

Media Alert:

The Art Gallery at NYU Abu Dhabi announces its upcoming public program as part of *But We Cannot See Them: Tracing a UAE Art Community 1988-2008*

[Photo of public tour]

Abu Dhabi, XX March 2017: The Art Gallery at NYU Abu Dhabi is pleased to announce a series of upcoming workshops, film screenings, and theatre events for all ages as part of the public program of its current exhibition, *But We Cannot See Them: Tracing a UAE Art Community 1988-2008*.

Taking place throughout the duration of the exhibition, all events are free and open to the public. Details and registration will be on the Art Gallery website www.nyuad-artgallery.org.

Family Workshops Series

❖ “Lines, Numbers and Geometry”

The NYUAD Art Gallery invites young people and their families to create artwork inspired by Ebtisam Abdulaziz's work. Abdulaziz uses her knowledge in science and mathematics to create art using lines, shapes, and geometry. In this workshop, participants will learn how to combine different lines and geometrical shapes to create a 3-dimensional image with an illusion of dynamics.

When: Friday 21 April, 4-6 pm

Where: NYUAD Art Gallery, Seminar Room

❖ “Objects as Art”

The NYUAD Art Gallery invites young people and their families to create artwork using everyday objects. Inspired by artists in the "But We Cannot See Them" exhibition, participants will learn how to take objects used in daily life, like slippers, ropes, and combs, and repurpose them as material for art-making.

When: Friday 19 May, 4-6 pm

Where: NYUAD Art Gallery, Seminar Room

All workshops are facilitated by Wafa Ibrahim, a children's book illustrator and art educator from Sharjah, UAE. Wafa works extensively with youth and has facilitated workshops for Sharjah Children's Biennial, Sajaya Young Ladies of Sharjah Center, Funn (Sharjah Media Arts for Youth and Children), and Sharjah Art Foundation. She holds a Bachelors degree in Fine Arts from the College of Fine Arts and Design, Sharjah University.

Film Screenings

A series of screenings of films by Nujoom Alghanem, in collaboration with the National Pavilion United Arab Emirates - la Biennale di Venezia (NPUAE). Screening of three short films: *The Park*, 1997, Short Fiction, 14 min; *Between Two Banks*, 1999, Short Documentary, 20 min; *Salma's Dinner*, 2011, Short Fiction, 8 min.

When: Tuesday 4 April, 6:30-8pm

Where: NYUAD Conference Center, Main Auditorium

- ❖ Screening of the feature film *Almureed*, 2008, Documentary, 1h 11min

Description: Everything began in the first meeting when the beauty of searching for his personal history and the Sufi path brought the writer of this film in contact with Shaik Abdul Raheem Al-Mureed, the most significant leading Emirati Sufi sheik who lived in Dubai from 1902 to 2007. It turned out that the desire of showing the life and legacy of this Sufi sheik through making a documentary film was just a simple beginning of a long journey that has resulted an annual event - Mawlid Nights that celebrates the birth of the Prophet Mohammed.

When: Friday 21 April, 6:30-8pm

Where: NYUAD Conference Center, Main Auditorium

- ❖ Screening of the feature film *Amal*, 2011, Documentary, 1h 28min

Description: Amal arrives in the UAE, filled with dreams and a 1-year work contract on a TV project. After the first year, she finds herself unable to achieve her most simple goals, which require her to continuously shift jobs. She soon realises that her rich experience as an artist in Syria, is of little value in the UAE, where she remains on the fringe of its arts and culture scene. Feeling lost and forgotten in a foreign land, she is faced with the challenge of deciding to stay or leave.

When: Thursday 18 May, 6:30-8pm

Where: NYUAD Conference Center, Main Auditorium

Nujoom Alghanem is an Emirati artist, poet, scriptwriter and multi-award-winning film director. Born in Dubai in 1962, she has published eight poetry collections and produced eleven films including five short fictions and six feature length documentaries. Her films have won local, regional and international prizes. She is the founder of Nahar Productions, a film production company based in Dubai, and also teaches filmmaking and creative writing.

Theatre program

A presentation of *Khafeef Al Rouh*, an experimental play by Emirati playwright and director Jamal Mattar. The play explores the struggle between constants and variables, and the conflict between human's search for a better life and the fear of the unknown. This play will be in Arabic with English translation.

Tentative Date: Saturday 15 April, 8pm

Where: TBC

To rsvp to the above events, please visit <http://www.nyuad-artgallery.org/>

Running through 27 May, *But We Cannot See Them: Tracing a UAE Art Community 1988-2008* is a landmark exhibition that begins a survey of one of the most important artistic communities in the UAE's history. Formed with a group of artists often referred to as "the five" - Hassan Sharif and Hussain Sharif, Mohammed Kazem, Abdullah Al Saadi and Mohammed Ahmed Ibrahim – this community also included Vivek Vilasini, Jos Clevers, and Ebtisam Abdulaziz. Community played an important role in these artists' development, as they exchanged critical and creative ideas, supported and served as sources of inspiration for one another, at a time when art institutions and venues in which to exhibit their work were not widely available. Eventually, some of these artists founded the celebrated Flying House, a venue dedicated to displaying work from this community.

The exhibition features historic works from 1988 through 2008, with a focus on works that were shown together originally. *But We Cannot See Them* also includes archival material and videotaped interviews with members of the community, as well as a reading room of work from other important members of the community, and contributions from Cristiana De Marchi, Adel Khozam, Nujoom Alghanem and Khalid Albudoor.

But We Cannot See Them: Tracing a UAE Art Community 1988-2008

2 March - 27 May 2017

The Art Gallery at NYU Abu Dhabi

Visitor hours: Monday – Saturday, 12 pm – 8 pm (closed Sundays)

Admission: The NYUAD Art Gallery is free and open to the public

-ENDS-

For more information, please contact:

Maisoon Mubarak/Danielle DeMartini

Brunswick Arts

Tel: +971 56 507 3016/+971 56 503 4852

E: NYUADAG@brunswickgroup.com

Follow NYU Abu Dhabi Art Gallery on social media channels @nyuadartgallery:



www.nyuad-artgallery.org

Notes to Editors

About NYU Abu Dhabi Art Gallery

The Art Gallery, which opened on November 1, 2014, and is located at the main entrance to NYUAD's Saadiyat Campus, presents curated exhibitions of art and material culture across historical and contemporary topics, with a special emphasis on subjects of both regional concern and international significance. Through focused exhibitions, events, and publications, the gallery serves as a catalyst and locus of intellectual and creative activity, linking the University with the Abu Dhabi public and a worldwide community of artists, curators, and scholars.

The 664-square-meter (7,000-square-foot) exhibition space features soaring double-height ceilings and an outdoor installation space. It is fully equipped for exhibitions in all media, with custom walls and lighting allowing for experimental and traditional installations, from video art to ancient works.

The curatorial platform supports scholarly and experimental installations, artists' projects, guest curators, and landmark exhibitions. The coming exhibition program centers on three themes: landscape and the built environment, Islamic art and culture, and art in global dialogue.

To contact the gallery, call +971-2-628-8000, or visit the website: www.nyuad-artgallery.org.

About NYU Abu Dhabi

NYU Abu Dhabi consists of a highly selective liberal arts and science college (including engineering), and a world center for advanced research and scholarship — all fully integrated with each other and connected to NYU in New York. Together, NYU New York, NYU Abu Dhabi, and NYU Shanghai form the backbone of a unique global network university, with faculty and students from each campus spending "semesters away" at one or more of the numerous study-abroad sites NYU maintains on six continents.

NYU Abu Dhabi graduated its first class in spring of 2014. It is attended by a diverse student body representing over 100 countries and speaking more than 100 languages.