



Dr Lamis Hamdan Al Shamsi leaves her mark after inaugurating Artsawa, a contemporary art gallery in Dubai.

Gallery opens new platform for artists

BY A STAFF REPORTER

DR LAMIS Hamdan Al Shamsi, board member of the Dubai Culture and Arts Authority, inaugurated Artsawa, a contemporary art gallery located in Dubai which is dedicated to promote world-class regional contemporary art to a global audience. With an inspiring, interactive space for artists and art-lovers, the gallery is all set to become the hub of contemporary art in Dubai.

Commenting on the opening, Dr Omar Bin Sulaiman, DIFC governor and managing director of the Dubai Culture and Arts Authority, said that the new gallery would contribute to Dubai's efforts to create a world-

class infrastructure for art and culture.

"Artsawa would help to create a rich environment for art to flourish. By providing a platform for artists to showcase their art and connect with the community, Artsawa adds great value to Dubai's cultural and artistic scene," he added.

Dr Lamis Hamdan Al Shamsi said that the opening of Artsawa will help to enhance appreciation and awareness of contemporary Arab art both in Dubai and the larger region. The gallery will serve to encourage both established and promising artists and raise exposure for their works among art connoisseurs, collectors and investors in the region. Ini-

tiatives like this will enable art and artists to play larger roles in shaping and guiding the society.

Artsawa was conceived by its owner, Amel Makkawi. Having recognised the potential in the market for serious art, Makkawi set out to create a platform for artistic talent from across the region. Amel has built a reputation for selecting and promoting Arab artists who have extraordinary and individual stories to tell through their art. The opening event featured the works of renowned Arab artists such as Mohamed Abla, Ahmed Askalany, Ibrahim el Dessouki, Mahmoud al Obaidi, Camille Zakharia.

Speaking about the gallery, Amel said, "Artsawa is the embodiment of my dreams and aspirations for the promotion of art in the region. The English translation of "sawa" in spoken Arabic is "together" and on that theme, Artsawa will facilitate the interaction between art and the public across a wide range of media. Our mission is dedicated to promoting world class contemporary art from the region among a global audience."

Artsawa promises to be the perfect backdrop to showcase the works of the region's contemporary artists. The gallery area combines with a library and video lounge to provide an inviting, personal space for artists and art

enthusiasts to interact

Amel continued, "Art comes from the soul and is key to documenting the story of the individual artist's real life experiences, it is a reflection of our society. Artsawa will provide the perfect platform for these stories to be told and for everyone to enjoy."

Artsawa will realise its mission by hosting a series of innovative exhibitions. With up to 15 exhibitions annually, it will not only be one of the largest but also most active art platforms in the UAE and the region. In addition, Artsawa will have educational programmes and publications that address current issues and practices in the Art world.