith and modern distractions, questioning how deeply we value spiritual obligations in an age of convenience. The hand-written words within each piece reflect the dialogue many experience. With the prayer call embossed throughout, the work reminds us of the beauty and significance of answering this timeless invitation, inspiring a deeper connection to faith and mindfulness.

Instagram: @aliasharafi

ALINA EL ASSADI

UKRAINE

DEFROSTING WHAT WAS | MIXED MEDIA, 2024-2025

This installation combines objects made from cardboard and found objects from deserted UAE spaces, this work reflects on frozen histories and temporal pauses. Inspired by Marcel Duchamp's readymades, Mike Nelson's spatial transformations, and Thomas Demand's sculptures, it evokes a dialogue between preservation, decay, and the philosophical essence of abandoned environments.

Instagram: @malin0xic

AMNA ILYAS

PAKISTAN

THE ALBUM | GLASS ENGRAVING, 2024

This work transforms everyday objects from family photos, such as children's clothes and shoes, into fossilized, ornamented forms, disrupting their original context of memory and grief. These simple yet abstract elements, when recontextualized, explore how we encode gestures of loss and memory, transcending individual identity into lingering resonance.

Instagram: @amnailyas_sculpture





ANDRES UGARTECHEA

MEXICO / USA

EL MERCADO MARKET | MULTIMEDIA: INSTALLATION, VIDEOGRAPHY, VIRTUAL REALITY, 2024-2025

"El Mercado Market" is a physical and VR installation studying the commonalities between the global working class, particularly in Mexico, India, the Philippines, and the UAE. The artwork is a four-by-four sculptural store that merges the stylistic conventions of public markets, incorporating glitch aesthetics to introduce modern interpretations.

Instagram: @escuinle.meco

ASMA YOUSEF AL AHMED

UAE

FOLDED MEMORY | DYED FABRIC, FOLDING AND STITCHING TECHNIQUE, SUSPENDED INSTALLATION, 2025

"Folded Memory" reflects on the mountains that shaped my childhood, now distant and fragmented since my move to urban spaces. Through folding and stitching transparent fabric, the work reimagines these terrains as suspended forms, tracing their presence in memory through light, shadow, and absence.

This artwork was produced with the support of the College of Fine Arts and Design, University of Sharjah.

Instagram: @asma.y.alahmed

BAO

CHINA

FIGURE | PHOTOGRAPHY, 2024

"Figure" is a wall-hanging artwork that mirrors and disrupts the power dynamics of the real-world art market, offering participants a chance to engage with art as investment. It features 73 varieties of apples, each presented in portrait form across five editions. Each edition is priced higher than the previous one. When a subsequent edition is sold out, the owner of the prior edition faces a choice: either receive the amount paid by the next collector and return the print to the artist for destruction or keep the artwork. Figure creates a real-life experimental game space, inviting participants to explore how an artwork exists and fluctuates within a commercial context.

Instagram: @bao_baotoutongku

FATMA KHERBASH

UAE

HIVE STUDIES | BEESWAX, NATURAL RESIN, RECLAIMED WOOD BEE FRAMES, 2025

This artwork explores the creation of a new encaustic wax medium, blending beeswax and natural resins in an experimental process. Using reclaimed bee frames as both a structural and symbolic element, the work reflects on nature's intricate systems and humanity's efforts toward sustainability. Through layering and material exploration, Hive Studies bridges art





and ecology, inviting viewers to consider the delicate balance of our environment.

Instagram: @fatmakherbash.artstudio

LAMEECE BOUARROUDJ

ALGERIA

UNTITLED 'STILL LIFE' | COPPER ETCHING ON PAPER, PAPER ROLL, GELATINE, 2024

This piece explores the idea of containment, using paper as a means to silence movement inherent within children's playgrounds. The act of folding and embedding suggests an attempt to restrain something intangible, yet the very nature of the paper resists complete stillness. A single print, though minimal, hints at absence—yet absence itself occupies space, fragile and subtle in its form.

The roll of drawing paper, with a color reminiscent of tooth decay, carries a delicate vulnerability. Its fragility is evident; any attempt to handle it risks damage. Yet, there is a conscious choice to fight this inevitability, approaching the paper with the utmost care.

Instagram: @thisisnt4rt

LAYLA DOUEIDI AND TOR SEIDEL

LEBANON, GERMANY

ODOROASIS | SCENT INSTALLATION, 2025

ODOROASIS maps specific parts of Dubai and Sharjah through the lens of smells and colors capturing our personal experiences from Smell walks around the cities. Using scented wax and soaps, the project invites viewers to rediscover their sensory connection to urban spaces and reflect on how smells shape memories and experiences.

Instagram: @layla_do4, @torseidel

MAITHA BUSHELAIBI

UAE

THROUGH THE GLASS, WE GREW | SCREEN PRINTS, PRINTMAKING, 2024-2025

This artwork reflects a piece of home, inspired by the fruits that have been nurtured and harvested since childhood. Reflecting from the stained glass door of my house, the vibrant colours and visual texture capture the warmth and memories of familiar spaces.

Instagram: @artwithmaitha

MALAK ELGHUEL

LIBYA

FOUR OUT OF NINETY NINE | MIXED MEDIA, TEXTILES, 2024

This artwork delves into the dualities of life and existence through the 99 Names of Allah. As part of a larger ongoing project to create all 99 names, these four pieces explore **يُحْيِي الْمَوْتَى** (The Giver of Life and the Creator of Death) and **نُطَابِلُ الْوَاهِدِ** (The Manifest and the Hidden). Using recycled fabrics, the work reflects on creation, decay, and the balance between the visible and unseen, embodying harmony, flow, and our deep connection to

the spaces we inhabit.

Instagram: @therapy.rugs @maaalakkk__

MARIAM BAYAT

UAE

ERTH | MIXED MEDIA, 2025

This artwork embodies the meeting of cultures and heritage from the United Arab Emirates. It combines handmade paper with parts of the palm tree from the Al Dhafra region and sand from the city of Al Ain. The piece aims to preserve family memories through an artistic installation that resembles a genuine message written by the artist to honor the memory of her parents on the paper. "Erth" highlights the cultural diversity in the UAE, and the preservation of family heritage reflects the artist's deep connection to her roots.

Instagram: @mariambayatart

MARYAM ALZAABI

UAE

KWAASHI | METAL STRUCTURE WITH NYLON RED ROBES / MIXED MEDIA INSTALLATION, 2025

Kwaashi embodies the beauty of Emirati heritage through traditional earrings adorned with intricate designs. This installation reimagines them as rope sculptures, symbolizing the strength of Emirati women who honor their rich culture while redefining their roles, balancing tradition with personal identity and ambition.

Instagram: @maryamisalz

MARYAM BIN BISHR

UAE

IMAGINED MEMORIES | NEGATIVE FILM, WATERCOLOR ON THIN PAPER FILMS, ACRYLIC LIGHTBOX, 2025

"Imagined Memories" captures the essence of moments never lived but deeply felt, blending nostalgia with connections to places, people, or emotions shaped by real or imagined events, explored through film and painted film.

Instagram: @byMaryambinbishr

MOHAMED MAGED ROWAIZAK

EGYPT

RESIDUAL TRACES | ALUMINUM CAST, 2018-2025

This artwork captures the essence of creation through aluminum casts poured into raw molds. The dispersed arrangement, with some pieces incorporating copper rods, explores contrasts between presence and absence, solidity and fragility—leaving raw imprints that reflect industrial processes and the passage of time.

Instagram: @rowaizak

MORVARID MOHAMMAD

AFGHANISTAN (AFGHAN-IRANIAN)

STILL LIFE WITH TEAPOT | OIL ON CANVAS, 2023

Still Life with Teapot evokes the quiet elegance of time, with its delicate objects an homage to the relics on a grandmother's mantelpiece. The muted green backdrop contrasts with the translucent glass and ceramic textures, suggesting a timeless space where memories and tradition linger.

Instagram: @morvaridmohammad2

REEM AL ANI

IRAQ

TRESPASSERS | SINGLE-CHANNEL VIDEO WITH SOUND, CONCRETE BLOCKS, 2022

The narrative in Trespassers captures the experience of growing up in a city that cycles between expansion and demolition. Intimate recollections – brought to life through over 300 hand-painted animated frames – fade and reemerge hurriedly on concrete blocks, while the speaker dwells on their attempt to reconcile with change.

Instagram: @remtea

SARA ALAHBABI

UAE

TRAVERSING LIGHT | LED LIGHT INSTALLATION, 2025

Through the intimate practice of walking, Sara Alahbabi explores neighborhoods in urban landscapes where she reflects on the dichotomy of visibility with invisibility. This work considers the artist's position as an Emirati woman traversing these landscapes. This work, Traversing Light, utilizes LED lights to uncover layers of her Abu Dhabi experience, whilst contemplating on the grid form to speak to social structures.

Instagram: @sara.d.alahbabi

SHAHID ALTAf AWAN

PAKISTAN

UNFORSEEN CONSEQUENCES, PURSUIT OF INFLUENCE, DIVERSE PERSPECTIVES | GRAPHITE AND TEA STAIN ON PAPER, 2024

My work explores the interplay of absence and presence, using the concepts of negative and positive space to reflect on the idea of home. Through this lens, I consider how the physical and emotional spaces we inhabit shape our sense of belonging and identity. The tension between what is present and what is missing speaks to the quiet longing and unresolved voids we carry with us. The work reflects on how absence creates a space for memory and hope, while presence grounds us in reality, both forming an ongoing dialogue about what it means to feel at home.

Instagram: @shahid_a_malik





SOMAYA ALSAYED

KINGDOM OF SAUDI ARABIA

WHAT'S THE NEXT STOP? | 35MM FILM PRINT AND CANOTYPE PRINT ON PAPER, 2023

The work explores the artist's experience engaging with public spaces in the stations of Berlin through 35mm film photography and cyanotype printing. It explores the theme of language and the human existential experience by merging a poetic text by Elia Abu Madi and another by the artist.

Instagram: @iamsomaya_

TAMER KARAM

PHILIPPINES / USA

VISUAL NOISE | OIL ON CANVAS, 2025

"Visual Noise" is a triptych painting that explores the everyday visual noise surrounding us. Through visual mimicry and photorealism, it highlights often-overlooked objects—from the empyrean we forget to the sun's refracted light and cultural textiles. The works reflect cultural dissonance and contradictions, telling a story of observation and awareness. The artist visualizes the contradictions in objects, the influence of foreign elements, and the dialectical materialism of cultural heritage.

A blank sheet of paper at the center symbolizes progression, evolving from a clean slate to transformation, visually represented by its continuous crumpling.

Instagram: @tamerkaram_

UNIVERSITY OF SHARJAH

DR. AREF MAKSOUD / ENG. SARAH ISAM ALAWNEH

SYRIA / JORDAN

EMERGING EPHEMERALS | HARD-SCAPE INSTALLATION, 2025

Emerging Ephemerals is an interactive installation inspired by the cultural and natural heritage of the UAE. Composed of circular seating forms made from Himalayan salt bricks, it reflects the relationship between sustainability, nature, and sand. The installation invites visitors to touch, sit, and connect, fostering a bond with the natural material. Symbolizing harmony between the built and natural worlds, it draws inspiration from desert landscapes, embodying the desert's enduring yet ever-evolving beauty. The salt's translucency interacts with light, creating a glowing effect symbolizing nostalgia, energy, and renewal. Utilizing advanced design techniques, the installation balances structural integrity with the fragility of the material, offering a dialogue between past, future, and the transformative power of unity.

Instagram: @arefmaksoud, @iv_sarh

ZAHRA SHAFIE

IRAN

AN INTERPLAY OF LIGHT AND WATER | PAINTING, ACRYLIC ON CANVAS, 2025

The painting captures the intimate connection between human and water, inspired by the



Gulf's waves and the interplay of light on its surface. blending figurative elements with natural rhythms, it reflects water as a source of life and mirrors humanity's inner world, celebrating creation and existence.

Instagram: @zahrashafiestudio

ZAINAB ALHASHMI

UAE

THROUGH THEIR WINDOWS | ACRYLIC ON CANVAS, 2025

Within the tapestry of human existence lies a multitude of stories, with every being carrying their own distinct and rich narrative of life. Through building facades, I explore private versus public narratives, with each window representing a personal space. These abstractions reveal diverse, intertwined lives, forming a collective narrative of shared human existence.

Instagram: @zainabhashemi

ZAYED UNIVERSITY

UNTOLD STORIES

Exhibited are projects done as part of the course: Graphic Design IV in the College of Fine Arts and Creative Enterprises (CACE) in Zayed University in Dubai, in collaboration with the Emirates Council for Rural Development. These projects document the areas of Al Rams in Ras Al Khaimah and Old Umm Al Quwain, capturing their essence before development changes their landscape forever. Each student presented a unique response, designing outcomes that highlight the special aspects of these areas, ensuring their untold stories are preserved forever.

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Alanood Bukhammas

SPONSORED BY:

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Maryam Alshamsi	Bashayer Nasir
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Mona Shehab	Fatema AlMualla
Noora Almatrooshi	Fatema Alzarooni
Roudha Ahli	Fatima Ebrahim
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HOUSE 200 | THE HOUSE ON MEMORY LANE

Exploring nostalgia and revisiting the past is a central theme that is highlighted within this house. Whether through the lens of cultural elements like handicrafts, childhood memories, or the wisdom of older generations, this exploration reflects a deep urge to connect with a time that can no longer be reached, a longing that shapes the creative practices of many artists in the region today.

The showcase seeks to uncover the roots of this preoccupation by presenting fragments and attempts to preserve these fleeting experiences. Visitors are invited to reflect on their own memories; ones held onto tightly yet inevitably allowed to slip away.

What would today's creative practices look like if the past were entirely out of reach?



ALYA ALHOSANI

UAE

BEYOND THE MEMORY | INSTALLATION, 2025

Objects have a way of holding onto memories, carrying traces of the emotions we associate with them. This installation portrays what a memory might look like—cushions we played with as kids felt monumental, they feel familiar yet dreamlike. While the details of our memories fade, the emotions endure, reminding us that even fleeting moments can leave an everlasting imprint on us.

Instagram: @alyaastaars

AYSHA ALDHAHERI

UAE

REMNANTS OF THE PAST | NATURAL DYE, SADU, TALLI, KHOOS ON HANDMADE PAPER, LED LIGHTS, SPEAKER, 2025

This artwork features handmade paper dyed with natural pigments, inspired by traditional Emirati crafts. Etched with sound recordings of craft processes and echoes from homes, it weaves texture, sound, and heritage together, exploring the relationship between memory, material, and the enduring spirit of womanhood in Emirati culture.

Instagram: @a_asmd

FATEMA (FAY) ALKAAB

UAE

THE CITY SURROUNDS HER | PAPER, EMBROIDERY THREAD, FABRIC, 2024

The project "The City Surrounds Her" explores my grandmother's life, reflecting her connection to the UAE's growth, traditions, religion, and family.

Through 10 pages, it contrasts traditional clothing with fictional city maps, symbolizing the shift from old values to modern opportunities for the new generation.

Instagram: @Faybntsultan

MAITHA AL OMAIRA AND AMNA AL ZAABI

UAE

PARADOX OF PRESERVATION | PLASTER, COLLECTED NATURAL MATERIAL, 2024-2025

The work consists of found natural materials collected from the historical site of Al Shindagha to create a topographical database of the area. Through the casting process, they transform into both ecofacts and artefacts, reflecting the paradox of preservation. While we aim to preserve their fragility, casting alters their meaning, presenting them as objects that bridge the past, present, and future.

Instagram: @maitharo, @arzaabi





REEM ALHASHMI

UAE

AMONG THE ACACIA | HAND DYED SILK PANELS, 2025

"Among the Acacia" captures a cherished landscape scene rendered in hand-dyed silk panels, an homage to a place intertwined with one of the artist's fondest memories. This tapestry serves as a love letter to the location, where the joy of close friends and meaningful moments transformed it into a sanctuary of connection and warmth. Soft hues and sparse contours are reminiscent of the nature of recollection itself—vivid yet elusive. Though the moment, once passed, cannot be relived, the landscape remains forever etched within the artist's psyche, a place that can be revisited forevermore.

Instagram: @reemalhashmi

SHAMA AL MAZROUIE

UAE

TAKE A (CAR) SEAT | METAL SCRAP AND FOAM INSTALLATION, 2025

"Take a (Car) Seat" explores the dynamics of family relationships through the lens of seating arrangements, whether in living rooms, around dining tables, or in car seats. It delves into how these seating choices reflect and reinforce roles within the family. By contrasting different materials, the piece highlights how hard versus soft surfaces symbolize varying levels of power, comfort, and status within the family structure. The material differences serve as a metaphor for the roles and relationships that define family dynamics.

Instagram: @Mazrouies

SHAMSA AL MANSOORI

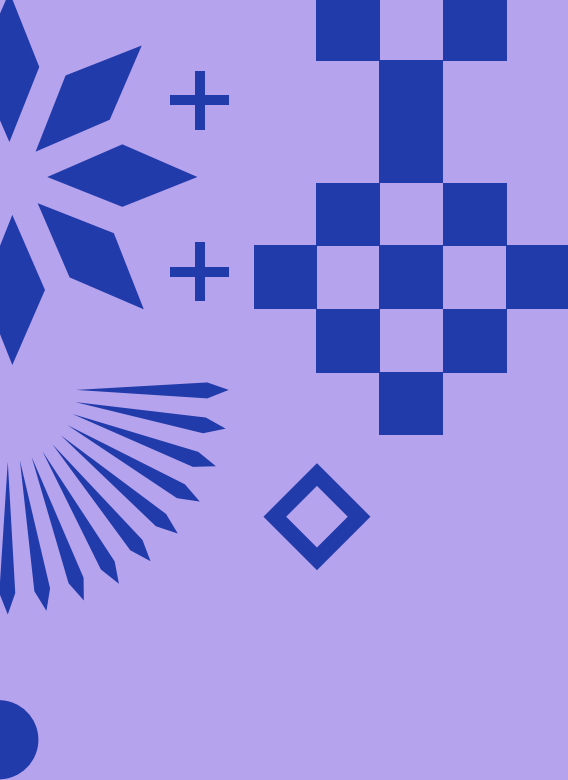
UAE

WHISPERS THROUGH WALLS | FILM, 2024

My artwork explores the curiosity between external appearances and internal realities, inspired by the natural intrigue we feel when observing the outside of houses and wondering about the lives within. Through alternating exterior and interior shots, the piece contrasts the ordinary outside view with intimate moments of joy, conflict, solitude, and connection. It examines the symbolic boundaries of house, door, and window, playing with themes of privacy, observation, and human complexity. The work questions the line between empathy and intrusion, offering a reflection on the hidden layers of life that remain unseen from the outside.

Instagram: @shamsaeye





HOUSE 416 | HOUSE OF SAFFRON

The House of Saffron celebrates the luxurious ingredient central to Emirati cuisine, recognized for its quality, color, aroma, and flavor. It is often used in celebrations, defining abundance and joy. This edition blends culinary innovation, visual arts, and design to explore saffron's role in food, storytelling, and culture, elevating the dining experience and informing warmth.

FATIMA ALSUWAIDI

UAE

AN EXPLORATION THROUGH POETRY AND TRADITIONS

Saffron holds a cherished place in Emirati culture for hundreds of years. The uses of saffron span across various aspects of daily life practices, including food, medicine, dye, fragrance, and many others. It is a significant and deeply rooted element that even the allure of it extends to the literary domain, where Emirati poets eloquently weave its imagery into their verses.

In this exhibition, we explore how saffron has been poetically celebrated and practically used. It focuses on three main applications: culinary, beauty, and fragrance.

Additionally, the exhibition explores the future of saffron uses through the commission of 3 artists who challenge the traditional uses into new productions.

Designer: Ayesha Omar Bin Haider, UAE

Videography & Production: Omar al Othman,

Instagram:

@Futtaimburahma

@ayeshabinhaider

@omars.exe

HAMDA ALFALAH

UAE

The House of Saffron table for Sikka is a sculptural expression of saffron's lifecycle, seamlessly blending nature with design. The base, crafted from clear acrylic, represents the blooming stage where saffron emerges in its raw beauty, suspended in a moment of growth. As the structure ascends, saffron is encapsulated in delicate glass domes, symbolizing its careful harvesting and preservation. Each dome is crowned with an acrylic saffron flower knob, an artistic ode to the flower itself, preserving its form even beyond its blooming stage, a timeless tribute to its fleeting yet powerful presence. The tabletop becomes a celebration of this transformation, where layers of saffron petals and curated domes create a rich sensory experience. Beyond the table, we extended this vision into the landscape, designing an immersive saffron-inspired environment with layers of domes and saffron petals, reinforcing the harmony between nature and artistry.

Instagram:

@hamdalfalahi

MARIAM BAYAT

UAE

SAFFRON'S PRINTS | NATURAL DYING, 2025

The artwork features saffron prints on fabric that look like natural drawings. The artist explores the idea of art created by nature itself, asking: What if these materials can form their own artwork? The vibrant saffron and soft fabric come together to highlight the beauty of organic design and the relationship between art and nature.

Instagram: @Mariambayatart

OMAR ALOTHMAN

SYRIA

SAFFRON IN UAE | VIDEO, 2025

This 5-9 minute artistic documentary explores saffron's cultural significance in the UAE. Through interviews with a perfumer, a saffron seller, and a poet, the video weaves tradition, creativity, and heritage with cinematic visuals and sensory storytelling.

Instagram: @omars.exe

ONE THIRD STUDIO - AMNA BIN BISHR, DUNA ALAJLAN, DANIA ALAJLAN

UAE / IRAQ

PLATES DESIGNER

The collection is inspired by the rich essence of saffron, embodying the spirit of "red gold," which is considered a symbol of luxury and hospitality in the culture of the United Arab Emirates. Saffron is one of the most expensive spices in the world, with a distinctive aroma and deep cultural significance, as it is used in many traditional dishes like luqaimat and Arabic coffee, as well as in health and beauty. This collection reflects an intricate artistic design, with plates featuring delicate details inspired by the vibrant purple petals and fine threads of this precious spice. The collection is completed by Arabic coffee cups made of fine porcelain, adorned with beautiful decorations.

Instagram:

@one.thirdstudio

ROUDHAH AL MAZROUEI

UAE

TERRAIN | SNAAH, OIL, CHARCOAL ON CANVAS, 2024

Using snaah as a painting medium, I depict the scenic landscapes of Siji, my mother's village in Northern UAE. This technique transforms a traditional bridal perfume into a pigment, embodying the village's cultural and ecological character. By using snaah to paint the land, the work preserves collective memory through non-traditional archival methods, capturing not only the physical geography but also the dynamic and transient essence of Siji's villagers and their way of life. The process intertwines material and subject, allowing the land itself to become both the medium and the message.

Instagram: @roudhamamad

ROUDHA BU ABDULLA

UAE

SAFFRON INFUSED EMIRATI DISHES | NATURAL PIGMENT, 2025

This artwork draws inspiration from Emirati dishes that feature saffron. It consists of six detailed illustrations of these meals, printed using a natural pigment that mimics the essence of saffron. By incorporating saffron as an alternative material, the piece showcases the intersection of culture and creativity, blending tradition with artistic expression.

Instagram: @Street26b



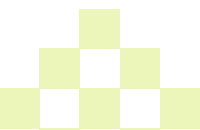
TAQWA ALNAQBI

UAE

PRESERVED SAFFRON | HANDMADE PAPER, ABACA FIBER, SAFFRON, 2025

Preserve saffron's delicate aroma and vibrant color by storing it in handmade paper. This breathable, natural material protects it from moisture, ensuring its freshness and premium quality over time.

Instagram: @taqwaalnaqbi





HOUSE 348 | 7X & KHDA

ABDALLAH ALASTAD

UAE

TIME STAMPS | INK AND ACRYLIC ON CANVAS, 2025

We take stamps to another dimension, away from envelopes and close to the eyes. We share with everyone the UAE's artistic heritage with stamps through a calligraphic artwork that embraces and connects the past to the future like a stamp on the envelope of time, using phrases and values that express the authenticity of mail and its connection.

Instagram: @abdallahalastadarts

AYSHA ALMADHANI

UAE

EMBROIDERY ON PRINTS | EMBROIDERY ON PRINTS, 2025

I offer the art of embroidery on printed photos as a way to add a unique, personal touch for each visitor. By stitching intricate details, I create a piece of art that blends memories and imagination, allowing each person to carry a special moment, adorned with threads of love and creativity.

Instagram: @Artofaysha

HESSA ALZAROONI

UAE

KAZUA | PRODUCT DESIGN/FURNITURE, 2023

Kazua is a rocking chair blending Emirati heritage with modern design, inspired by the Khawar (Bu Kazue) garment. Its design draws from motifs inspired by my grandmother's clothing, honoring legacy. The rocking motion symbolizes cultural evolution, bridging past and present in a functional, artistic narrative.

Instagram: @by.hhessa, @mzdan.ae

HIND RAIS

UAE

REIMAGINING CARROM | WOOD INSTALLATION, 2025

Reimagining Carrom is an interactive installation inspired by the traditional Indian carrom game, which spread to the Gulf region through historical trade exchanges. The installation highlights the theme of motion between past and present, as carrom remains a game played by families and friends to this day. Its heptagon structure also reflects 7x's brand vision "From the seven emirates to the seven continents across seven seas".

Instagram: @hind.arais


MARIAM ALOBEIDL

UAE

ETERNAL MOTION: THE UAE'S JOURNEY | SCULPTURE, 2025

The artwork features four stacked boxes, some rotatable, showcasing drawings that transition from the UAE's past to its future. Moving in a circle, the sculpture symbolizes the nation's con-





tinuous growth, resilience, and progress. It celebrates the UAE's rich history while highlighting its transformative journey and vision for the future.

Instagram: @mariaamalobeidli

KHDA

The art initiative to stand up to bullying empowers students to creatively express their thoughts and emotions on the importance of kindness, empathy, and courage in addressing bullying. By encouraging students to use various art forms whether visual, auditory, or multimedia the initiative fosters a sense of unity, raises awareness, and inspires action within school communities to build a supportive and inclusive environment where everyone feels safe and valued.





HOUSE 349 | TODA - THEATRE OF DIGITAL ART

Exploring New Worlds Through Digital & Physical Realities

This exhibition delves into the intersection of digital and physical realms, showcasing how their integration redefines artistic expression and expands creative possibilities. Through innovative works, visitors are invited to explore the future shaped by technology and the role of artists in imagining it. The exhibition reflects the beauty and challenges of the real world, using technology to capture and reinterpret life's complexities. Engaging and immersive, it offers hands-on experiences for all ages, blending interaction and innovation to inspire new ways of perceiving art and the world around us.



CHAFIC MEKAWI

CANADA

A WINDOW TO THE SEA | DIGITAL ART, MULTI-MEDIA, 2024

In A Window to the Sea, Chafic Mekawi invites viewers to explore the nuances of Arab identity through a singular, unifying motif—the circle. The circle holds a fundamental place in Islamic art, it represents unity and infinity. The circular frame acts as a portal into everyday Arab life, offering glimpses of tradition, spirituality, and identity set against the vast and timeless backdrop of the sea. Exploring themes of Gulf Futurism, the series conveys a deep sense of introspection and belonging, where human figures appear at once grounded in heritage and in dialogue with the infinite horizon.

Instagram: @chaficmekawi

GINGERPOTTER

LEBANON

FLAT REALITY | DIGITAL, 2024

It's curious how screens have changed our reality, becoming essentially windows to each other's lives, where you are watching me while someone else is watching you, as these screens turn the world around us into flat 2D images that you can see and hear yet can't touch and fully experience.

Instagram: @gingerpotter21



GINGERPOTTER

LEBANON

PETALS | DIGITAL | 2024

The layers we add over time, distractions, desires, opinions, memories, shape how we interact with the world and how others perceive us. They're the petals we display, beautiful but transient, subject to the seasons of life. Yet, if we peel back these layers, what remains?

Instagram: @gingerpotter21

RANK SSS

ALGERIA

HOME OF NOMADS | MP4, 3DSMAX, LUMION RENDER, PREMIERE PRO, 2024

Nature is not a place to visit; it is home. This film dives into the unseen worlds hidden within dimensions beyond our own. These spaces are where layers of reality meet and intertwine in mesmerizing ways. It's an invitation to journey through dreamlike landscapes and uncover their mysteries

Instagram: @rank.sss




HOUSE 202 | ARCHIVING THE NOW

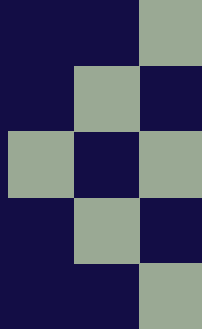
The narrative of this project focuses on the importance of family photographs and creating memories that can be preserved for future generations. Through interactive displays and storytelling from our elders, we aim to highlight the significance of family photos and the value they hold in our lives. By combining traditional photography with new technology, we hope to inspire all our visitors and larger community to appreciate and preserve their heritage and family memories.

Curator:
Ola Allouz

University Of Europe | Dubai, UE Graduates Design Team:
Dahlia Mahmoud
Dalia Ayman
Khuloud Al Khateb
Mariam Al Ali

Instagram:
[@archivingthenow](https://www.instagram.com/archivingthenow)

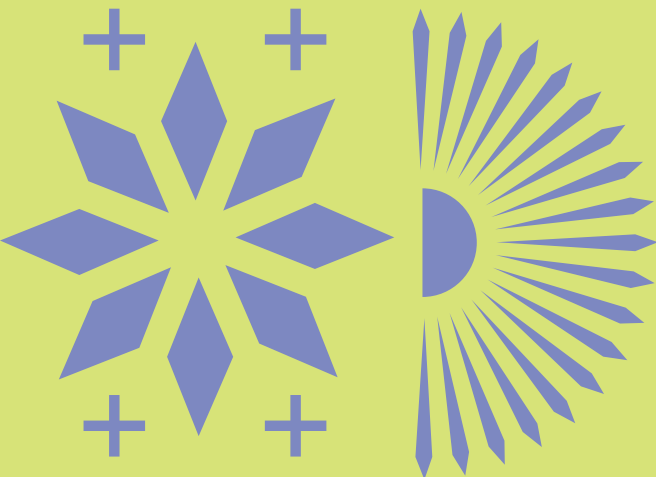




HOUSE 203 | WORLD STAGE DESIGN HOUSE

The global performance design community inspires World Stage Design House. The house serves as a vibrant confluence of culture, heritage, and innovation. Rooted in the region's rich history, it reimagines traditional design forms through the lens of global performance design. Each space within the house tells a story, blending immersive installations, lighting artistry, and performance-inspired elements to evoke a sense of connection and engagement.

By showcasing the interplay between heritage and contemporary theatre design, the narrative celebrates the universal language of storytelling. The House will offer a glimpse of what artists, art practitioners, and enthusiasts can expect during World Stage Design 2025, which will take place from 18 to 25 October in Sharjah, UAE.

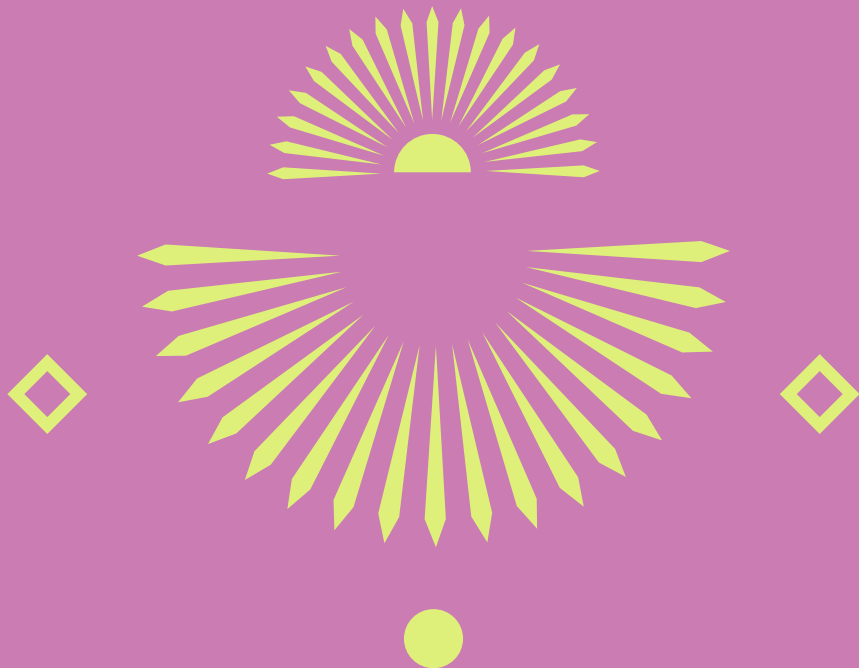


HOUSE 355 | MASTERPIECES HOUSE OF FOLKLORE TALES

AN INITIATIVE BY THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION

The curatorial narrative of the "Masterpieces House" exhibition celebrates the creative outcomes of students who attended a summer camp in July 2024, focusing on the theme of folklore tales from the UAE. The exhibition offers a vibrant exploration of traditional stories, blending mythological elements with modern artistic expressions across multiple categories. These include visual art, illustration, music, theatre, creative writing, traditional art, as well as cinema and photography. Through paintings, sculptures, performances, written works, and digital media, each piece captures the essence of the UAE's rich cultural heritage, bringing ancient narratives to life in innovative ways. The students' diverse interpretations reflect both personal and collective connections to folklore, highlighting the timeless relevance of these tales in contemporary society.

Instagram:
[@Masterpieces.ae](https://www.instagram.com/Masterpieces.ae)



HOUSE 196 | THE URBAN HOUSE BY THE WORKSHOP DXB

The Urban House by The Workshop Dxb transforms into a dynamic canvas hosting The Anatomy of Vulnerability, a multidisciplinary art project exploring human emotions. Through immersive installations by diverse artists, it invites audiences to navigate raw feelings and personal journeys. The house's history and community voices shape a profound narrative of fragility and resilience.



AHMAD MAKARY

LEBANON

VEILED TENSION | INSTALLATION, 2025

Veiled Tension is an evocative art installation that confronts passive-aggressiveness through the interplay of craft, street culture, and physicality. The centerpiece—a skate ramp—becomes both a stage and a battleground where language takes on a palpable form. Hand-painted in the fluid elegance of traditional Arabic calligraphy, the ramp's surface is adorned with fragmented & veiled expressions, embodying the chaos of passive-aggressive communication. These words, once subtle and layered, are rendered bold, unruly, and inescapable, creating an intimidating visual and emotional presence. As skateboarders ride the ramp, their movements erode the carefully painted words, transforming their passive permanence into an active, fleeting memory. The act of skating becomes a metaphor for breaking through the unspoken barriers of human interaction—dynamic, chaotic, and unapologetically direct.

Instagram: @ahmadmakary

FATSPATROL

INDIA / CANADA

BETWEEN HOPE AND DEVASTATION | INSTALLATION, 2025

In the spirit of vulnerability, the drawing installation explores the dichotomy of hope and devastation and the contemplation involved in fluctuating between the two minds. In the face of animosity, of trauma and suffering, as we have seen on a massive scale in 2024, the human mind tends to swing from a state of devastation; ie fully feeling pain, fear, and grief and then hope: without hope we do not move forward, we give in to devastation, we give up. To hope is to believe in change and progress, to believe in humanity in love, to believe in the good in the world in possibility. To dream. To feel supported, capable, resilient and willing to turn the page and keep going. In 2024 the artist found herself torn between these states of mind and in that flux learnt that human existence likely thrives in a space where both exist simultaneously. bAs Nietzsche said “ There must be chaos within you to give birth to a dancing star”. This piece comes in a series of work called ‘The Humans’ that started in 2020 that explores the human condition: my intention is to leave behind man-made categories of race, class, etc. that are ultimately divisive, and to focus on the traits of being human that make us uniquely individual whilst being universal and creating more moments of vulnerable togetherness.

Instagram: @fatspatrol

GERARD ROXAS RECHDAN

PHILIPPINES

THE AUDIBLE SELF | SENSORY INSTALLATION, 2025

An immersive sensory installation that brings the inner workings of our emotional world to life through sound. By externalizing the chaos, vulnerability, and tension often associated with social anxiety, the installation invites visitors to engage with a dynamic soundscape shaped by their interactions. It explores how individual experiences blend into collective noise, creating a space where personal emotions become tangible and connection emerges through shared auditory moments. This journey challenges perceptions, fosters empathy, and highlights the



delicate interplay between the self and the world around us.

Instagram: @gerard.rechdan

KAV AHANGAR

IRAN

DON'T PULL MY STRINGS | INSTALLATION, 2025

Don't Pull My Strings invites you to step into a delicate tapestry of human emotion, where each string represents the intricate threads of our inner lives. These threads weave together into patterns that reflect our habits, thoughts, and feelings—loops and knots that speak to the interconnectedness of our experiences. Vulnerability and resilience intertwine in these weavings, whispering the complexities of longing, love, and fear mirrored in their repetition. Light dances softly through the weave, echoing the lightness of being, while shadows linger in its folds, revealing the darkness within us all. Yet, it is in the spaces between these threads—the pauses and gaps—that we find stillness and room for reflection. These quiet intervals honor the unspoken, offering a moment to notice their subtle beauty, to hold space for their presence, and to see how they give meaning to the whole. Here, in the interplay of connection and separation, light and shadow, tension and release, lies the poetry and depth of our shared humanity.

Instagram: @kav_ahangar

NOAH PERELINI

NEW ZEALAND

FRAGMENTS | INSTALLATION, 2025

In 'Fragments', artist Noah Perelini explores the complex navigation of identity and authenticity; as a third-culture child. Through layered screenprints on large plexiglass sheets, Perelini creates a kaleidoscope of cultural references and textures; which convey the difficult task of understanding their Samoan culture which they were not born into. The transparent layers intersect each other creating confusion as our minds try to seek order.

Instagram: @noahperelini.studio

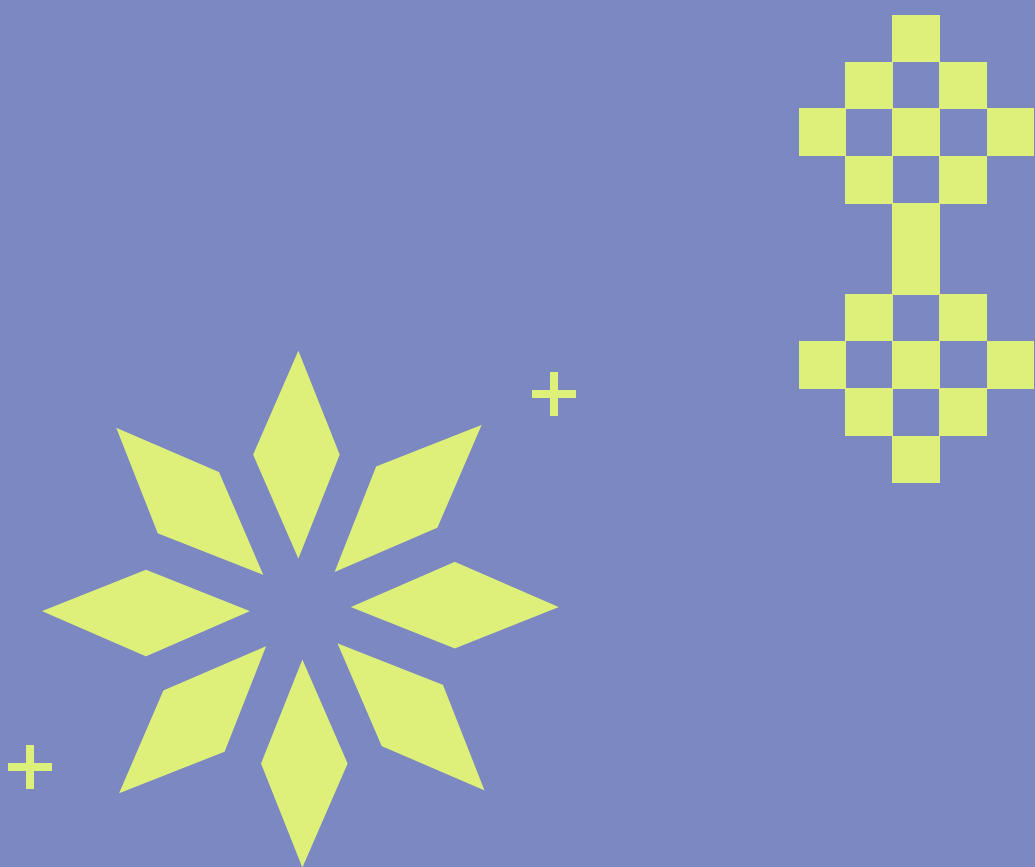
THE WORKSHOP DXB

UAE BASED ENTITY

THE PRINT ROOM

The Print Room is a vibrant space designed to celebrate the art of printmaking. Walls are adorned with a curated collection of posters created by talented artists from around the globe, reflecting a rich tapestry of styles and cultures. This thoughtfully curated gallery fosters a connection between Dubai and the world, offering art enthusiasts and newcomers alike the opportunity to own affordable, collectible screenprint editions. The Print Room is more than a shop—it's a hub for creativity, accessibility, and the growing appreciation of screenprinting as a dynamic art form.

@theworkshopdxb



HOUSE 353 | THE KHALEEJI HOUSE

Step into the world of “A7lam Al3a9r”, where the boundaries between reality and imagination dissolve.

A fever dream that twists the familiar into the unexpected, where nothing is quite as it seems. Inspired by the Khaleeji pop culture term A7lam Al3a9r, this house pulls you through the different stages of a dream, with each room distorting everyday elements into something surreal.

As you move through these dreamscapes, the exhibition encourages exploration, invites interaction, and lets you experience Khaleeji traditions unfold in new and unexpected ways.



ALIA BENT SULTAN

UAE

"DREAMS OF THE ERA" MIGHT BECOME A REALITY WE LIVE | PHOTOGRAPHY, 2025

The dreams of the era could be the reality we live in... Today, we see our seniors in images we have never seen before, where some view them as the dreams of the era, while others see our elders embracing youthful trends and the future... Such as wearing graduation attire in the fundamentals of technology and in images from global championships, making these images globally Emirati

Instagram: @Alia_bent_sultan

ALI HAMAD SAEED HURAIMIL

UAE

FREEJ FEVER DREAM | INSTALLATION, 2025

The art piece delves into AI-generated art by attempting to reinterpret one of the nation's favorite shows. Yet, it starkly reveals AI's inability to replicate the organic attention to detail that human creativity embodies. The result is a surreal, fever-dream-like distortion, where core elements of the show exist but are misplaced, highlighting the limitations of AI in capturing the authenticity and nuance of human artistry.

Instagram: @3alawi.png

HADEEL AHMED ALSHALAN

SAUDI ARABIA

TASTELESS (BIRTHDAY EDITION) | RESIN/SILICONE/HAIR CONDITIONER/ CORN FLOUR/ACRYLIC COLORS/SHELL OF COCOA BEAN, 2020 - 2024

"Tasteless Birthday Edition" explores the evolution of birthday celebrations from the extravagant, joy-filled gatherings of the 90s in the GCC to the curated, social media-driven performances of today. It critiques the transformation of cultural traditions, highlighting the shift from authentic hospitality to a commodified, image-focused celebration.

Instagram: @Hadeelz.art

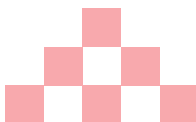
HAMED ALHARTHY, REPRESENTED BY MAKAN STUDIOS

OMAN

ZOMBIE 1 & 2 | FABRIC SCULPTURE, 2024 - 2025

"Zombie" is a character developed by the artist that captures the mundane reality of a predictable life, checking all the boxes in a predetermined order. It questions existence, life goals and meaning.

Instagram: @makanstudios @thee7amed





KHADIJA AHMED

OMAN

THE DIALECTIC OF TRANSFORMATION | INSTALLATION ART, 2023

This work embodies the journey of human identity through the symbolism of fish, where the taxidermy fish represents the physical body that retains its form, while the transparent fish reflects the soul seeking its origin amidst transformation. The work conveys the balance between roots and renewal, the individual and the collective, in the face of changes that reshape identity.

Instagram: @khadija.22

LAMYA ISSA, SHAIKHA AL MATROOSHI, ANUD ALAMRI

UAE / UAE / PAKISTAN

SHU MSWTI? | MIXED MEDIA, 2025

Shu Mswti explores overthinking, where memories, dreams, and reality blur into one. This installation reflects the moments between dreaming and waking, where thoughts twist, confusion arises, and the question "Shu Mswti?"—meaning "What has happened?"—lingers. It invites a tactile experience of the mind's restless and tangled nature.

Instagram: @lamya.ea @shaikhhaalmatrooshi @anudalamri

LATIFA AL AWADHI

UAE

DREAMING OVER THE HILLS | CANVAS PRINT/ ARTIFICIAL GRASS HILLS, 2025

This installation captures the dreamy transition between sleep and wakefulness. The green hills extend from a painted window scene of rolling landscapes and a cloudy sky, creating a surreal environment where reality blends with dreams, inviting the viewer to step into a tranquil, imaginative world.

Instagram: @LatifaArtStudio

MAHMOOD SHARIF

BAHRAIN

NOTIFIATIONSSSS | SOUND EXPERIENCE, 2025

"NotifiActionssss" examines how notifications have transformed our sensory experience of time, space, and attention. The installation invites visitors to immerse themselves in a chaotic soundscape that shifts from primal survival signals to the overwhelming alerts of the digital age.

Set in a dark, reactive environment, it mirrors the disorientation of a fever dream, blending organic and digital tones. The work reflects on how sound shapes our emotions and routines, urging us to reconnect with silence amidst the constant noise of modern life.

Instagram: @Mahmoodsharif_



SARD - MUJAHID ALMALKI

OMAN

DREAMS IN THE WASH | FABRIC PRINTS, 2025

As a child, Mujahid Jamal was a dreamer, his mind brimming with wonderful ideas that danced like vivid colors in his imagination. Yet, the world often stood in his way. Logistical hurdles, limited networks, and financial constraints made those dreams feel just out of reach. But Mujahid never let go—he carefully jotted down every idea, preserving them like treasures in his mind.

As he grew, the challenges followed him. Yet, when AI emerged, the barriers vanished. Suddenly, all he needed was his creativity, and the ideas he had cherished since childhood came to life effortlessly, bursting forth like vivid works of art.

In this installation, Mujahid's journey unfolds before your eyes. His artworks, now tangible, are printed on fabrics and hung delicately on drying ropes, reminiscent of a simpler time. From his childhood to adolescence, to adulthood, the pieces hang side by side—his clothes and dreams intertwining in a timeless narrative of imagination and perseverance.

Step into his world, where dreams, once confined, now hang freely in the air.

Instagram

@Sard.visuals

NOOR N. ALALI

QATAR

LEGENDS IN METAL | CARVED METAL PANELS AND LIGHT, 2025

This installation depicts two legends carved into metal, creating a visual tension between the tangible and the intangible, the mythical and the physical.

The first legend, The daughters of Na'sh, traces the celestial origins of a group of stars (The Big Dipper). While the second, The captains' daughter, is a transformation story that blurs the boundaries between human and nature.

Instagram: @noornalali @allthenoor

MARIAM ALOBEIDLI

UAE

VIRTUAL ANIMATED MURAL

This mural brings together illustrations that step away from reality, exploring the limitless possibilities of imagination. Each piece tells a story that feels dreamlike and out of this world, with unexpected details and creative twists. The goal is to invite viewers into a space where anything is possible and let them see the world through a more playful and imaginative lens.

Instagram: @mariaamalobeidli



RATAJ KHAJAH

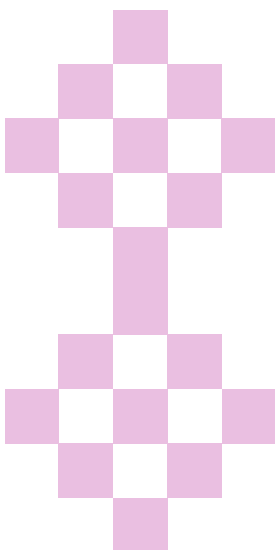
KUWAIT

A7LAM AL3A9R ON THE UKE | AUDIO AND VIDEO, 2025

This original song, created by Rataj Khaja, captures the surreal essence of A7lam Al3a9r through delicate ukulele strings and whimsical lyrics. Playing intermittently throughout the house, the composition acts as an anchor within the dreamscape, guiding visitors and complementing the relatability of the house.

Instagram:

@ratajini





HOUSE 164 | THE DESIGN HOUSE

This exhibition explores design as a living process, as an evolving practice, focusing on the unfinished and sometimes uncertain. Visitors engage with sensory experiences, exploring the interplay between materiality and culture through diverse design disciplines—architecture, graphic design, photography, and interdisciplinary practices—that challenge conventional narratives. Rather than presenting design as a static and finished object, the exhibition frames it as a dynamic, continuous practice—a profoundly human act: imperfect, open, and always in motion.

ALTQADUM

OMAN

ALHOUSH³ - THE COURTYARD³ | INSTALLATION FOAM, 2025

This installation reclaims the courtyard as a living exploration of space, memory, and culture—a cornerstone of traditional Emirati architecture. Once central to homes, courtyards offered privacy, cooling, and connection, yet their presence has faded in modern design.

A monolithic foam block reshapes the courtyard, carving corridors, skylights, and seating into its negative volumes. These tactile interventions amplify spatial awareness, transforming voids into dynamic experiences that invite reinterpretation.

Crafted from industrial foam blocks assembled on-site, the design adapts to its surroundings, honoring architectural openings while embracing imperfection. This evolving form reconnects visitors with the forgotten essence of courtyards—an unfolding dialogue of design, materiality, and cultural memory.

Instagram: @altqadum

AMER MADHOUN-COLLECTUS

PALESTINE / LEBANON

ANNEXE HOUSE | INSTALLATION, 2025

The mulhaq (Arabic: ملحاق), or annex, reclaims its role as a living, evolving element of traditional Emirati architecture. Multifunctional and deeply rooted in cultural traditions, the mulhaq once fostered privacy, connection, and community. Over time, this vital structure has been overshadowed, its significance reduced to a peripheral utility.

This installation reimagines the mulhaq at the heart of the exhibition space, transforming it into a focal point for cultural reflection. Stripped of its peripheral context, it becomes a dynamic object of inquiry—fluid, open, and steeped in heritage.

Through research with Bayt Al Mamzar Mulhaq, this work challenges its marginalization, offering a living portrait of the mulhaq as a cornerstone of Emirati identity. Visitors are invited to reconsider how this evolving form shapes collective memory and design.

Instagram: @amermadhoun @designcollectus

AQIB ANWAR

INDIA

FRIDAY | PHOTOGRAPHY, 2025

For six years, Aqib Anwar has quietly documented a resonant ritual in Dubai: the moments following Friday prayers. Each photograph tells a story of faith, community, and tranquility—capturing the evolving interplay of human connection and cultural identity.

What began as a personal rediscovery of faith transformed into a dialogue between culture and compassion. Anwar's lens captures fleeting, unposed moments: fathers and sons walking hand in hand, worshippers finding solace, and neighbors sharing warm smiles. These images offer a nuanced portrayal of Muslim life—dynamic, authentic, and deeply human.



Set against the architectural beauty of various Mosques around Dubai, this series transforms ordinary moments into profound reflections of design, culture, and collective memory.

Instagram: @gibsterg

DEENAH ALHASHEMI

UAE

CHILDHOOD ARCHIVES | MIXED MEDIUM, 2025

Dubai is a city of scents—pause and notice the next time you take a walk. Scents linger in its paths, weaving into memories that connect us to loved ones, homes, and emotions. Childhood Archives explores these intimate moments through soap making, turning handwashing into an immersive experience. Each soap blends water and scent, inviting you to reconnect with a memory. Do scents tell a shared story, or is each memory uniquely ours?

Deenah, rooted in international relations, has balanced research, economics, and education with a passion for woodworking. Her journey shifted when she met Rouba, a self-taught soap artist driven by curiosity and a love for handmade creations. Together, they crafted an interactive experience where passion makes skills accessible. Here, craftsmanship isn't about perfection—it's about embracing the process. Every creation reflects the beauty of dedication and the joy of making.

Instagram: @deenahalhashemi

JUMAANAH ALHASHEMI

UAE

FUTURE HISTORIES | MIXED MEDIUM, 2025

As lead researcher for the Perfume House at the Shindagha Museum, I explored how storytelling can transcend the visual, using scent as a profound medium of memory. Future Histories emerged from in-depth research into the Perfume House pavilion, uncovering the potential of olfactory senses to transform content creation into an immersive, sensory experience. This approach reshaped material culture, tying it to deeply personal connections and meanings.

Future Histories reimagines spaces as living participants in storytelling, turning them into dynamic portraits that transcend static representations of time. By revisiting sensorial experiences, histories become immersive and personal, shifting the narrative beyond visual communication alone.

This work delves into how spaces embody stories, reflecting the rich Emirati tradition of humanistic narratives. Architecture becomes a vessel for imagination and collective memory.

Through post-industrial techniques, fleeting scents are captured and preserved, transforming the ephemeral into the lasting. As unique as fingerprints, scents hold people, places, and feelings, offering a profoundly personal connection to history and design.

Instagram: @jumaanah





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Instagram: @jumaanah

ZENA ADHAMI

SYRIA

BETWEEN NATURE AND DESIGN: THE PRIVATE GARDENS OF DUBAI | INSTALLATION, 2025

This exhibition invites visitors to acquaint themselves with creative responses conducted/produced in response to narratives and primary research conducted by Zayed University's CACE students. Through typographic explorations, the interplay of design, culture, and nature unfolds—redefining how private gardens shape and are shaped by the UAE's evolving landscape.

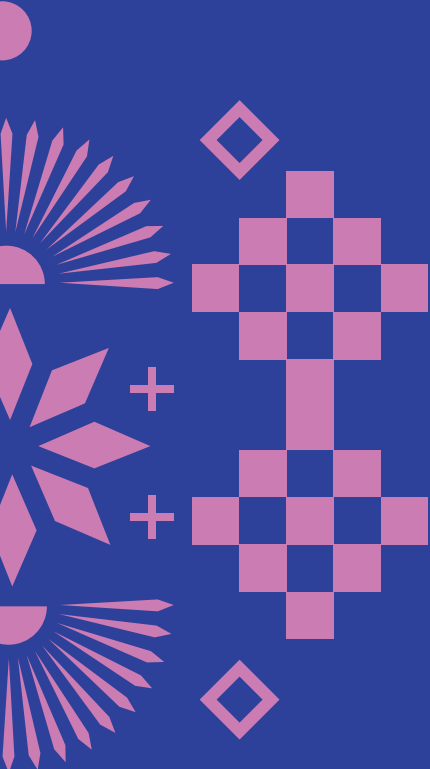


At its heart is a fascination with Place—not just as a physical space, but as an evolving reflection of values and culture. Place becomes a living narrative, where urban design breathes life into memories and connections.

This ongoing research delves deeper into the dynamic relationship between design and Place, using storytelling and visualization to uncover hidden layers of meaning. It invites viewers to see gardens not as fixed spaces, but as evolving stories—personal, profound, and interconnected.

Instagram: @zadhami





HOUSE 357 | COMMUNITY HOUSE BY STUDIO THIRTEEN

This year, Studio Thirteen's participation in Sikka Art & Design Festival centers around the theme of "Community", celebrating the power of collaboration within a creative collective. The artists who participated last year have expanded their presence, carving out their own creative spaces, while the new studio artists step in to continue the legacy. Together, they highlight what can be achieved when creatives choose to collaborate rather than compete—demonstrating how shared visions and diverse talents can create something truly impactful.



ABOUT STUDIO THIRTEEN

Studio Thirteen was founded with a passion for nurturing the creative spirit and addressing the need for dedicated studio spaces in Dubai's emerging art scene. The studio is committed to empowering and supporting the city's thriving artistic community by providing artists with both the physical and intellectual space needed to create, collaborate, and grow. Studio Thirteen believes that art is not only a reflection of culture but also a catalyst for change and innovation. Through its partnerships, events, and resources, the studio fosters collaboration, learning, and growth within the local art scene, supporting both emerging and established artists.

“COMMUNITY”

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CHOP 'EM DOWN SPENCER SHEA & ARTHUR DU PEUTY

USA / FRANCE

PASSING THROUGH | FRAMED PHOTOGRAPHY AND SOUND DESIGN,
2025

This installation contains multiple walls of photography showcasing images of cultural phenomena, and the creative expressions of our everyday lives. Each image is accompanied by sound: the hum of a bustling street, or rhythm of tools at work. All coming together to invite the observer into the artist's world.

Instagram: @chopemdownfilms

FINK 22

BRITAIN

HIDDEN CONVERSATIONS | MIXED MEDIA, 2022

Hidden conversations explore the essence of graffiti's coded language. With each piece delving into the raw simplicity of form and the universal appeal of mark-making. This series captures the nuanced rhythm of Berlin's street art, where repeated tags and placements become threads in an unseen conversation. The artworks offer a minimalist yet powerful reflection on connection and identity.

Instagram: @fink.22


JOSE ROBERTO

MEXICO

SURREAL LAND | MURAL, MADE WITH ACRYLIC AND SPRAY PAINTS,
2025

As a tribute for the 100th anniversary of the foundation of the Surrealist movement, artist Jose Roberto brings to Sikka Art & Design Festival an immersive journey through the unconscious





with a modern approach to this whimsical, bizarre, colorful, poetic universe. Aiming to share a contemporary display of Surrealist art adapted to the landscape of historic Dubai, by creating a dreamy setting that displays imagery inspired by the UAE heritage.

Instagram: @joserobertoart

MEMORYALL **MARTIN YAMBAO & YASHA ESTRADA**

PHILIPPINES

ECHOES | VISUAL PROJECTION, 2025

An installation that fuses the textures of AI Shindagha with real-time motion capture, projecting them onto a holographic mesh. The canvas comes to life as audiences engage—whether by moving with the visuals or quietly observing their fluid transformations. The combination of motion and texture invites a dialogue between the past and the contemporary, bridging time and space in a sensory experience.

Instagram: @memoryall.visuals

MEMORYALL **MARTIN YAMBAO, YASHA ESTRADA & LEO TAPANG**

PHILIPPINES

DIALOGUES | VISUAL PROJECTION, 2025

An installation that uses projection as a medium to create a dialogue between the historical Shindaga House and artworks by Studio Thirteen artists. Memoryall transforms the static into moving images that mimic the artists' process of turning intangible ideas into tangible. It's a meeting of history and contemporary practice, where memory and space are reimagined.

Instagram: @memoryall.visuals, @studiothirteen_dxb

RABAB TANTAWY

EGYPT

SHADOWS OF HUMANITY | MIXED MEDIA ON CANVAS, 2023

Three large-scale paintings of abstracted figures embody the beauty and strength of cultural identity and collective memory. These works serve as a vibrant reflection of how our heritage shapes the bonds we share.

Instagram: @rababtantawy





PUBLIC ARTS

AKTHAM ABDULHAMID

SYRIA

CULTURAL ACCUMULATION | MARBLE SCULPTURE, 2024

The human civilization did not come out of nowhere, but rather from long cultural accumulation and experiences of human life that passed from one generation to another until it reached our present era, the era of artificial intelligence and dialogues between the civilization that developed the human mind and accelerated scientific technology which made human life faster and easier to live.

Instagram: @akthamabdulhamid

ANA MARIA NEGARĂ

ROMANIA

FRACTAL | MARBLE SCULPTURE, 2024

Inspired by the avant-garde architecture and rigorous geometric balance of Dubai, the sculpture "Fractal" explores the concepts of infinity and self-similarity through cubic forms. This work aims to materialize the concept of harmony, presenting a structure that multiplies and evolves continuously. With its harmonious details, "Fractal" reflects how a simple rule can generate astonishing complexity. The arrangement of cubes in a pyramidal shape suggests organic growth, evoking the idea of infinity and continuous development—fundamental characteristics of fractals. Beyond a geometric exploration, the sculpture represents the relationship between the microcosm and macrocosm, emphasizing the connection between individual elements and the whole. "Fractal" thus becomes a portal to an infinite universe, mirroring how nature creates complex structures from simple rules.

Instagram: @ana_maria_negara

AZZA AL QUBAISI

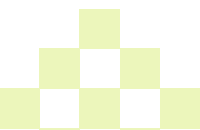
UNITED ARAB EMIRATES

DUBAI HEART (BETWEEN THE LINES SERIES) | MARBLE SCULPTURE, 2024

This piece is part of a series that explores the interplay of illusion and perspective, transforming a simple two-dimensional line into a dynamic, three-dimensional form. From the front, the viewer sees a heart shape, while from the back, the piece shifts, offering a different visual experience. This illusion creates a captivating dialogue between the viewer and the artwork, inviting engagement through movement and shifting perspectives.

The iconic lines in this piece reflect my personal journey and offer a visual representation of Emirati culture, tradition, identity, and the rapid evolution of the country. Through the subtle but powerful illusion, the artwork captures both the continuity and transformation inherent in the UAE's dynamic development.

Instagram: @azzaalqubaisi



DON

PALESTINE

HERE FOR YOU | SCULPTURES, 2024

Someone will always be there for you, offering support, protection, and a sense of safety. This is the essence of DON's latest project. The sculptural installation features a grand central piece accompanied by four smaller sculptures, guiding visitors through the alleys of the heritage area.

Instagram: @don.and.friends

DR. MOHAMED YOUSIF

UNITED ARAB EMIRATES

SHELLS | MARBLE SCULPTURE, 2024

The work depicts two shells, each holding many secrets, resting upon the sea to tell the story of Dubai. Carved from stone and hollowed out, the piece reflects the aesthetic potential of the city, capturing its essence and beauty.

Instagram: @dr.mohamed_yousif

GEORGI MINCHEV

BULGARIA

FRAGMENT OF SOMETHING BIGGER | MARBLE SCULPTURE, 2024

The artwork is built around two opposing concepts of shaping: the cube and the sphere. These elements are combined to create two types of space: interior and exterior.

Invisible openwork spaces are surrounded by perpendicular walls, edges and corners that emerge with the stone. These spaces are filtered through the prism of a "mathematical" formula based on the three spatial planes that define physical space. Simultaneously, they are reminiscent of the architectural structure of buildings, streets and squares.

By juxtaposing binary opposites: cylinder and cube, vertical and horizontal, interior and exterior, the artist represents the architecture of the visible world, while also reminding of other pairs of opposites located in the emotional world. These contrasts, such as joy and sadness, are what make life so unique and profound.

Instagram: @george_minchev

HEND ALMURID

UAE

MAKE-A-FRIEND | MULTIMEDIA, 2025

Life size interactive art installation that invites people to create their own imaginary friends by spinning and mixing three different blocks.

Instagram: @hendsight



JASIM ALNAQBI & HAMAD ALMUTAWA

UAE

KAJOJA'S LAMMA | INSTALLATION, 2025

An urban installation celebrating the art of Talli-making, centered around the Kajoja—an iconic tool rooted in Emirati heritage. This piece highlights a tradition that brought communities together, as families gathered to witness the intricate craft that transformed threads into exquisite patterns, reflecting creativity and shared history.

Instagram: @Taqseem.studio @Hamad.almutawa

JHON GOGABERISHVILI

GEORGIA

FOUNTAIN | MARBLE SCULPTURE, 2024

Water droplets burst into motion, forming intricate and ever-changing abstract silhouettes. Each eruption captures a fleeting moment of fluid dynamism, transforming the ordinary into a mesmerizing interplay of shapes and patterns. These ephemeral forms evoke a sense of spontaneity and unpredictability, embodying the delicate balance between chaos and beauty found in nature.

Instagram: @jhongogaberishviliart

JOSÉ MILLÁN

SPAIN

HARMONIC CONNECTIONS | MARBLE SCULPTURE, 2024

Two elements, like two arms, rise and intertwine at a central point, symbolizing connection and unity. This meeting in the center not only highlights the interaction between both parts, but also suggests a story of collaboration and harmony, evoking the beauty of human relationships. A third element provides stability and balance, creating a sense of solidity that counteracts the dynamism and impossible union of the previous two elements. This arch not only anchors the composition but also represents the fundamental role that the base plays in any meaningful collaboration. Together, these three elements form a composition that invites contemplation, where unity and balance intertwine in a visual dialogue.

The sculpture, with its simplicity and depth, reminds us that in life, it is often the connections and mutual support that allow us to stand tall. It invites us to reflect on the importance of finding balance in our own interactions, highlighting that while each of us may have a unique role, it is collaboration that truly enriches us.

Instagram: @jccabellomillan

LEXICON LORE

UAE BASED AGENCY

ENDLESS NARRATIVES | MDF, REFLECTIVE MIRRORS, LED SCREENS, LED LIGHT, 2025

An immersive art piece that draws inspiration from Al Shindagha's evolution—from a humble fishing settlement to a hub of Emirati culture. The mirrors reflect not just the physical surroundings but the essence of transformation, offering visitors a chance to see themselves as part of this ongoing narrative.





Inside the cube, the interplay of interactions, soundscapes, and dynamic visuals creates a multisensory journey that mirrors the spirit of collaboration and tradition.

This immersive space honors Al Shindagha's historical significance—from the vibrant life on land to the culture of the sea—while symbolizing the seamless integration of the past and the future.

Instagram: @thelexiconlore

LIU YANG

CHINA

STARRY SKY IN DUBAI | MARBLE SCULPTURE, 2024

Starry Sky in Dubai is a new style sculpture, which will be placed in Dubai, UAE, the 41st country to install one of the artist's works. The sculpture utilizes rhythmic circular forms and dynamic shifts in light to capture the splendor of the starry sky offering a visual representation of its splendor.

Instagram: @cctvliuyang

LYUDMYLA MYSKO

UKRAINE

MAGNETIC DESIGNER | MARBLE SCULPTURE, 2024

This sculpture continues the series of my monumental sculptures called "Magnetic Constructor" realized in China (2015), Vietnam (2015), Iran (2016), South Korea (2019), Ukraine (2020). In my new sculpture, I continue to explore the combination of material form and air space, as well as maintaining their balance within the maximally preserved original external form of the stone block.

Instagram: @lyudmyla_mysko_contemporaryart

MAHRA ALFALAH

UAE

FLOWERS OF MY COUNTRY | SCULPTURE, 2025

The sculpture is of two types of flowers. The first is Morning Glory (رُخَام), a native plant to the UAE. It is a perennial herb that grows in Abu Dhabi and Dubai. The second is Ipomoea biloba Forssk (قلب العاشق), an introduced plant to the UAE. It is a prostrate, or a climbing, glabrous perennial plant that grows in Abu Dhabi, Dubai, and Fujairah.

Instagram: @mahralfalahi

MAITHA AL OMAIRA & AMNA AL ZAABI

UAE

PARADOX OF PRESERVATION | PLASTER, COLLECTED NATURAL MATERIAL, 2024-2025

The work consists of found natural materials collected from the historical site of Al Shindagha to create a topographical database of the area. Through the casting process, they transform into both ecofacts and artefacts, reflecting the paradox of preservation.





While we aim to preserve their fragility, casting alters their meaning, presenting them as objects that bridge the past, present, and future.

Instagram: @maitharo, @studiountitled_

MARYAM ALZAABI

UAE

KWAASHI | METAL STRUCTURE WITH NYLON RED ROBES / MIXED MEDIA INSTALLATION, 2025

Kwaashi embodies the beauty of Emirati heritage through traditional earrings adorned with intricate designs. This installation reimagines them as rope sculptures, symbolizing the strength of Emirati women who honor their rich culture while redefining their roles, balancing tradition with personal identity and ambition.

Instagram: @maryamisalz

MARYAM NAMVAR AND NEDA SALMANPOUR

IRAN / IRAN

RESONANCE | SONIC SCULPTURE, 2024

Resonance is a site-specific public artwork which echoes and reflects the visual and sonic elements of Dubai's Al Shindagha Historic District. Activated by the breeze, the work invites you to pause and listen to the interplay of wind, water and architecture and contemplate the passage of time through this historically and culturally significant area.

Curated by Munira Al Sayegh, with assistance from Hessa Al Nuaimi and Dania Al Tamimi

Commissioned by Dubai Culture & Arts Authority and Alserkal Arts Foundation

Instagram: @mxryaamii, @nedasa

MAWAHEB ART STUDIO

UAE BASED

FALLING | FABRIC AND WOODEN INSTALLATION, 2023

"Falling" is a textile installation created by the group work of all the artists in the mawaheb art studio. The idea was to incorporate recyclable and second-hand materials with a need for renewal and artistic creation, enabling the co-participation of all the artists. The textile material used creates the image of a waterfall made up of free or intertwined strips of warm colours, providing the viewer with a feeling of freedom but also connection at the same time.

Through specific and continuous motor exercise, the artists were able to connect body and spirit in a sort of creative ritual towards a common goal, mirroring what a healthy and inclusive society should aspire to, namely the unity of all.

Instagram: @mawahebdubai



MOHAMED BOUAZIZ

TUNISIA

OUR LAND | MARBLE SCULPTURE, 2024

This work encapsulates the essence of life, continuous movement, and the concept of connection and inseparability, emphasizing the strengthening of our relationship with our precious planet. It serves as a reminder of the urgent need to preserve the Earth, not only for our own well-being but for the sake of future generations.

Instagram: @bouazizmohamed81

MOHAMED SAHNOUN

TUNISIA

MOON | MARBLE SCULPTURE, 2024

The concept behind this work is to create a large circular shape from white Omani marble, symbolizing a full moon. As one moves around it, this circle gradually transforms into a crescent, directed upwards towards the sky. Arabic calligraphy occupies an important space within this circle, forming its upper arc. This script radiates light, representing our Arab-Islamic identity, always shining and glittering. I envisioned the letters to be intertwined, cohesive, and harmonious, with a balanced form that appears identical from both sides. The viewer should not perceive the letters are inverted or distorted on one side, but rather as a seamless, unified whole.

Instagram: @sahnoun.mohamed_

MOHAMMED AL THAGAFI

SAUDI ARABIA

CONVERSATION | MARBLE SCULPTURE, 2024

Through this creation, the artist embodies in a modern fashion the symbolic concept of a conversation between more than one sculpted piece, as the two pieces simulate the act of dialogue while coexisting in harmony. The artwork represents a delicate balance, defined by the softness in its form, and the strength and resilience of its straight lines.

In this piece, the artist highlights the ever-changing landscape that a society experiences in its journey towards continuous growth and in its pursuit of coexistence. It symbolizes a journey towards mutual understanding, whilst building a community where people from all walks of life can come together to live in harmony.

Instagram: @sculptor_moh

ONE THIRD STUDIO - AMNA BIN BISHR, DUNA ALAJLAN, DANIA ALAJLAN

UAE / IRAQ

CRADLE OF CREATION | PAINTED RATTAN, METAL STRUCTURE, 2025

In Surah Al-Rahman, verse 22 «نَاجِمَاتٍ وَالْوُجُودِ أَمْ هَزْلًا أَمْ هُتًى» (From both of them emerge pearl and coral), the verse highlights the divine creation of two remarkable treasures. Both gems form in layers, symbolizing gradual perfection over time. When a foreign object, like a grain of





sand or small organism, enters their bodies, it prompts the secretion of substances that coat and protect it, eventually forming pearls and coral. Though they thrive in saltwater, some coral species also grow in freshwater, reflecting the balance of creation. This adaptability symbolizes resilience and beauty born from challenges. Our research explores the merging and layering of materials from coral and pearl, experimenting with different types of water to observe their interactions and potential for new material development.

Instagram: @one.thirdstudio

RANIM AL HALAKY

LEBANON

ETERNAL STUTTERS OF MEMORY - CHIMES OF THE CITY | MILD STEEL, 2025

Eternal Stutters of Memory / Chimes of the City is an installation exploring words and sounds as eternal forces that travel from one place to another by wind. Set in Shindagha's historic district, it uses the wind's "touch" to activate metal fragments of words, translating tactile sensations into sound. This occupied soundscape reflects the intersection of sound memories, space, and nature.

Instagram: @ranimhalaky

RASHED ALMULLA - MABNAI

UAE

MERIN | INSTALLATION PAVILION, 2025

Merin Pavilion is a modular architectural structure inspired by the Burj Rashid in Dubai, with its distinctive façade rooted in Islamic and Arabic architectural motifs. Designed to embody adaptability, sustainability, and engagement, the pavilion reinterprets traditional forms and temporal structures through its use of thick shade fabric and wooden framework.

Stemmed from the concept of tents being "Moveable Palace", Merin is crafted to allow for diverse configurations, enabling the pavilion to adapt to various functional needs. From the colonnade to the courtyard, Merin introduces dynamic possibilities for creating meaningful public realms while honoring local architectural heritage.

Instagram: @mab.nai

REEM AL MAZROUEI

UAE

A JOURNEY UNFOLDING | FIBERGLASS, 2024

The girl is the thread that weaves the pieces together, her journey one of fluid transformation. Each chapter reveals her evolving relationship with the elements: earth as memory, water as motion, and air as transcendence. The waves and clouds flow continuously between the works, their surreal details—pearls, nets, birds—reappearing like echoes, reshaped by her passage. She is both witness and participant, dissolving into the vastness she seeks to understand.

This collection offers a meditation on the fluidity of existence, where boundaries blur and the tangible dissolves into the infinite. The girl's journey invites us to wade into these ethereal



currents, to see ourselves reflected in the waves and clouds, and to surrender to the beauty of becoming.

Instagram: @ralmastudio

ROUDHAH ALMAZROUEI & SAHIL RATTHA SINGH

UAE/ INDIA

SIKHAM | SCULPTURE - STEEL, FIBREGLASS AND STYRO FOAM, 2025

Sikham stands as a testament to the nation's heritage and deep connection with nature. The 7 meter monolith functions as a wind tower, drawing inspiration from the traditional material sikham. Honoring the ancient art of creating charcoal from Samra and Sidr trees, the piece integrates traditional practices with modern artistic expression to preserve local environmental and agricultural knowledge from bedouin practices.

Its name derives from "sikham" referring to the blackened bottom of a cooking pot.

Instagram: @roudhamamad @officialratthastudio

RUQAYA ALHASHMI

UAE

WHERE ROOTS SPEAK | MIXED MEDIA, 2025

What if trees could communicate with us? How would they reach out, bridging the stillness to draw us closer? Could a palm tree, ancient and steady, extend her presence toward us, offering a quiet invitation? How might she express herself—through the soft glow of light, the subtle rhythm of movement, or the unseen pulse of life coursing through her roots?

In this silence, we are invited to notice, to sense the gentle call of nature, and to imagine how it might reach out to us, if only we were attentive enough to perceive it.

Instagram: @ruqaya_alhashmi

SAID BADR

EGYPT

CITY GATE | MARBLE SCULPTURE, 2024

The sculpture consists of two vertical blocks facing each other with a permeable space between them. Together they symbolize a city gate, carrying messages on its surface from history through to the present and into the future.

Instagram: @Sculptor_said_badr

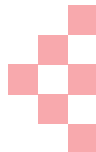
SALMAH AL MANSOORI

UAE

TESTIMONIES OF A CITY | SCULPTURE, 2025

The sculptures reflect Ghayathi's transformation, capturing its traditional elements lost to urbanization. Modern designs replace heritage, reshaping the town's cultural identity. This work honors Ghayathi's resilience, bridging past and present, and celebrating its history amid modernization. It serves as a testament to the community's evolving yet enduring legacy.

Instagram: @visualsalmah





SARA ALAHBABI

UAE

TRAVERSING LIGHT | LED LIGHT INSTALLATION, 2025

Through the intimate practice of walking, Sara Alahbabi explores neighborhoods in urban landscapes where she reflects on the dichotomy of visibility with invisibility. This work considers the artist's position as an Emirati woman traversing these landscapes. This work, Traversing Light, utilizes LED lights to uncover layers of her Abu Dhabi experience, whilst contemplating on the grid form to speak to social structures.

Instagram: @sara.d.alahbab

SPATIAL FORCES

LEBANON

KNOT TO SCALE | LARGE-SCALE INFLATABLE, 2025

A bold, oversized double knot that ties together Dubai's both maritime and textile heritage with a touch of playful surrealism by inflating the mundane into the monumental.

Knots are central to the craftsmanship of both [1] weaving and textile making, and [2] essential practices of the marine industry such as netting.

Instagram: @spatial.forces

SPATIAL FORCES

LEBANON

THE YELLOW PAPER BOAT | FLOATING INSTALLATION, 2025

The Yellow Paper Boat is a monumental, illuminated sculpture floating in Dubai Creek. Its playful, origami-inspired design blends nostalgia and whimsy, celebrating maritime heritage. Transforming the childhood act of folding paper, it creates a poetic dialogue between tradition and modernity through a bold, toy-like aesthetic.

Instagram: @spatial.forces



STEFANO SABETTA

ITALY

GUSHING CORAL | MARBLE SCULPTURE, 2024

The city is a living organism, a body sustained by the system of networks where various human activities intertwine. The sculpture represents the dynamics of movements, encounters, actions within the city of Dubai. This dynamic mirrors that of corals, bacteria, neurons, genetic codes: they intertwine, exchange, reproduce and repel. While some of these connections lead nowhere, most give rise to something more complex and novel - ideas and new forms of life.

Instagram: @stefano_sabetta

STUDIO D04

UAE

TETHERED MOMENT | STEEL STRUCTURE AND ROPES, 2025

This installation serves as a homage to the timeless use of thread and string, materials that have been integral to cultural expression and practical application throughout history. As you

walk through the installation, it feels as though you've entered a weave in progress caught in the dynamic moment between creation and completion. This interplay of the handmade and the digitally generated creates an immersive experience, blurring the boundaries between past and future.

Instagram:
@studio.d04

STUDIO THIRTEEN X NORDIC HOMEWORX

UAE Based Studio

RENEWAL | MIXED MEDIA ON DISCARDED WOOD, 2025

An art installation that breathes new life into upcycled materials transforming Swedish wooden floorboards into 15 striking sculptures, each uniquely painted by a Studio Thirteen artist.

Crafted locally from used, high-quality Kährs wood flooring, each sculpture tells a unique story - celebrating the beauty of natural materials while promoting creative reuse and environmental responsibility. Renewal embodies the principles of sustainability, resilience and artistic expression. The varying heights of the sculptures symbolize the diversity of nature, while the vibrant designs showcase the talent and individuality of Studio Thirteen artists.

FOLLOW THE SCULPTURES TO FIND YOUR WAY TO STUDIO THIRTEEN AT HOUSE 357

Instagram: @Studiothirteen_dxb, @nordichomeworx

UNIVERSITY OF SHARJAH DR. AREF MAKSOUD & ENG. SARAH ISAM ALAWNEH

SYRIA / JORDAN

EMERGING EPHEMERALS | HARD-SCAPE INSTALLATION, 2025

Emerging Ephemerals is an interactive installation inspired by the cultural and natural heritage of the UAE. Composed of circular seating forms made from Himalayan salt bricks, it reflects the relationship between sustainability, nature, and sand. The installation invites visitors to touch, sit, and connect, fostering a bond with the natural material. Symbolizing harmony between the built and natural worlds, it draws inspiration from desert landscapes, embodying the desert's enduring yet ever-evolving beauty. The salt's translucency interacts with light, creating a glowing effect symbolizing nostalgia, energy, and renewal. Utilizing advanced design techniques, the installation balances structural integrity with the fragility of the material, offering a dialogue between past, future, and the transformative power of unity.

Instagram: @arefmaksoud, @iv_sarh

WIKTOR KOPACZ

POLAND

THIRST FOR LIFE | MARBLE SCULPTURE, 2024

In general, there are always unique aspects. From the foundation of cultural heritage, a new and unknown individual can emerge. The best is always within us; we simply need to believe, strive, and take action. In doing so, new ideas will arise, leading to positive change in our lives.

Instagram: @viktarkopach, @kopach_gallery





ZAINAB ALHASHMI

UAE

THROUGH THEIR WINDOWS | ACRYLIC ON CANVAS, 2025

Within the tapestry of human existence lies a multitude of stories, with every being carrying their own distinct and rich narrative of life. Through building facades, I explore private versus public narratives, with each window representing a personal space. These abstractions reveal diverse, intertwined lives, forming a collective narrative of shared human existence.

MURALS

DINA SAADI

SYRIA / RUSSIA

SOUL OF THE LAND

This mural is a colorful tribute to the UAE, showcasing the country's unique biodiversity, heritage, landscapes, and wildlife. Featuring bold contrasts, traditional patterns, and natural motifs, it invites viewers to explore the UAE's ecosystems and culture, from mangroves and underwater life to deserts and wild animals, creating a treasure map where every detail is a discovery. The visual style draws inspiration from illustrative maps and the layered, horizontal lines and iconography found in traditional colored sand bottles, capturing the essence of the UAE's natural and cultural diversity.

Instagram: @dinasaaadi

DUHA ALHALLAMI

UAE

SAGGAF ASSAGAF | UAE

Living Moments

This wall art celebrates the universal joy and curiosity of childhood, blending the charm of an old Emirati city with timeless moments of play and discovery. From a boy marveling at bubbles to a girl admiring Talli, and siblings sharing playful antics with chips and candy, these scenes highlight the shared innocence of children across cultures. It reflects how heritage and modernity meet, showing that the spirit of exploration and connection transcends borders, uniting East and West through the simple, lively beauty of childhood.

Instagram: @duha.alh @Saggaf_a

EMAN ALRASHDI

OMAN

A HERITAGE OF NIGHT

This mural features three Emirati women, their expressions radiating warmth and happiness, embodying the spirit and heritage of the UAE.

In the background, Vincent van Gogh's *Starry Night* swirls with vibrant blues and yellows, creating a striking contrast with the calm presence of the women. This fusion of Emirati tradition with Van Gogh's iconic style symbolizes the blending of local heritage with global art, celebrating cultural identity and universal human experience. Additionally, the character





يللوضف ("Curious") from Magid magazine appears in the mural, adding a playful touch that evokes cherished memories from the past.

Instagram: @eman.alrashdi

KARIM JABBARI

TUNISIA

ROOTED CONNECTIONS

The mural integrates a poignant verse by Jobran Khalil Jobran: "Between the things inside of us we never express and the things we express that we never meant to, an immense amount of love is lost," reflecting the complexities of human emotion and communication. The calligraphy's colours are thoughtfully chosen to mirror the hues of the surrounding authentic houses, blending the artwork seamlessly with the architectural heritage and enriching its dialogue with the space

Instagram: @light_jab @inloco.gallery

MARIAM ALOBEIDLI

UAE

VIRTUAL ANIMATED MURAL

This mural brings together illustrations that step away from reality, exploring the limitless possibilities of imagination. Each piece tells a story that feels dreamlike and out of this world, with unexpected details and creative twists. The goal is to invite viewers into a space where anything is possible and let them see the world through a more playful and imaginative lens.

Instagram: @mariaamalobeidli

MARIAM EID AL MANSOORI

UAE

THE MURAL (SEEDS OF TOMORROW, CULTURAL IMPRESSIONS)

This art piece is a tribute to the generations before us, honoring their sacrifices, resilience, and wisdom. It serves as a dedication to those who endured the hardships of past conditions, paving the way for our present prosperity. At its core, the work is a gratitude offering to my ancestors, recognizing their invaluable contributions.

Central to this piece is a homage to the visionary leader, the late Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan. His foresight and unwavering commitment to the future have allowed us to thrive in the abundant UAE of today. Through his leadership, Sheikh Zayed embodied the principles of culture, religion, humanity, and compassion, shaping a legacy that continues to inspire.

The pieces weave together vibrant colors, intricate traditional patterns, and elements of the past to capture the essence of these tributes. It is a visual thank you to those who have gifted us their wisdom, courage, and vision, ensuring that their legacy lives on in the fabric of our everyday lives. This piece invites viewers to reflect on and appreciate the profound impact of our ancestors, celebrating their enduring influence on our present and future.

Instagram: @thefairlyoddbedouin



NOÉ PEIRO

SPAIN

DREAM BIG

Noé's artwork reflects on the importance of play and toys in childhood as a foundation for learning and growth. Through a metaphorical lens, it portrays children playing at fishing—a symbol of development and skill acquisition. The imagery draws a parallel to Dubai's transformation, evolving from a small fishing village to a global metropolis while preserving its rich cultural heritage. The piece celebrates the city's profound social and economic evolution, emphasizing the enduring value of heritage in shaping its identity.

Instagram: noepeiro_

PERRYHAN EL-ASHMAWI

BAHRAIN/EGYPT

CHILD'S PLAY

This mural, titled "Child's Play," captures the essence of childhood creativity and expression. The children embody the uninhibited joy of artistic exploration with hands and faces playfully marked with paint. The little artists symbolize a bridge between cultural heritage and artistic celebration. Surrounded by paint cans, brushes, and handprints on the wall, the mural highlights the spirit of the Sikka Art and Design Festival, adding color to the Al Shindagha Historic Neighbourhood. This artwork honors the festival's mission to encourage artistic expression and the UAE's profound cultural roots.

instagram: @perryelashmawi

URBAN ART ASSOCIATION TE8

PREDRAG RADOVANOVIĆ

SERBIA

SOFRA

"Sofra" carries a powerful symbolism of tradition and unity, inspired by elements of the Serbian rug. The sofa, as a gathering place, represents a bridge that connects people in shared creativity and important moments in life. This mural is my call for the union of two artistic scenes, where the color palette distinctly highlights what we can create when we dedicate ourselves to universal, timeless human values. Through this work, I want to convey the message about the strength of unity and collective creation, inviting a harmonious connection through art.

RAFAEL GERLACH

GERMANY

COMPLEXITY

Instagram: @pedja_te8, @_satone_





SPAZ

LEBANON

NATURE VIVANTE

What if everything lives on only when we're asleep?

How fragile must we be, that nature pretends to die so we can exist?.

Instagram: @spazuno

ZAYED UNIVERSITY

UAE

WILD PLANTS OF THE EMIRATES

This mural showcases illustrations inspired by the native plants of the UAE. Instead of focusing on well-known plants like palm trees, I chose lesser-known and nostalgic species, such as glasswort, desert squash, asphodel lily, and desert hyacinth. The mural blends modern and abstract styles to highlight the significance of these plants and trees. Each illustration emphasizes their unique forms and textures, evoking a sense of nostalgia and connection to the UAE's natural heritage. The vibrant yet balanced design celebrates the resilience and beauty of the region's environment.

Designer:

Shaikha Hamouda Al Marzooqi

Faculty Members:

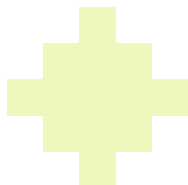
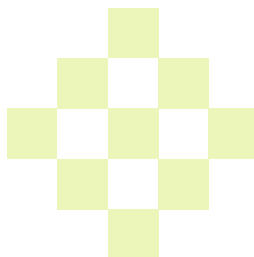
Associate Professor Stefan Messam

Assistant Professor Ilze Ekls

Social Handle:

@zayedu

@SHAIKHA.H.M



ACTIVATIONS

WIND CANVAS

A CREATIVE JOURNEY OF ARTISTIC COLLABORATION

The Wind Canvas Sails Painting Project is an ambitious and innovative artistic endeavor that brings together six talented artists to collaborate on painting three sails. The project's primary goal is to reflect the significance of the creek and maritime trade and life that have historically shaped Dubai and contributed to its growth and the development of the UAE.

SAIL 1

UAE - UAE

KHAWLA DARWISH AND RASHID ALMULLA

At the center of this work is an anatomical heart, symbolizing life. Two fishes from Dubai's old fish roundabout represent harmony and the flow of time. The sun, moon, and stars serve as navigational guides. An ancient tower acts as a lighthouse, providing protection and direction. These elements together depict a journey of life, intertwining sea, sky, and soul.

SAIL 2

LEBANON - PERU

GHADA MEHDI + GERMAN FERNANDES

The Story...

The Boy who dared to fly on a fish...

Flying on a fish only happens in dreams.

The boy knew he was different, and he can make dreams becoming a bright evolving reality.

He set the sail...The little fishes followed the eternal fish of evolving life.

The boy walked across the creek, the houses, the markets, and gathered them all in the hall of memories to build the foundations of his daring dream.

His aim was to explore the existential web.

The cosmic web. The digital web. The molecules and atoms web. The space web

And, above all... the cultural web.

SAIL 3

UAE - UAE

HESSA AL AWADHI + MARYAM AL RAMSI

The artwork is a collaboration between two generations of Emirati artists: Hessa, known for her cultural influence in mixed media art and installations, and her 13-year-old daughter Maryam, an emerging artist combining digital and traditional art. Inspired by Dubai's Al Shandagha, a historic trading hub, the artwork celebrates the city's rich heritage and future.

The Hands: Symbolize generations, collaboration, and traditions, with Henna-adorned hands representing the merger of their styles and love for UAE culture.

The Tides: Reflect change, development, and agility, showcasing Dubai's harmonious evolution.

The Pearl: Represents the core of Dubai, known as the "Pearl of the World," emphasizing its central role in trade and arts.

The Sea Creatures: Symbolize life and diversity, used throughout the artwork.

This project is an artistic collaboration between Sikka Art and Design Festival and Wind Rises.

GETTING TO SIKKA

BY ABRA

From Al Fahidi to Al Ghubaiba.

Daily: From 4:00 pm to 10:00 pm / Approximately every 30 mins

BY DUBAI FERRY

From Dubai Canal to Al Ghubaiba and vice versa:

Daily: 02:25 pm & 07:25 pm

From Marina Mall to Al Ghubaiba and vice versa:

Daily: 01:00 pm & 06:00 pm

From Bluewaters to Al Ghubaiba and vice versa:

Daily: 01:20 pm & 06:20 pm

From Sharjah Aquarium to Al Ghubaiba:

Mon - Thu: 07:00 am, 08:30 am, 01:00 pm, 04:45 pm & 06:15 pm

Fri - Sun: 2:00 pm, 04:00 pm, 06:00 pm & 09:00 pm

From Al Ghubaiba to Sharjah Aquarium:

Mon - Thu: 07:45 am, 04:00 pm, 05:30 pm & 07:00 pm

Fri - Sun: 3:00 pm, 05:00 pm, 08:00 pm & 10:00 pm

BY TAXI

Use code SIKKA50 on the CAREEM App for a %50 discount on

Hala Taxi, enter Al Shindagha Museum as your destination

BY METRO

Nearest metro station: Al Ghubaiba Metro Station will

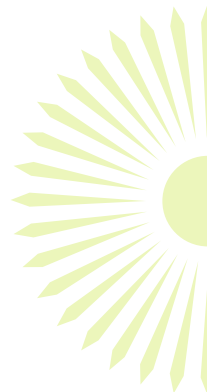
lead you straight to Registration Area 1

BY BUS

Al Ghubaiba Bus Station will lead you to Registration Area 1

BY CAR

There are very limited paid parking zones across the street from the entrances of Al Shindagha. We highly encourage visitors to park in the Al Ghubaiba RTA Multilevel Parking situated 8 minutes walk to Sikka





FESTIVAL TIMINGS

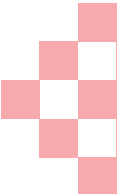
13TH EDITION

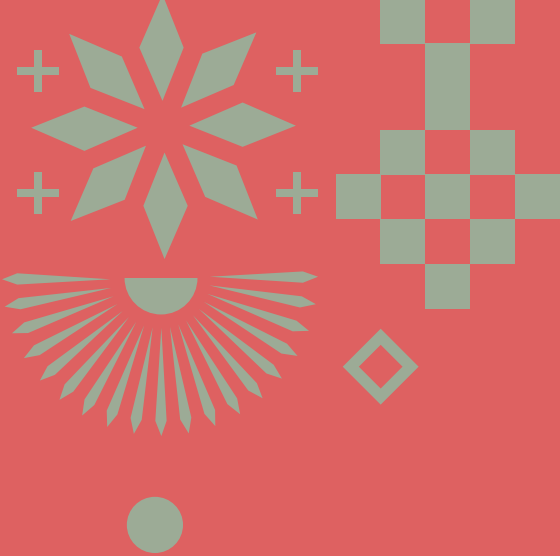
31 JANUARY – 9 FEBRUARY 2025

VENUE: AL SHINDAGHA HISTORIC NEIGHBORHOOD

TIMINGS:

Thursday	30	January	2025: 5 pm – 11 pm	(Opening Night / H.H.)
Friday	31	January	2025: 4 pm – 12 am	(Opening Night Public)
Saturday	1	February	2025: 4 pm – 12 am	
Sunday	2	February	2025: 4 pm – 11 pm	
Monday	3	February	2025: 4 pm – 11 pm	
Tuesday	4	February	2025: 4 pm – 11 pm	
Wednesday	5	February	2025: 4 pm – 11 pm	
Thursday	6	February	2025: 4 pm – 11 pm	
Friday	7	February	2025: 4 pm – 12 am	
Saturday	8	February	2025: 4 pm – 12 am	
Sunday	9	February	2025: 4 pm – 12 am	(Closing Night)





@sikkaplatform | @alshindaghamuseum

