



# ODE TO THE NATION

18 NOVEMBER - 8 DECEMBER 2023

## About The Majlis Gallery

The Majlis Gallery, founded in 1989, has grown to become one of Dubai's premier fine art galleries, fulfilling its mission to promote internationally acclaimed artists and serve as a meeting place for creative minds. Its name, "Majlis," meaning a meeting place or common ground, perfectly encapsulates the gallery's essence.

Situated in the heart of the Al Fahidi Historical Neighbourhood, The Majlis Gallery was born from the passion of expatriate interior designer Alison Collins. Her love for the old wind-tower houses of Al Fahidi inspired the gallery's unique journey. The historic villa, known as villa number 19, Al Fahidi, Bur Dubai, evolved into a haven for artists and art lovers alike, where countless exhibitions and gatherings introduced the region's finest talents to the cultural stage.

Visitors to The Majlis Gallery are treated to a diverse array of art forms, including paintings, sculptures, ceramics, glasswork, and photography. The original architectural features, such as barasti-style ceilings, shuttered windows, wind towers, and oiled teak doors, transport you to the cultural life of Old Dubai. It's a testament to enduring quality, representing the best of local and international artists in a welcoming and unique environment. Come and embark on a visual journey in this artistic hub, where tradition and creativity harmoniously converge.

# EXHIBITING ARTISTS

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## About ‘Ode to the Nation’

The Majlis Gallery, a steadfast bastion of art and culture in Dubai, is proud to present "Ode to the Nation: A Celebration of Local Talents." This momentous exhibition joyously highlights the incredible artistic talents of Emirati creatives, showcasing their boundless creativity and deep connection to the country.

In a country that has witnessed remarkable growth and transformation in a relatively short span of time, this exhibition serves as a vibrant celebration of the thriving artistic spirit that enriches the UAE's cultural landscape. Through the creative expressions of local Emirati artists, we embark on a visual journey that traverses time, encapsulating the soul and spirit of the nation.

"Ode to the Nation" showcases a diverse array of artistic interpretations, each a testament to the artists' profound connection to their homeland. It's an exploration of the present and the aspirations for the future, as seen through the eyes and hands of those who call the UAE their creative muse.

Through an array of mediums and styles, this exhibition invites you to delve into Emirati artistry, where tradition and innovation harmonize, and where the spirit of the nation is woven into the very fabric of the artworks on display. We invite you to experience the depth and diversity of Emirati artistry, and join us in celebrating the remarkable talents of our local artists, whose creations shape the vibrant cultural landscape of the UAE. "Ode to the Nation" is not just an art exhibition; it's a celebration and a visual narrative of the boundless creativity within this nation.



Dubai 1990 vs 2013  
Sheikh Zayed Road

# FATIMA AL HAMMADI



Born in the United Arab Emirates, Fatima Al Hammadi has consistently pushed the boundaries of artistic expression, carving a niche for herself in the vibrant tapestry of the art world.

In 1994, Fatima embarked on her artistic journey by graduating from UAE University with a Bachelor of Art Education, laying the foundation for her illustrious career. With an impressive 23 years of experience in the realm of Fine Arts, she has continually evolved and grown as an artist. One of the most distinctive aspects of Fatima's artistic trajectory is her recent foray into the world of calligraphy, seamlessly combining this traditional art form with her expertise in Fine Arts.

Fatima Al Hammadi has played an integral role in shaping the visual arts curriculum at the Ministry of Education in the UAE, imparting her knowledge and passion for art to the next generation of artists. Her dedication to education and mentorship underscores her commitment to the flourishing art community in her homeland.

Throughout her career, Fatima has actively participated in over 30 national exhibitions, where her unique blend of calligraphy and Fine Arts has captivated

audiences and fellow artists alike. Her influence extends far beyond the borders of the UAE, as she has showcased her work in prestigious international exhibitions in places such as London, Berlin, and Sri Lanka, earning recognition and respect on a global scale.

Notably, Fatima Al Hammadi holds the distinguished title of being the leader of the UAE Graffiti artists, an honor that places her at the forefront of a thriving local graffiti community. Her contribution to this art form has been instrumental in establishing a dynamic and distinctive graffiti scene in the UAE.

Fatima's artistic contributions are not limited to exhibitions; she has been an integral part of several groundbreaking projects that have earned her a place in the Guinness World Records. Her involvement in the creation of the "longest graffiti wall in Dubai" in 2014, the "longest Glow In The Dark Graffiti wall" in 2016, and her participation in setting a new world record for the "largest stencil mural" are testament to her innovative spirit and willingness to push artistic boundaries.

As an artist, educator, and record-breaker, Fatima Al Hammadi has left an indelible mark on the world of Fine Arts and graffiti, both locally and internationally. Her unwavering commitment to her craft, her country, and the advancement of art in all its forms has solidified her position as a luminary in the contemporary art scene.

FATIMA AL HAMMADI



*Story*

Acrylic and ink on canvas

80cm x 120cm

AED 15,750



*Dream*

Acrylic and ink on canvas

70cm x 100cm

AED 8,400

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FATIMA AL HAMMADI



*Jewel*

Acrylic and ink on canvas

80cm x 120cm

AED 15,750



*Love*

Acrylic and ink on canvas

80cm x 120cm

AED 15,750

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## FATIMA AL HAMMADI



*Beauty*

Acrylic and ink on canvas

80cm x 120cm

AED 12,600



*Harmony*

Acrylic and ink on canvas

80cm x 80cm

AED 8,400

## KHALID AL JALLAF



Khalid Al Jallaf embarked on a remarkable journey through the realms of Arabic calligraphy and the world of art, starting with his apprenticeship under Nizar al-Duri, an esteemed calligraphy master from Iraq who studied under Hashim al-Baghdadi. This foundational mentorship ignited Khalid's lifelong passion for Arabic calligraphy.

As a dedicated advocate for Arabic calligraphy, Khalid co-founded the UAE Calligraphy and Islamic Ornamentation Association, serving as a founding member and chairman. His commitment was further evident in his co-founding of "Ancient Calligrapher" and "Horouf Arabiya" magazines, where he held the position of deputy editor, contributing to the dissemination of calligraphy knowledge.

Khalid's influence extended beyond the UAE. He played a pivotal role in founding the Egyptian Calligraphers Union and held memberships in esteemed organizations such as the Egyptian Society for the Art of Arabic Calligraphy, the Iraqi Society for the Art of Arabic Calligraphy, and the Royal Moroccan Society for the Art of Arabic Calligraphy, reflecting his dedication to international connections within the calligraphy community.

Khalid's contributions to the first Arab Gulf Universities Culture Week in Kuwait in 1984 marked the beginning of his consistent presence in exhibitions. His calligraphy graced displays of the UAE Fine Art Society from 1990 to 2001, and his art was showcased in GCC countries, Morocco, Syria, Egypt, and other Arab nations. Exhibitions in Europe, South America, and Asia further demonstrated the universal appeal of his work.

In addition to his calligraphy, Khalid explored watercolour painting and photography. He also contributed to non-governmental organizations by designing logos and earned recognition through various prizes in local calligraphy and fine arts competitions. Khalid additionally served as the secretary of the UAE Fine Art Society board committee twice, demonstrating his dedication to the art community in the UAE.

Internationally, Khalid represented the UAE in exhibitions, leaving a lasting impact in prestigious events worldwide. Selected pieces of his paintings found their place in museums as part of international art exhibitions, solidifying his global legacy. His role as the Assistant Chief Editor for "HROOF ARABIYA Magazine," the sole quarterly magazine dedicated to Arabic Calligraphy worldwide, highlighted his significant contributions to the field.

Khalid's artistic journey culminated in a series of solo exhibitions. These exhibitions included "Journey with Letters" at the Sharjah Calligraphy Museum in December 2008, "Letters of Wisdom" at Hunnar Gallery in Dubai in 2009, "The Word and its Effect" at the American University of Sharjah in 2010, "Mosaic of Letters" at Majlis Gallery in Dubai in November 2011, and "Flashes of Thoughts" at Ajjad Gallery in Dubai in May 2014.

## KHALID AL JALLAF

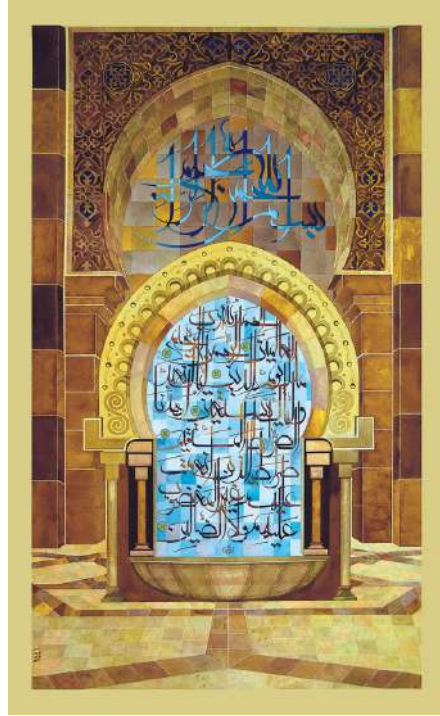


*Only in Egypt*

Mixed media on paper

150cm x 100cm

AED 42,000



*Casablanca my Way*

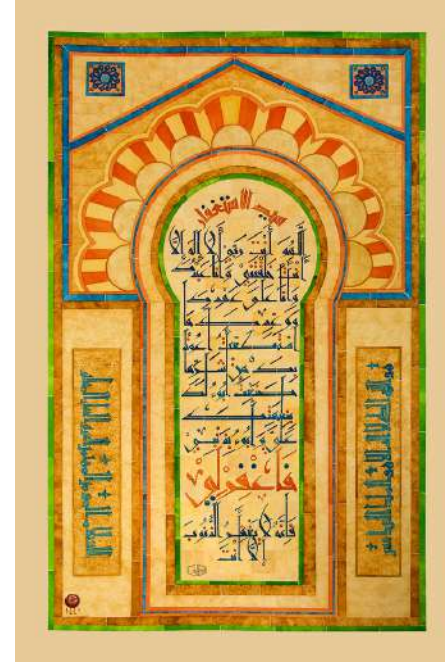
Mixed media on paper

145cm x 85cm

AED 47,250

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## KHALID AL JALLAF



*Cordoba During the Great Days*

Mixed media on paper

105cm x 65cm

AED 31,500



*Glory of the Place*

Mixed media on paper

100cm x 145cm

AED 42,000

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# MONA AL KHAJA



Mona Al Khaja is a visual artist whose work is known for its Islamic patterns, Arabic calligraphy and natural elements. She explores social issues and the struggles present in modern society through painting and multimedia.

Al Khaja's work has been shown in several solo exhibitions, including Observe + Absorb, Majlis Gallery, Dubai (2019); Melodies of the East, Sharjah University (2019); Colors, Dubai Women's College (2019); Chromatic Horizons, Sharjah University (2015); Salutation and Endearment, Dubai Cultural and Scientific Association (2015); and Pearls, Honar Gallery, Dubai (2010). Al Khaja has additionally participated in the Sharjah Biennial, Art Dubai and has presented at Art Abu Dhabi.

Mona Al Khaja has participated in a range of local and international group exhibitions, including shows at the Sharjah Art Museum, KGallery in Dubai, the Embassy of Mexico in Abu Dhabi, and the Abu Dhabi Art exhibition, among others, over the years.

Al Khaja has received numerous awards, including the Al Owais Award, Dubai (2019 and 2004); and L'Officiel Arab Women Award, Dubai (2010). Al Khaja also participated in the Fujairah International Arts Festival Residency in 2018.

She holds a BFA from Helwan University, Cairo (1981). She is a member of the Emirates Association of Fine Arts and the Committee for the Creation of the Curriculum of Art Education in the UAE.

Born in 1958 in Sharjah, Al Khaja currently lives and works in Dubai.

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# MONA AL KHAJA



*Al Wasl*

Acrylic on canvas

70cm x 100cm

AED 31,500



*Ashkhar*

Acrylic on canvas

70cm x 100cm

AED 31,500

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## MONA AL KHAJA



*Nakheel*

Acrylic on canvas

70cm x 100cm

AED 31,500



*Dreams*

Acrylic on canvas

60cm x 80cm

AED 12,600

12

## MONA AL KHAJA



*Abstract 1*

Acrylic on canvas

50cm x 50cm

AED 10,500



*Abstract 2*

Acrylic on canvas

50cm x 50cm

AED 10,500



*Arches 1*

Acrylic on canvas

40cm x 40cm

AED 8,400

13

## MONA AL KHAJA



*Effervescence*

Acrylic on canvas

50cm x 50cm

AED 10,500



*Arches 2*

Acrylic on canvas

50cm x 50cm

AED 10,500

## SALMA AL MARRI



Al Marri completed her Bachelor of Fine Arts 1985 (painting) at Helwan University in Zamalek, Egypt. She is currently a Member of the Emirates Fine Arts Society and works as a full-time artist.

She has held many personal exhibitions through her collections: Center of Attention, Human Patterns, Frequencies, Emotional Songs, Under Seige, Sonar, Presence, Stories of the Earth, The Coins Collection and Telepathy.

She has participated in many National and International exhibitions and group forums across the globe, including New York, France, Greece, Japan, Egypt, Tunisia, Morocco, Iran, Yemen, Kuwait, and Qatar. Al Marri additionally founded the Sinyar Gallery located in The Dubai Design District, D3 (2015-2019).

She has worked in the field of Education, teaching visual arts, and then as the Senior Educational Guide of the Arts Department in the Ministry of Education in the UAE. She has contributed to the National Curriculum Document 1986: 2006.

Her work combines drawing, photography, and prominent sculpture, through the use of acrylic colors with a special technique that distinguishes and defines her individual style. Her themes are derived from the emotions of the human subconscious, Myth, Antiquities, and the surrounding natural environment.

Her works in this exhibition are derived from antiquities and historical artefacts from the UAE and its interaction with the natural environment.



SALMA AL MARRI



*Tales of Land 1*

Acrylic on canvas

80cm x 100cm

AED 48,300



*Tales of Land 2*

Acrylic on canvas

80cm x 106cm

AED 47,250

SALMA AL MARRI



*Tales of Land 3*

Acrylic on canvas

80cm x 114cm

AED 50,400



# KALTHAM BELSELAH



With a passion nurtured since childhood, Kaltham Belselah filled her paintings with colours of joy. She grew up in the 80s dreaming of studying Fine Arts, which wasn't an option in Dubai, so she studied finance, carrying her love for colour within her heart. She then did her master's

degree in Fine Arts at the Academy of Art University in San Francisco. Kaltham's art is deeply rooted in the Emirati culture, bringing it to life one brush stroke at a time. Her Emirati portraits were exhibited in several art exhibitions within the UAE and internationally.

# KALTHAM BELSELAH



Oil on linen  
145cm x 120cm  
AED 47,250



*His Highness Sheikh  
Mohamed bin Zayed and  
Sheikh Khalid bin Zayed*  
Oil on linen  
90cm x 70cm  
AED 47,250

# ABDULLA LUTFI



Abdulla Lutfi is a genius on the spectrum. An autistic savant. Multilayered. Multi-versed.

Over the last 12 years Abdulla has developed his signature monochromatic language on canvas that is inclusive, intuitive, and playful. Multilayered, his bold and even strokes are a combination of precise dexterity, intense concentration and intelligent balance that is never left to chance.

Abdulla's detailed renderings draw the audience into a multiverse where several stories are recounted organically on the same canvas. As an artist and an amusing storyteller, he invites the aesthete and the critic to uncover layered narratives that often juxtapose people of the U.A.E. and the splendid superlative skylines of the country. His canvases are insightful documentations and transparent reflections of his views of everyday life in the U.A.E. often exaggerated by his wit and sharp sense of humor.

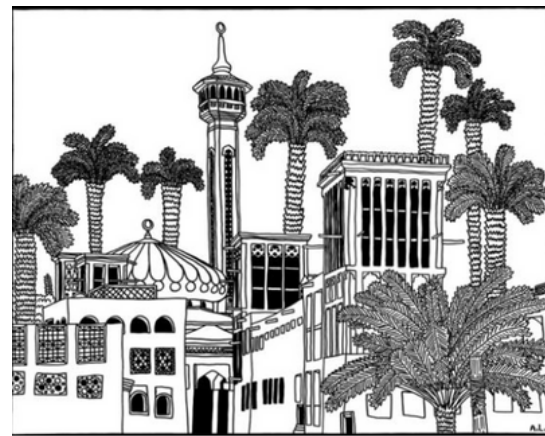
Despite his young age, Abdulla is an extremely accomplished artist. Drawing in people from varying backgrounds, his solo exhibitions have been sold out. Throughout his years as an artist, he has had several commissions from hotels, banks, and even has his art on display at the Dubai International Airport. Etihad airlines, Emirates airlines,

onverse, Crate&Barrel, ALLSAINTS, Sephora, Barakat Juice, Grandiose, Colgate, Emarat, Shein are just a few brands from the many to name that Abdulla has collaborated with. His art was displayed on World Autism Awareness Day in the Terra – the Sustainability Pavilion as part of an Expo 2020 project.

Abdulla strives to be an active member of society and uses his art to better the people around him. These efforts extend from leading speed-drawing workshops to giving demonstrations at schools and corporate events. His most recent workshop being at Apple, Abu Dhabi. Abdulla has been featured in “This is Our Time اونقناتا اه - Expo 2020 Dubai Official Theme Song” and Etihad’s U.A.E.’s golden jubilee year celebration campaign. He represented the U.A.E. at the Smithsonian Folklife Festival 2022 at Washington DC then at Tokyo UAE Embassy in Japan and recently at The Autism Speaks, Los Angeles. Abdulla launched his maiden NFT collection “Khalli Walli” that has been received by wider audience across the world. He was awarded the First place winner in the Institut Français des Emirats arabes unis and JCDecaux #ArtportChallenge think!, Pride of UAE Award, HSBC – 75 Faces of UAE, Listen to the Autism Beat 2015 Exceptional Artist Award, Magzoid Emerging Art Icon 2023 Best Artist of Determination and has won the Bronze medal at the 2019 Special Olympics World Games in Abu Dhabi for Bowling. A.L. as he is known in the art world continues to grow as a person and as a gifted artist. He continues to peer tutor his fellow artists, exhibit in various media styles and expand his repertoire of talent.

A proud Emirati at heart, Abdulla admires the leaders of the U.A.E. and their many initiatives to make this nation one of the most inclusive in the world. As an advocate for the people of determination, he has armed himself with a mission to enable special needs artists to find and share their unique voice and style in art so they too can be seen, heard, loved and accepted in the same manner that he has. In his colour-filled world, Abdulla Lutfi relentlessly aspires to raise awareness and promote inclusion for the people of determination every day ... in black and white.

# ABDULLA LUTFI



*Windtower*

Pen and ink on canvas

97cm x 123cm

AED 15,750



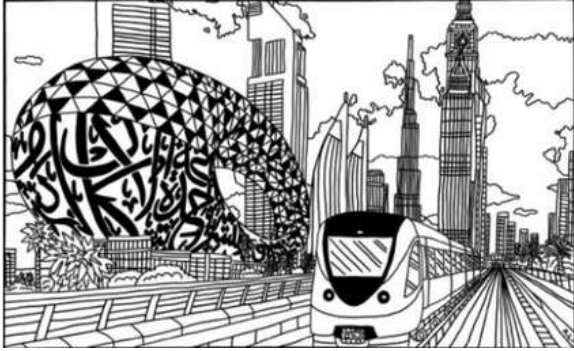
*The Frame*

Pen and ink on canvas

120cm x 90cm

AED 16,800

## ABDULLA LUTFI



*Museum of the Future*

Pen and ink on canvas

80cm x 130cm

AED 15,750

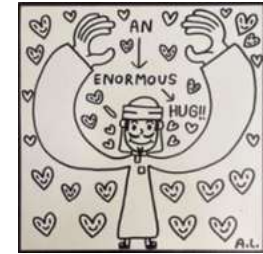


Pen and ink on canvas

Each canvas is 20cm x  
20cm

AED 525 per canvas

## ABDULLA LUTFI



Pen and ink on canvas

Each canvas is 30cm x 30cm

AED 685 per canvas



