

## Commissioned Artists in Cultural Sites and works for In and Around at Abu Dhabi Art

Media kit available [here](#)



Installation image, Dina Mattar, Al Jahili Fort

Abu Dhabi Art has announced three selected artists for the **Artist Commissions in Cultural Sites** programme: Dina Mattar, Ahmed Saeed Al Areef Al Dhaheri and Manal Mahamid. These artists have been brought together in a group show, responding to the notion of the gazelle, which holds an important cultural significance throughout the Arab world, appearing across literature poetry and environmental discourse as a symbol of beauty and resilience.

- The artist **Ahmed Saeed Al Areef Al Dhaheri** will present new and existing works within the historic walls of Al Jahili Fort, centered around *Lady Lioness*, a mythological figure born from the artist's childhood memories.
- For **Manal Mahamid**, the gazelle holds profound cultural resonance appearing as a powerful symbol in literature, poetry, and environmental discourse. In her sculpture for Al Ain Oasis, Mahamid contemplates the shared heritage of the gazelle in the UAE and the Levant.
- **Dina Mattar** presents a new body of work that includes painting, *tatreez* embroidery and works on paper. Her references to the gazelle abound throughout the works in exhibition,

drawing on diverse associations of this beautiful animal with stories, legends and landscape, including plants and beautiful flowers.

Abu Dhabi Art will also present seven works **In and Around** the fair on view at Manarat Al Saadiyat during the fair days only, from 20-24 November 2024. This sector brings together works that open up a range of cultural, social, and ecological perspectives this year.



ABDOULAYE KONATE, Tunisie, 2023

- Abdoulaye Konaté (*Efie Gallery*): Renowned for his large-scale textile installations, Konaté masterfully merges West African textile traditions with reflections on socio-political and environmental issues.
- Raed Yassin (*Gallery Isabelle*): *City Mirage* repurposes vintage shop signs letters from Beirut, symbolizing the city's commercial decline amidst economic crises and following the Beirut port explosion, while capturing the inventiveness and resilience of its people.
- Rayanne Tabet (*Sfeir-Semler Gallery*): *Découpages*, a frieze of 114 cut-out sheets from Jules Bourgoïn's 19th-century manuscripts documenting Egyptian architectural ornaments, reimagines the geometries of these works that defined European perceptions of "Arab Art."
- Anthony Olubunmi Akinbola (*Carbon 12*) explores themes of critical race theory, commodification, and colour theory, addressing epistemic violence in his work.
- Nike Davies-Okundaye (*kó*): A leading Nigerian textile artist, Davies-Okundaye preserves traditional batik and adire techniques, empowering thousands by teaching these crafts and supporting women in the industry.
- Dima Srouji (*Lawrie Shabibi*): Combines architecture and art to explore cultural history and collective healing through projects involving archaeologists, anthropologists, and artisans.

- Stefano Simontacchi (*Salwa Zeidan*): The Prism invites viewers into a luminous exploration of quantum physics and infinite dimensions, inspired by the entanglement experiment.



RAED YASSIN, City Mirage, 2024

This diverse selection of works highlights the breadth of contemporary art an offer from participating galleries, offering visitors an engaging and thought-provoking experience at the fair.

**Artist Commissions in Cultural Sites** will open on 19 November 2024, with commissions on view in Al Ain at Al Jahili Fort and at Al Ain Oasis.

For further information on the artists visit the website [abudhabiart.ae](http://abudhabiart.ae)

This programme is now sponsored by Abu Dhabi Art's Global Partner HSBC.

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