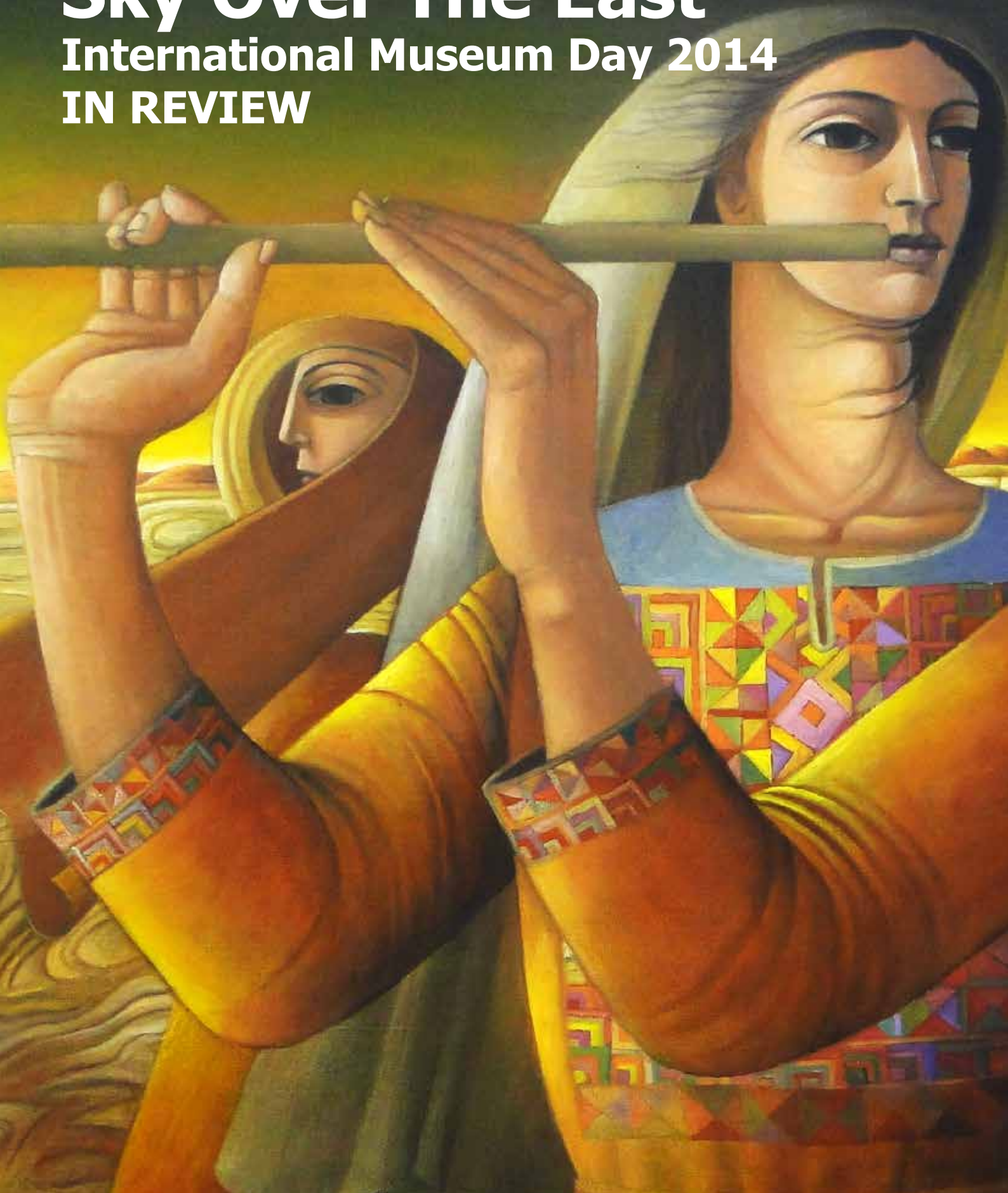


# Sky Over The East

## International Museum Day 2014

### IN REVIEW







O Sky over the East!  
Whose abaya floats over  
The tides of knowledge,  
Creations, dreams and visions.  
From above, she has witnessed a history  
Replete with days of glory, but with  
Bitterness and hindrances as well.  
The same sky that first distilled  
The legend of creation,  
And first inscribed its alphabet  
Upon the chronicles of time.

*Facing page: selected works from the exhibition by artists Abdul Qader Al Rais, Abdullah Al Muharraqi, Baya, Ali Al Abdan, Fateh Moudarres, Chafic Abboud, Jafar Islah, Louay Kayali, Paul Guiragossian, Mohammed Melehi, and Laila Shawa.*



Under the patronage of  
His Excellency Sheikh Nahayan Mubarak Al Nahyan  
UAE Minister of Culture, Youth & Community Development

**Sky Over The East:  
Works from the Collection of Barjeel Art Foundation**

presented by Abu Dhabi Music & Arts Foundation

Emirates Palace Gallery  
Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates  
29 May - 27 June 2014

**Primary Strategic Partner**

جهاز الشؤون التنفيذية  
EXECUTIVE AFFAIRS AUTHORITY



The Leadership of Abu Dhabi has demonstrated its commitment to arts and culture in the 2030 Vision – and in particular the need to invest in museums for the 21st century. ‘Sky over the East’ highlights the shared objective of the Leadership, Abu Dhabi Music & Arts Foundation and Barjeel Art Foundation to create prominent public platforms that elevate the understanding and appreciation of the visual arts in the United Arab Emirates and beyond. Exhibitions such as this are preparing the audiences for the great institutions that shall soon rise from the sands of Saadiyat Island.

After all, museums are the guardians of our collective memories and our distinct cultural identities. They are creative platforms ensuring that we learn from the lessons of our past.

International Museum Day is a global initiative highlighting the importance of museums in nurturing cross-cultural understanding. Its founder, ICOM is a non-governmental organisation maintains formal relations with UNESCO, an ADMAF Strategic International Cultural Partner.

In partnership with Barjeel Art Foundation, ADMAF sought to shine a light with this exhibition on the history of the 20th century as seen through the eyes of the Arab world’s leading artists, mindful that the visual arts strengthens understanding, ambition and identity.

As with all ADMAF exhibitions, admission to ‘Sky Over The East’ was free and accompanied by a comprehensive catalogue, workshops (for schools and children) and guided tours as well as an ‘In Conversation’ series featuring Barjeel Art Foundation Founder, Sultan Sooud Al Qassemi; featured Emirati artist and researcher, Ali Al Abdan and Manal Ataya, Director General of Sharjah Museums Authority. This presented in partnership with Emirates Writers’ Union and New York University Abu Dhabi Institute.

The title of the exhibition came from the 1953 song ‘Prayer of the East’ (Du’aa Al Sharq) by Mohammed Abdel Wahab. The lyrics are based on a poem by Mahmoud Hassan Ismail that highlight the collective aspects of the Arab spirit and allude to a metaphoric sky under which Arab communities exist.



## His Excellency Sheikh Nahayan Mubarak Al Nahyan UAE Minister of Culture, Youth & Community Development President & Patron, Abu Dhabi Music & Arts Foundation

Every day would be International Museum Day if a person attempted to visit every one of the world's 55,000 museums in a lifetime. The ancient Greeks who conceived of a special place for the Muses of their mythology could not have imagined the breath-taking popularity of their concept. Every member of the expatriate population in the United Arab Emirates comes from a country with museums. And, of course, the considerable number of museums in the UAE continues to grow as the country expands its global view and recognises the immense contribution of museums to cultural appreciation.

We have welcomed the international realisation that the Muses are peripatetic and that they can be honoured in a wide variety of suitable settings if we are faultlessly careful.

Thus, with abundant diligence, the Barjeel Art Foundation in cooperation with the Abu Dhabi Music & Arts Foundation has transported outstanding elements of the Barjeel Collection from the Maraya Art Centre in Sharjah to the Emirates Palace in Abu Dhabi where they will be on display for a month in commemoration of International Museum Day.

The Barjeel Art Foundation manages, preserves and exhibits the personal art collection of Sultan

Sooud Al Qassemi. With great vision and exquisite taste, he has assembled remarkable works created during the last 86 years by 49 artists from 12 Middle Eastern countries. The Sharjah-based foundation contributes immeasurably to the cultural literacy of the region and encourages contemporary artists by making their work publicly accessible. Now on view in Abu Dhabi, works collected by Sultan Sooud Al Qassemi testify to the truth of the Museum Day spirit, 'Museum Collections Make Connections'.

**The exhibited works stir our memories, ignite our curiosity, and excite our imagination.**

The scope and variety of the exhibition allow viewers to make connections among countries, cultures, artistic themes, creative techniques, intellectual interests -

in short, among important visions that inform our understanding of the past. Philippe de Montebello, the former director of the New York Metropolitan Museum of Art declared that "a museum is the memory of mankind". To be sure, the exhibited works stir our memories, ignite our curiosity, and excite our imagination. The mythological Muses, personifying knowledge and the arts, would feel most welcome at Sky Over The East and would sing in appreciation and thanks to Sultan Sooud Al Qassemi as well as in joyful praise of the Barjeel Art Foundation and the Abu Dhabi Music & Arts Foundation for their stunning achievements.

Hoda I. Al Khamis-Kanoo  
Founder  
Abu Dhabi Music & Arts Foundation



ADMAF is proud to join the world's museums and heritage organisations in celebrating International Museum Day 2014. This outstanding global initiative highlights the importance of these dynamic institutions in nurturing cross-cultural understanding and reminds us of the unique role museums hold in today's world. As the guardians of our collective memories, museums are creative platforms ensuring that the lessons of our past contribute to a brighter, prosperous future. They help us connect to our distinct cultural identities while exploring the universal bonds of humanity that connect us.

I am delighted that in partnership with Barjeel Art Foundation, ADMAF is able to shine a light on the fascinating history of the 20th century

as seen through the eyes of leading artists of the Arab world. I express my sincere thanks to Sultan Sooud Al Qassemi whose unwavering commitment to the arts has led to an inspiring collection that reflects the joy, the passion, the knowledge and the learning one can acquire from the preservation of Arab artistic expression.

Sky Over The East highlights both foundations' shared objective to create prominent public platforms that elevate the understanding and appreciation of the visual arts in the United Arab Emirates and beyond. I wish all those who visit this specially curated exhibition and attend its talks and workshops an enlightening and, above all, enjoyable experience.

Sultan Sooud Al Qassemi  
Founder  
Barjeel Art Foundation



We are very pleased to collaborate with the Abu Dhabi Music & Arts Foundation on a large-scale exhibition of 20th-century Arab art. The selection of works displayed provides a glimpse into the diversity of subjects that preoccupied artists in the Arab world over the past 86 years, while also highlighting relationships that existed among cultural production in different countries, and across several decades.

I hope that the exhibition encourages a wider discourse on Arab art and sheds light on the work of leading masters from the region, many of whom are still practicing today. Geographically spanning over 12 countries and two continents, the selection of art presented calls attention to a shared identity of Arab nations, while contributing

to a wider public appreciation of the visual arts. I would like to express my thanks to H.E. Hoda Al Khamis-Kanoo whose steady vision and devotion to the development of creativity and the arts within the United Arab Emirates has led to a truly inspiring and multi-faceted, public, cultural platform. I hope Sky Over The East stirs up curiosity in its audience and encourages them to pursue further research into distinct art movements, individual artists or historic events addressed in this exhibition.





Seminal works by Dia Al Azzawi (Iraq), Ismail Fattah (Iraq) and Sami Mohammed (Kuwait).



Barjeel Art Foundation is an independent, United Arab Emirates-based initiative. Its guiding principle is to contribute to the intellectual development of the art scene in the Arab region by building a prominent and accessible art collection in the UAE. Part of this objective involves developing a public platform to foster critical dialogue internationally around modern and contemporary arts practices with a focus on artists of Arab heritage. The Foundation strives to create an open-ended enquiry that responds to and conveys the nuances inherent to Arab histories beyond borders of culture and geography. By hosting in-house exhibitions, lending artwork to international forums, producing print and online publications and fashioning interactive public programmes, the Foundation strives to serve as an informative resource for contemporary art by Arab artists both locally and on the global stage.



Abu Dhabi Music & Arts Foundation (ADMAF) believes that the visual arts enhances knowledge, nurtures ambition and strengthens identity. Throughout its 18-year history, ADMAF has celebrated the diversity of artistic expression and used the visual arts to address the needs of key sectors including education, health, welfare and community. In addition to the groundbreaking exhibitions, books, tours and workshops it stages at the annual Abu Dhabi Festival, ADMAF delivers a range of initiatives throughout the year. The Nationals' Gallery supports the professional development of UAE artists with consultations, grants, commissions and exhibitions. Initiatives for schools and universities such as Ways of Seeing and The Christo & Jeanne-Claude Award inspire the next generation to discover their creativity. ADMAF also uses the visual arts to explore social issues in partnership with shelters for human trafficking and orphanages.

## Sky Over The East - Impact Summary

More than AED980,000  
(\$267,000) of media  
coverage generated

55 artworks from 50 artists  
from 12 countries spanning  
86 years of Arab history  
(1914-2000)

First partnership project  
between two leading non-  
profit arts organisations in  
the UAE

1,687 exhibition visitors

6 UAE artists featured:  
Abdul Qader Al Rais, Ali  
Al Abdan, Mohammed Al  
Mazrouei, Najjat Makki,  
Mohamed Kazem and  
Hassan Sharif

This exhibition joined  
35,000 other events around  
the world celebrating  
International Museum Day

374 adults & children  
attended the series of talks,  
workshops and  
guided tours

10,000 visits on the  
ADMAF website  
throughout the duration of  
the exhibition



## Official Opening Emirates Palace Gallery, 28 May 2014



HE Sheikh Nahayan Mubarak Al Nahyan opens the exhibition accompanied by Hoda Al Khamis-Kanoo and Sultan Sooud Al Qassemi.



HE Sheikh Nahayan Mubarak Al Nahyan, Sultan Sooud Al Qassemi and renowned artist Abdul Qader Al Rais.



HE Sheikh Nahayan Mubarak Al Nahyan with HE Sheikha Lubna Al Qassemi, UAE Minister of International Cooperation and Development.



Featured artist Mohamed Al Mazrouei presents his work to HE Sheikh Nahayan Mubarak Al Nahyan.



Sheikh Sultan Sooud Al Qassemi presents a work by the celebrated Kuwaiti artist Khazaal Awad Qaffas.



Sultan Sooud Al Qassemi, HE Sheikh Nahayan Mubarak Al Nahyan, Hoda Al Khamis-Kanoo and exhibition curator Suheyla Takesh.



The UAE media clamour for an interview with the ADMAF Patron & President.



HE Sheikh Nahayan Mubarak Al Nahyan receives a copy of the 'Sky Over The East' catalogue.







## Children's Workshops

### Watercolour Resist Painting

Suitable for ages 3-6 years, this workshop introduced young children to drawing lines and wax resistant techniques. Inspired by modern art and its colourful shapes and lines, participants used watercolours and oil pastels to develop a design based on the nature and landscapes of the Gulf as well as drawing ideas from artworks in the exhibition.

### Workshops for Schools

Abu Dhabi Music & Arts Foundations presented an exclusive series of workshops for schools led by artists Bassam Al Selawi and Maysoon Masalha.

Kufic Mural Workshop, 3 June, Age 12 years+

Emirate Dhabi (Gazelle) Workshop, 4 June. Age 15 years+

Mural Workshop, 10 June, Age 8 years+

Printmaking Workshop, 11 June, Age 12 years+





## Sky Over The East In Conversation Series

Barjeel Art Foundation Founder, Sultan Sooud Al Qassemi  
& Matthew Sansom, Head of Abu Dhabi Classic FM  
28 May 2014, Emirates Palace

*In an informative and upbeat discussion preceding the opening of the latest large-scale exhibition of modern Arab art in the UAE, Sultan Sooud Al Qassemi looked back on his adventures in art collecting. In addition to gaining insight into the exhibition and the works presented, the audience also learnt about the role of a collector, the story of Barjeel Art Foundation, the story of its founder and his vision for the future.*

Sultan credits his appetite for art to visits to museums in the French capital. His collecting took on a serious note in 2004 and by 2010, the Government of Sharjah had offered him a space in which to exhibit his acquisitions. Since then, Sultan's collection has grown from 300 to approximately 700 pieces.

The Sharjah Government's generosity highlights the importance of the public sector's support for art. It also mirrors Sultan's belief that each and every private collector has an obligation to share their collections with the public. With that in mind, Sultan approaches the act of collecting with the eye of a public entity as well as a private individual; *"I feel like the collection should be handled in a public manner. I would be presenting an incomplete picture if I only bought to keep it private. Additionally, it's important to buy an artist's work across all periods, not only the ones that one personally appreciates."*

While research is integral to informed acquisitions, the fundamental tool for a collector is instinct: *"You see it. You Like it. You want it. You are the ultimate judge. It's valuable because it pleases you. You have a connection and it makes sense to you. But it is important to speak to artists, galleries, collectors and critics. They will add value to your knowledge."* Sultan highlighted the qualities of the national art community – a united group of expertise that stretches across the 7 Emirates. He also commented on the important role of auction houses, which have unearthed information on many Arab artists that time almost forgot, thereby adding value to not only the art and artist, but to the movement of modern Arab art overall. He also praised the extensive Noor Library at Meem Gallery as a great learning resource for Arab visual art.

Sultan explored the dilemma of investing in artists by acquiring works and exhibiting them. *"Be careful what you wish for! Once an artist has a big show, prices go up. If you promote an artist but have not finished building their presence in your collection, you might be in trouble!"* Similarly, Sultan has learnt

to curb his enthusiasm when discovering work. Before reserving one particular piece by the Syrian calligrapher Mouner Al Shaarani, Sultan tweeted his admiration, only to find that one of his online followers had acquired it: *"It's a small world and word travels fast. I've learnt my lesson. I reserve first, then I tweet."*

Referring to artists of Emirati origin, Sultan acknowledged the added responsibility as a UAE citizen. 'Sky Over The East' presents works by 6 citizen artists - Mohammed Al Mazrouei, Hassan Sharif, Ali Al Abdan and Mohammed Kazem. The Barjeel Founder warned against short-term, tokenistic endeavours; *"It's important to maintain the quality and not buy for the sake of it. You want artists to aspire to a higher level."*

While Sultan is certainly one of the UAE's most active patrons of the arts, he steers away from commissioning works; having experienced the awkwardness of disliking a work he directly requested; *"It does make sense but I've had bad luck."*

As prices appreciate, a market tends to experience an influx of fakes. Of the 700 works in his collection, Sultan has uncovered 7 to 8 suspect pieces. *"The richer the country's history of art, the more forgeries there are,"* he said referring to places such as Iraq, Morocco, Egypt and Syria. Authentication is a major challenge in the Arab region as there is no official authority. As experts can disagree, Sultan prefers to seek the opinion of the artist's family. His preferred purchase point is, of course, through an auction house (with their established processes of due diligence and research, including extensive provenance investigation) despite their 20-30% premium; *"... at least they follow international practices. Institutions have a team that studies the importance of a work. You know the due diligence has been done."* Sultan went on to describe the adrenaline rush felt at auctions and the satisfaction one can experience even as an underbidder!

What about letting go? Sultan admits he has never sold a piece, although he is happy to trade with other collectors and has 'de-excessed' works through charity auctions; *"We have a list of 30-40 artworks for this purpose so that the collection can rotate and a good cause can benefit."*

And what of the future? 'Sky Over The East' presents



historical, cultural, social and economic milestones in the history of the Arab-speaking world through the work of Effat Naghi, Ahmed Cherkaoui and Abdullah Al Muharraqi, among others. Sultan predicts that the artists of the 21<sup>st</sup> century will capture the rise of technology, graffiti art, the role of women artists, and new media.

Returning to the public obligation he strongly values, Sultan is pleased to collaborate with organisations such as ADMAF in order to ensure that every part of his collection is not hidden in storage. *"Artists want their art out of the storage and to be exposed. They can sell at a discount or even gift for free because they know it will be shown,"* he disclosed.

Barjeel Art Foundation and ADMAF's share an equally firm commitment to arts education. With 470 pieces online (increasingly daily), Barjeel also welcomes schools and young people; *"It gives me a great deal of pleasure to see others enjoy the work. If the work makes you think, it opens the door to analytical thought and interaction."*

With multiple forms of expression hailing from Europe, Africa, Arab world as well as its own rich culture, the UAE art scene is incomparable within the Gulf region. The artists, studios, foundations, fairs, and galleries provide an entire ecosystem. With the current momentum, art is establishing itself as a viable career path. While many lament the modest numbers of full-time artists, Sultan remains patient and optimistic, equating the pace of progress with the growth of sports professionals over the last 50 years. *"The perception of art as a career has gone through the same stages all over the world."*

Following the formal lecture, during the Q&A session the first question came from H.E. Sheikha Lubna Al Qassemi, UAE Minister of International Cooperation & Development who congratulated Sultan on his role as a transformer and his ability to share: *"You are an authority because people trust your brand. You are a pioneer. My generation was engineering and then it changed the world. You made a choice and took a risk."* In response to the question 'How can we help share your legacy?' Sultan stressed the importance of shared responsibility – to collect and curate creatively irrespective of finance or ability.

Another audience member asked whether Barjeel Art Foundation's plans to exhibit the collection in other parts of the world, Sultan spoke of recent loans to the Modern Art Museum in Antwerp as well as other cultural venues in Istanbul, Berlin, Istanbul, Stuttgart, Japan, Washington DC and Barjeel's 2013 exhibition in Singapore that attracted 58,000 visitors over 2 months, unprecedented for modern Arab art.

Questions followed regarding the state of arts journalism in the UAE, gender representation in collections, and morality versus creativity.

The final question was left to the moderator Matthew Sansom who asked the burning question, "Your house is in flames. What two works would you save?"

Stumped momentarily, Sultan replied, *"It's like asking me to save 2 kids when I have 4.... Because my collection is public, I would rescue a piece I love and another with historical value."*

By Lisa Ball-Lechgar



# Sky Over The East

## In Conversation Series

Ali Al Abdan, Artist & Critic  
& Sameh Khawach, ADMAF  
4 June 2014, Emirates Palace Gallery  
in association with Emirates Writers Union

Abu Dhabi Music & Arts Foundation (ADMAF) and the Barjeel Art Foundation, in association with Emirates Writers Union, hosted the second talk in the 'In Conversation' series, part of the 'Sky Over The East' exhibition at Emirates Palace Gallery. The talk, entitled 'Pen to Brush: The Journey of a Scholar-Artist' brought together featured artist, Ali Al Abdan, and Sameh Kaawach from ADMAF to discuss Ali's relationship with the visual arts, both as an artist and critic, as they examined the UAE visual arts movement.

The talk began with Ali Al Abdan offering an overview of the history of visual art in the United Arab Emirates and his experience in the field of art criticism. In his book 'The New Century: Directions of the Visual Arts in the UAE since 2000', he refers to his artistic quest to fill an internal need that cannot be defined. He recalled the time when he started to develop his knowledge of the visual arts by examining the aesthetic beauty of the surrounding environment in which he lived. This affected his view and approach of art for the dry desert environment was a landscape lacking in colour.

Al Abdan's fascination with the sculptural form is longstanding – a practice that is almost instinctive to him. He believes that the process of sculpting enables the artist to innovate and explore his creativity. As a sculptor, an artist possesses the ability to express volume and perspective in a three-dimensional form that painting on canvas or paper cannot achieve.

Through his artistic practice, Al Abdan explained that he does not specifically seek to illustrate the traditions of Emirati culture nor does he seek to reflect upon the folkloric content of the country's past. In contrary to the critical opinions of others, he transmits stories from the past in a deeper way; describing his work as confident, direct and honest epitomised by symbols and thoughts that refer to other tales.

Al Abdan does not subscribe to the style of expressionism because this particular school does not offer a satisfactory space to express – it restricts

him as an artist within the limits of convention and prevents the reflection of contemporary thinking. During the discussion, he referred to those critics belonging to this school as those who overcomplicate; preferring to indulge their feelings and emotions in poetic terms that give meanings and explanations that do not concur with the theme nor explain the full value of the work.

Al Abdan stated that he is not strictly committed to one particular style. In the creation of a new work, he is driven only by thought and memory, following a path he knows not where it will lead. He uses modern techniques such as collage, counter to the classical school, and siding more with Cubism and Surrealism in order to break conventional forms.

Referring to the piece 'On Al Khan Beach', exhibited as part of 'Sky Over The East', Al Abdan recalled his attempt to capture the view from a particular hotel in Sharjah in 1988 with oil on canvas. The work took a year to complete.

Al Abdan commented that the concept of art remains unclear for many visual artists in the UAE; remarking that most work produced can only be described as a visual experience deprived of beauty.

In conclusion, Al Abdan returned to the motivation behind the book. 'The New Century: Directions of the Visual Arts in the UAE since 2000'. He wanted to explain the term 'conceptual' in a simple, easy language accessible to as wide a readership as possible.

*By Sameh Khawach*





## Sky Over The East In Conversation Series

Manal Ataya, Director General of Sharjah Museums Authority  
& Saeed Saeed, Features Writer of The National newspaper

16 May 2014, Emirates Palace Gallery

in association with New York University Abu Dhabi Institute

*In a fascinating public discussion held among artworks by some of the leading Arab artists of the 20th century, Manal Ataya, Director General of Sharjah Museums Authority, spoke to The National's Features Writer Saeed Saeed about the changing face of museums today.*

Saeed began the talk by posing the question 'Do museums matter today?' Ataya spoke of mankind's right to participate in culture and fulfil one's intellect. This 'common wealth', which has been handed down by ancestors, should be accessible to all and, in 2014, it is technology that offers myriad opportunities around how we explore, understand and appreciate this rich legacy. The definition of a museum today is almost limitless. While many are public institutions, the informal environments that they create nurture learning. They are, in essence, "a living organism that listens to the community in which they exist." Ataya highlighted a concern shared by many museum directors; that the worst reaction from a visitor is indifference. If one can create spaces of contemplation, exploration and thought, where exhibits have substance and multiple layers of interpretation that leave visitors with a lasting memory, then the museum is succeeding. She referred to the recent exhibition at the Sharjah Museum of Islamic Civilization - 'So that you might know each other - the world of Islam from North Africa to China and beyond' - which presented items of Islamic art from the Vatican Collection. "It gave wonderful insight into visitor psychology and social attitudes. The weekly majlis offered open discourse, further affirming the exhibition's message of peace and interfaith dialogue," Ataya said.

So in today's world, what is their role? Ataya referred to the need to be 'positively provocative', believing that a museum's critical mission is to answer the public need to understand their culture as well as others and the connections between. An effective museum is rooted in research and analysis; understanding the possibilities of one's collection and the nature and needs of one's audience today and tomorrow. Ataya hailed H.H. Dr Sheikh Sultan Al Qassemi, Ruler of Sharjah, as a forerunner who, to this day, applies his extensive knowledge and personal touch to many aspects of the museums' mechanisms.

A museum, of course, is only as effective as the captain steering it. And in a country that is witnessing

a rise in museum numbers as well as the quality of exhibits, individuals such as Ataya need to continue their professional development to benefit the institutions in which they work. Ataya's childhood interest culminated in a Museum Studies degree at Harvard yet she remains familiar with the latest trends, practices and activities by attending conferences and summits. "Running a museum is akin to a Field Marshall or CEO. Its success is down to the effectiveness and abilities of its manpower," alluding to the army of skilled staff that maintains every aspect of Sharjah's 16 museums and all in accordance with international best practice. A panorama of expertise is required that traverse business management, international relations, development, education as well as art and antiquities. Today, the UAE needs more of its citizens to pursue careers in this sector as archivists, educationalists, curators, and restorers, to name but a few.

Audience interaction led to several intriguing questions. One issue that plagues many a museum across the world is the dilemma 'of storage versus display'. How does one ensure access to an entire collection when only a percentage of it is ever exhibited to the public at one time. Ataya mentioned the various approaches currently in practice; from online collections to open storage and mobile exhibitions for schools and remote communities. Nevertheless, big is not necessarily better and demands for quantity should never be allowed to overshadow the quality of a museum's work.

As the UAE positions itself as a cultural hub for the 21<sup>st</sup> century, Ataya is confident that the role of museums in building a 'destination' shall only grow. As these guardians convey the value of our heritage, the bonds of respect and understanding among communities and tourists alike shall strengthen.

In today's globalised world and consumerist focus, the dark hand of cynicism can easily overshadow one's opinion of museums. Saeed Saeed left the audience with a glimmer of hope; for in the USA alone, the 35,000 registered museums exceed the number of MacDonalds and Starbucks put together. Further evidence that mankind's greatest appetite is his natural curiosity to explore his past, in order to know his present and his future.

By Lisa Ball-Lechgar





## Exhibition Promotion

### Sky Over The East: Works from the Collection of Barjeel Art Foundation

To celebrate International Museum Day 2014, Abu Dhabi Music & Arts Foundation (ADMAF) in partnership with Barjeel Art Foundation presents a selection of works by leading Arab artists of the 20th century. Spanning a spectrum of styles, mediums and subject matter, the exhibition seeks to contextualize key milestones from the region's modern history and testify to the artist's role as a vital contributor to the intellectual development of society.

Drawn from the collection of Sultan Sooud Al Qassemi, the exhibition highlights ADMAF and Barjeel's shared objective of creating prominent public platforms to elevate the understanding and appreciation of the visual arts in the United Arab Emirates and beyond. Accompanied by an education programme for all ages (check website for details).

Exhibition on view until Friday, 27 June

#### Opening Hours:

Sun - Sat: 12:00 - 8:00pm

For more information, visit [www.admaf.org](http://www.admaf.org)

### 'Sky Over the East: Works from the Collection of Barjeel Art Foundation'

Emirates Palace Gallery, Open daily 12:00-8:00pm until 27 June



Abu Dhabi Music & Arts Foundation (ADMAF) in partnership with Barjeel Art Foundation presents a selection of works by leading Arab artists of the 20th century to mark International Museum Day 2014.

Drawn from Barjeel Art Foundation's remarkable collection of Arab art, the exhibition spans 86 years of regional visual arts practice. Spanning a spectrum of styles, mediums and subject matter, the exhibition presents 56 works by 60 artists from 12 countries and seeks to contextualise key milestones in the region's modern history.

Featured artists include Dia Al Azzawi (Iraq), Ahmed Cherkaoui (Morocco), Abdullah Al Muharraqi (Bahrain), Baya (Algeria), Chafic Abboud (Lebanon), Abdul Qader Al Rais, (UAE); Ibrahim Salahi (Sudan); Laila Shawa (Palestine); Adam Henein (Egypt); Mona Saudi (Jordan); Fateh Moudarres (Syria), and many, many more.

#### GUIDED TOURS

Join us on a fascinating journey through the exhibition as we delve behind the artworks and their artists every Thursday at 3pm. Booking recommended. Contact [amanda.s@admaf.org](mailto:amanda.s@admaf.org)

#### IN CONVERSATION

An intimate series of discussions staged in the gallery itself with some of the country's finest cultural professionals. Limited capacity. Booking essential. Contact [education@admaf.org](mailto:education@admaf.org)

#### From Pen to Brush: The Journey of a Scholar-Artist

In association with Emirates Writers' Union  
Wednesday 4 June, 7:00-8:00pm  
Emirates Palace Gallery  
Featured UAE artist Ali Al Abdan talks to ADMAF's Sameh Kaawach about his artistic career and the country's visual art history (session in Arabic)

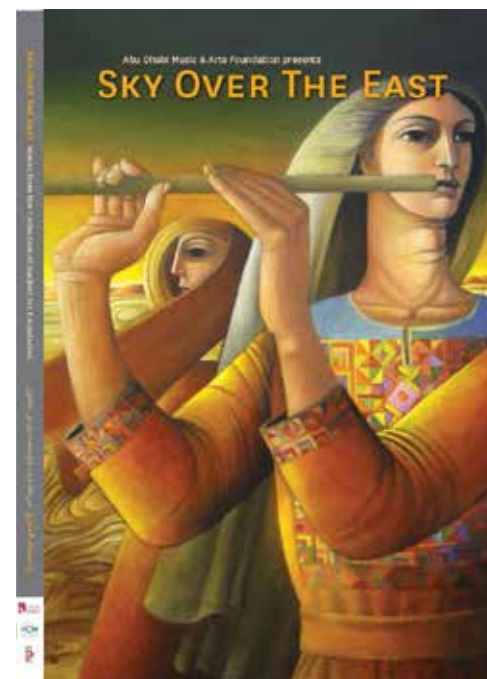
#### Museum Collections Make Connections

In association with New York University Abu Dhabi Institute  
Monday 16 June, 7:00-8:00pm  
Emirates Palace Gallery  
Manal Ataya, Director General of Sharjah Museums Authority talks to Saeed Saeed of The National about ways in which museums can build meaningful, sustainable and mutually beneficial relationships with all those it reaches (session in English)

#### CHILDREN'S WORKSHOP

##### Wax On! Wax Off!

Saturday 7 June, 4:00-5:30pm  
Suitable for ages 3-6 years  
Make your own art by using wax and watercolours to create colourful designs inspired by the nature and landscapes of the Gulf. Booking essential. Contact [education@admaf.org](mailto:education@admaf.org)



Above: Catalogue

Below: Advertisement

INTERNATIONAL MUSEUM DAY  
JOURNÉE INTERNATIONALE DES MUSÉES  
DÍA INTERNACIONAL DE LOS MUSEOS

18  
MAY  
MAI  
MAYO  
2014



Abu Dhabi Music & Arts Foundation presents

### 'Sky Over the East: Works from the Collection of Barjeel Art Foundation'

Emirates Palace Gallery, 29 May - 27 June 2014 (12 to 8pm daily)



Explore the 20<sup>th</sup> century through the eyes of the Arab world's finest artists.

Explore a breathtaking selection of works from the 20<sup>th</sup> century to mark International Museum Day 2014. Explore the paintings and sculptures by nearly 50 artists in our Guided Tours every Thursday at 3pm. Discuss the meaning of museums today with Sharjah Museums Authority's Manal Ataya on 16 June (7-8pm).

Limited capacity. Please register at [education@admaf.org](mailto:education@admaf.org)



Above: Exhibition VIP Opening Invitation; Advertisement / E-flyer;  
International Museum Day 2014 advertisement



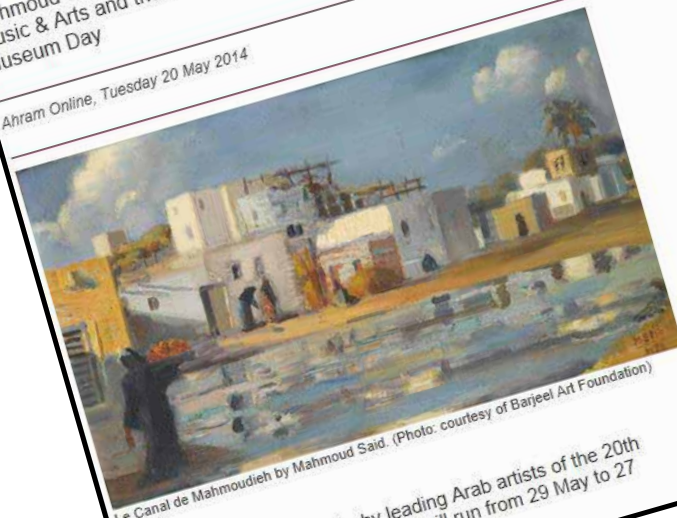
## What The Papers Said...



**Major show of Arab Art in Abu Dhabi marks Museum Day 2014**

An exhibition featuring works by 25 leading Arab artists, including Mahmoud Said and Inji Efflatoun, is co-organised by the Abu Dhabi Music & Arts and the Barjeel Art foundations to commemorate Museum Day

Ahram Online, Tuesday 20 May 2014



Related

A major exhibition of works by leading Arab artists of the 20th century, titled Sky Over The East, will run from 29 May to 27 June at the Emirates Palace Gallery.



سعد برناج صباح أدار في حفلته اليوم الخميس (29) من مايو/أيار، الصورة على المعرض الفني التشكيلي يا سماء الشرق، من مقارنت مؤسسة برناج بالتعاون مع مؤسسة برناج للتأويل، والتزامن مع احتفالات اليوم العالمي للمتاحف، ولإحياء شهر تحت رعاية معالي الشيخ نهيان بن مبارك آل نهيان، وزير الثقافة والشباب وتنمية المجتمع، رئيس ورأي مجموعة أبوظبي للثقافة والفنون.

وفي فترة الليلة امتصاف الفنون التراثية الإسلامية محمد صباح التيسوي، مدير عام الصندوق الدولي للحفاظ على البحار، الذي عرف المتاحف على الصناعات التقليدية التي تأسس في عام 2006 في أبوظبي، والتي إدارتها شركة عالمية.

المتاحف التي تهدف إلى الحفاظ على طائر البحار، وزيادة أبحاثه، والتعاون مع نقائص بيئات الطبيعة على إمداد لتقليل انتشاره في مختلف أنحاء العالم، حيث يتواجد هذا الطائر في أكثر من 40 دولة أجنبية في إفريقيا.

برناج التيسوي أروع البحار وأصغر طيورها، وحركتها، وكيفية إعادة إحيائها، ومن الصندوق في ذلك.

أما في فترة الألفية والعمل، فكان موضوعها أحدث قصص التمس لصيف 2014، استضاف صباح آثار الألفية صباح الجيسى - التي تشر بركمرو إرثنا لتحتفل، الذي أطلع المشاهد على أبرز قصص التمس لهذا الموسم، مشجعاً على حماية هذا المخلوق.

كان أبرز ما أكرمها روحاً بين القباب وهي غريبة حيث يكون التمس فيها من جهة خفيف و خفيف و لكنه طويل من الجهة الأخرى.

وفي آخر فترات البرنامج قصة نجاح، فكانت بحسبها الهندسة مالك حسن، والتي حققت نجاحات متواصلة في مجال التحسينات الهندسية، وحاصلة على جوائز عدة في مجال التصميم الهندسي، كما تشاركت في مشروعات عديدة منها طائر الاتحاد وعمره نني ومجموعة مختلفة في بني الفاضل، وتشغل منصب الرئيس التنفيذي لإحدى الشركات الهندسية الخاصة والمهنية بتصميم الفن الإنشائي المعماري.



أبو ظبي - محمد ملاونة

استضافت مجموعة أبوظبي للثقافة والفنون مساء اليوم جلسة حوارية لثلاث فنانين من مختلف أنحاء العالم، في إطار سلسلة جلسات الحوار التي تنفذها على هامش فعاليات معرض 'يا سماء الشرق' الذي يقام بمعرض أبوظبي للفنون. الجلسة شارك فيها الفنان المصري محمد ملاونة، والفنان العراقي نوري بركات، والفنان السوري نوري بركات.

في البداية، رحب مدير المعرض الدكتور محمد صباح الجيسى، بالضيوف وألقى كلمة ترحيبية، مؤكداً على أهمية الحوار بين الفنانين من مختلف الثقافات في تعزيز التفاهل والتواصل بين الشعوب.

ثم تناول المشاركون في الجلسة موضوعاً مشتركاً، وهو 'الحوار بين الثقافات'، حيث شارك كل من الفنانين في تقديم رؤىهم حول هذا الموضوع، وأجابوا على أسئلة الحضور.

في الختام، شكر مدير المعرض الضيوف على مشاركتهم في هذه الجلسة الحوارية، وأعلن عن انطلاق سلسلة من الفعاليات التي تنفذها المجموعة خلال الفترة المقبلة.



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