

AFRA AL DHAHERI

Born 1988, Abu Dhabi, UAE

Lives and works in Abu Dhabi, UAE

EDUCATION

2017 MFA in Painting, Rhode Island School of Design
Providence, Rhode Island

2011 BA in Graphic Design, Zayed University, Abu Dhabi, UAE

RESIDENCIES AND AWARDS

2023 Artist-in-Residence, The Watermill Center, NY

2022 Finalist, Richard Mille Art Prize 2022, Louvre Abu Dhabi, UAE
VIR Viafarini-in-residence, Viafarini, Milan, Italy

2019 Porthmeor Studios, St. Ives, Cornwall, UK

2014 Salama bint Hamdan Emerging Artists Fellowship Program
in Collaboration with Rhode Island School of Design,
Rhode Island

SOLO EXHIBITIONS

2027 National Museum of Women in the Arts, Washington DC
(forthcoming)

2025 *Restless Circle*, Sharjah Art Foundation, Sharjah, UAE

2023 *Give Your Weight To The Ground*, Green Art Gallery, Dubai, UAE

2021 *Split Ends*, Green Art Gallery, Dubai, UAE

2016 *Inevitable Ephemeria*, T + H Gallery, Boston, MA

PUBLIC COMMISSIONS

2024 *Union of Artists*, commissioned by Dubai Culture in collaboration
with Art Dubai (with artists Khalid Albanna, Shaikha Al Mazrou,
Asma Belhamar and Mohamed Ahmed Ibrahim)

2021 *Pillow Fort Playground*, Public Art Programme, Expo 2020, Dubai,
UAE

PROJECTS

- 2024 *Collective Exhaustion*, inaugural production supported by the National Grant for Culture and Creativity at the Ministry of Culture and Youth of the United Arab Emirates

SELECTED GROUP EXHIBITIONS

- 2026 *In Interludes and Transitions*, Diriyah Contemporary Art Biennale, Saudi Arabia (forthcoming)
- 2025 *Whispers on the Horizon*, Taipei Biennial 2025, Taiwan
A Time Between Ashes and Roses, Aichi Triennale 2025, Japan
Perfect is the Question, OG Gallery, Istanbul
What are you looking for?, Société, Berlin, Germany
The Sculpture Park, Jaipur, India
- 2024 *Public Matter*, Public Art Abu Dhabi Biennial, Abu Dhabi, UAE
Between the Tides: A Gulf Quinquennial, NYUAD Art Gallery, Abu Dhabi, UAE
On Ma, Galleria Pedro Cera, Lisbon, Portugal
Acacia Seeds, Galerie Balice Hertling, Paris, France
- 2022 *ICON. ICONIC.*, Art Here 2022 x Richard Mille Art Prize, Louvre Abu Dhabi, UAE
I Shouted My Laughter to the Stars, Aicon Contemporary, New York, NY
Portrait of a Nation II: Beyond Narratives, Manarat Al Saadiyat, Abu Dhabi, UAE
Zemanna, Manarat Al Saadiyat, Abu Dhabi, UAE
- 2021 *Tadaroj (Gradation)*, Sharjah Islamic Arts Festival, Sharjah, UAE
Under Construction, Misk Art Institute, Riyadh, Saudi Arabia
Between The Sky and The Earth: Contemporary Art from the UAE, Middle Eastern Institute, Washington, DC
Hair Mapping Body; Body Mapping Land, ICD Brookfield Place, Dubai, UAE
Beyond: Emerging Artists, Cromwell Place, London, UK
Conscious Becoming, Tatjana Pieters, Ghent, Belgium
Concepts and The Divine Abstract, The Farjam Foundation, Dubai, UAE
- 2020 *Beyond: Emerging Artists*, Abu Dhabi Art, Gallery S, Manarat Al Saadiyat, Abu Dhabi, UAE

- Intimate Dimensions*, Hafez Gallery, Jeddah, Saudi Arabia
- 2019 *From Within*, Riyadh, KSA
Avoid Bad Dreams, Green Art Gallery, Dubai, UAE
 BAIT15 Founders Exhibition, Cuadro Gallery, Dubai, UAE
- 2018 *From Barcelona to Abu Dhabi*, group show with MACBA collection, Manarat Al Saadiyat, Abu Dhabi, UAE
- 2017 *RISD MFA Painting*, 315 Gallery, New York, NY
- 2017 *Mutual Encounters*, Gelman Gallery, Rhode Island, USA
- 2016 *Hang Ten*, Field Projects, New York, NY
- 2015 *Emirati Expressions IV: Convention of Arts*, Manarat Al Saadiyat, Abu Dhabi, UAE
- 2013 *Jalal's Art Trip 2013- Urban Trek*, Ghaf Art Gallery, Abu Dhabi, UAE
- 2011 *Emirati Expressions II*, Manarat Al Saadiyat, Abu Dhabi, UAE

SELECTED PRESS

- 2025 Bell-Roberts, Suzette. "Afra Al Dhaheri: Tracing Stillness in Motion." *Art Africa Magazine*, November 2025
- Ojha, Srishti. "Endurance and erosion: Restless Circle at Sharjah Art Foundation." *Stir World*, November 2025
- "The Aichi Triennale opens its sixth edition curated by Hoor Al Qasimi, featuring Emirati artists." *ArtDayME*, September 2025
- Lo, Zabrina. "Aichi Triennale 2025: 10 artworks you must not miss at this contemporary art festival in Japan." *Tatler Asia*, September 2025
- "The Transcendent Art of Afra Al Dhaheri: A Luminous Exploration of Time and Tension." *The Neo Art Magazine*, September 2025
- Bedirian, Razmig. "Afra Al Dhaheri on how pregnancy helped her break new artistic ground." *The National*, September 2025
- "Restless Circle: Afra Al Dhaheri at Sharjah Art Foundation." *Art Africa Magazine*, September 2025
- Singhal, Poorvi. "What to see at Jaipur's Sculpture Park: Noelle Kadar's top picks." *Condé Nast Traveller*, February 2025
- 2024 Mansilla, Alexandra. "Collective Exhaustion And Endless Ropes. Interview With Afra Al Dhaheri." *The Sandy Times*, August 2024
- Jalal, Maan. "Emirati artist Afra Al Dhaheri's solo exhibition implores visitors to slow down." *The National*, January 2024

- 2023 Chesire, Lee. "Habits, hair and hardware stores: Afra Al Dhaheri on her artistic inspirations." *The Art Newspaper*, March 2023
- 2022 Kell, Laura. "Emirati Artist Afra Al Dhaheri On The Art Ecosystem, And The Importance of Grassroot Initiatives." *Harper's Bazaar Arabia*, December 2022
- 2021 "Expo 2020: Afra Al Dhaheri". *Canvas Magazine*, November/December 2021
- Shehmir, Ayesha. "Strands of Time". *Harper's Bazaar Art Book, Exhibition 002: Abu Dhabi*, November 2021
- Chaves, Alexandra. "'Pillow Fort': first glimpse of the public artwork at Expo 2020 Dubai". *The National*, September 2021
- Khalil, Nadine. "The Absent Body". *Alserkal.online*, July 2021
- Benton, Christopher Joshua. "Detangling ideology". *Identity Magazine*, May 2021
- Nandkeolyar, Karishma H. "Dubai: Emirati artist Afra Al Dhaheri's work showcased at 'Concepts and The Divine Abstract' exhibition in DIFC". *Gulf News*, April 2021
- Beaney, Laura. "Profile: Afra Al Dhaheri". *Canvas Magazine*, March/April 2021
- Khalil, Nadine. "Critics' Picks Dubai: Afra Al Dhaheri". *Artforum*, February 2021
- 2020 Talass, Rawaa. "THE BREAKDOWN: Emirati artist Afra Al-Dhaheri discusses Abu Dhabi Art's 'Tasreeha'." *Arab News*, December 2020
- Khalil, Nadine. "UAE becomes an incubator to help careers of local emerging artists". *Financial Times*, November 2020
- Kazan, Sophie. "Afra Al Dhaheri". *Contemporary Identities*, September 2020
- 2019 "Contemporary art shines in Saudi Arabia's Diriyah". *Arab News*, December 2019
- 2018 Khalil, Nadine. "Bringing Art Home". *Canvas Magazine*, June 2018