



HUNAR GALLERY: 20 Years On and Still Going Strong

When Hunar Gallery opened its doors in 1998, Alanood Al Warshow was the first Emirati to open a commercial art gallery. She selected a villa in the Rashidiya area of Dubai for Hunar Gallery, she became the founder of one of only three main art galleries in the city. Although at first, the gallery was dedicated to all forms of art, Al Warshow's primary goal was, from the start to encourage others to appreciate and value modern and contemporary Middle Eastern art. It was later, in 2008, when she attended the first edition of Art Dubai and was disappointed to see not one Emirati artist represented, that she decided to fine tune her gallery's priorities and dedicate herself to representing UAE nationals.

Since then, she has attended every edition of Art Dubai and Abu Dhabi Art with a focus and dedication towards representing UAE artists. For her, the most important part of her business is giving the artists a platform that they deserve.

"I felt a responsibility to the great talent that we have here in the UAE," she said. "For me, I was not driven by commercial needs, but more by a passion."

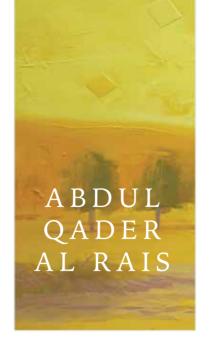
Now, the gallery represents some of the UAE's leading artists such as Abdul Qader Al Rais, Dr Najat Makki, Abdul Rahem Salim and Mona Al Khaja and she has also exhibited other leading artists such as Mattar Bin Lahej as well artist, author and designer, Amalie Beljafla. She has also dedicated herself towards emerging artists such as the Tebra collective, which included Sheikha Hessa bint Maktoum Al Maktoum, Sara Al Futtaim and Sheikha Sawsan Al Qassimi and was a collective of females, who united their creativity. In addition, Al Warshow has hosted exhibitions for graduating students from local universities as well as workshops and guidance for those who are interested in pursuing art as a professional career.

This year, for the tenth edition of Abu Dhabi Art, Hunar Gallery is celebrating its 20-year anniversary. Functioning now in a completely changed art environment from the one within which it started, Al Warshow considers her role now as more important than ever before. She continues to specialise in Emirati art because after 20 years, she has a deep and well-rounded knowledge of the market and remains at the forefront carving out a prominent place for UAE nationals, whose talent is broad and wide ranging.

"For me, the main priority is in education. It is my job to make sure that people from as many audiences as possible learn to love and appreciate the art from the UAE."

Perhaps one of the clearest examples of the success of the gallery is the rise and popularity of her leading artist Abdul Qader Al Rais. Thanks to her dedication in consistently bringing his artwork to the market and representing him at art fairs in the UAE and abroad, he is finally getting the recognition he deserves. In 2018, the same year that Hunar Gallery is celebrating its 20-year anniversary, Al Rais had his first international retrospective at the Institut du Monde Arabe in Paris. It is these kinds of achievements that make Alanood Al Warshow proud.

"To see the artists we work with increase and have their profile raised makes me very proud. This is why I started the gallery in the first place," she said. "It wasn't a very easy job at the beginning, I am very selective about the artists I choose and now I know I can trust my judgement. We have had a successful two decades and I hope that we have many more to come."



Abdul Qader Al Rais has an international fame and his artworks were sold in international auction houses as Christie's, and the greatest world museums acquired his artworks such as the British Museum, National Gallery of Modern Art, in New Delhi, Shanghai Museum, and a number of the Arab museums. In addition, he exhibits his works in the largest airports in UAE. Al Rais journey of giving represents an example of a self-study artist to develop his creativity starting from Realism, moving to Impressionism then Abstraction and finally Calligraphy.







Al Qader Al Rais, مجموعة الغاف alghaf series Oil On Canvas - 2018 - 200 x 200



Al Qader Al Rais Al Samar Series - Oil on Canvas - 200 x 100 cm



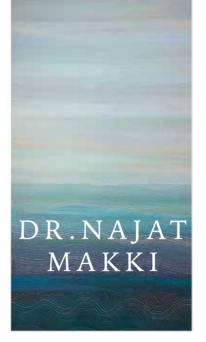
Al Qader Al Rais Al samar Series - Oil on Canvas - 200 x 100 cm



 $\label{eq:Al-Qader Al-Rais} Al \ Qader \ Al \ Rais \\ Serenity \ Series - Water \ Colour \ on \ Paper - 105 \ x \ 75 \ cm$

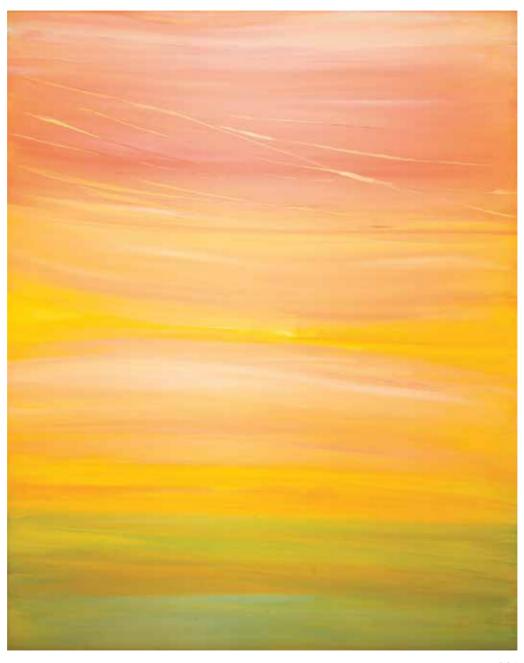


 $\mbox{Al Qader Al Rais} \label{eq:Al Rais} \mbox{Yester Year Series - Water Colour on Paper - 105 x 75 cm}$



Obtained the PhD in 2001 in the field of metal coinage, and her artistic experience represents another example of creativity which is the outcome of persistent efforts, continuity, and giving in an era in which the art was not featured by this status. Her works was demanded by international museums, and exhibitions, in addition to her participation in international biennales. She obtained many awards and appreciation inside and outside GCC. Dr. Makki's works is distinguished by specialty of its style in the frame of abstract expressionism, inspired from local heritage to reach by the deepness represented in her colors to worlds drive the viewer to meditation.





Dr. Najat Makki Acrylic on Canvas - 150 x 120



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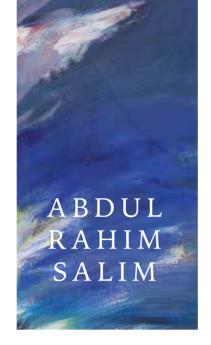
Dr. Najat Makki Crystal - 60 cm



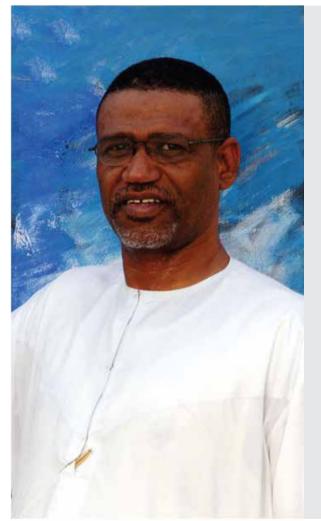
Dr. Najat Makki Glass Sculpture - 50 cm



Dr. Najat Makki Glass Sculpture - 50 cm

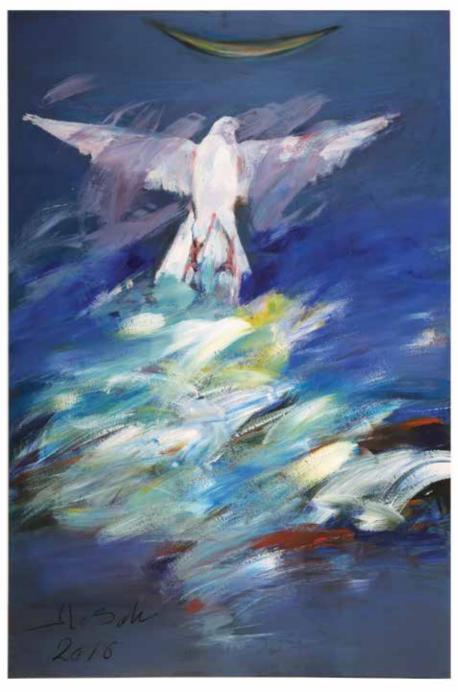


who lives the journey of previous artists, after his graduation from Faculty of Fine Arts, Cairo university, Major of sculpture in 1981, to crystallize its renewable artistic style through a journey does not know how to stop, in the frame of his especial relation to black and white colors, inks, and dark colors that are penetrated by light, in addition to his usage of different techniques in his paintings such as stencils and collage attempting to achieve expression in symbolism. He was awarded many awards in biennales that he participated in Cairo, Bangladesh, and Sharjah.





Abdul Rahim Salim Acrylic on canvas - 137 x 100



 $Abdul\ Rahim\ Salim$ Desert Strom - Acrylic on paper - 137 x 100



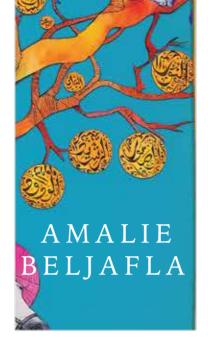
Abdul Rahim Salim Desert Strom - Acrylic on Canvas - 107 x 127



 $\label{eq:Abdul Rahim Salim} Abdul \ Rahim \ Salim \ Chromatic \ Composition \ I - Acrylic \ on \ Canvas - 127 \ x \ 167$



 $\label{eq:Abdul Rahim Salim} Abdul \ Rahim \ Salim \\ Chromatic \ Composition \ II - Acrylic \ on \ Canvas - 127 \ x \ 167 \\$



Born on the 11th May 1991, to an Emirati Father and Norwegian Mother, with her mixed cultural heritage playing a major role in her artwork, combined with her ideas on life and spirituality. Beljafla's acclaimed bold surrealist style is highly sought after and known for it's strong use of symbolism, vibrant palette, strong linear lines and distinctive patterning. Her exquisite art pieces radiate light and convey positive messages.

Beljafla was raised in Dubai where she graduated, before moving to London to pursue her degree at the prestigious Central Saint Martin's College of Arts and Design in 2009. Having completed a foundation degree in Art and Design, she continued her BA in Graphic Design, finishing with an honors degree in June 2013. In June 2015 she graduated with Masters in Communication and Design also from Central Saint Martin's College of Art and Design.

In 2014 Amalie published her first book called 'For You' www.amaliesbook.com, with Hay house and Balboa Press to implement positive thinking for children and adults alike, and to serve as a reminder to everyone of all you can be. Amalie says "When you work with your heart in the right place and with love, integrity and honesty, nothing can go wrong, you can by grace divinely, God willingly create anything you want in your life no matter how big it is, all is possible".





Amalie Beljafla Al Noor IV Series - The Zayed Al Khair Collection Part II - 2018 - mixed media - 140 x 82 cm



 $\label{eq:Amalie Beljafla} A malie Beljafla$ The Founding Fathers, The Zayed AL Khair Collection Part II - 2018 - Mixed media - 160 x 78 cm



Amalie Beljafla The Prayer IV, The Zayed Al Khair Collection Part II - mixed media - 119 x 89 cm



Amalie Beljafla The Source of All Goodness II - The Source of All Goodness III Series The Zayed Al Khair collection Part II - mixed media - 125 x 90 cm



 $\label{eq:Amalie Beljafla} A malie Beljafla$ The Universe I, The Universe III Series The Religions United Collection 2018 - mixed media - 170 x 104 cm



 $\label{eq:Amalie Beljafla} Al Hadi III Series, The Zayed Al Khair Collection part II - 2018 - mixed media - 123cm x 72 cm$



The Wisdom I



The Wisdom II



The Wisdom III



The Wisdom IV

 $\label{eq:Amalie Beljafla} A malie Beljafla$ The Wisdom IV Series , The Zayed Al Khair Collection Part II - 2018 - mixed media - 150cm x 82 cm



Amalie Beljafla The Tree of Al Salam, Religions. United Collection 2018 - mixed media - 170 x 102 cm











