

Abu Dhabi Art 2025: 12 Must-See Galleries

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[Art & Auctions](#)

Now in its 17th edition, the fair will celebrate creative exchange across continents, from the Gulf to West Africa, Türkiye to South America, offering a vivid snapshot of the world's artistic pulse



Shaikha Al Mazrou, *Folded Motif*, 2022, Wet-coated steel, 100 x 100 x 15 cm. Photo by Ismail Noor, Seeing Things. Courtesy of Lawrie Shabibi and the Artist

Taking place from 19 to 23 November, Abu Dhabi Art 2025 will transform Manarat Al Saadiyat into a global hub of modern and [contemporary art](#), featuring more than 140 galleries from 37 countries.

This year's edition will unfold across eight sections that frame its scope and ambition. Modern & Contemporary, Special Projects, and Emerge will trace dialogues between established and experimental practices. Bidaya will introduce new galleries and first-time participants, while the Focus programme will span the Collectors' Salon, Türkiye, [Nigeria](#), and the Gulf, showing how distinct local narratives will converse across borders.

Curatorial experimentation is at the heart of the fair. The Beyond Emerging Artists initiative, curated by Issam Kourbaj, premieres commissions by Alla Abdunabi, Salmah Almansoori, and Maktoum Marwan Al Maktoum, while [Shaikha Al Mazrou](#)'s

Beyond All Measures defines the visual identity of the fair, exploring transformation and perception.



Also Read: [Dubai Museum of Art: Everything We Know So Far About the Newest Landmark](#)

From modernist pioneers to contemporary innovators, here are 12 galleries and presentations at Abu Dhabi Art 2025 you simply cannot miss:



Prince Twins Seven-Seven, *Abiku Protector*, 1968, Pen and ink on board, 134.6 x 72.4 cm.

Courtesy of Kó Gallery

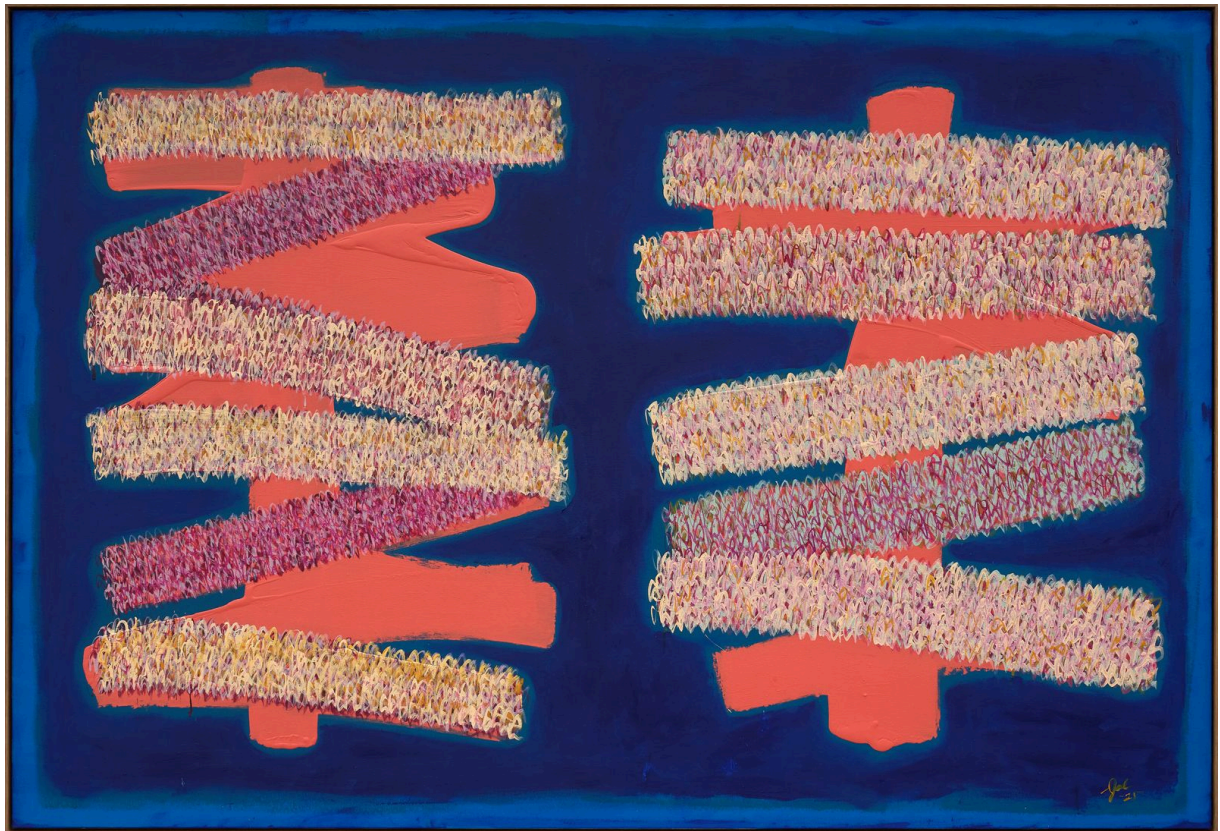
Presents a group exhibition of pioneering modern artists from Nigeria's Osogbo Art School, featuring works from the 1960s–1970s by Jimoh Buraimoh, Adebisi Fabunmi,

Rufus Ogundele, Muraina Oyelami, and Prince Twins Seven-Seven. Emerging in early 1960s Osogbo, Nigeria, the school developed a modernist visual language rooted in Yoruba culture, spiritual symbolism, and contemporary experience. Initiated through workshops led by Ulli and Georgina Beier and playwright Duro Ladipo, these programs offered mentorship, materials, and space for young artists to explore painting, printmaking, and drawing. The artists gained early international recognition, exhibiting in London, Paris, Munich, New York, and Los Angeles. Their work reflects a dynamic fusion of Yoruba heritage and modernist experimentation, marking a pivotal contribution to Nigerian post-independence modernism. [@ko_artspace](#)



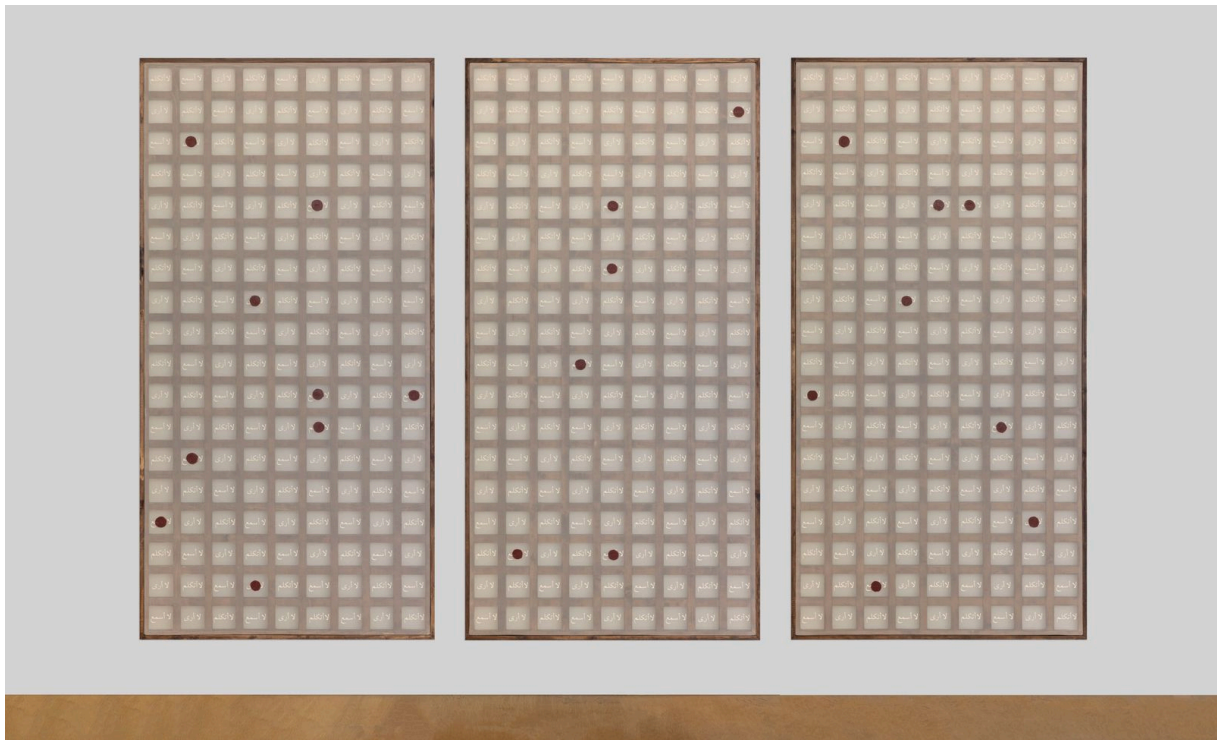
Adebisi Fabumni, *Holy Land*, 1978, Oil on canvas, 150 x 99 cm.

Courtesy of Kó Gallery



Juma Al Haj, *Untitled*, 2025, Acrylic on canvas, 151 x 221.5 x 2.5 cm.

Image courtesy Iris Projects and Artist



Shamsa Al Omaira, *The Detention Journal I, II & III*, 2025, Acrylic on Sheer Fabric and Wood, 173 x 88 cm each.

Photo: Ismail Noor. Image courtesy Iris Projects and Artist

Returns to Abu Dhabi Art with a booth in the Focus section featuring works by Juma Al Haj, Shamsa Al Omaira, and Nasser Al Salem. Though distinct in style, their practices intersect around language, memory, and belonging within the contemporary Gulf. Juma Al Haj — an Emirati artist whose geometric works bridge architecture and mysticism — appears alongside Al Salem's calligraphic structures and Al Omaira's introspective explorations of self-discipline. Founded by Maryam Al Falasi in Abu Dhabi's MiZa cultural district, the gallery presents a dialogue between structure and abstraction that captures the evolving Khaleeji condition. [@irisprojects](https://irisprojects.com)



Nasser Al Salem, *Live*, 2023, Black steel, 46 x 43 cm, Edition of 7 Plus 2 AP.

Image courtesy Iris Projects and Artist

Hunna Art

Also located within the Gulf Focus section, Hunna Art will present *Ecologies of Being*, featuring new works by Alymamah Rashed (Kuwait), Joud Fahmy (Saudi Arabia), and Zayn Qahtani (Bahrain). Rooted in the Gulf's landscapes and material cultures, the presentation will trace how ecology, memory, and embodiment shape identity.

Rashed will unveil surreal anatomies where body, land, and myth converge; Fahmy will transform traditional Saudi materials into sculptural meditations on endurance and reclamation; and Qahtani will use organic media to dissolve the boundary between human and natural worlds. Together, they will create a poetic reflection on ecology and belonging, transforming Hunna Art's booth into a living landscape of renewal.

[@hunna.art](https://www.hunna.art)

Art On İstanbul



OMO, 1991, 146 x 250 cm (h x w), Mixed media on canvas.

Courtesy of Art On İstanbul Gallery

Art On İstanbul will return to Abu Dhabi Art with a presentation dedicated to Burhan Doğançay, one of Turkey's foremost modernists. Founded in 2011 by Nil and Oktay Duran, the gallery continues to bridge historical awareness with contemporary discourse, positioning itself as a platform for critical dialogue and lasting contributions to art history. The presentation will highlight Doğançay's iconic urban abstractions – collages and assemblages that transform city walls into meditations on time, memory, and transformation. Merging the spirit of Abstract Expressionism with the grit of Street Art, his work captures the poetry of urban decay while affirming the enduring relevance of material and place in an increasingly digital age. [@artonistanbul](#)

Hafez Gallery

Hafez Gallery will participate with a presentation uniting three leading Saudi artists – Sami Al Marzoogi, Sara Al Abdali, and Raeda Ashour – whose practices reflect the evolving dialogue between tradition and modernity. Each brings a distinct visual language shaped by heritage, and contemporary sensibility: Al Marzoogi's abstract compositions balance colour and line to explore emotional resonance; Al Abdali bridges Hejazi motifs with present-day narratives; and Ashour reimagines Islamic ornamentation through refined, meditative forms. Together, their works will trace the

arc of contemporary Saudi art, revealing how deeply rooted aesthetics continue to inspire new visual expressions. Through this trio of voices, Hafez Gallery will highlight the vitality and global relevance of Saudi identity within the wider landscape of Arab and international art. [@hafezgallery](#).



Maryam Lamei, *Pink Bloom*, 2025, Acrylic on canvas, 250 x 140 cm.

Courtesy of Leila Heller Gallery and Artist

Leila Heller Gallery will exhibit *As if the World Were Listening: Modern and Contemporary Dialogues*, uniting modern and contemporary voices across generations. The contemporary section will feature Mehdi Farhadian, Melis Buyruk,

Katya Traboulsi, Azza Al Qubaisi, Behrang Samadzadegan, Morteza Khosravi, and Katya Emelyanova, whose works explore materiality, identity, and transformation through painting and sculpture. The modern section will highlight masterworks by Bahman Mohasses, Charles Hossein Zenderoudi, Wassef Boutros-Ghali, Monir Shahroudy Farmanfarmaian, Farideh Lashai, and Marcos Grigorian, tracing the roots of Middle Eastern modernism and its enduring influence on contemporary practice.

[@leilahellergallery](#)



Parviz Tanavoli, *Standing Heech*, 2018, Bronze, 250 x 130 x 80 cm.

Courtesy of Leila Heller Gallery and Artist



Arash Nazari, "Like a Wave in Memory No.5", 2025, Oil on canvas, 190 x 120 cm.

Courtesy of Leila Heller Gallery and Artist



Shaikha Al Mazrou, *Tessellation*, 2022, Wet Coated Steel, 125 x 104 x 11 cm.

Photo by Ismail Noor, Seeing Things. Courtesy of Lawrie Shabibi and the Artist



Shaikha Al Mazrou, *Finding Form*, 2022, Wet Coated Steel, 132 x 103 x 12 cm.

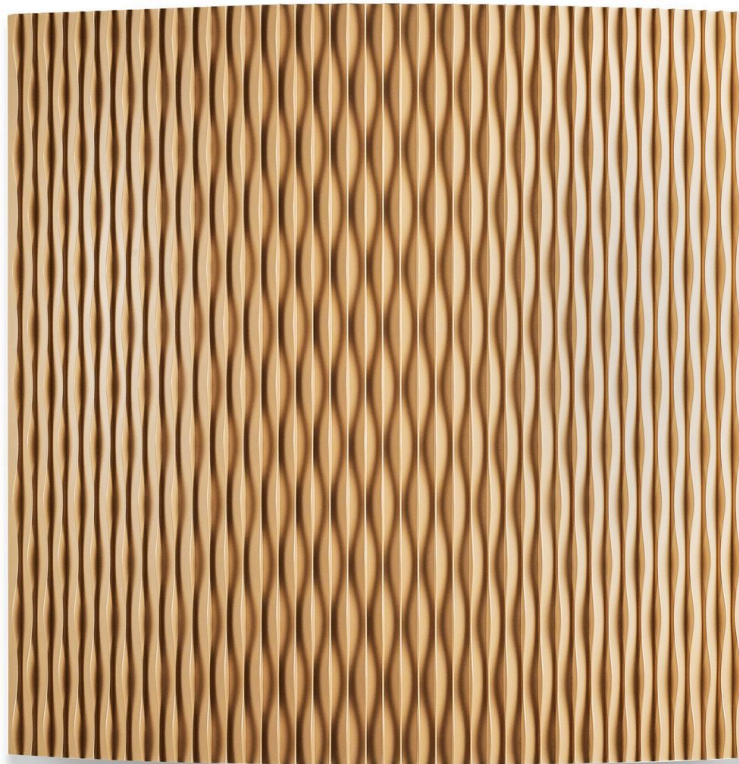
Photo by Ismail Noor, Seeing Things. Courtesy of Lawrie Shabibi and the Artist

Lawrie Shabibi will present a diverse group of international artists at Abu Dhabi Art 2025, reflecting the gallery's commitment to material experimentation, memory, and cultural dialogue. The showcase will feature Shaikha Al Mazrou, Mohamed Ahmed Ibrahim, Marwan Bassiouni, Elias Sime, Saif Azzuz, Omar Al Gurg, Rand Abdul

Jabbar, Mandy El-Sayegh, Farhad Ahrarnia, and James Clar, spanning sculpture, painting, installation, photography, and mixed media.

Each artist will explore how materials and forms carry memory, identity, and transformation across geography and time. Highlights will include Al Mazrou's sculptural studies of balance and tension, Ibrahim's organic abstractions rooted in the KhorFakkan landscape, and Abdul Jabbar's clay-based works that unearth cultural memory. Sime's intricate assemblages of electronic components and Clar's luminous sculptures will extend the dialogue between technology, heritage, and the human experience. Together, these practices will reveal how contemporary art continues to map the shifting relationship between place, material, and meaning. [@lawrieshabibi](#)

Sapar Contemporary



Rashid Al Khalifa, *Waves VII*, 2023, 120 x 120 cm, enamel on aluminium.

Courtesy of Sapar Contemporary

Sapar Contemporary will highlight Rashid Al Khalifa, a pioneering Bahraini artist whose practice bridges painting, sculpture, and architecture. Evolving from early impressionistic landscapes to geometric abstraction, his work reflects Bahrain's

transformation over five decades. In his recent convex aluminium structures, Al Khalifa explores light, form, and material with meditative precision, creating minimal yet dynamic compositions that merge craft and concept. His presentation will underscore a lifelong dialogue between tradition and modernity within the Gulf's contemporary art landscape. [@saparcontemporary](#)



Rashid Al Khalifa, *Gold Leaf*, 60 x 60 cm, 2024, Enamel on aluminium.

Courtesy of Sapar Contemporary



Tala Worrell, *Before The Shutoff*, 2023, 168 x 173 x 4 cm. Courtesy of Iyad Qanazea Gallery



Tala Worrell, *Sub-grade*, 2023, Oil, household gloss paint, zaatar, and blackseed on canvas, 216 X 244 cm. Courtesy of Iyad Qanazea Gallery

Iyad Qanazea Gallery will participate with an exhibition highlighting Tara Worrell, whose practice bridges personal narrative and material exploration. Drawing from her multicultural upbringing and layered sense of place, Worrell's works explore the fluid boundaries between memory, identity, and emotion through abstraction. Her textured canvases combine gestural mark making with nuanced material interplay, evoking both the intimacy of lived experience and the universality of human connection. Through this presentation, Iyad Qanazea Gallery will spotlight Worrell's evolving voice within the region's dynamic contemporary art landscape. [@qanazea_gallery](https://www.instagram.com/qanazea_gallery)



Talin Hazbar, *Resting Grounds*, 2015 – 2025, approx. 70 x 50 cm each, Sand, metal rods, binder.

Courtesy to AWL and Talin Hazbar

Marking its inaugural participation at Abu Dhabi Art, AWL Gallery presents *Excavations of the Moment*, featuring Emirati artist Sara Alahbabi, Sharjah-based Syrian artist Talin Hazbar, and Catalan artist Enric Ansesa.



Sara Alahbabi, *For a Better Modern Something*, 2025, Concrete, LED light, printed maps, 21 x 21 cm each.

Courtesy to AWL and Talin Hazbar

The exhibition considers excavation as an act of attention – revealing how memory shapes the spaces we inhabit. In collaboration with Abu Dhabi-based cultural strategist Lateefa Bin Hamoodah, AWL reaffirms its commitment to the UAE's

evolving art landscape and to amplifying voices from the Gulf within an international context. [@airaswangdelafee](#)

ATHR Gallery and Mennour

ATHR Gallery and Mennour present a landmark collaboration at Abu Dhabi Art 2025, highlighting the synergy between Saudi Arabia and Europe. Central to the presentation is Mohammad AlFaraj's immersive installation of charcoal-drawn palm trunks, inspired by the agricultural lands of Al-Ahsa.

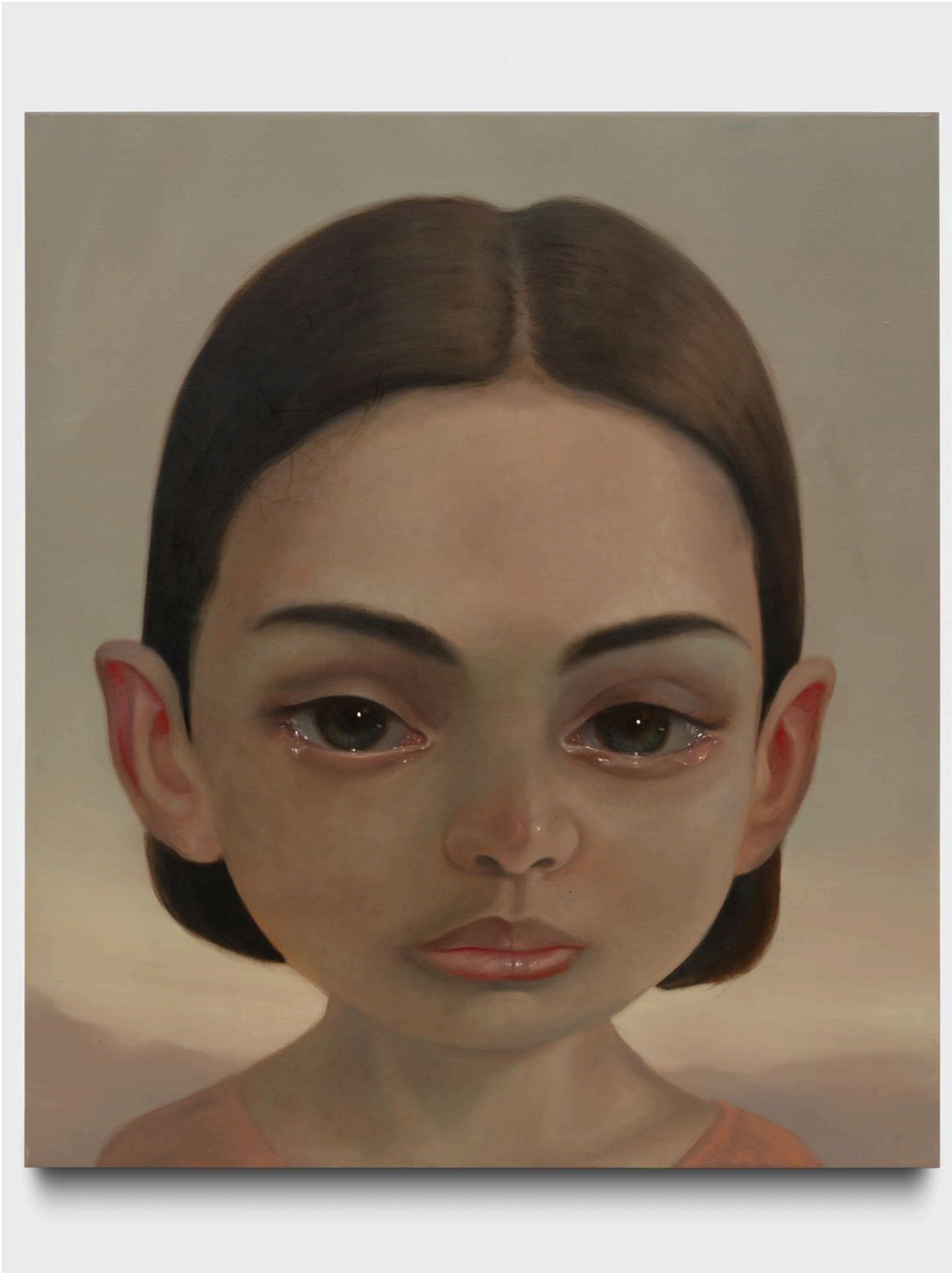
Surrounding AlFaraj's installation are works by Sara Abdu, Zahrah Alghamdi, Nasser Al Salem, Asma Bahmim, Ayman Yossri Daydban, and Sultan Bin Fahad, who manipulate materials such as ink on wood, handmade paper, natural pigments, metal, warped steel, glass, and leather to explore tensions between the organic and the industrial, shaping a contemporary landscape where duality is embraced. [@athrart](#)

Almine Rech



Thu-Van Tran, *Colours of grey*, 2024, Lime, pigment, and binder on linen canvas, 180 x 135.5 x 5 cm.

Courtesy of Almine Rech



Roby Dwi Antono, *Sari*, 2025, Oil on canvas, 150 x 130 x 4.5 cm.

Courtesy of Almine Rech

Almine Rech will participate in the Collector's Salon, curated by Middle East art expert Roxane Zand, which will focus on South Asia with rare books, art, and astrolabes. The gallery will present works by Farah Atassi, Ali Cherri, Roby Dwi Antono, Christopher Le Brun, Jean Miotte, Tia-Thuy Nguyen, Tsherin Sherpa, and Thu-Van Tran, spanning painting, sculpture, tapestry, and mixed media.

A large-scale tapestry by Tsherin Sherpa, who trained in the Thangka painting tradition, will greet visitors at the fair's entrance, bridging heritage and contemporary innovation. This presentation will emphasise Almine Rech's dedication to cross-cultural exchange, highlighting artists who will merge tradition, experimentation, and global perspectives. [@alminerech](#)