Hello! Welcome to **PERMANENT TEMPORARINESS**, an exhibition of installation art by artists Sandi Hilal and Alessandro Petti.

I'm the Ghaf Tree. I am your guide and I'm also part of one of the artworks in this exhibition. All artworks in this exhibition were produced with the help of many collaborators from different parts of the world.

**PERMANENT TEMPORARINESS** is when something is supposed to last a short time, but ends up lasting a long time, sometimes even decades.

In this exhibition, some works are placed indoors while others are outdoors.

Use the map below to find the artworks outside the gallery!
This is a map of the Art Gallery. We will start the tour by looking at artworks in the following order:

1. Refugee Heritage
2. Common Assembly
3. Ramallah Syndrome
4. The Tree School

Then we will move outside the gallery to find:

5. The Book of Exile
6. The Concrete Tent

The Living Room is the title of a performance art piece that Sandi Hilal did in her temporary home at NYUAD campus. To see a video of this performance, go where the red star is.
What is installation art?

**INSTALLATION ART** is artwork created for a specific location. It can be made out of any material and can include drawings, paintings, sculpture, video, photos, text, and even people.

**NOTE:**
Some installation art can be touched, always check first.

**REMEMBER:** The general rule is NOT to touch the artwork.

You can interact with an installation

This exhibition includes both: works to observe and works to interact with.

or simply observe it
REFUGEE HERITAGE

This installation of a group of photographs was taken at the Dheisheh refugee camp in Palestine. It is the oldest refugee camp in the world.

Walk around the lightboxes and observe the photographs. Do you see any difference between the images? The artists included one photograph that was not taken at the refugee camp, but in Venice, Italy. Can you spot it?

Now think about a place where you have created memories with your friends and family. What does it look like? Draw it in the lightbox below!

Refugee camps are often temporary and made up from tents. Older refugee camps like the Dheisheh camp include generations of refugees that have been born and lived all their lives in the camp, making it the only home they have ever known. It has become a place where memories are made and stories are told.

REFUGEES: People who are forced to leave their country for reasons like war or natural disasters. Many refugees left their countries and created a home elsewhere.

HERITAGE: Valued objects and qualities such as historic buildings, unspoiled countryside, and cultural traditions that have been passed down from previous generations.
Common Assembly

Common assembly refers to a place or a building where a group of people gather to make important decisions for their country or community.

The concrete staircase is an installation inspired by the borderline that runs through the common assembly building in Palestine. The construction of the building was never completed for political reasons. The artists visited the abandoned building to find that the staircase is located exactly where the borderline is on the map. The artists were inspired to recreate the staircase in the Common Assembly installation.

Observe the staircase from different angles. Walk around it, step on it, and then sit in a comfortable spot where you can see the other end of the staircase. Now imagine the rest of the building where many people would gather to make decisions. What would it look like?

Complete the dotted line below and draw the building!

This installation is interactive, meaning you can touch it and even sit on it!
The *Ramallah Syndrome* is a sound installation located inside a dark closed room. You can listen to the sound once you step into the room. The sound you hear is a recording of conversations between a group of people who met informally to discuss different matters about the city of Ramallah in Palestine.

Open the door and peek inside the room. If you like, step inside and stay for a few minutes to listen to the conversation. When you step out, think about what you just experienced.

How did it make you feel?
What did you hear?
How many people were part of that conversation?
What did the meeting room look like?

Write and draw your thoughts below.
THE TREE SCHOOL

The Tree School is an interactive installation made with a group of people who collaborated with the artists. They wanted to create a place for learning outside traditional classrooms.

Trees represent wisdom, respect, and knowledge. In this tree school in the Art Gallery, visitors are invited to sit around the “Ghaf” tree, the UAE’s national tree, to learn from one another.

Learning can happen anywhere. Think about your own classroom, what does it look like? How do you usually learn new things? Now imagine your own “Tree School” and think of a topic you would like to teach people about. Draw it below and don't forget to write the topic you're interested in!

In the past, people gathered under the shade of trees to learn, discuss, and share stories.
Now that we've looked at all the artwork inside the gallery, let's go outside to explore more works from this exhibition.

**NEXT STOP:**
The NYUAD Library in the Campus Center!

**HINT:**
Refer to the Campus map in the beginning of this guide to find the Library.
BOOK OF EXILE

The Book of Exile is a performance installation of a calligrapher scribing a collection of stories written by refugees about their lives in refugee camps.

This book was scribed twice before, once in Morocco, and once in Palestine. Here in Abu Dhabi, an Emirati calligrapher is “performing” by scribing the book in the NYUAD Library.

Collaborate with the artists by writing your own story for The Book of Exile. After that, help the calligrapher finish calligraphing the title of the book in arabic. Complete the dotted line below and color in with your favorite colors or patterns.

EXILE:
When a person is forced to leave their home country and can't go back anymore.

YOUR NAME: .........................................................
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The Concrete Tent

The Concrete Tent is an installation inspired by refugee camps. Most refugee camps are made out of tents, a temporary structure meant to be removed after a short period of time. Some refugee camps have been there for so long that their tents were transformed into buildings made out of concrete, a permanent material.

This is where the title of the exhibition, Permanent Temporariness, comes from: it reflects the idea of refugee camps.

The artists collaborated with the people of the Dheisheh refugee camp to create a tent made from concrete. The tent is used as a place of gathering, learning, and a place for discussions. Here in Abu Dhabi, visitors are invited to do the same.

Walk inside the tent, touch the walls and feel the texture. Is this what tents are usually made of? Why did the artists choose this material to build a tent that is usually made from fabric? Why did the artists choose “Permanent Temporariness” as a title for this exhibition? This combination of contradictory words is called an “oxymoron”. Can you think of other oxymorons? Write them below.
Now that we’ve come to the end of the exhibition, it’s time to create your own installation art. Think about the size and the material of the artwork. Will you place it indoors or outdoors? What title would you give the artwork? Write and draw it all here!
This guide accompanies the exhibition *Permanent Temporariness: Sandi Hilal and Alessandro Petti* at the Art Gallery of New York University Abu Dhabi, on view from February 24 to June 9, 2018 in Abu Dhabi, UAE.

This exhibition is curated by Salwa Mikdadi and Bana Kattan.

The guide was developed and designed by Alaa Edris and Maryam Bin Thani.

Illustrations by Maryam Bin Thani

Thank you to the NYUAD Art Gallery team:
Director and Chief Curator: Maya Allison
Programs Curator: Alaa Edris
Exhibitions Curator: Bana Kattan
Operations Manager: Hala Saleh
Museum Registrar: Kim Moinette
Head of Installations: Noah Wilson

For more information:
Contact: +971 2628 8000
Email: nyuad.artgallery@nyu.edu
Visit: nyuad-artgallery.org