

# ECLECTIC MIX OF ARAB ART

BY A STAFF REPORTER

**NUJOOM:** Constellations of Arab Art, the latest exhibition hosted by The Farjam Collection, Dubai, showcases works by some of the foremost modern and contemporary Arab artists including Mahmoud Said, Nja Mahdaoui, Mona Hatoum and Youssef Nabil.

Farhad Farjam, founder of The Farjam Collection, said that from the birth of civilisation to present day, the Arab world has produced a multitude of gifted artists, from painters and potters, to musicians and poets. Today, the region, and the UAE in particular, is at the forefront of major developments in art and culture internationally.

"It is a great personal pleasure and source of satisfaction for me to share with audiences in the UAE a selection of Arab art drawn from the collection," said Farhad.

## Fusion of tradition

ENCOMPASSING a wide range of media, including paintings, sculptures and photography, the exhibition explores some of the defining styles and techniques in Arab art over the last century.

The fusion of tradition and innovation, and of stylistic influences from across the globe, demonstrates the timelessness and the universal resonance of the art from the Middle East.

"The artists in the exhi-



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bition, a sample of those included in The Farjam Collection at large, reflect the seasoned taste of a serious collector. Defying predictable categorisations, they offer a powerful reminder that letting art speak for itself encourages debate and sparks fresh perspectives," commented Emilie Faure, collection

and exhibitions manager at The Farjam Collection.

## Contemporary Arab art

NUJOOM reveals a broad range of styles and artistic concerns that pervade modern and contemporary Arab art. The exhibition features

two works by Egyptian artist Mahmoud Said, one of the Arab world's greatest modern painters.

Also included in the exhibition is the master Paul Guiragossian whose work *Festivities* (1986) is a striking example of his signature style.

Palestinian, Lebanese-born artist Mona Hatoum, famed for her large-scale installations, is represented by a powerful piece titled *Over My Dead Body*, a large billboard banner on which a miniature toy soldier ascends the artist's profile.

Showcasing over 40 works, the exhibition encompasses a diverse group of artists, from the renowned Mahmoud Said and Adam Henein, to young and emerging artists such as Lamia Naji and Emirati artist Maitha Huaraz, the youngest artist featured at just 21 years old.

Other Emirati artists showcased in the exhibition include internationally celebrated artists Abul Qader Al Raes and Lamya Gargash. Nujoom includes several monumentally large pieces, including the impressive *Kaleidoscope* by Lara Baladi, and brings together mediums as diverse as painting, video, ceramics, and bronze.

A number of educational programmes are also running alongside the exhibition, giving audiences a greater understanding of the artists represented, the works on view, and the context in which they were produced.