

## AFRA AL DHAHERI

Born 1988, Abu Dhabi, UAE

Lives and works in Abu Dhabi, UAE

### EDUCATION

2017 MFA in Painting, Rhode Island School of Design  
Providence, Rhode Island

2011 BA in Graphic Design, Zayed University, Abu Dhabi, UAE

### RESIDENCIES AND AWARDS

2023 Artist-in-Residence, The Watermill Center, NY

2022 Finalist, Richard Mille Art Prize 2022, Louvre Abu Dhabi, UAE  
VIR Viafarini-in-residence, Viafarini, Milan, Italy

2019 Porthmeor Studios, St. Ives, Cornwall, UK

2014 Salama bint Hamdan Emerging Artists Fellowship Program  
in Collaboration with Rhode Island School of Design,  
Rhode Island

### SOLO EXHIBITIONS

2023 *Give Your Weight To The Ground*, Green Art Gallery, Dubai, UAE

2021 *Split Ends*, Green Art Gallery, Dubai, UAE

2016 *Inevitable Ephemera*, T + H Gallery, Boston, MA

### PUBLIC COMMISSIONS

2024 *Union of Artists*, commissioned by Dubai Culture in collaboration  
with Art Dubai (with artists Khalid Albanna, Shaikha Al Mazrou,  
Asma Belhamar and Mohamed Ahmed Ibrahim)

2021 *Pillow Fort Playground*, Public Art Programme, Expo 2020, Dubai,  
UAE

### PROJECTS

2024 *Collective Exhaustion*, inaugural production supported by the  
National Grant for Culture and Creativity at the Ministry of Culture  
and Youth of the United Arab Emirates

**SELECTED GROUP EXHIBITIONS**

- 2024 *Public Matter*, Public Art Abu Dhabi Biennial, Abu Dhabi, UAE  
*Between the Tides: A Gulf Quinquennial*, NYUAD Art Gallery, Abu Dhabi, UAE  
*On Ma*, Galleria Pedro Cera, Lisbon, Portugal  
*Acacia Seeds*, Galerie Balice Hertling, Paris, France
- 2022 *ICON. ICONIC.*, Art Here 2022 x Richard Mille Art Prize, Louvre Abu Dhabi, UAE  
*I Shouted My Laughter to the Stars*, Aicon Contemporary, New York, NY  
*Portrait of a Nation II: Beyond Narratives*, Manarat Al Saadiyat, Abu Dhabi, UAE  
*Zemanna*, Manarat Al Saadiyat, Abu Dhabi, UAE
- 2021 *Tadaroj (Gradation)*, Sharjah Islamic Arts Festival, Sharjah, UAE  
*Under Construction*, Misk Art Institute, Riyadh, Saudi Arabia  
*Between The Sky and The Earth: Contemporary Art from the UAE*, Middle Eastern Institute, Washington, DC  
*Hair Mapping Body; Body Mapping Land*, ICD Brookfield Place, Dubai, UAE  
*Beyond: Emerging Artists*, Cromwell Place, London, UK  
*Conscious Becoming*, Tatjana Pieters, Ghent, Belgium  
*Concepts and The Divine Abstract*, The Farjam Foundation, Dubai, UAE
- 2020 *Beyond: Emerging Artists*, Abu Dhabi Art, Gallery S, Manarat Al Saadiyat, Abu Dhabi, UAE  
*Intimate Dimensions*, Hafez Gallery, Jeddah, Saudi Arabia
- 2019 *From Within*, Riyadh, KSA  
*Avoid Bad Dreams*, Green Art Gallery, Dubai, UAE  
 BAIT15 Founders Exhibition, Cuadro Gallery, Dubai, UAE
- 2018 *From Barcelona to Abu Dhabi*, group show with MACBA collection, Manarat Al Saadiyat, Abu Dhabi, UAE
- 2017 *RISD MFA Painting*, 315 Gallery, New York, NY
- 2017 *Mutual Encounters*, Gelman Gallery, Rhode Island, USA
- 2016 *Hang Ten*, Field Projects, New York, NY
- 2015 *Emirati Expressions IV: Convention of Arts*, Manarat Al Saadiyat, Abu Dhabi, UAE

- 2013 *Jalal's Art Trip 2013- Urban Trek*, Ghaf Art Gallery,  
Abu Dhabi, UAE
- 2011 *Emirati Expressions II*, Manarat Al Saadiyat, Abu Dhabi, UAE

**SELECTED PRESS**

- 2024 Jalal, Maan. "Emirati artist Afra Al Dhaheri's solo exhibition implores visitors to slow down." *The National*, January 2024
- 2022 Kell, Laura. "Emirati Artist Afra Al Dhaheri On The Art Ecosystem, And The Importance of Grassroot Initiatives." *Harper's Bazaar Arabia*, December 2022
- 2021 "Expo 2020: Afra Al Dhaheri". *Canvas Magazine*,  
November/December 2021
- Shehmir, Ayesha. "Strands of Time". *Harper's Bazaar Art Book, Exhibition 002: Abu Dhabi*, November 2021
- Chaves, Alexandra. "'Pillow Fort': first glimpse of the public artwork at Expo 2020 Dubai". *The National*, September 2021
- Khalil, Nadine. "The Absent Body". *Alserkal.online*, July 2021
- Benton, Christopher Joshua. "Detangling ideology". *Identity Magazine*, May 2021
- Nandkeolyar, Karishma H. "Dubai: Emirati artist Afra Al Dhaheri's work showcased at 'Concepts and The Divine Abstract' exhibition in DIFC". *Gulf News*, April 2021
- Beaney, Laura. "Profile: Afra Al Dhaheri". *Canvas Magazine*,  
March/April 2021
- Khalil, Nadine. "Critics' Picks Dubai: Afra Al Dhaheri". *Artforum*,  
February 2021
- 2020 Talass, Rawaa. "THE BREAKDOWN: Emirati artist Afra Al-Dhaheri discusses Abu Dhabi Art's 'Tasreeha'." *Arab News*, December 2020
- Khalil, Nadine. "UAE becomes an incubator to help careers of local emerging artists". *Financial Times*, November 2020
- Kazan, Sophie. "Afra Al Dhaheri". *Contemporary Identities*,  
September 2020
- 2019 "Contemporary art shines in Saudi Arabia's Diriyah". *Arab News*,  
December 2019
- 2018 Khalil, Nadine. "Bringing Art Home". *Canvas Magazine*, June 2018