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HAIR MAPPING BODY; BODY MAPPING LAND

ICD BROOKFIELD PLACE

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Cartography is the science or practice of drawing maps. Mapping is a symbolic depiction associating elements to space. The intersection of the body as elemental and land as spatial, becomes the first two coordinates defined cartographically. These coordinates become a mode of navigation through the exploration of land and sky, fluid and solid, private and public. The map proposed in this exhibition decodes and reintroduces land through the body, and the body through land.

Afra Al Dhaheer's *Fil Al Shaar*, drapes into ridges that peak and fall, reminiscent of mountains or waves adrift. Behind the ropes of *Fil Al Shaar* is a segmented space, reflective of a mountain range governing over a pocket town. A contrast of works, between *Fil Al Shaar* and *Cultural Foundation* in its height and might stands tall, taller than the mountain range proposed through the silhouette of the draping ropes. It stands in its essence as a source of attendance, overlooking and watching what's beneath it. Tucked away, Mohamed Ahmed Ibrahim's *Khorfakkan* allows a scatter to take place, with the horizontality proposed, a flattened perspective is introduced in contrast to the height, resembling a pocket town, at the core of a valley. The land and the sky are introduced as complementary elements to one another. The clustered sculptures reflect ripple effects, manicured gardens, and orienting constellations. Pulling from the nature that surrounds him, Mohamed Ahmed Ibrahim's work roots itself in

response to movement and play. His geographical understanding of KhorFakkan mimics the rocky mountainscapes, which are a reflection of his attempts at exploring, expanding and decoding the self. Afra Al Dhaheer's practice utilises the body as its anchor, in specifically hair. It looks at hair as a tree, rooting in, extending out and introducing the notion of what is deemed private versus public. Hair becomes a tool that decodes the stories of time and the changes it brings. Thus binding these intergenerational artistic practices in the remapping of their surroundings in relation to the self, and the self in relation to these surroundings.

The drawing of this map ebbs and flows between body to nature and nature to body. Repetitive rituals negotiate the cardinal directions of the separation and movement that dictate the understanding of one's positionality. The conversation between the body and the land becomes the barrier and the bridge of the prism dividing, scattering and bending time in relation to the self. Here a compass is proposed, and is pegged to the landscape imagined in the map presented.

As part of the exhibition's public programming, UAE-based artist Mohamed Khalid responds to this show, proposing an alternative way of mapping space and distance. Over the course of this exhibition, he creates an ephemeral art piece in response to the works of Afra Al Dhaheer and Mohamed Ahmed Ibrahim.

MUNIRA AL SAYEGH



Munira Al Sayegh is an independent curator and a cultural instigator based in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates.

Actively pursuing grassroots incubation, Al Sayegh is the founder of Dirwaza Curatorial Lab, Abu Dhabi's first curatorial incubator and projects partner. She is also co-founder of Engage101, a collecting and research platform.

She is a published author and prominent voice in the region discussing the importance of non-institutional thinking to build regional art movements from the bottom-up.

Al Sayegh curated and developed the program series for the Guggenheim Abu Dhabi's The Creative Act: Performance, Process, Presence (2017). In parallel, from 2014 she has joined and pioneered curatorial initiatives across Art Dubai where she curated the Residents section (2019) and started the Now series, looking at non-government funded creative platforms in the region. She recently served as lead tutor and curator for Campus Art Dubai.

Her curatorial solo debut was Bayn: the in-between (2017), the third edition of UAE Unlimited. Later, she curated the Talks Program in Abu Dhabi Art. In 2020, Al Sayegh premiered The Cup and The Saucer commissioned by Warehouse421 (Sheikha Salama bint Hamdan Foundation), where she has also led in-house public programs.

Among her contributions, she traces back to NYU Abu Dhabi's FIND project (2012) and currently sits on the advisory board for the university's art gallery. Al Sayegh is also part of the UAE Ministry of Culture Visual Arts Committee as well as Dubai Collection's Steering and Curatorial Committee.

DIRWAZA CURATORIAL LAB

Dirwaza Curatorial Lab is an Abu Dhabi-based creative incubator and projects partner founded by curator Munira Al Sayegh.

As a creative incubator, Dirwaza builds communities in the Gulf through non-profit mentorship for multidisciplinary research, archive building, critique, and artistic programming.

As a projects partner, Dirwaza advises institutions, decision makers, collectors, and businesses. We specialize in cultural projects, manage collections, design exhibitions, and propose bespoke arts-driven programs.

Our team of six is working with a growing network of artists, arts professionals, and institutions to participate in a dynamic environment with homegrown ideas.

AFRA AL DHAHERI



Afra Al Dhaheri's work is rooted in her experiences growing up in Abu Dhabi and the wider UAE – a place of recent and rapid change. Working across various mediums including mixed media, sculpture, drawing, painting, installation, photography, and printmaking, she draws out notions of time and adaptation, rigour and fragility.

With each experiment, there is a new phase, each new phenomenon or actualisation plucked from her unique vocabulary of references – repetition acts as a method for prolonging time as much as a tool through which to truly experience or realise each stage of a work.

Born in 1988 in Abu Dhabi, UAE, Al Dhaheri obtained her MFA from Rhode Island School of Design, USA in 2017 and had her residencies from The Salama bint Hamdan Emerging Artists Fellowship, in partnership with the Rhode Island School of Design in 2014 and Porthmeor Studios, St. Ives, Cornwall, UK [2019].

Solo exhibitions include *Split Ends*, Green Art Gallery, Dubai, UAE [2021] and *Inevitable Ephemera*, T + H Gallery, Boston, USA [2016]. Selected group exhibitions include: Manarat Al Saadiyat, Abu Dhabi, UAE; *Amplified Bodies*, Alserkal Avenue, Dubai / Warehouse 421, Abu Dhabi, UAE; *Tadaraj [Gradation]*, Sharjah Islamic Arts Festival, Sharjah, UAE; *Between The Sky and The Earth*, Middle Eastern Institute, Washington, DC; ICD Brookfield Place, Dubai, UAE; *Beyond: Emerging Artists*, Cromwell Place, London, UK [2021]; *Conscious Becoming*, Tatjana Pieters, Ghent, Belgium [2021]; *Beyond: Emerging Artist*, Manarat Al Saadiyat, Abu Dhabi, UAE [2020]; *From Within*, Riyadh, KSA [2019]; *Avoid Bad Dreams*, Green Art Gallery, Dubai, UAE [2019]; *Barcelona to Abu Dhabi*, Manarat Al Saadiyat, Abu Dhabi, UAE [2018]; *Emirati Expressions*, Manarat Al Saadiyat, Abu Dhabi, UAE [2011 and 2015].



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No. 4 (To Detangle Series), 2020
Cotton rope and natural cork
15 x 20.5 x 55 cm

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No. 5 (To Detangle Series), 2020
Cotton rope and natural cork
30 x 120 cm

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No. 3 (To Detangle Series), 2020
Cotton rope
15 x 150 cm



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One at a Time [To Detangle Series], 2020

Hair on cotton fabric
200 x 35 cm

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No. 1 [To Detangle Series], 2020

Palm fiber rope
32 x 32 x 115 cm



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Fil Al Shaar, 2020
Cotton rope
Dimensions variable

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The past is tomorrow (No.1), 2017
Hand built ceramic, plaster,
cement, and fabric
180 x 40 cm

No. 2 (Absent yet present), 2020

Stoneware ceramic
Composed of 4 pcs
Dimensions variable

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MOHAMED AHMED IBRAHIM



Mohamed Ahmed Ibrahim came of age as an artist in the UAE in an era in which the visual arts were not yet valued culturally or taught in university degree programmes. In 1986, when he met the late artist Hassan Sharif (a founding member of the influential Emirates Fine Art Society), Ibrahim was pulled out of a secluded practice and carved out unshakable friendships and collaborations that have formed the foundation for the creative community that defines the UAE today.

In March 2018 *Elements*, a survey of works spanning three decades of his practice, was presented at the Sharjah Art Foundation, curated by Sheikha Hoor Al Qasimi. Ibrahim's recent solo exhibitions include *Dusk Till Dawn*, Cromwell Place, London with Lawrie Shabibi (2021), *Memory Drum* (2020) and *The Space between the Eyelid and the Eyeball* (2019) at Lawrie Shabibi, Dubai, as well as a series of solo shows at Cuadro Gallery, Dubai (2018, 2016, 2015, 2013).

Ibrahim's public works include: *Hugs* (2020), Sustainability Pavilion, Expo 2020, Dubai, UAE, commissioned by Expo 2020; *Falling Stones Garden* (2020), Al Ula, Saudi Arabia, commissioned by the Royal Commission for Al Ula and Desert X; *Grocery* (2019), Madinat Zayed Market, Abu Dhabi, UAE, commissioned by Ghadan 21, Government of Abu Dhabi as part of the For Abu Dhabi initiative; *Untitled* (2019), Reem Central Park, Al Reem Island, Abu Dhabi, UAE, commissioned by Aldar Properties PJSC in partnership with Abu Dhabi Art; *Kids' Garden* (2019), Sheikh Khalifa Medical City, Abu Dhabi, UAE, commissioned by Abu Dhabi Health Services Company; and *Bait Al Hurma* (2018), Al Mureijah Square, Sharjah, commissioned by the Sharjah Art Foundation as part of the exhibition *Elements*.

Ibrahim's group exhibitions include participations

in *But We Cannot See Them: Tracing a UAE Art Community, 1988-2008* at The NYUAD Art Gallery (2017); *The Unbearable Lightness of Being*, Yay Gallery, Baku (2015); the Kochi-Muziris Biennale, Kochi (2016); the 53rd Venice Biennale, Venice (2009); the Sharjah Biennial (1993, 2003 and 2007); and the Dhaka Biennial (2002 and 1993). Select institutional exhibitions include the Kunstmuseum, Bonn (2005); the Sharjah Art Museum, Sharjah (2005 and 1996), the Ludwig Forum for International Art, Aachen (2002); Institut du Monde Arabe, Paris (1998); Sittard Art Centre, the Netherlands (1995), and the Exhibition for the Emirates Fine Art Society in the Soviet Union, Moscow (1990).

He received the first prize for sculpture at the Sharjah Biennial in 1999 and 2001 and has been a member of the Emirates Fine Arts Society since 1986, founding Art Atelier at the Khor Fakkan Art Centre in 1997. He has participated in artist residencies at Trans Indian Ocean Artist Exchange, Kochi Murzi Biennale, India (2016); A.i.R Dubai (2015); Le Consortium, Dijon, France (2009) and Kunstcentrum Sittard, the Netherlands (1994-1996, 1998-2000).

His works have been acquired by significant international collections, including Sharjah Art Foundation, Sharjah; Sharjah Art Museum, Sharjah; Guggenheim Abu Dhabi, Art Jameel Collection, Dubai; Barjeel Art Foundation, Sharjah; Mathaf: Arab Museum of Modern Art, Doha; Kunstcentrum Sittard, Sittard; The British Museum, London; and Le Centre Georges Pompidou, Paris.

In 2022 Mohamed Ahmed Ibrahim will present a solo exhibition at the National Pavilion of the UAE at the 59th Venice Biennale, where he will represent the UAE.

Ibrahim works and lives in Khorfakkan, United Arab Emirates.



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Orange Fork, 2020
Acrylic on canvas
250 x 200 cm
98 3/8 x 78 3/4 in



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Orange Fork on the Table, 2020
Acrylic on canvas
250 x 200 cm
98 3/8 x 78 3/4 in



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Robot, 2020

Sliced cardboard, wood, fabric, papier-mâché
72 x 42 x 51 cm
28 3/8 x 16 1/2 x 20 1/8 in

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Pink Garden, 2020

Acrylic on canvas
250 x 200 cm
98 3/8 x 78 3/4 in



2 Orange flowers in vase, 2018

Cardboard, papier-mâché

32 x 39 x 13 cm

12 5/8 x 15 3/8 x 5 1/8 in

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Fruit basket , 2010

Plastic bottles, papier-mâché

46.8 x 60 x 59 cm

18 3/8 x 23 5/8 x 23 1/4 in



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Sun flower, 2018

Paper, cardboard, rock
68 x 52 x 45 cm
26 3/4 x 20 1/2 x 17 3/4 in

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Lemon Tree, 2013

Plastic bottles, papier-mâché
143 x 50 x 50 cm
56 1/4 x 19 3/4 x 19 3/4 in
Dimensions variable

Swimming Pool, 2018

Sliced cardboard, papier-mâché
24 x 42 x 19 cm
9 1/2 x 16 1/2 x 7 1/2 in

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Khorfakkan, 2005
Cardboard, papier-mâché, wood
Variable Dimensions [each]

**[Commission for Cultural
Foundation Abu Dhabi],
Untitled, 2019**

Papier maché and wood
300 x 150 cm
118 1/8 x 59 1/8 in

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Mohamed Khalid



Mohamed Khalid [b.1996, Dubai, UAE] is an artist, walking, running, cycling and driving.

Mohamed Khalid [b.1996, Dubai, UAE] examines the materiality of everyday objects and coaxes out their metaphoric potential. Through fabricating receipts, playing with street cats, composing fictional tours and stealing corporate pens, he dissects ironies embedded in his everyday surroundings. What begins as an arbitrary flânerie, develops into a methodical formula that addresses philosophical and phenomenological, revealing the spatial, poetic relationships between his subjects and their frangible correlation to the human condition.

mkhalid.xyz

Acknowledgements

Mohamed Ahmed Ibrahim's works provided on loan by Lawrie Shabibi.

For more information on Mohamed Ahmed Ibrahim's works, please email Lawrie Shabibi at info@lawrieshabibi.com

Afra Al Dhaheri's works provided on loan by Green Art Gallery, Dubai.

For more information on Afra Al Dhaheri's works, please email Green Art Gallery at info@gagallery.com

ICD Brookfield

ICD Brookfield Place (“ICD Brookfield”) is an equally owned joint venture partnership between ICD and Brookfield Asset Management, and a landmark building representing a new lifestyle and business destination situated within the vicinity of the DIFC.

ICD Brookfield is the tallest and largest LEED Platinum office building in EMEA, with over 4 acres of highly curated dining, retail and community space alongside 990,000 square feet of sustainable and future-ready workspace.

INVESTMENT CORPORATION OF DUBAI was incorporated on 3 May 2006 pursuant to a decree of H.H. The Ruler of Dubai (Law No. 11 of 2006 Establishing the Investment Corporation of Dubai). ICD is directly and wholly-owned by, and is the principal investment arm of the Government of Dubai. ICD’s investment portfolio represents a cross-section of Dubai’s most recognised and significant companies in sectors which the Government of Dubai has deemed to be strategic for the continued development and growth of Dubai and the UAE.

BROOKFIELD PROPERTIES is a premier real estate operating company, providing integrated services across all property investment strategies of Brookfield Asset Management (“Brookfield”) – a global alternative asset manager with over \$600 billion in AUM. Our vertically integrated real estate capabilities service the majority of Brookfield’s real estate investments around the globe and assures that these assets are managed to maximise revenue, growth and sustainability, with a keen eye integrating new real estate technologies that keep us at the forefront of innovation.

Alserkal Advisory

Alserkal Advisory is a multidisciplinary practice comprised of Alserkal’s founding team in addition to thinkers, researchers, and specialists in diverse fields from multiple geographies. The advisory practice helps develop cultural production and establish spaces for polyphonic voices. The Advisory challenges conventional business practices, embracing a mindful approach to reimagining cultural destinations and crafting audience-specific public programmes that resonate with our communities, while also assessing our impact on society, the environment, and local economies.

Alserkal Advisory has three principal areas of expertise:

- Cultural production, including audience-specific programming, flagship events, and public art commissioning
- Developing cultural institutions and destinations, ranging from establishing not-for-profit entities to building sustainable communities
- Policy-making for creative industries, including guidance and support on infrastructure and government/economic licensing.

Alserkal Advisory is part of Alserkal, a forward-thinking cultural enterprise based in Dubai, that was founded by Abdelmonem Bin Eisa Alserkal.

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