

EMBASSY OF THE
UNITED ARAB EMIRATES
BAKU



سفارة
الإمارات العربية المتحدة
بأكو

UAE Artists Directory 2021





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Filmmakers



Amal Al Agroobi

Amal Al Agroobi is a film director, producer and writer. Her film career began in 2012 with her short documentary titled, 'Half Emirati'. Her first feature film was a documentary titled, 'The Brain That Sings', which was released in 2013. The film won multiple awards internationally as well as the People's Choice Award at the Dubai International Film Festival. 'The Brain That Sings' helped raise national awareness about autism. Amal has worked primarily as a documentary filmmaker but she has also worked in the fictional film genre. Her first fictional short film titled 'Under the hat' was released in 2016. Currently Amal has several drama and horror genre films in development. She is also a script writer with a passion for characterdriven stories that address identity and social justice.

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Abdulrahman Al Madani

Abdulrahman Al Madani is an Emirati filmmaker born and raised in Dubai. He started making films in 2012 and began competing in international film festivals. His first short documentary, 'The Gamboos Revolution', released in 2012, was a recipient of several awards at the Gulf Film Festival and at the Abu Dhabi Film Festival. Abdulrahman's next two short films, 'Guilt' (2012) and 'Nagafa' (2014) both premiered at film festivals in the UAE. After earning a Bachelor's degree in Applied Media Studies at Higher College of Technology in Dubai, Abdulrahman completed a one-year Filmmaking Diploma at Abu Dhabi New York Film Academy. There he directed 'Beshkara', his thesis film which received its world premiere at the 2015 Dubai International Film Festival.

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Nujoom AlGhanem

Nujoom Alghanem is an Emirati poet, artist, scriptwriter and multi-award winning film director. She has produced eleven films during her career including five short fiction films and six feature length documentaries. Her documentaries have won local, regional and international prizes. Nujoom was born in Dubai in 1962. In 1996 Nujoom completed a Bachelor degree in Video Production from Ohio State University in the United States. In 1999 she went on to complete a Masters degree in Media Production from the School of Film at Griffith University in Australia. Nujoom is a board member of the International Prize for Arabic Fiction, which is managed in association with the Booker Prize Foundation in London and has acted as the of head of jury and as a jury member in numerous international film festivals.

Abdulla Al Kaabi

Abdulla Al Kaabi was born and raised in the emirate of Fujairah in the UAE. At the age of 16, Abdulla settled in Dubai and pursued his studies at the American University of Sharjah. While a student, Abdulla was scouted by Dubai TV for the role of a reality TV presenter where he would work for 4 years. Alongside presenting, Abdulla was a full-time model/actor for print media and TV commercials working for a variety of clients in the Gulf region. Knowing that he always wanted to be in the director's seat, he moved to Paris in 2009 to pursue a Master's degree in filmmaking and a career in cinema where he directed his first award-winning short film, 'The Philosopher' with Jean Reno.

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Mustafa Abbas

Mustafa Abbas is an award-winning Emirati writer and director. His latest film 'Sunset State' was screened in seven countries including at the Dubai International Film Festival as well as in the Short Film Corner at the prestigious Cannes Film Festival. Mustafa is known as one of the pioneers of the Emirati film industry and has participated as a writer, producer and director as well as a jury member for film festivals and competitions. Mustafa was a jury member at the first ever Nikon Film festival, and a member of the Community Development Authority which is part of Dubai Government. He was honored at a ceremony held by Dubai Customs where he was awarded for his work as an Emirati filmmaker. Currently he is working on a number of projects, in Dubai, London and Los Angeles.

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Nawaf Al-Janahi

Nawaf Al-Janahi, is an actor and a film director, who was born in 1977 in Abu Dhabi to an Egyptian mother and an Emirati father. He started acting at the age of 7 and at the age of 19 he moved to California to study cinema. After returning to the UAE Al-Janahi produced and directed award-winning independent short films which were recognized globally at many well known international film festivals. His latest short film, 'Mirrors of Silence', was lauded by film critics and audiences alike, and was officially selected in over 22 international film festivals, frequently in which he was the only Emirati film maker participating. His first feature length film, 'The Circle', was screened in many international film festivals, and was described by film critics as 'a major turning point in Emirati and Gulf cinema'. Al-Janahi's second feature film 'Sea Shadow' had its world premiere at the Abu Dhabi Film Festival in 2011 and was released in cinemas across the Gulf region. Competing with Hollywood blockbusters, in its first week, the film became the second most watched film in the UAE, the biggest cinema market in the Arab world. Later, the film went on a global tour to over 22 countries, the most remarkable tour for an Emirati feature film to date.

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Nayla Al Khaja

Nayla Al Khaja is the first female Emirati to embrace the role of both film director and producer in the UAE. She is the CEO of Nayla Al Khaja Films (previously D-Seven Motion Pictures). In 2007 Nayla founded The Scene Club, Dubai's first film club. Nayla wrote and directed several films, all presented and awarded in international film festivals. Nayla's accolades include being ranked among the Top 50 most powerful personalities in Arab Cinema, and ranked among the 100 most powerful Arabs under 40 by Arabian Business Magazine. She's also been awarded the Visionary of the Year Award at the Arabian Business Awards and she is Brand Ambassador for Canon Middle East since 2011. Nayla was recently declared Entrepreneur of the Year during the Gulf Business Awards 2017. Over the years, Nayla's dedication to develop the UAE's film industry and her advocacy for Women in Cinema, helped her reputation of trustworthy professionalism grow. Today, she focuses on directing films, is a motivational speaker, a cultural consultant and an influencer while nurturing and supporting local talent. In 2016, she shot the pilot for her first feature film 'Animal' which was nominated for the Muhr Emirati Awards at DIFF. The short film received the Jury's Special Prize for Best Short Fiction at the Italian Movie Awards in Pompeii, Italy, in September 2017 and won Best Narrative film at the Ras Al Khaimah Fine Arts Festival in Ras Al Khaimah, UAE, in February 2018.

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Ali F. Mustafa

Ali F. Mostafa is a pioneering Emirati filmmaker. In 2003 Ali enrolled at the London Film School. In 2007 he set up his own production company, AFM Films, producing feature films, short films, documentaries, TV commercials, and corporate films. Ali's short graduation film 'Under the Sun' was officially selected and nominated for best foreign film in various international film festivals. This film also won Best Emirates Film in the Emirates Film Competition in 2006 in Abu Dhabi. In 2007 Ali received the Best Emirati Filmmaker award at the Dubai International Film Festival. In 2010 Digital Studio magazine awarded him the Young Filmmaker of the Year award. His film, "From A to B", was the first Emirati film to screen at the Abu Dhabi Film Festival. His latest feature, titled 'The Worthy' is being produced by Image Nation Abu Dhabi and will be the Arab world's first post-apocalyptic thriller. Ali received the Man of The Year honor in 2014 during Esquire magazine's Man at His Best Awards for his achievements in helping build a UAE film industry. Ali's & UAE's biggest achievement in film remains his feature debut, 'City of Life'.

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Khalid Al Mahmood

Khalid Al Mahmood was born in 1976 in Abu Dhabi. He is a director and cinematographer, known for the films 'Don't Leave Me' (2013), 'Sabeel' (2010) and 'Ahlam fi sundook' (2003). After studying film production at the University of Denver in the US, Khalid began his career with the Abu Dhabi Media Company where he spent eight years working as a television producer. He then worked freelance, working as crew member making commercials and independent short films. In 2011, Khalid was named one of the top ten Arab filmmakers to watch by Screen International. Khalid's films have been screened at numerous festivals. 'Sabeel' won a number of awards and was selected for the 2012 Berlinale Talent Campus. His most recent work, 'Don't Leave Me', won Best Muhr Emirati Award at the 2013 Dubai International Film Festival.

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Abdullah Hasan Ahmed

Abdullah Hasan Ahmed, is an Emirati film and TV director and producer as well as a cinematographer and actor. Abdullah is the founder and director of Faradees Group which has produced over 35 short films. In 2006 Abdullah was named Best Young Film Director by Digital Studio magazine. His director credits include the films, 'Wiladah', 'Smaller then the Sky', 'Tenbak' and 'Amen'. Abdullah has been an active member of the UAE's film scene for the last 15 years.

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Omar Ibrahim

Omar Ibrahim is an Emirati film director. He began his career with the presentation of several short of his first short films which were screened locally in the UAE at the Dubai Film Festival and at the Gulf Film Festival. Omar is best known for his Arabic language comedy and drama TV series which air every Ramadan such as 'The Simple Life', 'Wadeema and Halima' and 'Aam Elgamr' among others.

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Alwiya A. Thani

Alwiya A. Thani is an Emirati filmmaker. Alwiya began her career working with several major television broadcasters in the UAE as a Story Producer and Director, before joining Image Nation's production team. Alwiya has worked as an executive in charge on several feature length projects including the Netflix TV series 'Qalb Al Adala' (2017), 'From A to B' (2015) which was distributed by Studio Canal and 'Etla Barra Reality TV' (2018-19) which aired on Discovery's Quest Arabiya. After obtaining a degree in Business Administration and spending sometime in a bank job, Alwiya decided to pursue her dream. She studied digital filmmaking in the School of Audio Engineering Institute in Dubai and eventually left the banking sector for a career in film and television. In 2017, Alwiya completed her fellowship with the prestigious US-based Global Media Makers by Film Independent. Alwiya who has worked on numerous short films of her own is currently developing her first feature length film.

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Majid Al Ansari

Majid Al Ansari is a director and producer whose debut feature film 'Zinzana' (Rattle the Cage) was premiered at the Fantastic Fest in Austin, Texas and had its European premier at the BFI London Film Festival. Al Ansari was awarded 'Arab Filmmaker of the Year' at the 2016 Berlin International Film Festival. The film 'Zinzana' was subsequently picked up by IM Global, an American independent film and TV production company for world wide representation and sold to Netflix as the first Arab film acquisition after the platform branched out to the Middle East. Majid served as an Executive Producer on three major Arab films, including Yasir Al Yasiri's "Shabab Sheyab" and Mohammad Saeed Harib's "Rashid and Rajab".

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Nahla Al Fahd

Nahla is an Emirati Director and Executive Producer from Dubai. She has worked in commercials, films, documentaries and music videos in the UAE and in the Middle East where she directed popular music videos and Khaliji TV series. Nahla established Beyond Studios FZLLC in 2010, a TV and film production house based in Dubai. Her first documentary feature film 'The Tainted Veil' (2015) which addresses attitudes towards the hijab was short listed for best documentary feature at the 88th Academy Awards.

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Hani Al Shaiban

Hani Al Shaibani is an Emirati filmmaker born in Abu Dhabi. In 2010 he obtained his MA in Visual Art from Queensland College in Australia. Hani has produced and directed seven short films and four feature films in his career including, 'Dream' (2004) 'Gomaa and the Sea' (2007), 'Waiting list' (2016) and 'Khalik Shanab' (2019). Hani participated as a jury member in the UAE University Media Awards in 2010, in the Abu Dhabi Film Festival in 2011 and in the Gulf Film Festival in 2012. Hani is the recipient of the 2013 Sheikh Majid bin Mohammed Media Award and was a jury member of the Dubai International Film Festival 2016.

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Mohammed Al Hammadi

Mohammed Al Hammadi was born in 1989 in Dubai. He graduated from the Higher College of Technology in Dubai in 2012 and in 2013 he joined the Sharjah Art Institute to study theater. He made his cinematic debut with the film 'Abdullah' (2014) which received its world premiere at the Dubai International Film Festival 2015. In 2016 Mohammed studied filmmaking in Los Angeles and at the New York Film Academy. His latest film was titled 'Musk' and was released in 2019.

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Ahem Al Subaihi

Ahem Al Subaihi is an Emirati film director, producer and assistant director based in Abu Dhabi. His filmmaking experience spans more than 6 years and several visual storytelling mediums such as film, television, commercials, music videos. After receiving a Bachelor of Creative Media from the University of Southern Queensland in Australia in 2015, Ahem joined a one-year intensive film-making diploma course at the New York Film Academy in Abu Dhabi. Ahem is the director of such titles as 'Iftah Ya Simsim' (Arabic Sesame Street) and 'FUNN', a television show which will be aired on Majid. Ahem also has experience as an assistant director and CoQ producer and has provided filmmaking guidance to aspiring students at various workshops including the AFS Young Filmmakers workshop at New York University in Abu Dhabi and at the Sharjah Youth Foundation. Ahem has also appeared as an actor in feature Hollywood films such as Star Trek Beyond (uncredited) and Six Underground.

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Yaser Alneyadi

Yaser Alneyadi is an award winning Emirati filmmaker, writer, actor and TV presenter. Born in 1990 in Al Ain Yaser graduated from the University of the United Arab Emirates with a Bachelor in Mass Communication. Yaser's film credits include 'Mirage', 'Dreams of Rice', 'Escape', 'Roaster's Philosophy', 'Shrimp' and 'Watermelon Club'. Yaser is also the recipient of the Best Muhr Emirati Short Award, the Best Emirati Director award and an award for best editing at the Al Ain film festival for his film the 'Watermelon Club'. Yaser has eight directorial credits to his name, thirty-one acting credits, four writer's credits and one production credit.

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Abdullah Al Junaibi

Abdullah Al Junaibi is an Emirati actor, producer and director. Abdullah received the Best Director Award at the Dubai International Film Festival in 2017 for his debut film 'Camera'. His directing and writing credits include 'Kaimrah' (2017), 'Bahar' (2013) and 'The Path' (2012). Abdullah has acted in five films the titles of which are, 'The Path' (2012), 'Djinn' (2013), 'Don't Leave Me' (2013), '8 Hours' (2014) and 'Shabab Sheyab' (2018).

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Ahmed Zein

Ahmed Zein started his career more than 15 years ago and has directed and produced dozens of short films which have been screened in many local festivals. Ahmed's first foray into feature film came with his debut titled 'The Grandmother's farm' which was screened in UAE cinemas, across the Gulf region and onboard domestic airlines. Ahmed's directing credits include 'The Jack of All Trades' (2019), 'Uncle Naji in the UAE' (2019), 'Freej Al Taibeen' (2018), 'Lisa' (2017), 'Mazra'et Yeddo 2' (2015), , 'Mazra'et Yeddo' (2013). He has also written four films and produced three. Ahmed has continued his career by directing one movie per year and remains committed to supporting young Emirati talent.

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Aisha Alzaabi

Aisha Al Zaabi is an Emirati filmmaker who studied video production and filmmaking at Abu Dhabi Women's College. She is a recipient of the Best Emirati Director Award and the Muhr Emirati prize for Best Short Film at the Dubai International Film Festival. She is the director of the films 'Ghafah', 'My Dear Home with Love', 'A Night in a Taxi' and 'Wesalna wela B'adna'.

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Designers



Alia bin Omair

Pieces by jewelry designer Alia bin Omair have been described as artworks to experience, wear, display and cherish. A curious designer who likes to explore new techniques and methods combining art and design, Alia utilizes traditional materials and motifs oftentimes referencing UAE heritage. She credits the geography and the culture of the UAE with her inspiration and with the shapes and symbols she bases her pieces on. Alia bin Omair jewelry is a result of a unique process of curiosity and experimentation in which beauty and quality are always prioritized above commercial value. Alia received a Bachelor's degree in Applied Communications from Dubai Women's College, in which she focused on Graphic Design. She has tried her hand at photography, product design, illustrations and more currently jewelry design, which has given her plenty of room and experience to experiment with her capabilities and interests. In 2013, she pursued a Diploma in Jewelry Design and Production at the Damas Jewelry Academy in Dubai, after which she won the Emirati Jewelry Designer of the Year Award in the same year.

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Khalid Shafar

Khalid Shafar contemporizes traditional elements of UAE culture & design techniques. Incorporating powerful symbols of his heritage with a deft, light touch, he preserves global appeal in his works. His signature 'Palm' series features products reminiscent of the iconic desert plant. Elsewhere, he incorporates the argal (traditional headwear) and subtly borrows from Islamic geometry. His international education complements his local perspective. He studied furniture and object design at Central Saint Martins in London & The Centre for Fine Woodworking, New Zealand. Since his first solo collection in 2011, he has established himself as the leading talent of UAE design. Committed to nurturing the next generation, he mentors as a part of the ADMAF/British Council Cultural Excellence Fellowship. While staunchly defining himself as a designer, the aesthetic appeal and cultural relevance of his works mean he is often included in contemporary art exhibitions. His esteemed list of collaborators is testament to his status in international design circles. These include the Campana Brothers, historic French cabinet maker Moissonnier, carpet industry leader Tai Ping and Kartell. In 2015, 'THE NOMAD' was supported by Dubai Design District (d3) and Abu Dhabi Festival and the contemporary architectural reinterpretation of the areesh (date frond shelter) was presented at London's Shubbak Festival.

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Shamsa Al Omaira

Shamsa Al Omaira is a visual artist born in Abu Dhabi. Through her work, she conceptually explores philosophy and the mind, as they are embedded in personal experience. She expresses her ideas through a variety of media including photography, painting, printmaking, mixed media and installations composed of found and collected materials. Her work has been described as a form for personal confession, inspired by historical possessions and childhood memories. Intrigued by the machinations of the mind, Al Omaira creates a complex world through her creative practice, extensive research and philosophical theories. She creates works that question the complexity of the mind, reflect on the nature of thought, and conceptually connect assorted mind theories with personal experience. Al Omaira's work has been exhibited both locally and internationally, including at Zayed University & at Bastakiya Art Fair, Dubai. Her work was featured in the exhibition 'Emerge II: Radiating Ports' at the Museum of Diocesano in Venice in conjunction with the 2011 Venice Biennale. Her first solo exhibition 'Deer in the Headlights' was shown at Ghaf Art Gallery in Abu Dhabi and a body of work entitled 'Muted Thoughts' was exhibited at the 2012 edition of Abu Dhabi Art.

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Azza Al Qubaisi

Azza Al Qubaisi is a designer, artist and sculptor and is most often referred to as the UAE's first Emirati jewelry artist who enjoys exploring and experimenting with metal and natural materials. An advocate of all that is home grown and sustainable, Azza has established two government funded projects to support and develop traditional crafts. She is also the woman behind 'Made in UAE', the first national platform to showcase local crafts and design, which currently has a string of participating stores in malls across the country. Azza holds a MA in Cultural and Creative Industries and a BA in Jewelry Design, Silversmithing and Allied Crafts. She returned to Abu Dhabi in 2002, setting up an independent workshop for jewelry design. She has exhibited widely including, 'Three Generations' (Sotheby's London, 2013), UAE National Day exhibition (EXPO2015 Milan) and 'Portrait of Nation' (Berlin, 2017). Her work has been published in several books, including '500 Earrings: New Directions in Contemporary Jewelry' (Lark Crafts, 2007). Azza is a recipient of the British Council Young Cultural Entrepreneur Award and the Emirates Women Award. She designs and produces gifts for clients including for the 'Million's' Poet television show. Her showroom and workshop reveal her prolific creativity, with jewelry and sculptures made from gold, silver, wood, rubber tires, palm trees and oudh incense. Dedicated to a sustainable future for her country, Azza uses local materials and has always been inspired by the heritage of her country. The UAE's natural landscape and cultural references feature prominently in her pieces, such as the shapes, patterns and textures found in the the desert and the revival of traditional crafts techniques.

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Nayef Alblooshi

Nayef Alblooshi is a software developer, game designer, animator and digital artist. He founded the game design studio After Work Games through which he has developed numerous projects such as the game My Super Kandorah, in which the game's hero has to make his way back to earth through a series of obstacles after gaining special super powers that allow him to fly. My Rights, a three game series designed by Nayef won the MENA IMGA Jury Selection Award and teaches players about children's rights. Machine No. 003 is another example of Nayef's work. An augmented reality experience dedicated to the Year of Zayed, Machine No. 003 was sponsored by the National Happiness and Positivity Program in the UAE and showcased at the Happiness Journey event in the Dubai Design District in 2018. The experience used augmented reality to portray the Year of Zayed values of wisdom, respect, human development and sustainability.

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Aljoud Lootah

Aljoud Lootah is a multidisciplinary designer based in Dubai whose work encompasses both product design and personalized corporate gifts. Aljoud has a keen interest in contrast in form and in function. She composes her pieces by mixing traditional silhouettes and ideas with modern references and elements. Patterns and geometric shapes feature regularly in her work and have been described as key sources of inspiration. Her creative drive is underpinned with a passion for detail, aesthetics, and an experimental approach to materials and techniques. As a product designer, she has been involved in projects that interpret traditional Emirati culture and craftsmanship fusing it with contemporary design. Two products from her Oru Series (2015) were acquired by the National Gallery of Victoria in Melbourne, Australia, making her the first Emirati designer to have her work acquired by an international gallery. Aljoud also produces collectors' objects & bespoke design for government organizations and private companies and has been involved in various retail and residential interior projects.

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Asma Belhamar

Asma Belhamar's work explores the phenomenon of 'megastructure' in the UAE and confronts the visual memory of the land. Her design-based practice reflects her interest in surface and pattern design, and she makes fabric and paper wall installations, experimenting with printing and projection techniques in her construction of three-dimensional structures. Since 2009, Belhamar's work has been shown in a number of exhibitions including Art: Process & Practice, a Salama bint Hamdan Emerging Artists Fellowship (SEAF) exhibition at Warehouse421, Abu Dhabi (2015) and as a part of the exhibition Place, Memory, Time at 1stdibs Gallery, New York (2017). Asma was awarded the Sheikha Manal Young Artist Award in the fine arts category (2011) and she completed the Salama bint Hamdan Emerging Artists Fellowship, in partnership with the Rhode Island School of Design, Abu Dhabi (2014). Asma received a BA in visual arts from the College of Arts and Creative Enterprises, Zayed University, Dubai (2012) and an MFA in textile design from Rhode Island School of Design, Providence, US (2017). She is currently an assistant professor at the College of Arts and Creative Enterprises at Zayed University in Dubai where she worked as a graphic designer previously in the Marketing and Publications Department (2012).

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Performance Artists



Eman Al Hashimi

Eman Al Hashimi is an Emirati pianist, composer, poet and writer. She has accumulated a long list of 'firsts' including; the first Emirati female orchestra composer, the first Emirati pianist to perform at the Louvre Museum in Abu Dhabi, the first Emirati female to establish a band in the UAE, the first Emirati female musician to have her music featured on the soundtrack of a film, the first pianist to represent the UAE abroad in Italy at Expo Milan 2015 and the the first composer to be included in the Encyclopedia of Emirati Women among many other trailblazing achievements. Eman holds a BA in Human Resources and is in the process of completing an MA in media.

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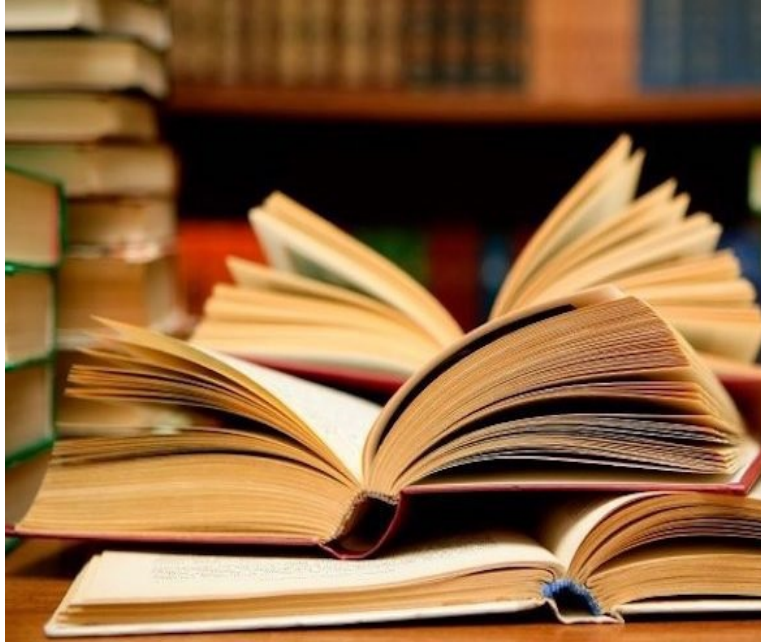
Jumairy

Jumairy is an Emirati artist and musician based in Dubai. He uses experimentations with sound, film, digital technologies and performance to create an immersive world composed of sensory experiences. Traces and allusions more than closed, finite productions, these experiences occupy and transform spaces, becoming provocations that usher viewers from their present time and place into imagined realms. Jumairy engages performative acts, scientific experiments and mysterious rituals that take place on stage, across the big screen and within smartphone apps. The same prismatic approach structures his music, in which Arabic electro-pop is entwined with the discordant soundscape of industrial music. Jumairy explores psychological questions and processes traumas, both personal and collective through his art.

Jumairy's work has been presented through residencies and exhibitions across the region and internationally. His recent exhibitions include, BRZ5, FARE, Milan (2016); A.i.R, Art Dubai, Dubai (2016); and A Public Privacy, DUCTAC, Dubai (2015). His work has been collected and supported by Barjeel Art Foundation and Maraya Art Centre.

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Writers



Yasser Hareb

Yasser Hareb is an author, columnist and TV presenter from Dubai. He has written several bestselling books including 'Take Off Your Shoes' (2015) which features a forward by renowned Brazilian novelist Paulo Coelho. Other published works include titles such as, 'The New Slaves' (2013), 'Picasso and Starbucks' (2011) and 'Towards a New Thought' (2006). Yasser is the co-founder of the internationally recognized Forum for Promoting Peace in Muslim Societies held annually in Abu Dhabi and is a member of the Supreme National Committee for Tolerance which was established by HH Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan in 2019.

<http://yhareb.com/biography?lang=en>

Asma Kalban

Asma Kalban is an Emirati children's author. In her work, she combines her love of nature with her dedication to preserving both the Arabic language and Emirati culture. Her first book, titled 'Weaving a Square', tells the story of a girl who is diagnosed with Autism. So successful was the book, it was chosen for two two years by the Ministry of Education to be read as a part of the fourth grade Arabic language curriculum in UAE. The author donated all profits from the book to funding education programs for Autistic children.

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Roudha Al Marri

Roudha Al Marri is an Emirati author and storyteller. Born in Dubai, Roudha has always loved sharing the culture of the UAE with people from around the world. Inspired by her country Roudha published the best selling book 'UAE 101: Stories and Cultural Learnings', a whimsical, easy to understand and engaging guide to Emirati culture. Following the success of her first book she published her second titled, '101 Misconceptions about the UAE, Explained!'. Roudha established a publishing house, House 101, with the intention of promoting and sharing the talents of local writers and illustrators with the world. Roudha is an avid traveler who has immersed herself in many different cultures throughout her life and is a vegan and a yoga teacher.

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Dubai Abulhoul

Dubai Abulhoul is an Emirati author and columnist. In 2018, Dubai graduated from the University of Oxford with an MA in Global Governance and Diplomacy as a Rhodes Scholar. Her first novel, 'Galagolia: The Hidden Divination', is the first Emirati fantasy novel written in English. The book's success both in the UAE and abroad resulted in HH Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum requesting a film version. Most recently Dubai published a series of four children's books which aim to introduce Emirati folktales and culture to younger generations. Dubai is also a columnist who writes for The Gulf Today and Al Bayan newspapers about issues related to youth, education, culture and literature. She was named Young Arab of the Year at ITP Media Group's first Young Arab Awards in 2016 for her work in youth advocacy, literature and journalism. Dubai is also the youngest member of the 13-member Emirates Youth Council, having been appointed by the UAE government in 2016 at the age of 20.

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Afra Atiq

Afra Atiq is an Emirati poet. She was the first spoken word poet to receive the Abu Dhabi Music & Arts Foundation (ADMAF) Creativity Award in 2017. Afra has performed internationally in the US and Kuwait, among others, and has had her poetry published in the International Journal of Research in Humanities and Social Sciences. She is committed to supporting her community and has lead workshops with Untitled Chapters, a platform that aims to bring together female Emirati writers of all ages. Afra has also conducted research involving literature and education. Afra's work examines what Emirati identity means in a contemporary context. Some of her best known poems include, 'We' and 'Nightfall'.

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