



ArtBAB
Art Bahrain Across Borders
2017-India





PATRON



Under the patronage of Her Royal Highness Princess Sabeeka bint Ibrahim Al Khalifa, Wife of the King of Bahrain and President of the Supreme Council for Women, Art Bahrain Across Borders (ArtBAB), is an art program connecting the artist's of Bahrain on a global platform. The ambitious project, now in its second edition, aims to solidify Bahrain's position as a regional arts and education hub whilst stimulating investment and economic activity in the arts and cultural sector



Her Royal Highness Princess Sabeeka Bint Ibrahim Al Khalifa
Wife of the King of Bahrain
President of the Supreme Council for Women



MARAM BINT ISA AL KHALIFA

Director, Office of Her Royal Highness Wife of the King of Bahrain

It is a matter of great pride that the show *The Unsaid* especially curated from some of our exceptionally talented Baharini artists will be a part of the two city tour to India. It will be an excellent exposure for the Bahraini artists and we are glad the exhibition will be showcased in two important centres of art – New Delhi and Mumbai.

India has a magnificent tradition of art and we are pleased that ArtBab will showcase these beautiful artworks in the country that is home to some of the most serious and established artists who are acknowledged the world over. ArtBAB will also provide an interesting study for artists of both countries as they will be part of a mutually beneficial knowledge sharing talk sessions scheduled during the exhibition.

We are confident that our partnership with India will go a long way in promoting Bahraini artists and also fostering a connect between creative enthusiasts from both countries through unparalleled exchange programmes of artistic nurturing and growth.



KANEKA SUBBERWAL

Fair and Program Director, ArtBAB

Art links hearts and nations in ties that bind as much as they set free.

Ties that intertwine hearts, ties that allow the freedom to soar in the skies of creative impulse with limitless possibilities. Skies that are fashioned by the imagination of the artists who create them. There can be no doubt about efficacy of cultural diplomacy as an important vehicle of making friendships between nations a reality. For us at ArtBab this friendship is our first mandate. It is a mission as well as vision.

We are in the third year of ArtBAB's inception and there is much to feel satisfied about. We are bigger and hopefully better, with greater participation to look forward to, more inclusive, on a bigger scale - both artistically and physically, there are many reasons to celebrate.

One of the highlights of the ArtBAB is the exhibition- *"The Unsaid"* which will introduce Bahraini artists to the Indian art firmament in a fabulous exhibition curated by Dr Alka Raghuvanshi, a well-known name in the world of art. She has culled the eclectic show from some of the most innovative Bahraini artists who have an international presence and stature. The refined art audiences of both New Delhi and Mumbai are well-versed in the arts from across borders and we hope will appreciate this very interesting exhibition.

ARTISTS

Ayman Jaffar	00 - 00
Balqees Fakhro	00 - 00
Dawiya Al Alawiyat	00 - 00
Faika Al Hasan	00 - 00
Hamed Al Bosta	00 - 00
Jamal Abdulrahim	00 - 00
Karina Al Zu'bi	00 - 00
Lulwa Al Khalifa	00 - 00
Mariam Fakhro	00 - 00
Maryam Nass	00 - 00
Mayasa Al Sowaidi	00 - 00
Mohamed Taha	00 - 00
Nabeela Al Khayer	00 - 00
Omar Al Rashed	00 - 00
Seema Baqi	00 - 00
Somaya Abdulghani	00 - 00
Taiba Faraj	00 - 00
Zakeya Zada	00 - 00



DR. ALKA RAGHUVANSHI
Art Curator, Painter and Writer

THE ART OF SAYING THE UNSAID

Where does an artist live? A seemingly innocuous question triggered off a whole gamut of thoughts - does an artist live in a physical space alone? Is that space permanent and static? Does that space travel in the mind? It is said that landscapes have a profound impact on the work of artists who interact with them on a level of creative intensity. I take contention a bit further. I feel that for artists, landscapes are not mere visual manifestations of a geographical mass but spaces for the creative impulse to blossom more by way of mindscapes.

It is from this creative space that artists speak loud and clear in voices that are not tentative, but in very audible decibels - metaphorically speaking. In this context what is left unsaid too is of a great deal of import for it engulfs within its space, the sub text of their creative context. This exhibition The Unsaid too says more by way of not saying it and yet saying it so beautifully.

Artists Balqees Fakhro's abstract in sand hues, Karina Al Zu'bi lyrical and sensitive portrayals illustrate ideas and consciousness of the nuances highlights the artists' protuberance of thoughts -- the outcome of such a solicitous binding of craftsmanship and reflective ingenious capabilities is what transforms canvases into an act of veneration and appearance of indulgence. Mariam Ali Fakhro, Jamal A.Rahim and Omar Al Rashid's works, bereft of unnecessary embellishment are stunning in their sparse beauty.

A search for the unique and the unparalleled, certain creative expressions that open up an absolutely new world for the viewers, goads the artists who adopt modernist painterly techniques and work it out towards realizing the experiential singularities as is evident in the work of Hamed A.Kareem Al-Bosta's very interesting and masculine works.

Landscapes resonate in Somaya Abdul Ghani's paintings. She strives to introduce theological and philosophical beauty to her audience, by developing delicate, rhythmic and organic patterns in her art; attempting to mirror nature's simplicity. The enlightening nature of the aesthetics acts as a strong propellant in her art and practice.

Ayman Jaafar's calligraphic explorations on the other hand reflect the notion of integrity and resonate with the concept that all manifestations of matter and spirit are ultimately one. From an intention to write well, Taiba Faraj's objective gradually shifted to nurturing the

pictorial possibilities of interpreting scripts--of describing them with meaning and imparting information. In both their unique techniques the basic drawing develops from a thin line, continuing as a thick line and concluding as a thin line, thereby attributing a rhythmic quality to the image - all in virtually in a single stroke!

Actually any art should be like that. The logic being that if it has one meaning, it must have a thousand meanings. Lulwa bint Abdul Aziz Al Khalifa's art gets elevated thanks to the creator's sincerity of intent and obviously craftsmanship join hands to create work that stands the test of time and space. Her paintings lend to new perception every time one sees them and open up a boxful of interpretations and meanings. Mariam Ali Fakhro's strong works too are very noticeable and beckon the onlooker to take another look to delve deep into them. Just as Maryam Abdula Nass' sculptures of a woman who carries her burdens on her own body by way of pockets in her attire, are poignant in their frozen details.

Serious studies need to be undertaken to delve into the roots of 'creation' by women, to understand feminine inspiration on its own terms, and not as an also-ran of contemporary art, for it possesses its distinctiveness, history, philosophy and indulgence that reaches far beyond the obvious. The collective consciousness merges with that of the individual to bring out universal concerns. It becomes the unifying code within the art historical practice. A case in point are Nabeela Al Khayer's works that are reflective of her free spirited stance. She is a successful businesswoman and is driven by a fierce passion to empower women, yet is inspired by their often tumultuous and secret world.

Her appreciation for all that is feminine is expressed on every canvas, and brushstroke. Her expressive portraits, brought to life through her vibrant use of colour and shape, speak volumes of the life heartaches, struggles and joys that all women, regardless of their culture or socio-economic status, share. Painted with harsh, inconsistent strokes and vibrant colours, her portraits often include poetic notes written in the borders.

On the other hand Faika Al Hasan renders tens, if not hundreds or even thousands of faceless figures, roaming around in absolute anonymity. In her work, the painter seeks to deconstruct the relationship between human beings and the vastness of the universe. Growing up in a conservative family, Faika says she sought an escape in art.

For artist Karina Al Zu'bi, the beauty of her natural surroundings, the sounds of musical instruments she played, and the love she derived from her family, influenced her work. Home to her was not large enough, neither were her childhood dreams. She needed to travel the world to explore cultures and captivate humanity seeking a balance in life through colours, shapes, sizes, materials, human innovation and civilization. Along the way came London. This city captivated her senses and the mysteries she longed to explore as if a multitude of doors had opened for her.

Mayasa Sultan Al Sowaidi is a self-taught artist and her landscapes seem cloistered together - almost suffocating in their closeness. And yet true to her background in mathematics, balance and order are important components of her artistic practice. Art is an essential part of her daily life, allowing her freedom of expression and a platform to explore her creativity. The form finally emerges as an essence, free in its manifestation and yet not different from the reality of the narrative--the form that allows the mind to grasp all aspects of its constituent elements. But then isn't that the purpose of art to allow the mind and heart to soar above the mere mundane?



ARTIST AYMAN JAAFAR

Ayman Jaffar is a writer and artist. He heads the Division of Art Activities at the Deanship of Student Affairs at the University of Bahrain.

He has held three solo exhibitions: "Aya Lilac" inscription Gallery (2012), and "Connie heart Delmouna" at the Museum of Bahrain National (2014), and "manifestations" Isa Cultural Center (2016), "Art Bab" (2017), and participated in numerous group exhibitions inside and outside Bahrain.

To quote the artist - "...the art experience coincides with my experience of literary writing. In literature, where I write the story, the novel is revived with charming texts for which I always try to study the effectiveness of the word for the recipient when he hears or reads it. In art, it may be more complicated. Here will be your best, only two eyes to do so, but without words direct and clear. It will be on the characters alone- all the implications of individual and combined to express all the visions and meanings that I try

to express in my work that always seem real adventure in forming and beauty and explore the depths of the soul and emotions toward everything that confront us with life!

My travel in the world of Arabic letters, in all their meanings and connotations in the Arab and Islamic culture, opened up the world of abstraction and mysticism. I try to document the biography of this intensely poetic moment through these letters...."



Ayman Jaafar
Life 1, 2017
Acrylic on Canvas
100x100 cm



Ayman Jaafar
Soul 1, 2017
Acrylic on Canvas
100x100 cm



Ayman Jaafar
Life 2, 2017
Acrylic on Canvas
100x100cm



ARTIST BALQEES FAKHRO

"My paintings revolve around the themes of belonging and memories of places. Through my abstract style, my paintings show a mystery of a place belonging to a very basic form of living, such as the caves and tents of our ancestors.

I like to show the high contrast between light and dark, and as a technique, I like to use texture to give it more complexity. My monochrome color scheme gives my paintings a dream-like quality, and a sense of vagueness. This allows the viewer to interpret the painting and make sense of it according to his or her own background."



Balqees Fakhro
Untitled, 2015
Acrylic on Canvas
130x120cm



Balqees Fakhro
 Untitled, 2012
 Acrylic on Canvas
 140x120cm



Balqees Fakhro
 Untitled, 2012
 Acrylic on Canvas
 140x120cm



ARTIST DAWIYA AL ALAWIYAT

My artistic taste formed in my early childhood where I was born and grew up among the beautiful spaces and the flowing pure water spaces where the colours appeared naturally beautiful.

I feel my presence the most in front of the majesty of colours and the royalty of paper and prestige of textile that enhances my relationship with the world of art. I love the flow of colors with all its heat and coldness all over and its tourism over the painting.

My art technique is based on the use of different materials, pastes, paper, textile and sand. as well as being influenced by art produced the artwork of the feel of a major impact on my soul which increases my passion to walk in this way.



Dawiya Al Alawiyat
Euphoria 4, 2016
Collage and Mixed Media on Fine Art Paper
45x45cm



Dawiya Al Alaweyyat
Euphoria 3, 2016
Collage and Mixed Media on Fine Art Paper
45x45cm



Dawiya Al Alaweyyat
Euphoria 2, 2016
Collage and Mixed Media on Fine Art Paper
45x45cm



ARTIST FAIKA AL HASAN

In mixed media on canvas, Faika Al Hassan renders tens, if not hundreds or even thousands of faceless figures, roaming around in absolute anonymity. In her work, the painter seeks to deconstruct the relationship between human beings and the vastness of the universe.

Al Hassan was born in Bahrain but studied in Iraq. After graduating with a degree in economics from the University of Baghdad, the artist return to Bahrain, and enrolled in a number of art and painting courses. She started exhibiting her work in Bahrain in 2004 and in 2007 won the fine art exhibition award at the Bahrain National Museum. Her work is not only celebrated in Bahrain: she has had solo shows in Madrid, Brussels and Damascus, and showcased her paintings in group exhibitions and galleries in the UK, France, Italy, Spain, Morocco, Jordan, Kuwait and Qatar.

Growing up in a conservative family, Al Hassan says she sought an escape in art. "it was the only way for me to express all the emotions and feelings I had inside," she says now.

"I believe that my audience or those that have followed my work over the years are those that have not been influenced by the extremisms

overshadowing our world," she said. "They are those that are open to other cultures and those that see a reflection of what's happening around them through my work." Multiple movements have influenced her work across art history: from Aboriginal art in Australia to the Renaissance masters, and more modern artists such as likes of Picasso or Dali. But she has been particularly impressed by the "works and determination" of Amedeo Modigliani, a Jewish Italian painter who struggled as an artist but was determined to continue painting.

At the same time she also draws inspiration from the older generation of artist from Syria, such as the late Louay Kayali and Fateh Moudarres. She has a deep appreciation for Youssef Abdelke, who in his recent work has viscerally portrayed the trauma that his homeland has endured through war. She also looks to the techniques, philosophies and uses of colour of Iraqi masters Faiq Hassan and Nouri Al-Rawi for inspiration. In the meantime, the artist is trying to evoke the landscape of her own country by representing desert, the sun and the sea in her work.



Faika Al Hassan
Wanderings 4, 2015
Mixed Media on Canvas
75x65cm



Faiqa Al Hassan
Wanderings 1, 2014
Mixed Media on Canvas
158x69cm



Faiqa Al Hassan
Wanderings 2, 2014
Mixed Media on Canvas
60x80cm



ARTIST HAMED AL BOSTA

Bahraini artist lives and work in Bahrain, born in a family of art his father Abdulkareem Al-Bosta one of pioneer artist in Bahrain and in G.C.C and his uncle also Abulmuna'am Al-Bosta. Art started in very young age, began with the visits to exhibitions.

The participates started in the 1990s in Bahrain and G.C.C then to the middle East and around the world. The first solo exhibition was in 1998, then his style goes through the impressionist and stay now in abstract impressionism, with a journey in world of mixed media and usage of materials and textures like handy prints and digital one. He did a lot of installations and video installations.

The nature is the mean inspire to his works, and the emphasize of his reading in philosophy and culture in general.

The Black & White is the major pallets is used by Albosta colors withier it's Charcoal or pencil and other material.



Hamed Al Bosta
Untitled, 2015
Mixed Media on Paper
55x70cm



Hamed Al Bosta
 Untitled, 2015
 Mixed Media on Paper
 55x70cm



Hamed Al Bosta
 Untitled, 2015
 Mixed Media on Paper
 55x70cm



ARTIST JAMAL ABDULRAHIM

Jamal Abdul Rahim is one of Bahrain's most established and highly regarded contemporary artists, having exhibited in Europe and the Middle East. The award-winning artist builds his art from the movement of society deeply rooted in rich Arab civilization, its mythology, religion and language.

He believes that artists can pick their inspiration from everywhere and from the people around them. Although he is known as a printmaker and painter, he has become an avid sculpting fan who believes that: "stone is already beautiful and by sculpting it, I am inspired, withdrawing that beauty into a form". According to him, working on stone fills the soul with a special kind of pleasure that cannot be explained, as art is a spiritual exercise which cannot be ignored.

- Born 1965, Muharraq, Kingdom of Bahrain.
- 15 individual exhibitions in Bahrain & 24 Arab and international exhibitions.
- 26 joint exhibitions including Biennales

& Triennials.

- 13 National & international prizes.
- 30 handmade books & artistic collections
- Guest of honor at the 4th International Triennial of Graphic Art, Egypt in 2003.
- Guest of honor in the 2nd Biennial of Art Book, Bibliotheca Alexandrina, Egypt in 2006.
- Jury member in the 26th Mini Print International of Cadaqués, Spain in 2006.
- Certificate of Appreciation in the Annual National Art Exhibition, Bahrain in 2007.
- In 2007, His book "Rasa'el Qasab" (Cane Messages) was added to the British Museum's collection and was exhibited in "Word into Art – Artists of the Modern Middle East" at DIFC, Dubai.
- In 2010 the Asian Civilisations Museum in Singapore has added one of his prints "Al Qalam" to its permanent collection.
- In 2014, he was awarded the prize of "Kuwait Finance House" in Bahrain.



Jamal Abdulrahim
Portrait, 2017
Oil on Canvas and gold leaf
100 x 100cm



Jamal Abdulrahim
Bird Composition, 2016
Double black Granite
21 x 22 x 17



Jamal Abdulrahim
Portrait, 2017
Oil on Canvas and gold leaf
100 x 100cm



ARTIST KARINA EL ZU'BI

Karina Al Zu'bi recognized her artistic talents at a young age. Home to Karina was not large enough, neither was her childhood dream. Karina travelled the world from East to West to explore cultures and captivate humanity seeking a balance in life through colours, shapes, sizes, materials, human innovation and civilizations.

Bahrain being her universe, her home, her family, her identity, and her country, Karina was mystified by the mysteries of Delmon which captivated her heart. As a result, she embarked on a journey beyond her borders to unearth the clash between civilizations. Along the way came India. Her love for yoga and Indian cultures captivated her senses and the mysteries she longed to explore. She found diversity in every aspect of Indian life, its culture, its religion, its colours, its music, and in its spirituality.

In her quest for answers, Karina stumbled upon the similarities between Bahrain and India, concluding that both countries

opened their doors to each other some 5000 years ago, tracing their origins to the period of the Dilmun Civilization in Bahrain to the era of Indus valley civilization in India. Ancient Bahraini traders traded in Bahraini pearls while Indian merchants traded in Indian spices.



Karina Al Zu'bi
Behind each door there is a story 2, 2017
Mixed Media
140x140cm



Karina Al Zu'bi
Behind each door there is a story 1, 2017
Mixed Media
140x140cm



Karina Al Zu'bi
Behind each door there is a story 3, 2017
Mixed Media
140x140cm



ARTIST LULWA AL KHALIFA

Lulwa Al-Khalifa's art, mostly abstracts painted in oil, is deeply connected to her personal experience in the world. "I paint what I feel and what I like," says Al-Khalifa.

Born in Bahrain in 1968, she earned her BA in literature from Boston University. Despite being a self-taught artist with no formal art education, Al-Khalifa received preliminary training from her father, a former minister of education in Bahrain. "My father taught me how to sketch and how to perceive a still life subject and think about scale and shading," she says. She recalls that his professional documents were typically "riddled with sketches."

Al-Khalifa's dad took her to visit major museums in Europe, where she found prominent artists from whom to gain inspiration. The work of Spanish artist Salvador Dali left a particularly strong impression on her – but she says she does not need to walk into the Louvre to find inspiration.

"Everything inspires me, from Salvador

Dali, to a song, to a bird on my balcony," she says. She even cites the influence that a guitar riff from an Aerosmith song has had on her practice.

Her work has been showcased in art fairs in New York and Miami with Belgium's Vogelsang Gallery, and as part of ArtBahrain 2015.

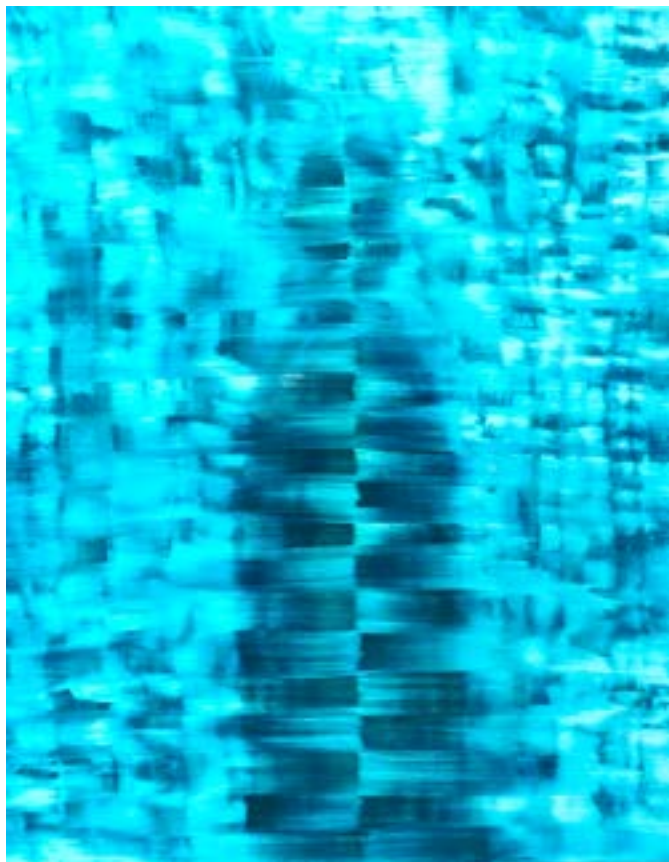
Al-Khalifa describes her artwork as being "visceral and instinctual."

Her makeshift studio is a balcony overlooking the sea.

"I don't complicate my process at all, I just stand in front of the canvas and paint," she says. "I like the raw energy that produces on the canvas. Each painting is a journey of discovery that starts from an inspiration. That inspiration could literally be anything. I don't question that inspiration, I just go with it. I have never feared a blank canvas because I view it as an exciting possibility and I look forward to the outcome."



Lulwa bint Abdulaziz Al Khalifa
Schism 4, 2017
Oil on Canvas
150x100cm



Lulwa bint Abdulaziz Al Khalifa
Schism 5, 2017
Oil on Canvas
150x100cm



Lulwa bint Abdulaziz Al Khalifa
Dhow, YEAR
MATERIAL
SIZE



ARTIST MARIAM FAKHRO

Currently working mainly in canvas and Acrylic with a history of experience with oil on canvas as well .

curation of over 25 Art exhibition during her role at the Ministry of Information at the Bahrain National Museum and Arts Center between 1991 and 2000.

regularly exhibits in and out side bahrain .

Top exhibitions and shows:

- 2017 WOMEN by BAHRAINI WOMEN ARTISTS, at UNESCO.
- 2017 Privet section at ART BAAB Edition 2
- 2017 joined exhibition with Sculptures Artist , Khalid farhan _ The Art center.
- 2016 joined Exhibition in London , on the national day , curated by ART SELECT
- 2016 BAAB Exhibition , curated by Art Select _ London
- 2016 Views Exhibition _ Bahrain
- 2016 joined Dr Suad Al Sabah award and work shop for Gulf Artists. _ Kuwait
- 2015 Privet section at ART Bahrain.
- 2014 Exhibition of The 40th Anniversary for Bahrain Annual Fine Arts and the 30th Anniversary for the Bahrain Art Society
- 2011 First solo exhibition under patronage of HRH Princess Sabeeka Bint Ebrahim Al Khalifa . Art Center – Bahrain.
- 2006 Aseelah Cultural Festival - Morocco.
- 2006 Arab Culture Festival- UNESCO – Paris, France.
- 1995 Bahraini artist exhibition, organized by the Ministry of Information . Beirut _ Lebanon



Mariam Fakhro
After the Sunset, 2016
Acrylic on Canvas
120cm diameter



Mariam Fakhro
Bahraini Woman, 2016
Bronze
20x10x10cm



Mariam Fakhro
Amber & Oud, 2016
Acrylic on Canvas
120cm diameter



ARTIST MARYAM ABDULLA NASS

Born and raised in Bahrain, Maryam Abdulla Nass received her bachelor's degree from Pepperdine University in Malibu, California where she studied International Business. She started painting on porcelain at the young age of 15 and rediscovered her abandoned love for art, in 2004. Art became a mean of achieving internal peace and a silent medium for dialogue. Her paintings portray the general feelings and emotions all humans experience as they go through life, ranging from the darkest times of despair, desolation and grief to the brightest moments of hope, bliss and elation. Her artwork are expressions of emotions and a glimpse into her inner self. Sometimes, they even offer an alternative to those emotions.



Maryam Nass
At peace, 2017
Oil on Canvas
120 x 120cm



Maryam Nass
Duplicate Dreams, 2017
Acrylic on Canvas
200 X 80 cm each



Maryam Nass
Finally, 2017
Oil on Canvas
120 X 120 cm



ARIST MAYASA AL SOWAIDI

Born and raised in Bahrain, Maryam Abdulla Nass received her bachelor's degree from Pepperdine University in Malibu, California where she studied International Business. She started painting on porcelain at the young age of 15 and rediscovered her abandoned love for art, in 2004. Art became a mean of achieving internal peace and a silent medium for dialogue. Her paintings portray the general feelings and emotions all humans experience as they go through life, ranging from the darkest times of despair, desolation and grief to the brightest moments of hope, bliss and elation. Her artwork are expressions of emotions and a glimpse into her inners self. Sometimes, they even offer an alternative to those emotions. Cumque porem ni doluptasi berenias eum sam untiorundel min prorum quaspel eum aruptas id quis anis si restio. Sed quaepudae porum que omnime expe cus. Ximet as doluptur accum nobis sedit re, optur? Ma que liquostio. Aque periti re vollest, sam



Mayasa Al Sowadi
NAME OF THE PAINTING - YEAR
Black and White Painting Acrylic on Canvas
60 x 34.5cm each piece
8 pieces
34.5 x 34.5 cm each piece
4 pieces (framed)



Mayasa Al Sowadi
 NAME OF THE PAINTING - YEAR
 Black and White Painting Acrylic on Canvas
 140 x 54cm each piece
 3 pieces (framed)



ARTIST MOHAMMED TAHA

In the artist's words- "I loved art since my childhood. I was influenced by my brother who was an aspiring Artist. He encouraged me to attend University in Egypt to study Interior Design and Fine Arts. During my school years I participated in several school shows and galleries. I attended the University of Fine Arts College in Zamalek.

My hobby is drawing characters and nature as well as using water colors. I specialize in interior design and by luck my studies involved interior design and decorations subjects. The same for my years in Secondary School many classes were about Art and Design. Therefore, I assembled between the two and progressed.

Due to studying in Cairo, I visited many arts museums and galleries in Egypt by various international artists using various art techniques. I learned and got influenced by travelling around the world and visiting many museums and art galleries, which appears in my work till

this very day. It affected my performance and educated in Art. After graduating from University I joined Bahrain's Arts Society.

I don't set out to produce art about one subject or another. I'm never without a sketchbook to hand so I am constantly drawing and sometimes the drawings are left in the sketchbook and other times they develop into more in-depth ideas and detailed images. My influences are first and foremost everything I see, feel and experience. I am very much influenced by modern art as well as older artists such as Van Gogh, Rembrandt and Picasso. Paying attention to every detail in my work to translate the meaning and feeling of each."



Mohammed Taha
The only color that matters: Yellow, 2017
Acrylic on Canvas
101x91cm



Mohammed Taha
Crowd, 2017
Acrylic on Canvas
122x91cm



Mohammed Taha
Modern Ladies, 2017
Acrylic on Canvas
101x91cm



ARTIST NABEELA AL KHAYER

Nabeela Al Khayer was born in Manama, the Kingdom of Bahrain. The free spirited contemporary artist, who is also a successful businesswoman in what remains a very masculine and traditional society, is driven by a fierce passion to empower women, and is inspired by their often tumultuous and secret world. Her appreciation for all that is feminine is expressed on every canvas, and in every heat-filled brushstroke. Her expressive portraits, brought to life through her vibrant use of colour and shape, speak volumes of the life heartaches, struggles and joys that all women, regardless of their culture or socioeconomic status, share. She usually paints a woman, or a suggested feminine presence, as a representation of strength and passion, and in her own words, "dives into the depths of women to reveal their inner beauty, whether society deems them breathtaking or ugly". Painted with harsh, inconsistent strokes and vibrant colours, her portraits often include poetic notes written in the borders, adding an extra dimension to the canvas's story. Nabeela, who describes herself as a colorist, says she likes to 'play' with colour, fabric and paper photographs, and uses resin, oil, acrylic and water-colors to bring

movement, energy, texture, and life to her work.

She developed her artistic skills at the prestigious Slade School of Fine Art in London, and in workshops in Paris and Geneva, and has held numerous solo and group exhibitions throughout the Middle East and across the globe. Her first solo art exhibition was held in Bahrain during 2002. In 2003 she was awarded the prestigious Silver Leaf Award, and since then she has held sell out exhibitions in the Middle East, Europe, New York and Asia. Her work is among the collections of Bahrain National Museum, Jordan National Museum as well as many private art collectors.

However, despite igniting controversy at times, she continues to be well received by her countrymen and a growing international fan base. When Nabeela takes to the canvas, it is often for a 15 hour, soul wrenching experience because, for her, painting is not just part of her personality, it is her personality. Despite the blissful agony that painting seems to take on this unpretentious artist, her wish in life is to continue painting until her last breath.



Nabeela Al Khayer
Floating II, 2016
Mixed Media on Canvas
90 x 120 x 3cm



Nabeela Al Khayer
Water II, 2017
Mixed Media on Canvas
140 x 180 x 84 cm



Nabeela Al Khayer
Water, 2017
Mixed Media on Canvas
140 x 180 x 84 cm



ARTIST OMAR AL RASHED

Omar Al Rashid is one of Bahrain's most established contemporary artists. His works, painted in compelling colours and textures, have been deeply inspired by the artist's heritage and the history and traditions of his homeland.

For example, horses make frequent appearances in his artwork. The horse is a cultural symbol of the Arabian Peninsula and Bedouin life; it has appeared in artwork throughout history. Al Rashid's paintings combine interwoven patches of colours in a manner reminiscent of collage. In his most recent exhibition titled *The Knight*, held at the Al Riwaq Art Space, he explores the relationship between man and horse, and themes of attachment and loyalty.

"The horse was always part of our culture and I have tried to present them in a modern art style," he said. In one painting series, he celebrates the distinctive Bahraini breeds, and the colourful fabrics of the saddles. He describes the horse as "one of the best friends of the old Bahrainis who have lived on this island."

The artist's childhood in Muharram and the folk tales he heard from his mother also figure strongly in his artwork.

In other works, he strives to capture moments of calm amid the busyness of daily life. He captures moments at a breakfast table and parents' prayers: his work is laced with a sense of intimacy and benevolence.

The artist's first encounter with the art world came when he managed the Cultural Centre at the Bahrain National Museum more than 20 years ago. The artist had studied art in school and university, and as he matured, he started experimenting with different styles. He would come to find a way to blend Bahraini traditions with modern art practice.

Currently, he is still embarking a journey of discovery, exploring new ideas and painting techniques. "This is how we maintain a good level of art," he said.

His work features in international collections, including at the Barjeel Foundation in Sharjah. Several of his artworks have been acquired by the Bahrain Museum, while entire collections have been bought by the Four Seasons in Bahrain and London, as well as several other five-star hotels across the region.



Omar Al Rashid
Victory, **YEAR**
Oil on Canvas
150x130cm



Omar Al Rashid
 Untitled, 2015
 Oil on Canvas
 150x150cm



Omar Al Rashid
 Untitled, 2016
 Oil on Canvas
 150x150cm



ARTIST SEEMA BAQI

A message of peace, courage and co-existence. Through the eyes of a Bahraini artist in abstract form. The artistic expedition of Seema Baqi aims to express the local traditions of the Kingdom in today's contemporary world. A scene of modernity in attitudes and practices with the preservation of culture and tradition. An untamed imagination and a plethora of creative expression. Her contemporary abstract pieces tell the story of the Sufi culture and its ideologies of selflessness, simplicity and the journey to self-actualisation. Much like the authentic Bahraini culture, the root of Sufism is based on the practices of loyalty, love and truthful intentions in any setting. It is a form of tradition and emotional beauty by which is translated onto canvas.

Seema Baqi is a local Bahraini artist that spent most her career in the corporate world. She has always been extremely passionate about creative expression and fine art, and has now dedicated her time to her passion. Having exhibited in Beirut, Greece, Turkey, Morocco,

London, Dubai, Saudi Arabia and Bahrain, she has acquired a great deal of experience and has come to love and appreciate all forms of art, whether it be contemporary or classic. Throughout her many endeavours, she has collaborated with several artists and contributed to many charities with her artwork. Her main goal today is to showcase her local Bahraini artwork by liaising with different designers and artists of all cultures to create beautiful art and send a peaceful message of co-existence.



Seema Baqi
Respect, 2017
Acrylic on Canvas
95 x 120cm



Seema Baqi
Rise, 2017
Mixed Media on Canvas
95 x 120 cm



Seema Baqi
Sing, 2017 Mixed
Media on Canvas
100x70cm



ARTIST SOMAYA ABDULGHANI

Somaya Abdulghani uses collage, photography, and mixed media to produce work that strives to introduce Islam's theological and philosophical beauty to the audience. Concepts that appear in Islamic texts, such as good and evil, purity, morality, and beauty make their way into Abdulghani's work.

Using art paper stitched with thread, her project, which combines collage with acrylic paint, has been inspired by the first word of the Holy Qur'an revealed to Prophet Mohammed [PBUH] – simply Ikraa, or Read – and chapter 96 (Surah Al-Alaq) that follows.

"Nowadays there is so much knowledge, but how are we using it, are we using it in a good way? To bring peace to earth, to develop the earth, or are we using it in completely the other way? That is the main question in my work," says the artist. There is a certain sense of serenity to her work and the way she describes it.

Abdulghani was shortlisted for Dubai's International Emerging Artist Award in 2015, and featured in the Ayyam Gallery's Young Collectors Auction in the same

year. Since 2012, her work has appeared in exhibitions in Bahrain, Qatar, India and Italy. In 2014, she participated in a collective exhibition at the Maraya Art Center in Sharjah.

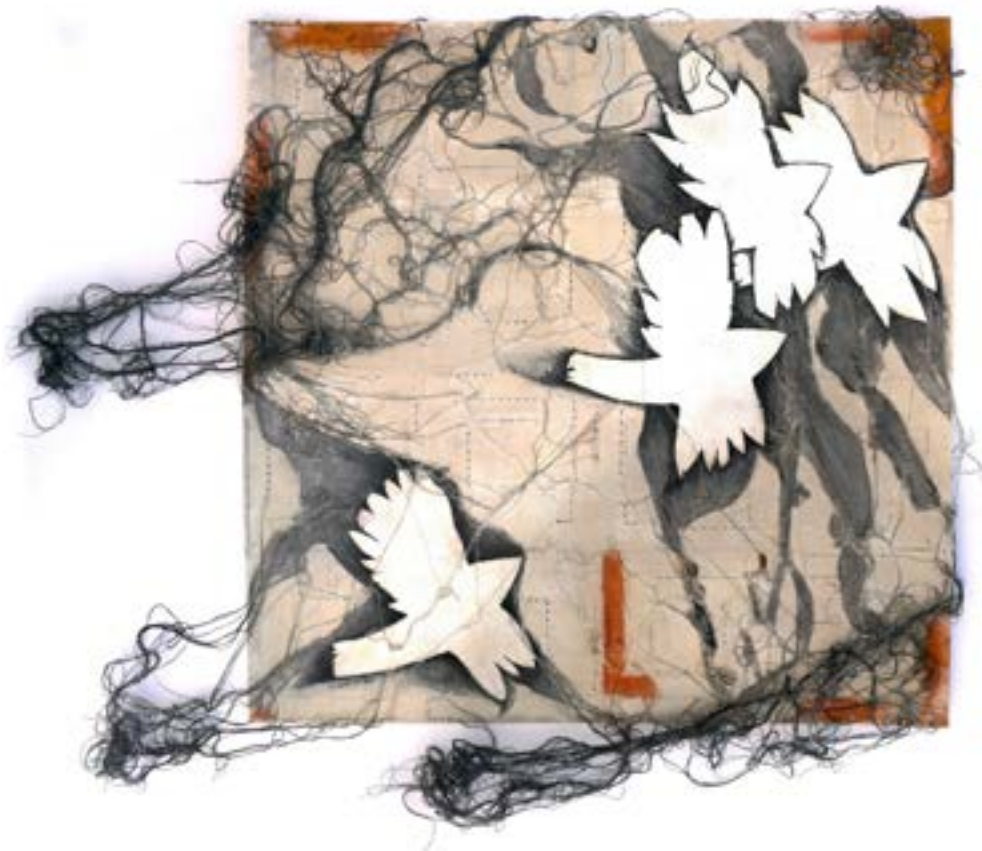
A profound experience in Abdulghani's early life was a visit to Paris with her uncle, an art lover who woke her early to walk the streets of Montmartre and visit the city's museums, and who has since supported her career as an artist.

Her decision to pursue a career in art came during a Quran class, in which the students were advised to spread knowledge about their religion in the best way they know how. "For me the best thing I know, and the thing I loved most was art, so from then on, I started to study art professionally."

A series of workshops in various cities helped the artist refine her skills. She has moved on from basic still life painting and figure studies to abstract art.



Somaya Abdulghani
Iqra, 2017
Mixed Media on Fine Paper
70x70cm



Somaya Abdulghani
Iqra, 2017
Mixed Media on Fine Paper
70x70cm



Somaya Abdulghani
Iqra, 2017
Mixed Media on Fine Paper
70x70cm



ARTIST TAIBA FARAJ

Born in 1983, Taiba Faraj graduated from the University of Bahrain with degree in Banking and Finance, she resumed her self-training through books, online workshops and took practicing at home very seriously. She left her career in finance behind to pursue her career as a creative calligrapher.

As a committed calligrapher and artist who immersed herself in the art from the age of 12, Taiba Faraj is familiar with several styles of scripts.

She has moved on from traditional calligraphy practice on paper with bamboo pen and ink to working on canvas with brushes and sponges. She has strived to create backgrounds on canvas that evoke the effect of marbled paper.

Effectively modernizing her calligraphy practice with this transition to canvas, she works with verses from the Quran and poems but she relies more often on random letters. Through forms and

colors she gives her letters character and agency to stir various emotions.

To date, her work has appeared in more than 20 solo and group exhibitions in Bahrain and abroad. Notable amongst them being exhibitions at the Victoria & Albert Museum and Gallery 8 in London, the Desert Design art gallery in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the Jordan National Gallery of Fine Arts.

Her current ambition is to develop a new script.



Taiba Faraj
Letters Dance 1, 2017
Mixed Media on Canvas
120x100 cm



Taiba Faraj
Letters Dance 2, 2017
Mixed Media on Canvas
120x100 cm



Taiba Faraj
Love 2, 2017
Mixed Media on Canvas
120x100cm



ARTIST ZAKEYA ZADA

"My art is from my heart. Using a paintbrush, I transfer my emotions and feelings onto the canvas. It is a form of escapism, a way to release stress, and an alternate reality".

Inspired by the beauty and strength of women all over the world, Zakeya Zada expresses her sentiments with vivid colors and uses modern form in a mélange of styles. Her pieces almost always revolve around a female figure, sometimes in a classic portrait style and other times in a more expressionist, modern manner - she does not believe that an artist has to stick to one style throughout their career.

"My fascination with art pushes me to learn new techniques and styles, as I have a desire to fully immerse myself in the realm of art. Some of the artists that have had a profound influence on my work include Amedeo Modigliani and Gustav Klimt, as I have taken inspiration from their use of color and texture. I am also deeply intrigued by African culture, and have attempted to adopt the traditional African prints to my pieces. These styles

give me freedom of expression and allow me to depart from the more classical art styles".

Zakeya Zada holds a Masters in "Art in Museums and Galleries" from the University of Leister in the United Kingdom. Currently, she is working on her PHD on Contemporary Art in the Middle East.

She is the founder of "Tolerance through Arts" initiative in Bahrain which aims to promote tolerance and peace principals to the younger generation through arts. She travels around the world to endorse these values; recently participating in a workshop in Turkey for the Syrian and Iraqis refugees in Istanbul – Turkey. She has also partaken in similar workshops throughout the Middle East.

Zada won the first prize in (The 4th Fine Art Competition) which was conducted by (Things to Do), a prominent art company in Bahrain held at Bahrain Art Society in 2013.

She is a member of the Bahrain Art Society and Emirates Art Society.



Zakeya Zada
Neighbourhood 2, 2017
Mixed Media on Canvas
80 x 80cm



Zakeya Zada
My Hope is Found 1, 2017
Mixed Media on Canvas
100 x 120 cm



Zakeya Zada
My Hope is Found 1, 2017
Mixed Media on Canvas
100 x 120 cm

IN COLLABORATION WITH



MS ROUBLE NAGI
Painter and Writer

There are many ways to take stock of influence in the art world--critical reception, popularity, and market prowess are among them. As the art world continues to expand, that becomes all the more difficult. We're in a moment of regionalization--with art scenes thriving in London, Singapore, and New York--and now with Art Bahrain an initiative by ArtBAB, its sure to take centre stage amongst the biggest Art Shows around the world. All that momentum will make Bahrain one of art's buzziest centers, with all eyes on where the city will go next. I am happy to be a part of Art Bahrain and host the shows in India.

As an artist I feel through traveling exhibitions, international art exchanges, artists in residence programs and cultural education, we enrich the lives of emerging and established artists, local and international, connecting them to curators, critics and the community.

Art Bahrain is a similar platform which will benefit a large, diverse, multi-cultural and global community of artists and the wider communities from which they emerge. Having participated in Art Bahrain as an Indian Artist, I can see that the goal is to foster international creative exchange, deepen understanding across cultures, and create ties between international artists and communities and counterparts abroad. Happy to be a part of ArtBAB.

Founder, Rouble Nagi Art Foundation



MS VANDANA PURI
Director Marketing and Development
Country Manager (India)

Having worked in the Luxury and Art market in India for several years, Vandana brings her keen understanding and insights to Art Select. Equipped with a plethora of experience in the luxury retail realm, she has headed some of the leading brands such as Vacheron Constantin, Chopard, and Piaget. Her ability to give efficient and effective direction to the brands in the Indian market has led to an influx of revenue. Her genial personality armed with her business acumen has resulted in building a strong and large roster of loyal HNI clients. She believes in the marketing mantra Product Management, Brand Management and most importantly Consumer Management.

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Strategic Partner

tamkeen bahrain (with the logo)

For any information, please contact:

info@artbab.com





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