A YOUNG PERSON’S GUIDE TO INVISIBLE THREADS
A GROUP EXHIBITION AT THE NYU ABU DHABI ART GALLERY
Greetings my friend!
My name is Bana and this is Scott, we are the curators of Invisible Threads. Together, and with the help of other team members, we organized this exhibition. As curators, we are responsible for selecting artworks and connecting them under specific themes. The theme of this exhibition is Technology. How does it affect us? What is our relationship with it? What do we learn from our experience with Technology? This exhibition will help us find answers to these questions.
Let’s begin!
There are 15 artworks in this exhibition. In this guide we will be highlighting only 6 of them. Start by finding artwork no.1 and then follow the path shown here.

Explore the rest of the exhibition using the map at the end of the guide.

CAUTION! FLASHING LIGHTS HERE!
This sculpture is a replica of SPUTNIK, the world’s first manmade satellite to orbit the Earth. Sputnik was launched into space in 1957 and circled the earth for three months until it went back down to earth and burned.

The launch of Sputnik was such a historical moment for humanity and led to many scientific and technological developments.

Imagine life 50 years from now, what do you think will orbit the earth? Draw it in the space above.
The three objects represent drill bits, which are tools used to create cylindrical holes in the crust of the earth for the discovery of oil. When processed, this oil becomes Petrol. The artist makes a connection between The Gulf region’s past and future by creating large sculptures of drill bits painted in a pearl/petrol-like iridescent color.

What do you think these three objects are?

What do they remind you of?

How many colors do you see in the objects?
Imagine one day you wake up with no smartphone/ipad/computer? How would you spend your day?

Look at the 6 videos, what do you see?

What do the 6 videos have in common?

How much are we disconnected from our surroundings when we use technology?

Hold on, I have to catch this!

You want to explain this next piece, Bana?
The faces you see are based on DNA samples of strangers collected by the artist.

DNA is an essential molecule to life. It carries genetic information (genes) that determines how a living thing looks and functions. Humans, animals and even plants have DNA.

Using technology and the DNA samples she found, the artist created sculptures of what each person might look like.

Did you know that about 99.9% of the DNA of all people on the planet is exactly the same. It's that tiny 0.1% that is different that makes us all unique.
Stand comfortably in the room and look up at the chandelier.

Change your position and take another look. Be aware of any sound you hear.

Continue to change your position until you’ve seen the sculpture from different angles.

Now, write down 10 adjectives based on what you just saw.

You can continue this exercise at home and write more adjectives based on what you remember.
Stand facing the five panels. Look at them from a distance for a few minutes.

What do you think is happening?

Get closer to one of the panels but DON’T TOUCH!

What does it remind you of?
OK, now you’re all set to explore the rest of the exhibition on your own. Make sure to apply what you learned and don’t forget to place a sticker on the map every time you find an artwork. Have fun!
This guide accompanies the exhibition INVISIBLE THREADS: Technology and its Discontents at the Art Gallery of New York University Abu Dhabi, curated by Scott Fitzgerald and Bana Kattan, on view from September 22 to December 31 of 2016 in Abu Dhabi, UAE.

The guide was developed, designed and illustrated by: Alaa Edris and Zoë Kwa

Thank you to the NYUAD Art Gallery team:
- Director and Chief Curator: Maya Allison
- Programs Curator: Alaa Edris
- Campus Exhibitions Curator: Bana Kattan
- Head of Installations: Samuel Faix
- Junior Preparator: Zoë Kwa
- Gallery Operations Manager: Hala Saleh
- Registrar: Kim Moinette

Special Thanks to Khalid Mezaina

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