Welcome to Speculative Landscapes, a group exhibition featuring new art installations by four artists based in the UAE. The artists transformed their spaces into their own imaginary worlds, observing and responding to our natural, artificial, and virtual environments. Meet the artists on the next page and use the sticker book to explore their worlds and learn more about their work. Tip: use the tools and objects in the sticker book to interact with each artwork.

This is an open-world exploration of the exhibition, feel free to follow the sequence in this youth guide as a starting point. Your quest is to navigate all 4 spaces, learn as much as possible about the artwork, and then evaluate (by yourself, or with the help of a friend or a parent) your understanding of it using the EXP bar.
Welcome to “Between Muddles and Tangles.” As an artist, I’m interested in how life forms grow in artificial environments and the healing quality of art.

Walk around the room. Find the pink-lit corner and the shelf. What do you see? This is the “Kaff Mariam” plant. It’s a plant that lives in the desert, some call it “the desert rose.”

The plant looks withered, but it actually comes back to life when watered. The pink LED light helps new sprouts grow.

Now, turn around and find a spot to sit facing the video projection. Observe the video for a few minutes, then close your eyes to activate your ears. What do you hear? What does this sound remind you of?

Think about how you feel and take 5 deep breaths while listening to the sounds. Now close your eyes and take another 5 deep breaths. Once you’re done, open your eyes. How do you feel now?
Welcome to my world of “Silent Sirens” and “Unknown Safety.” As an artist, I’m interested in the feeling of risk. How do we decide if we are safe?

Walk around the red dome and observe the signs on the walls. Have you seen similar signs before? Do you remember where? What did they say?

The signs here have words and phrases in Arabic, words that my mother used to comfort me when I was feeling nervous or worried. When you’re feeling worried, what do you say to yourself?

Use the sticker book to create your own installation and add your own words, too.

Let’s go back to the red dome. Would it be fun to climb it? Is it safe? Remove your shoes and climb up the dome. Why is it red? How does it make you feel to be on top of the dome?
Welcome to “a quiet wave.” As an artist, I’m interested in the connections between the economy, wellness, and color.

Walk around the room and observe the space. What objects do you see? Why do you think they’re here? Pay attention to the special wall color.

The color is called “Quiet Wave,” why do you think they gave it this name? Observe the purple neon signs and where they are placed on the walls.

On the next spread, use your visual and spatial skills to match the neons and other objects to their corresponding location.
Welcome to “A Comma, In Arabic.” As an artist, I’m interested in exploring human relationships with technology through the use of color and sound.

Step into the room, but don’t forget to put on shoe covers. What do you see? Go further in and walk around. What do you hear? Take a few steps to the left, then a few steps to the right. Move in different directions, activate your ears while doing so.

In the Jumairy Universe, colors and sounds are shifted to create an alternative pink reality, where you become the composer of its soundtrack through your movement.

In the next spread, use sound stickers to create your own pattern of sound. Find the spots that trigger sound and mark them on the pink sand. Listen carefully to the sounds, what else do you hear?
Congratulations on completing the "Speculative Landscape" journey with us. We hope that our artwork will offer you new perspectives to see our surroundings in a different light.

This guide accompanies the exhibition *Speculative Landscapes* at The New York University Abu Dhabi Art Gallery, on view from September 16–December 7, 2019 in Abu Dhabi, UAE.

The exhibition is curated by Maya Allison
The guide was developed by Alaa Edris and Brandon Fernandes
Illustrations by Brandon Fernandes
Design by Larry Issa and Farah Sleiman

+971 628 8000
www.nyuad-artgallery.org
nyuad.artgallery@nyu.edu

Thank you to The NYUAD Art Gallery team: Maya Allison, Alaa Edris, Hala Saleh, Sebastian Grube, Kim Moinette, Tyler Lewis, Tala Nassar
Notes: