

**The Art Gallery at NYU Abu Dhabi to unveil
Diana Al-Hadid's first solo exhibition in the Arab World**

*This Saturday: 'Phantom Limb' will premiere new sculptures
alongside key works from eminent local art collections*



Abu Dhabi, March 3, 2016: The Art Gallery at New York University Abu Dhabi (NYUAD Art Gallery) is pleased to announce that the first solo exhibition in the Arab world by the internationally renowned sculptor Diana Al-Hadid will officially open its doors with an evening reception on Saturday, March 5th.

Phantom Limb will showcase new artworks as well as three works on loan from prominent local art collections. The Al-Hadid artworks which have been generously loaned are ***Vanishing Point***, a bronze sculpture from the collection of Her Highness Sheikha Manal Bint Mohammed Bin Rashid Al Maktoum; ***Untitled***, a large drawing from the collection of Barjeel Art Foundation, Sharjah, courtesy of Sultan Sooud Al Qassemi; and a room-sized sculptural installation, ***Gradiva's Fourth Wall***, from the collection of the Sharjah Art Foundation, directed by Her Excellency Sheikha Hoor Al Qasimi.

Founding Director of the NYUAD Art Gallery, and Chief Curator at NYU Abu Dhabi Maya Allison said: "The decision to lend any artwork requires a degree of trust, and more so when lending to a new institution such as ours. We are deeply honoured and extend our appreciation to Her Highness Sheikha Manal Bint Mohammed Bin Rashid Al

Maktoum, Her Excellency Sheikha Hoor Al Qasimi, and Sultan Sooud Al Qassemi for lending such important artworks to the NYUAD Art Gallery. This collaboration expresses one of our core goals: to nourish and enable increased artistic exchange and creative enrichment across the region. When the exhibition opens on the evening of March 5, audiences will see the individual loaned artworks framed in the context of the artist's overall practice, and, in turn, benefit from these art collections in the UAE."

On view until May 28, the exhibition takes its title from a central work, *Phantom Limb*. The title refers to the sensations that a missing arm or leg is still present and able to move. That concept captures the character of much of Al-Hadid's work, which evokes memory and history through a visceral, materially focused working technique. The theme of memory and its physical manifestations in art and architecture runs throughout Al-Hadid's work.

The monumental sculpture of *Phantom Limb* is framed by two major wall insets: *Sleepwalker* and *Still Life With Gold*. The first draws from the 4th Century BCE bas-relief *Gradiva*, while the latter is a reworking of Hans Memling's 1475 painting *Allegory of Chastity*. This ensemble travels from the artist's recent show, *The Fates*, at the Secession Gallery in Vienna. These "fates" anchor a series of related sculptures, alongside the world-premiere of an epic new triptych of wall panels. In these brightly-colored, shimmering wall panels, Al-Hadid responds to the Renaissance triptych, *Battle of San Romano* by Paolo Uccello. Like Uccello, Al-Hadid experiments with and expands the pictorial space in her panels, oscillating between painting and sculpture.

Artist Diana Al-Hadid said: "I am honored to have my first solo exhibition in the Arab World take place at such a highly esteemed gallery. It's been great working with Maya and the NYUAD Art Gallery staff, all of whom have an exciting vision and have always demonstrated a profound appreciation for my needs as an artist. I am thrilled for the opportunity to share my work with people in the region, and I would like to extend my appreciation to NYU Abu Dhabi and NYUAD Art Gallery for bringing my work to a wider audience."

An evening reception for *Phantom Limb* will be held on Saturday March 5, from 5 – 8 p.m, at the NYUAD Art Gallery. The public is welcome, no RSVP required.

On the evening of Sunday 13 March, Diana Al-Hadid will present an artist's talk at the NYUAD Art Gallery.

A series of bi-weekly public events will also run throughout the exhibition; for the latest schedule please refer to the Gallery website at www.nyuad-artgallery.org.

A scholarly catalogue will accompany the exhibition, published by Skira with the NYUAD Art Gallery and Brown University. It includes texts by Renaissance and contemporary art historians and curators: Reindert Falkenburg (NYU Abu Dhabi), Alistair Rider (University of St. Andrews), and Sara Raza (Guggenheim).

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For more information, please contact:

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Notes to Editors

About Diana Al-Hadid

Born in Aleppo (Syria) in 1981, Al-Hadid grew up in Ohio (USA), lives and works in New York City.

She has had 22 solo exhibitions in the last decade, including (Selection): 2015 *Ground and Figures*, Moran Bondaroff; 2014 *The Fates*, Secession, Vienna; *Diana Al-Hadid*, Columbus College of Art and Design, Columbus; *Diana Al-Hadid: Regarding Medardo Rosso*, Marianne Boesky Gallery, New York (with Medardo Rosso); 2013 *Diana Al-Hadid*, Weatherspoon Museum of Art, Greensboro; 2012 *Trace of a Fictional Third*, Virginia Museum of Fine Arts, Richmond; *Diana Al-Hadid: The Vanishing Point*, Marianne Boesky Gallery, New York, 2011 *Sightings: Diana Al-Hadid*, Nasher Sculpture Center, Dallas; *Play the Wolf Fifth*, Centro de Arte Contemporánea, La Conservera, Murcia; *Diana Al-Hadid: Water Thief*, Nevada Museum of Art, Reno; 2010 *Water Thief*, Hammer Museum, Los Angeles

Awards (Selection): 2011 Joan Mitchell Foundation; 2009 Louis Comfort Tiffany Foundation, United States Artists Rockefeller Fellow, New York Foundation for the Arts Fellow; 2007 Pollock-Krasner Foundation Grant, Skowhegan Residency.

About NYUAD 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.