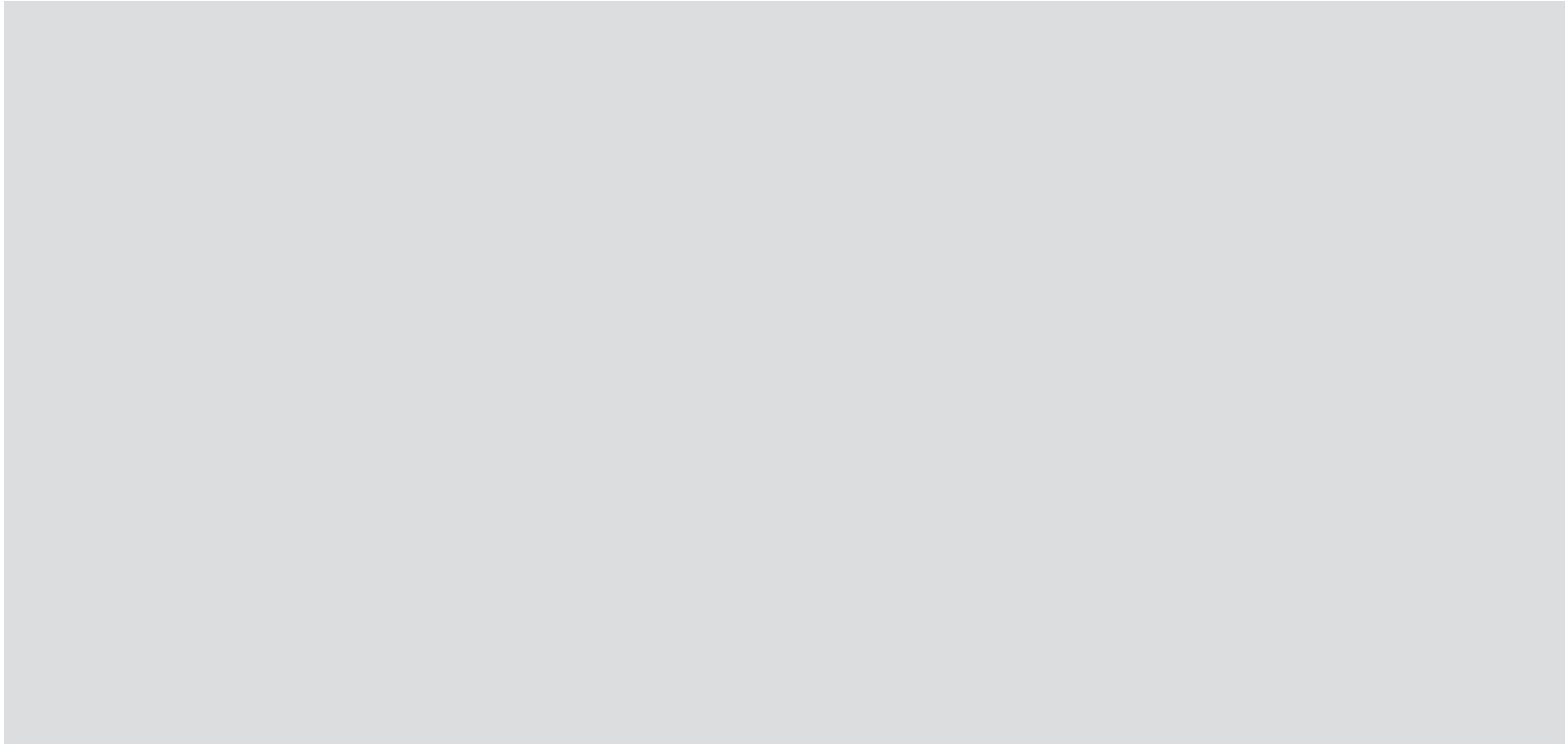
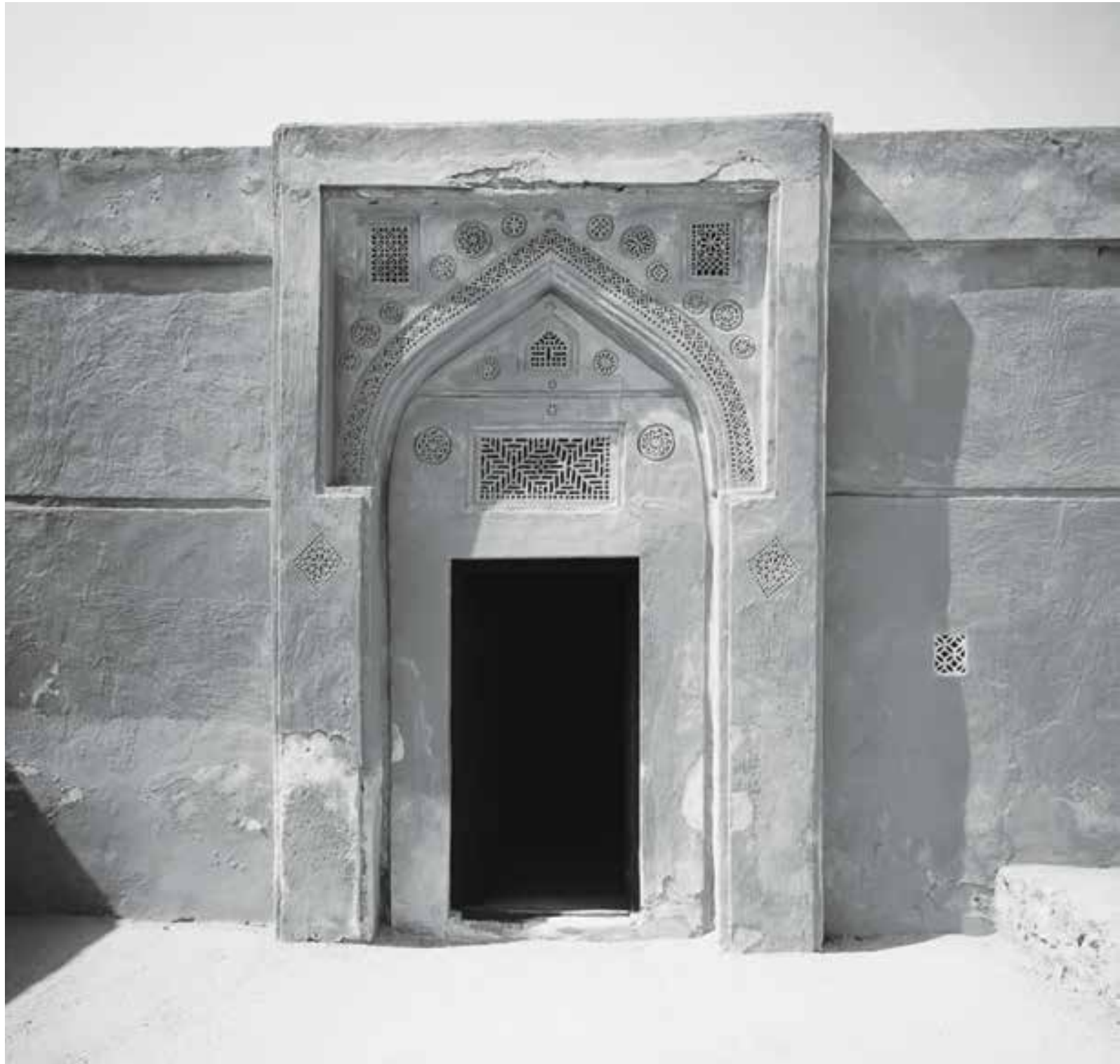




Legacy





Art Bahrain Across Borders
Presents

Bahrain Art Week - Singapore

Museum of Contemporary Arts
22nd - 27th October 2018



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CURATORIAL NOTE

Legacy

Rich history and thriving civilizations weave together to form the glorious legacy of Bahrain. In Arabic, Bahrain is the plural form of bahr (sea). Therefore, al-Bahrain means 'the two seas'; an indication of the prominence of trade in the prehistoric roots of the country. An archipelago nation comprising more than 30 islands in the Arabian Gulf, Bahrain has been at the center of major trade routes since antiquity.

Nestled in the cradle of the civilization, the mercantile Dilmun people controlled trade routes along the Persian Gulf through the fourth millennium to the ninth century BC. Several scholars have theorized that this land is home to the Garden of Eden, owing to Dilmun's resemblance to Eden. Middle Eastern traders facilitated the intertwining of cultures that found expression in the rich art and monuments of Bahrain.

An early adopter of Islam Bahrain's strategic location in the Persian Gulf has brought invasion and influence from the Persians, Sumerians, Assyrians, Babylonians, Portuguese and the British. Though it has been an important connecting path on the maritime map of the Middle East for many centuries, Bahrain has been an independent nation for less than half a century.

Bahraini contemporary art is steeped in the Legacy of the country's values and spirituality. This body of art seeks its expression of the rich culture and heritage with a modern narrative.

Raw yet complex abstraction in Balqees Fakhro's work is highlighted in the fluidity of her visual composition

which she conceptually contrasts with texture and the interplay of light to reflect the complexity of our modern lives. Her aim, in her words is, "to connect the viewer to a common raw and unrefined ancient past and remind people that our roots are one and the same and that we as humans have more in common than what sets us apart".

Other artists who have chosen to interpret legacy through abstract expression are Nabeela Al Khayer, Mariam Fakhro and Amina Al Abbasi who use bold colour and strong brushstrokes to manifest legacy through contemporary renditions with a traditional twist and female narrative. Inspired by one of Bahrain's ancient crafts, "Naseej", Amina, combines threads in a multitude of hues into complexly engineered patterns to form art.

Continuing a similar perspective, a self-taught artist Lulwa Al Khalifa's delicate women expressing a variety of emotions provoke the viewer to conjecture the place of a woman in the modern world. Hanan Al Khalifa an established artist uses photography as a tool to document Bahraini legacy by capturing the essence of Bahraini life through her lens.

Young artists Ayman Jaafar, Hesham Sharif and Ahmed Al Asad use completely contrasting techniques and colours to interpret their concept of legacy. While Hesham presents his art in a black and white monochrome exploring the depth of this interplay to find form and shape in the viewers mind, Ahmed Al Asad uses colourful and skillful caricature to explore

ideas around war and corruption. Ayman Jaafar's beautiful calligraphy is captured in his works as an abstract rendition of his style.

Faika AL Hasan, Taiba Faraj and Lobna Al Amin use mixed media to connect legacy in a contemporary art form. Faika explored her fascination for raw unbleached cotton used for the bedding of her childhood as the fabric of life which sustains us from beginning to end. Bahraini Artist Lobna Al Amin experiments with acrylic and mix media on traditional old Bahraini wood and canvas. Life, nature, and places are sources of inspiration for her creative expression. Taiba Faraj's multidimensional work combines ceramic sculpture with wood and metal.

Omar Al Rashid manifests his passion for heritage, customs and tradition with conscious materials. Al-Rashid was inspired by the bright, vibrant colours of the seascape where his passion for Bahrain ethnicities and folklore developed. In his works the female figures resonate a balance between femininity and strength where strength reflected by the bold colours and vivacious fabric.

Ahmed Anan's impasto works center around the theme of a woman in the context of her communal responsibilities as dictated by social norms. His vibrant colours engage the viewer at many levels with his symbolic and abstract use of the female form.

Artists Noof Alrefaei and Seema Baqi reconnoiter their understanding of art as an expression of humanity and

their spiritual legacy. Seema's strong use of colour and almost cubist shapes of Sufi dancers translates their different emotions on the spiritual journey and on a quest for the truth.

Jamal Abdulrahim's unusual sculpture uses the bird as a subject to connect the various eras of Bahraini culture and heritage to modern art. Linda Mattar's love for colour seeks expression in her works through geometric expression.

The show that comprises 18 Bahraini artists in Singapore encapsulates a rich culture and heritage of a nation of 1.5 million people who are deeply rooted in their traditions and legacy but also extremely progressive, creative and forward thinking and evolving in a society that remains true to their ethos.



Amrita Kilachand
Co-Curator



CURATORIAL NOTE

"I am so thirsty for the marvellous that only the marvellous has power over me."
- Anais Nin -

The world of contemporary Bahraini art is nourished by a most marvellous heritage of the Kingdom's millennial presence on the world stage. Bahraini artists interpret their visions from this 5,000-year-old foundation of identity and self-belief. In the past two years, since Artists Across Borders started as a platform for Bahraini artists to showcase their work in different countries, there has been a groundswell of keen interest in their works. While the language of art is universal, I am looking forward to sharing the Bahraini artistic vision in Singapore, our first South East Asian showcase.

Both Bahrain and Singapore are prosperous island nations steeped in history and with a modern vision for themselves. The sharing of our artistic lingua franca makes it easier to strengthen our bonds of friendship and our unique dreams for the future.

Eighteen Bahraini artists will be featured in the Singapore show, "Legacy" and their work covers a visual range of paintings, mixed-media, sculpture and creative photography, adding to the narrative and understanding of Bahrain and its modern aspirations. The artists will present a new take on Middle Eastern art, polished by their perception of the unfolding of a new world where technology is pushing of the boundaries of expression

and social mores. They have worked to showcase how their art and lives are shaping the modern story of a nation reaching into the future.

Contemporary art has a refined background in Bahrain – it is nearly 50 years old and expressive, bold and technically evolving all the time. The artists are exploring their cultural identity with confidence and skill and have been increasingly welcomed in art capitals around the world.



Kaneka Subberwal
Fair & Programme Director



ARTISTS

Ahmed Al Asad

Ahmed Anan

Amina Al Abbasi

Ayman Jaafar

Balqees Fakhro

Faika Al Hasan

Hanan Al Khalifa

Hesham Sharif

Jamal Abdulrahim

Linda Mattar

Lobna Al Amin

Lulwa Al Khalifa

Mariam Fakhro

Nabeela Al Khayer

Noof Alrefaei

Omar Al Rashid

Seema Baqi

Taiba Faraj



AHMED ALASAD



AHMED AL ASAD

A literature student at the University of Bahrain, Ahmed Al Asad, (b. 1995) fell in love with art in his childhood. For Asad art is an escape from reality, a place to feel free in and express himself. He began his engagement with art thorough skilled caricature. Although he was reluctant to use brush and colours in his early works, he eventually fell in love with mixed media as they gave his art depths and dimensions by creating layers and textures.

"The ideas behind my artworks are reflection of my thoughts about life or things that move me, especially war and corruption. I also feel that art is the best way to criticize a serious problem suffered by an individual or the society and art could be the way to its salvation as well," said Ahmed.

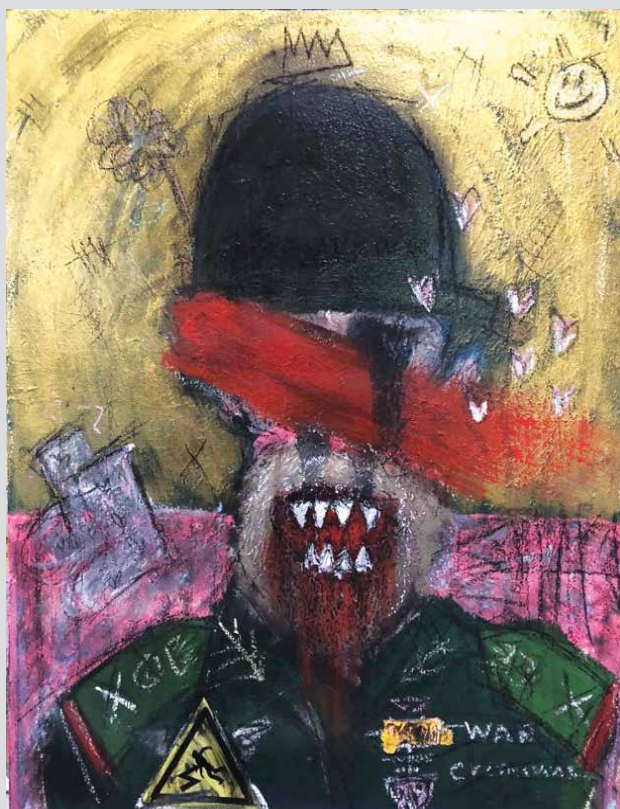
He participated in various exhibitions and presented some workshops in arts field. His participations include annual exhibition in University of Bahrain in 2015 and 2016, Pop-Up Symposium in Alriwaq Art Space in 2016, The Imago Mundi Project Bahrain Chapter with Art Select in 2017, various workshops with Ministry of Youth & Sports Affairs, Shabab Art Exhibition at Hind Gallery in 2018 and ArtBAB in March, 2018.



Lady Wishfort, 2018, Mixed Media on Canvas, 50x100cm.



The Dunciad, 2018, Mixed Media on Canvas, 50x100cm.

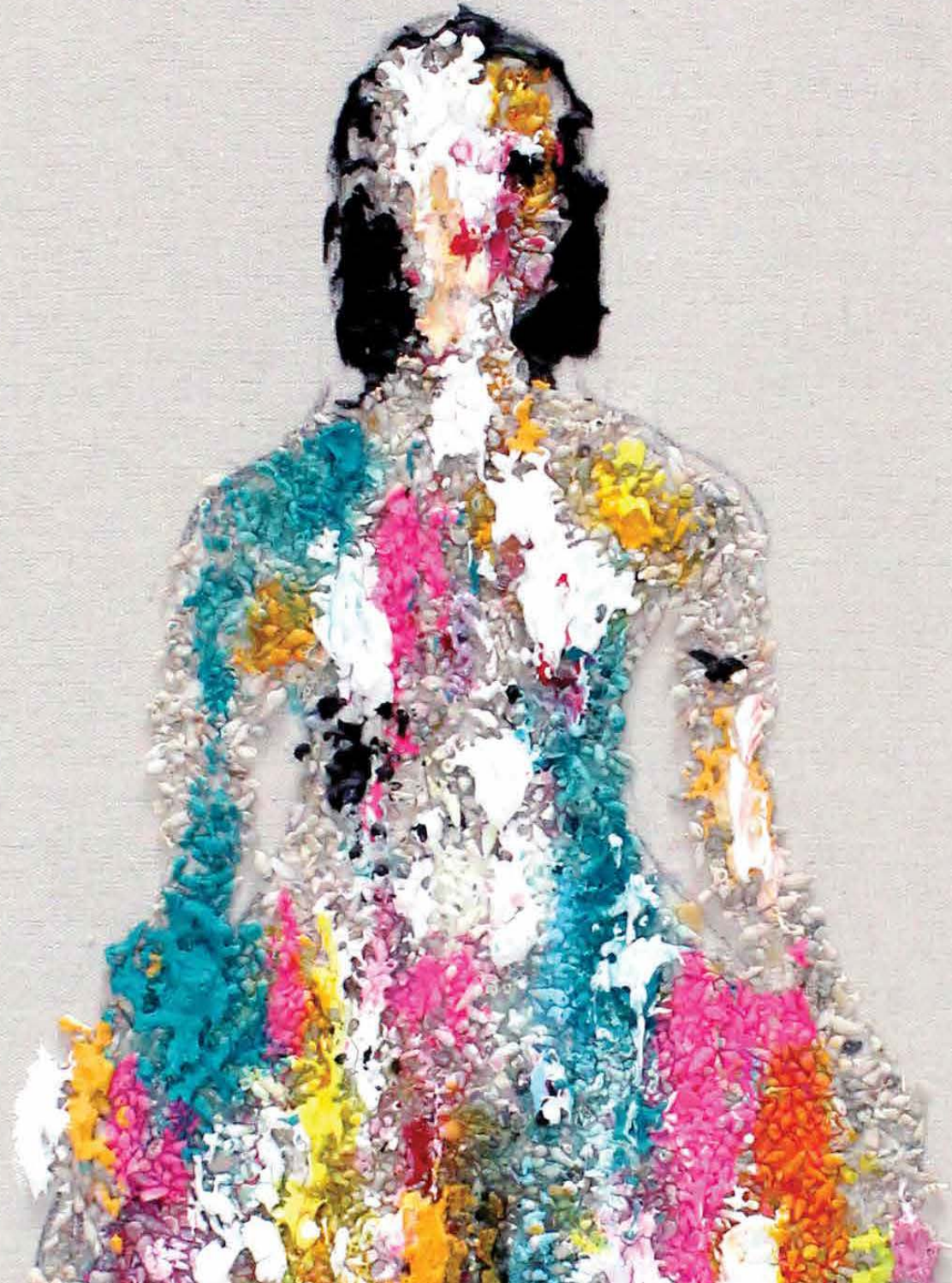


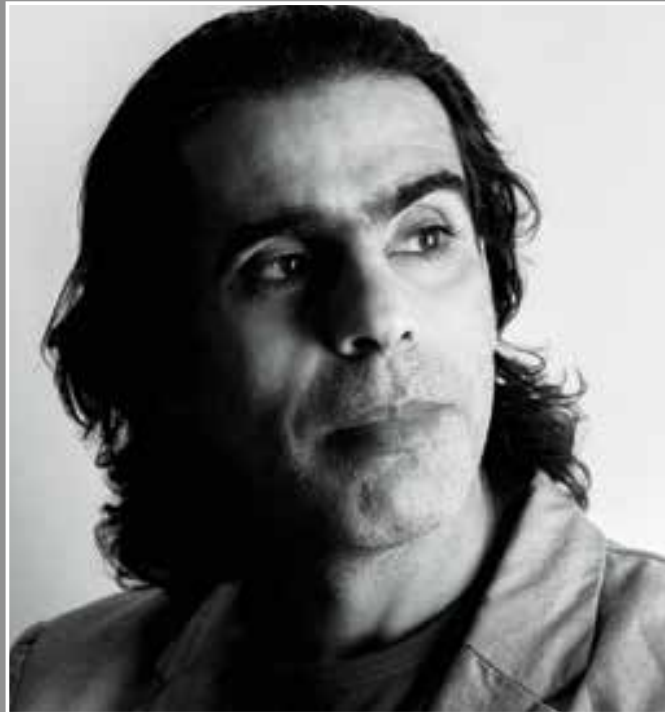
Face of War, 2018, Mixed Media on Canvas, 43x53cm.



The Homeless, 2018, Mixed Media on Canvas, 50x70cm.

AHMED ANAN





AHMED ANAN

Born in 1968, Ahmed Anan's artistic style connects between the local heritage and the western effects upon it. Most of these works centers on the main theme of 'the Woman'.

The topic of 'the Woman' and her responsibility towards her house, husband and kids and the society's point of view on her are depicted in diversified styles and topics by Ahmed. His last two solo exhibition in 2016 "Conceal and Reveal" in Alriwaq Art Space Gallery and in 2017 at Anan Atelier, were in tune with this theme.

He experiments with a variety of material in his works of artistic printing, drawing and collage field. He has also teaches the art of printing and collage

in workshops from time to time.

Part of many solo and group exhibitions nationally and internationally since 1989, his works travelled to many regions around the world including Saudi, Kuwait, Qatar, UAE, London, Doha, Syria, Lebanon, Morocco, Egypt, etc. He has received a number of accolades in his field and his work is collected by the Bahrain National Museum and other private collectors.



Humanity, 2018, Mixed Media on Canvas, 100x100cm.



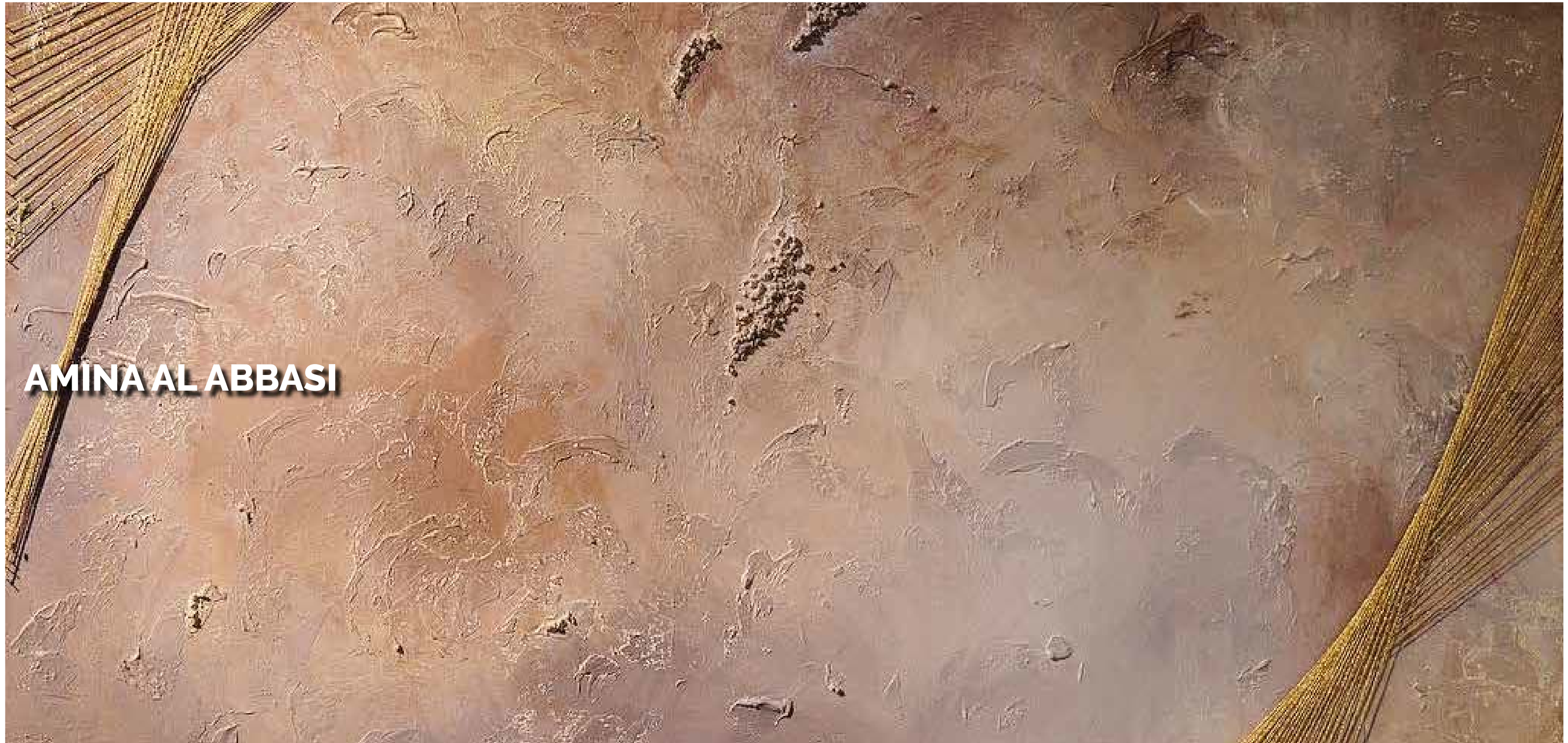
Humanity, 2018, Mixed Media on Canvas, 120x80cm.



Humanity, 2018, Mixed Media on Canvas, 120x80cm.



Humanity, 2018, Mixed Media on Canvas, 180x130cm.



AMINA AL ABBASI



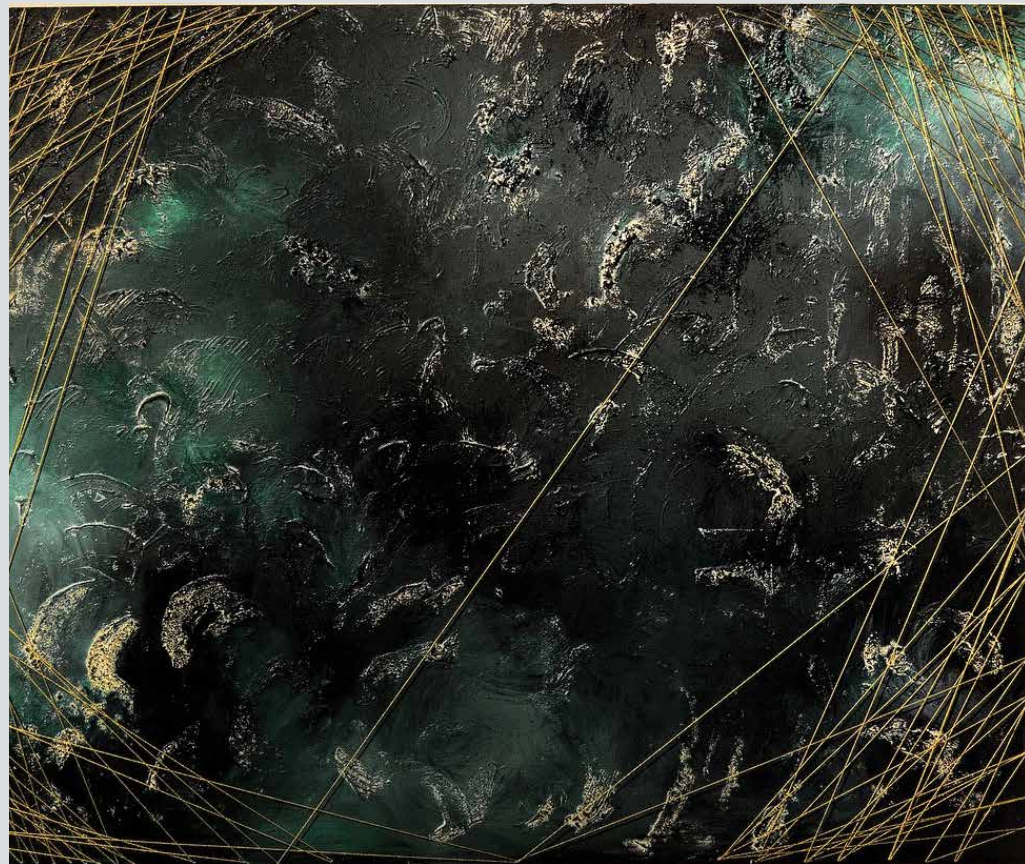
AMINA AL ABBASI

Amina Al Abbasi is a renowned Bahraini artist whose master pieces are modern with a traditional touch and works around concepts of art and culture. She specializes in connecting the future to the past in our fast moving high tech world. She is a self-taught artist who strives to keep cultural subjects alive in our present and future, to find that common ground of beauty when it's not too obvious.

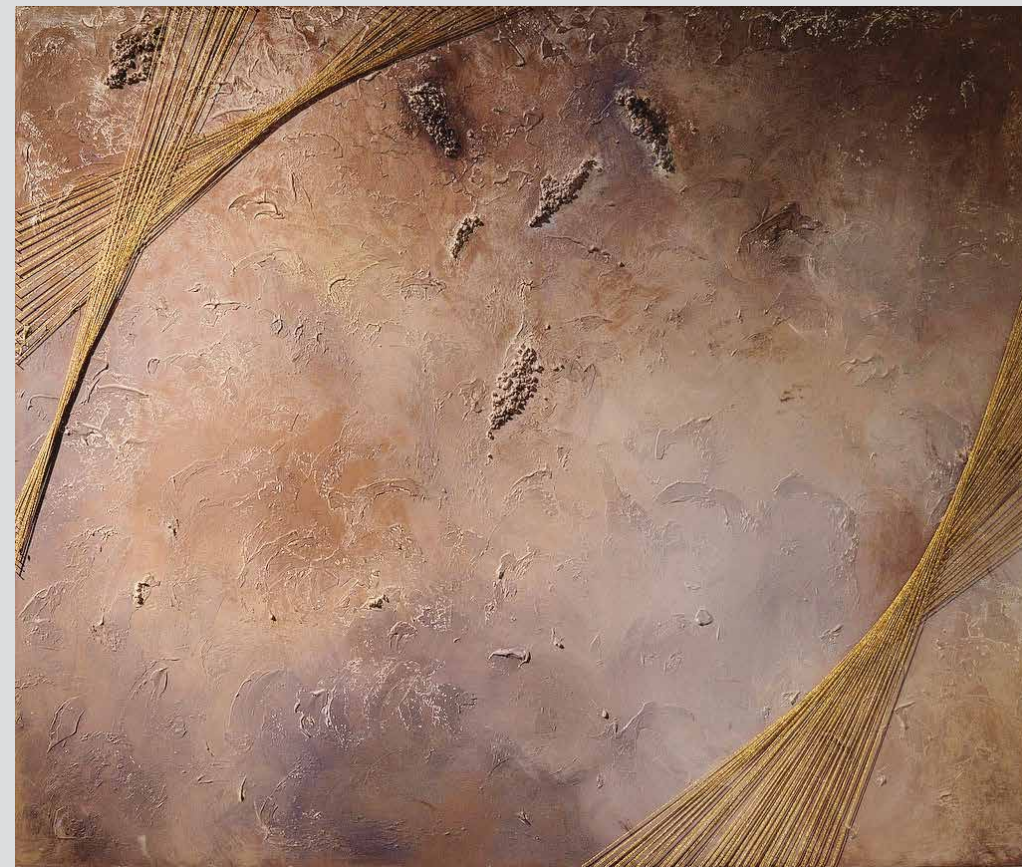
Inspired by "Naseej", one of Bahrain's ancient fabric weaving crafts, she combines threads in complexly engineered patterns to form beautiful fabrics that were used in Bahraini's daily lives. "The careful sectioning and alignment of thread are the thoughtful connections we make over a colorful

sea of emotion, a deeply personal experience. The result is a representation of how we connect the dots to make sense of a complex world," said Amina.

Amina has held many solo and group exhibitions nationally and internationally over the past few years. She is also a lifestyle designer, covering subjects from home décor to fashion accessories, and owns a concept gallery - 'Amina Gallery' that sells art pieces of her creation and other products lines, at the hub of Manama.



Life, 2018, Oil on Canvas, 180x150cm.



Sunset, 2018, Oil on Canvas, 180x150cm.



Tangeled, 2018, Oil on Canvas, 170x120cm.



Thoughts, 2018, Oil on Canvas, 190x80cm each.

AYMAN JAAFAR





AYMAN JAAFAR

Ayman Jaafar (b. 1985) is a Bahraini writer and artist and a graduate from the University of Bahrain.

"Art is my passion. My art form is an inspiration of culture and literature. I write novels and short stories so I can imagine how letters and texts affect in the art," explained Ayman. "In my opinion Arabic calligraphy is not direct text to read. It's a wild world in an emotional and cultural way. I do my art in abstract style so the letters can become free and meaningful. I also feel that the real pleasure is when I am able to use colours to portray what I think, what I feel, and what I really want to discover in this life."

Ayman has held three solo exhibitions, namely

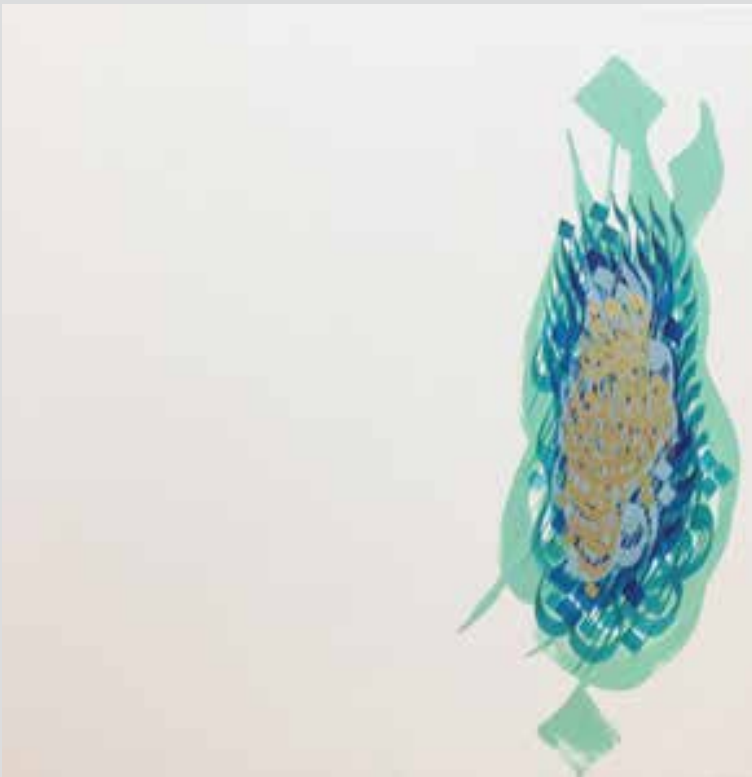
'Aya Lilac' at Naqsh Gallery in 2012; 'Be my heart Delmouna' at the Museum of Bahrain National in 2014 and 'Manifestations' at Isa Cultural Center in 2016. He has also participated in numerous group exhibitions locally and internationally including ArtBAB in 2018, 'A New Beginning' at Naqsh Gallery 2017, 'Un Said' at the ArtBAB in India in 2017.



Night Feature 1, 2018, Acrylic on Canvas, 100x100cm.



Night Feature 2, 2018, Acrylic on Canvas, 100x100cm.



Spring of Hope, 2018, Acrylic on Canvas, 100x100cm.



Spring of Hope, 2018, Acrylic on Canvas, 100x100cm.



BALQEES FAKHRO



BALQEES FAKHRO

One of Bahrain's finest abstract painters, Balqees Fakhro is a graduate of Fine Arts from the University of San Francisco. She represents the depth of sparkling technique and work that Bahraini women artists bring to the world of contemporary Bahraini art.

"My paintings are abstract in style. It revolves around the themes of belonging and memories of places. I utilize light and dark to convey contrast and depth. 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 mystery. This allows the viewer to interpret the painting and make sense of it according to his or her own background."

Having participated in numerous solo exhibitions locally, regionally and internationally from the year 1976, her paintings adorn distinguished collections in Jordan, Paris, UAE, Saudi Arabia, Germany and Qatar. She also created four murals for public spaces in the prestigious Four Seasons Hotel in Bahrain.



Untitled 1, 2016, Acrylic on Canvas, 120x140cm.



Untitled 2, 2015, Acrylic on Canvas, 120x140cm.



Untitled 3, 2015, Acrylic on Canvas, 120x140cm.



Untitled 4, 2015, Acrylic on Canvas, 120x140cm.



FAIKA AL HASAN



FAIKA AL HASAN

Faika Al Hasan studied fine arts and painting in Bahrain and Lebanon. As an admired artist, her work is distinctive for its play on tens of small human figures inhabiting large and anonymous spaces. The overriding message is that of our own insignificance in the large scheme of things. The small human figures in her paintings travel the canvas in large numbers and at times in groups yet are all isolated from one another.

For her Singapore oeuvre, Faika has explored her fascination for raw unbleached cotton used for the bedding of her childhood. She sees it as the fabric of life which sustains us from beginning to end. In her paintings, the fabric is used as a visual trope: as clothing offering modesty and protection,

as a container holding one's possessions as one flees hardship to make a new life elsewhere, where once unpacked, the fabrics come out to make a new home. And everywhere, her humans crowd around, travelling along paths, often not understanding where they are heading. At times it seems that the figures are trapped by the rectangular canvases they inhabit as if in a maze.



Weaves from Ashes 1, 2017, Mixed Media Acrylics, Charcol and Fabric on Canvas, 90x120cm.



Weaves from Ashes 2, 2017, Mixed Media Acrylics, Charcol and Fabric on Canvas, 70x120cm.



Weaves from Ashes 3, 2017, Mixed Media Acrylics, Charcoal and Fabric on Canvas, 90x120cm.



Weaves from Ashes 4, 2017, Mixed Media Acrylics, Charcoal and Fabric on Canvas, 140x160cm.





HANAN AL KHALIFA

Hanan Hassan Al Khalifa's fascination with photography dates back to more than 30 years. During her excessive practice of photography, she has collected valuable archives from the many travels she has made to different corners of the world, including Yemen, Japan, China, North America, Cuba, Egypt, Ireland and Almurada of Bahrain songs. All her of works have been documented in well-known publications.

Documenting Bahrain, the place where she was born and raised, remains her favorite topic. Over the years she has photographed her beloved homeland, reflecting the true and rich spirit of the kingdom.

Hanan is currently president of the Photography Club in Bahrain Art Society. In 2014, they won the World Cup of the Federation of International Art of Photography FIAP.



Sh. Salman House, 1998, Photography Printed on Fine Art Paper, A1.



Zalaq Corner 3, 2005, Photography Printed on Fine Art Paper, A1.



Zalaq Roof, 2005, Photography Printed on Fine Art Paper, A1.



Kalaf 3, 2004, Photography Printed on Fine Art Paper, A1.





HESHAM SHARIF

Hesham Sharif, an upcoming Bahraini artist presents his art in the challenging black and white colours, exploring the depths of these two colors to make a statement.

"In the pursuit of achieving a rewarding result, which is the feeling of the art, I think playing with blacks and whites offer a greater medium than any other. I find it gives the satisfaction of expressing the movement of a scene which in turn enables meeting the soul of the moment as it finds the form and shape of my feeling towards my visual experience. I would like the heart to guide your hands to discover the mysteries of the mind," explained Hesham about his work.

Hesham's participation in art exhibition include

Bahrain Annual Art Show in 2013, Bahrain Annual Art Show in 2016, Group Exhibition 'Views' in 2016, Bahrain Annual Art Show in 2017, Group Exhibition at Imago Mundi Foundation in 2017, 'The Nest' at AlRiwaq Gallery in 2017, 'Diversity' at Saatchi Gallery in London in 2017, Bahrain Annual Art Show in 2018 and his first solo show 'Frightening the Dark' was held at Bahrain Arts Society in 2017.



Audience, 2018, Acrylic on Paper, 42x30cm.



The Entrance, 2018, Acrylic on Paper, 42x30cm.



Women in Private, 2018, Acrylic on Paper, 42x30cm.



Audience 2, 2018, Acrylic on Paper, 42x30cm.

JAMAL ABDULRAHIM





JAMAL ABDULRAHIM

Jamal A. Rahim (b. 1965), a self-taught artist, travelled to India at an early age to explore the world and follow his dreams. The first exposure of his talent to the public was at a group exhibition at Al Hala Club in 1987 and his first solo exhibition at Bahrain Arts Society in 1990. Over the next few years his solo and group exhibitions were widely seen in Europe and Asia.

Inspired by the principles of pure reality, Rahim chooses to portray his subjects in their most realistic form. His swirls, dashes and bold use of color have gained him praise all over the world. He has several national and international awards, appreciations and recognitions under his belt for his phenomenal works.

He was guest of honor at several national and international art events and is a member of the jury of the 26th Mini Print International of Cadaqués, Spain in 2006. His artwork is found amongst the British Museum's collection, the Asian Civilisations Museum in Singapore and others. His famous birds sculptures can be seen at the London Four seasons Hotel as well as many of his significant print artwork. He is also a member of The Bahrain Arts Society.



Eggplants, 2018, Jade, Marble & Bronze, 25x23x22cm.



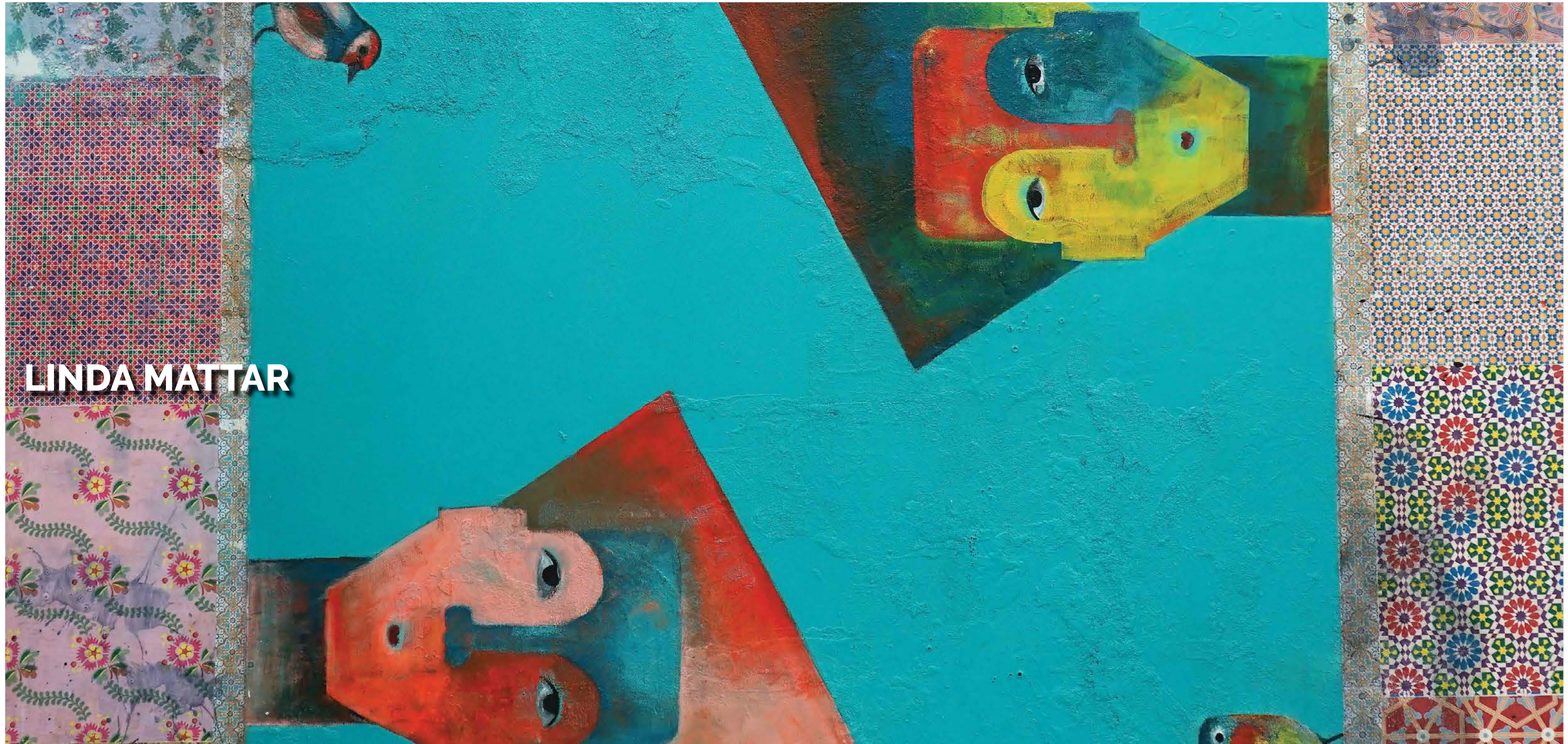
Portrait, 2018, Oil on Canvas & Gold Leaf 1, 80x80cm.



Green Apple, 2018, Jade & Marble Base, 33x28x14cm.



Bird, 2015, Lapis Lazuli & Marble Base, 22x23x14cm.



LINDA MATTAR



LINDA MATTAR

Linda Mattar is an architect by profession and an artist at heart. She believes in the power of thoughts and uses art as a medium to channel the energy of human emotions. She sees herself as an "observer" observing the human behavior, colors of nature, shapes and geometry. She intends for each painting to serve as portal that delivers a message for her viewers that speaks beyond words, reveal the unseen, channel the untold to what can be felt by the heart and sensed by the soul.

Working with acrylic paints and mixed media gives her paintings a strong physical appearance. Combining architectural influences and her fascination with natural geometry, illustrates

her spiritual beliefs and strong point of views alongside love for color and her understanding of its influence. She believes in the human ability to transform and to be whatever they want and uses art to captivate row emotions to inspire these changes.

Art and architecture has been the story of her life, combining hectic career as the Vice President of a leading Development company with her creative artists' career effortlessly. Her love and possibly obsession for all that is artistic and creative had shaped her life and career.



Conversation With A Bird (1), 2018, Mixed Media on Canvas, 80x60cm.



Conversation With A Bird (2), 2018, Mixed Media on Canvas, 80x60cm.



Conversation With A Bird (3), 2018, Mixed Media on Canvas, 80x60cm.



Conversation With A Bird (4), 2018, Mixed Media on Canvas, 130x100cm.



LOBNA AL AMIN



LOBNA AL AMIN

Bahraini Artist Lobna Al Amin tangles with acrylic and mix media on traditional old Bahraini wood and canvas. Life, nature, and places are her prime sources of imagination, and where ideas for paintings originate from. "To breathe life into a piece of lifeless block of wood is the pinnacle of joy. To engage others in your colors gives hope for survival," mused Lobna. "For your chest to welcome your friends critiques is the path to success, and travel which inspires meditation, development, introspection, and change."

Since 1989, Lobna Al Amin has participated in 53 group exhibitions and 7 solo exhibitions in Bahrain, Cairo, Paris, Sharjah, Kuwait, Morocco, Jordan, Netherland, Macedonia, Dubai, London,

Damascus, Ireland, Berlin and Riyadh.

One of her prominent shows was the solo exhibition 'Greeting for Ibrahim Al Orayyed' held in UNESCO, Paris in 2008. In 2009, she held a solo exhibition titled 'Fancy Angel' alongside the poet Qassim Haddad in Berlin and Paris. Her recent works have been exhibited at 'Nest' held at Al Riwaq Art Space, 'Out of Time' held at Albareh Art Gallery, Bahrain and a solo exhibition 'Over the Skies and One Land' held at Europea Gallery, Paris. Her works are collected by art museums nationally and internationally.



Untitled, 2017, Mixed Media on Canvas, 100x100cm.



Untitled, 2016, Mixed Media on Canvas, 145x120cm.



Untitled, 2016, Mixed Media on Canvas, 120x145cm.



Untitled, 2017, Mixed Media on Canvas, 120x145cm.



LULWA AL KHALIFA



LULWA AL KHALIFA

Lulwa Al Khalifa is a self-taught painter who earned her BA in literature from Boston University. Her works have been exhibited in various cities around the world including Dubai, New York, London, Jordan and many more.

One's perception of the world and the world's perception of a person is effected by these filtered lenses rendering true clarity not only illusive but impossible.

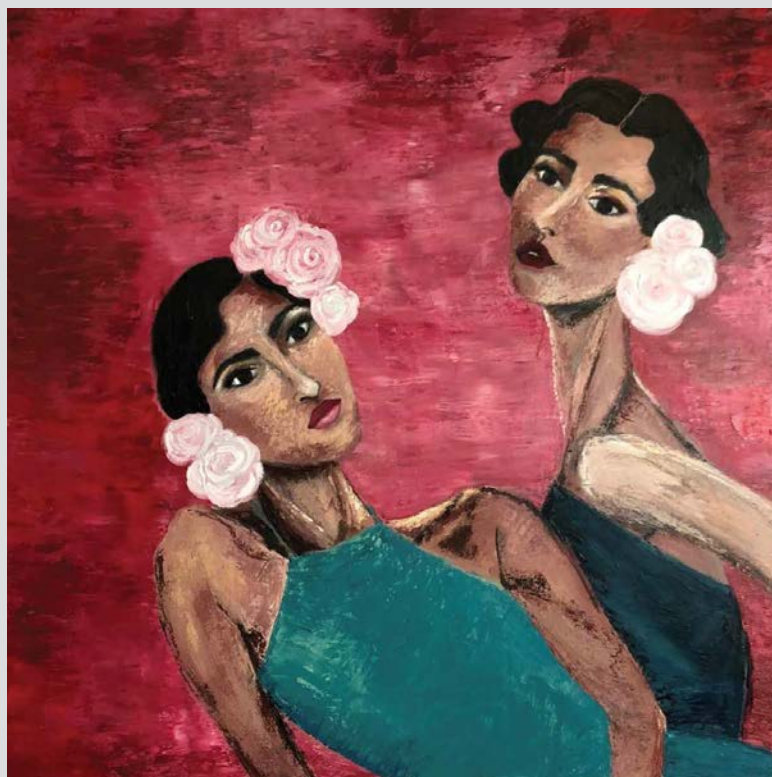
Through her series "From The Outside" Al Khalifa depicts women expressing different emotions in various levels of clarity, both visually and emotionally. Clarity is the main concern in this particular series, as clarity in all aspects of life, especially clarity within oneself, is very illusive. What is seen around one and what one projects to the world is filtered through many lenses of one's own creation. Lenses of preconceived ideas, beliefs, ingrained prejudices and past experiences.



Jaded, 2018, Oil on Canvas, 120x150cm.



A Million Suns, 2018, Oil on Canvas, 100x100cm.



La Vie En Rose, 2018, Oil on Canvas, 120X120cm.



Submerged 8, 2018, Oil on Canvas, 100x120cm.



MARIAM FAKHRO



MARIAM FAKHRO

Mariam Ali Fakhro has been an active member of Bahrain Art Society since 1985. She currently works with canvas and acrylic as well as some work in sculptures and has a history of experience with oil and water colour. She curated over 25 art exhibitions at the Bahrain National Museum and Arts Center between 1991 and 2000, during her role at the Ministry of Information.

"I consider painting in my studio to be my oasis to disconnect. My passion for drawing and the pleasure it brings me is what started my career as an artist. Even now I still explore different ways to express what I want to say. In the beginning I enjoyed painting landscapes, figures and portraits. In recent years I have begun to paint from memory, with a woman figure repeated often. Some of my abstract work is also linked with the female presence," stated Mariam Ali Fakhro. She has participated in many exhibitions held by ministry of information since 1985, and later with the Bahrain Authority for culture and antiquities.

She participated in Assilah culture festival in Morocco in 2006. Since 2015 she participated in all ART BAAB Exhibitions in Bahrain, and across borders, in London, New Delhi, and Bombay. She also participated in a UNESCO exhibition in 2017 under the patronage of H.R.H Shaikha Sabeeka bint Ebrahim Al Khalifa .

She had her last solo exhibition in 2011, and a joint exhibition in 2017 with artist Khalid Farhan. Currently she is participating in I AM Exhibition curated by Caravan Arts, which launched from Jordan onto London and the USA.

Her current works are recognized through the traditional house element which is a motif often duplicated, bringing nostalgia and memories of a past era to the viewer. This work is drawn from the memories of her childhood in her grandfather's house. Her work is seen regularly exhibited nationally and internationally.



Nostalgia, 2016, Acrylic on Canvas, 120x120cm.



Nostalgia (2), 2016, Acrylic on Canvas, 120x120cm.



Nostalgia (3), 2017, Acrylic on Canvas, 120x120cm.



Nostalgia (4), 2016, Acrylic on Canvas, 120x120cm.



NABEELA AL KHAYER



NABEELA AL KHAYER

A free-spirited traditional artist, who is driven by a fierce passion to inspire and empower women in a masculine and traditional society, Nabeela developed her artistic skills at the Slade School of Fine Art in London. Describing herself as a colorist, she uses fabric, paper photograph, resin, oil, acrylic, and watercolors, to infuse life in her portraits. She creates stories of magic with bright and expressive female characters in her work. The free-spirited contemporary artist is also a successful businesswoman.

Nabeela has held numerous solo and group exhibitions throughout the Middle East and across the globe, where from her first solo exhibition in Bahrain in 2002, she became the recipient of the

prestigious Silver Leaf Award in 2003. Nabeela has held exhibitions in the Middle East, Europe, New York, and Asia, where her work stands among the collections of Bahrain National Museum and the Jordan National Museum.



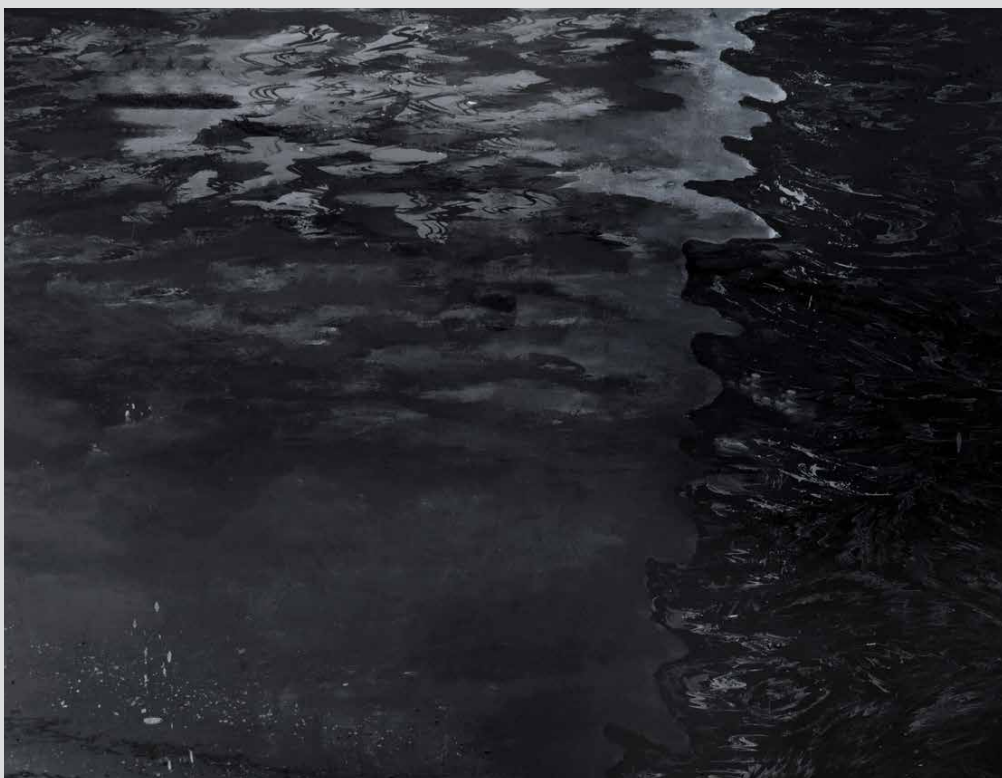
Sound of Water 1, 2017, Mixed Media on Canvas, 140x180cm.



Sound of Water 2, 2017, Mixed Media on Canvas, 140x180cm.



Sound of water 3, 2017, Mixed Media on Canvas, 150x170cm.



Sound of Water 4, 2017, Mixed Media on Canvas, 150x170cm.



NOOF ALREFAEI



NOOF ALREFAEI

Noof Alrefaei, an artist and designer, has participated in numerous exhibitions within and outside Bahrain since 2011. "At certain point in our life, we fall down due to pain and fear or even losing something important from our life. Once we notice we are not where we should be and realize that the religiousness and spirituality is missing in our life, most of us reach out or return to God. My artwork shows the relation between me and my past with God," said Noof, about what inspires her works.

In addition to her participation in the global auctions including Christie's Auction by Noor Dubai, she has received several accolades for her works. In 2016, one of her artworks was chosen to be launched at

Victoria and Albert Museum of Art in London and it was then exhibited at Gallery 8 in London, and later in an art museum in Azerbaijan in 2018.



Window of My Soul, 2018, Mixed Media on Newspaper, 90cm.



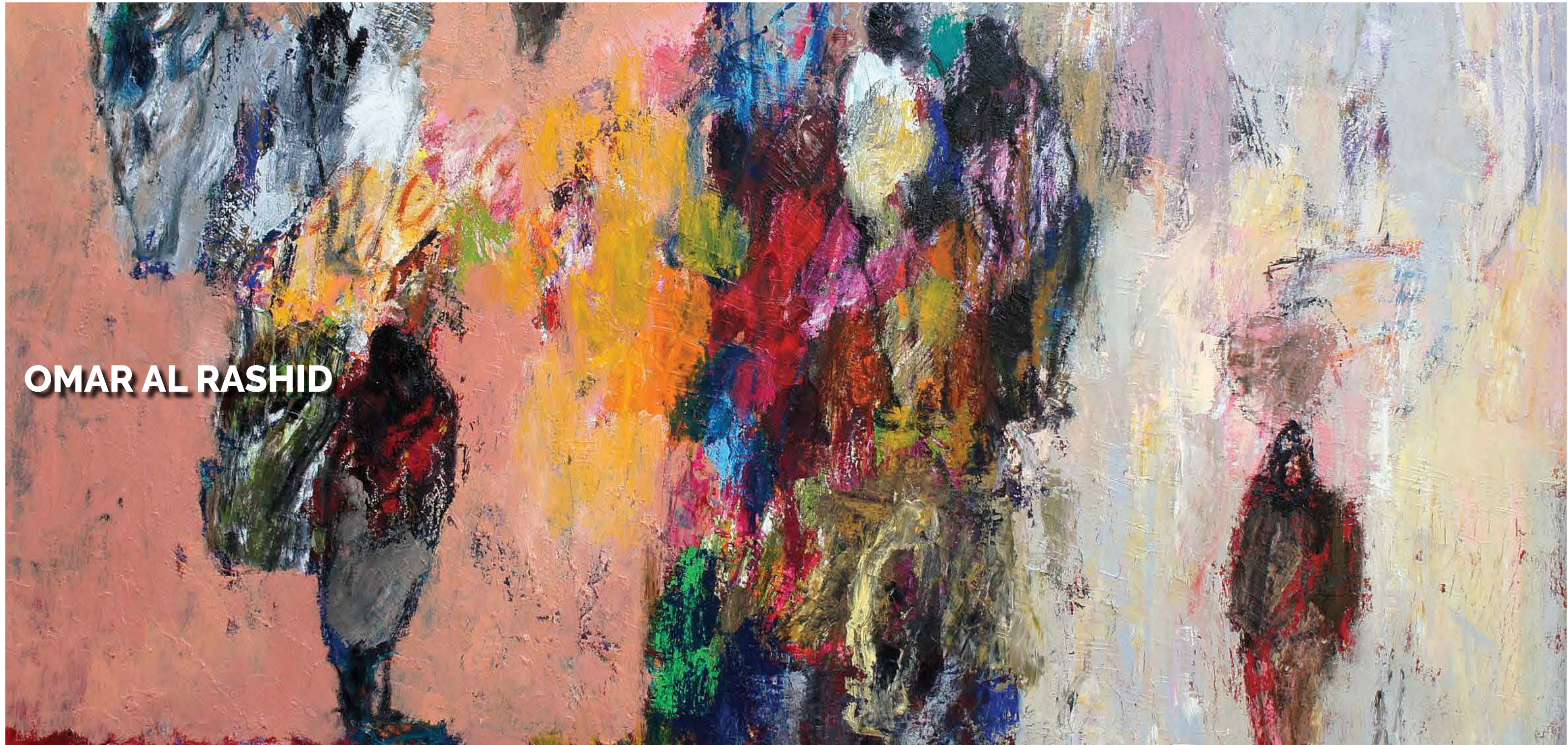
Window of My Soul, 2018, Mixed Media on Newspaper, 110cm.



Window of My Soul, 2018, Mixed Media on Newspaper, 135cm.



Window of My Soul, 2018, Mixed Media on Paper, 200x100cm.



OMAR AL RASHID



OMAR AL RASHID

From the start of his career, Omar Al Rashid juxtaposed his emotional attachment to his heritage, customs and tradition with a conscious experimentation. He also distanced himself from the trend for 'plastic arts' and worked hard to create a genre of painting that was immediately seen as deriving from Bahraini and Islamic culture. He has achieved a balance between form and content as well as originality and modernity.

Born in Muharraq in 1966, Al-Rashid was inspired by the bright, vibrant colours of the seascape. Muharraq was the first place where his passion for Bahrain customs and folklore developed. His second artistic inspiration was his mother. As a child, he monitored her movement, traditional

dress and endless folk tales. It is because of this intimate association that his female figures echo a balance between femininity and strength; strength reflected by the dominating colours and vivacious fabric. He positions his women so that they are not portraits but instead are portrayals of symbolic women; Middle Eastern women; women of the past, present and future.

Omar Al-Rashid continues to participate in group and solo exhibition in Bahrain and internationally.



The Market. 2018, Oil on Canvas, 120x120cm.



The Market, 2018, Oil on Canvas, 120x120cm.



The Market, 2018, Oil on Canvas, 121x91cm.



The Market, 2018, Oil on Canvas, 120x120cm.



SEEMA BAQI



SEEMA BAQI

A message of peace, courage and co-existence through the eyes of a Bahraini artist in abstract form. 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.

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.

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.



Blessing, 2018, Mixed Media on Canvas, 100x80cm.



Rise, 2018, Acrylic on Canvas, 100x100cm.



Changing, 2018, Mixed Media on Canvas, 180x70cm.



Rising Hope, 2018, Acrylic on Canvas, 100x100cm.



TAIBA FARAJ



TAIBA FARAJ

Taiba Faraj graduated from the University of Bahrain with a degree in Banking and Finance. Aside from being adept in finance, she is also a committed calligrapher and artist who immersed herself in the praxis from the age of 12. As a calligrapher, she is familiar with several styles of script. Effectively modernizing her calligraphy practice with a transition to canvas and sculpture, she works with verses from the Quran, Bible and poems, giving them forms and colours to stir various emotions.

She treads a line between two and three dimensions, often combining ceramic sculpture with other materials like wood, metal, ... and freely taking the body apart, to create that suggest ambiguous narratives.

"I think three-dimensional works allow people to understand the ways their own physical bodies are implicated within the narratives," she said. "I hope that my work helps people to understand how deep the humanity means and extract inner treasure which lies in all of us."

She is a member of the Bahrain Art Society and to date her work had appeared in solo and group exhibitions in Bahrain, UK, USA, Jordan, India and KSA.

She is one of 31 of the Middle East's premier contemporary women artist selected for peace building traveling exhibition.



Designations, 2018, Wood & Paper, 130x100cm.



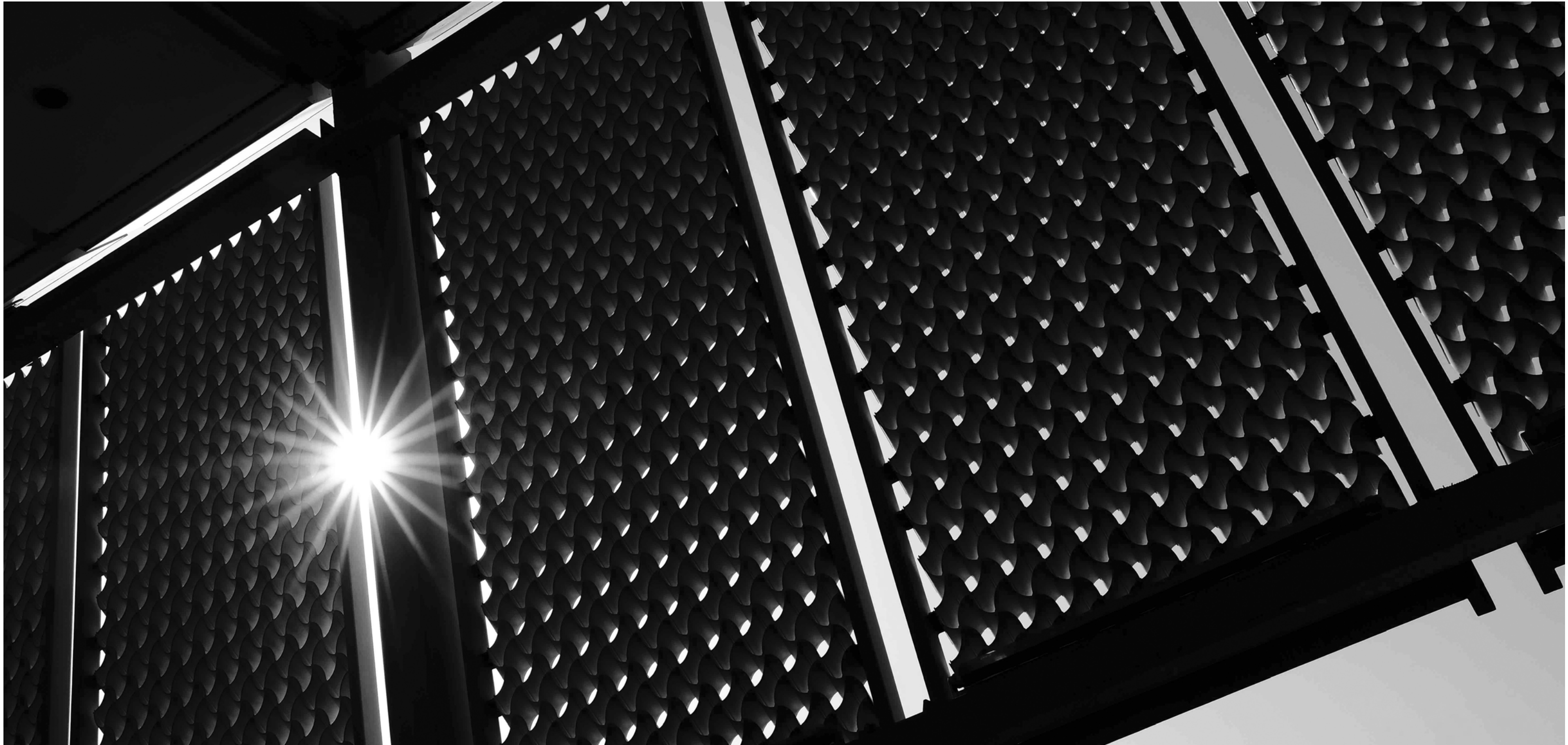
Fly, 2018, Wood & Clay, 40x30x10cm.



Scale, 2018, Metal & Clay, 70x70x30cm.



Vision, 2018, Metal & Clay, 60x40x20cm.





ARTBAB

Under the patronage of
Her Royal Highness Princess Sabeeka Bint Ibrahim Al Khalifa,
Wife of His Majesty the King of Bahrain and President of the Supreme Council for Women.

ArtBAB 2018, Art Bahrain Across Borders, is Bahrain's foremost international art fair with the mission to attract leading international galleries to the Kingdom, by powering the expansion of the art market whilst facilitating the development of local Bahraini artists. In this sense, ArtBAB is the bridge between Bahrain and the world, and the narrative of each fair will reflect this.



Art Select was founded in 2008 as an art advisory, consulting and creating artist platforms, art events and investor art portfolios.

Art Select was founded on collector and consultant Kaneka Subberwal's passion for contemporary art, her knowledge of modern art and her unerring instinct for picking trends. Today it is a respected organisation with a global presence and a fine team of art managers, art event co-ordinators and logistics managers who run prestigious exhibitions and fairs around the world.

Art Select's flagship enterprise is ArtBAB the annual art fair of Bahrain held annually Under the patronage of Her Royal Highness Princess Sabeeka bint Ibrahim Al Khalifa, Wife of His Majesty the King and President of the Supreme Council for Women.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

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Museum of Contemporary Arts, Singapore

Kaneka Subberwal - Curation & Direction

Amrita Kilachand - Co curation

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