



10 Khaleeji artists you should know about

Initiatives like the Barjeel Art Foundation and Qatar's art museums have been working to promote the incredible art coming from the Arab world.

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By **Jason Lemon** ([/a/jason-lemon](#))
Managing Editor

[/a/jason-lemon](#) a look at 10 Khaleeji artists who break down barriers with their work.

1. Shurooq Amin (<https://twitter.com/shurooqamin>), Kuwait

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Source: ShurooqAmin.com (<http://www.shurooqamin.com/gallery.html>)

Working as a mixed-media interdisciplinary artist, Amin has a PhD in Ekphrasis, the connection between art and poetry, and has been published and anthologized internationally. Her work centers around issues of censorship and woman's issues. One of her exhibitions was shut down by Kuwaiti authorities in March of 2012. But just a year later she received the title of Artist of the Year by the Arab Woman Awards.

2. Faraj Daham (<http://dahamf.com/>), Qatar



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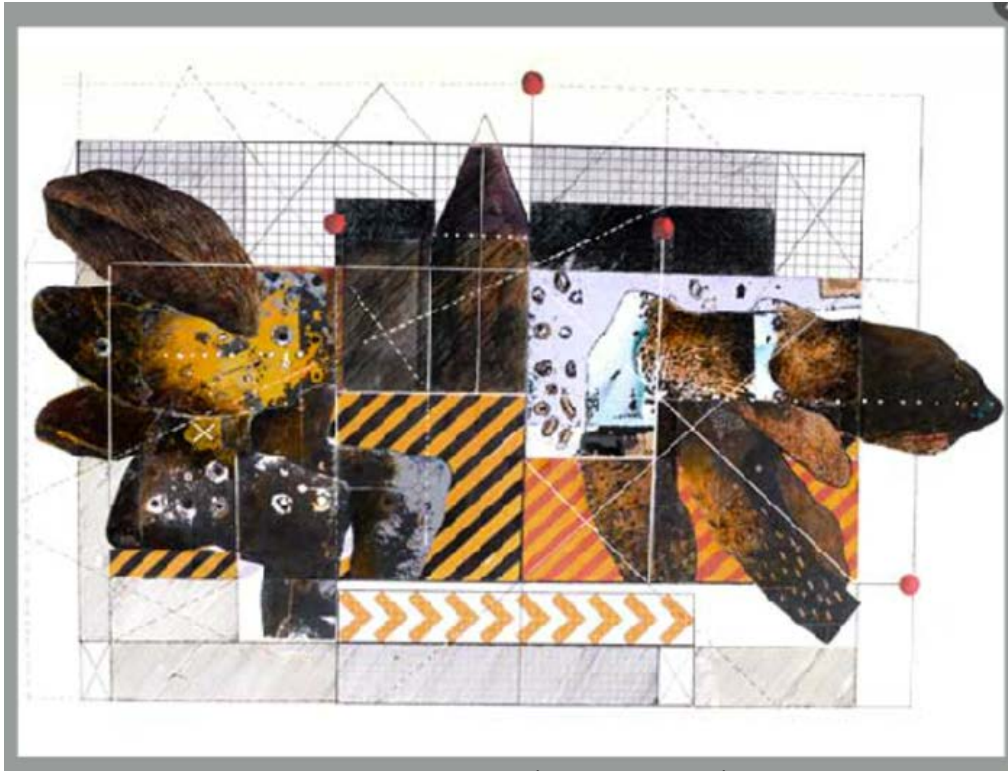
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👤 Leyal Khalife (/a/leyal-khalife)



Source: FarajDaham.com (<http://dahamf.com/>)

Daham's work focuses on the movement of organic bodies. His art searches for the appropriate artistic equivalent for rearranging organic entities. Daham has succeeded in capturing the imaginations of both Qatari and International audiences, winning several prestigious awards.

3. Mounirah Mosly (<http://www.mounirahmosly.com/>), Saudi Arabia



Source: MounirahMosly.com (<http://www.mounirahmosly.com/>)

Born in Mecca, Mosly graduated from Cairo's College of Fine Arts. In 2007, she founded the art festival in Khobar, Saudi Arabia. She considers herself a part of "all civilizations, all races, all arts, and all times" according to her website.

4. Khalid Farhan (<http://www.kfarhan.com/default.html>), Bahrain



Source: KFarhan.com (<http://www.kfarhan.com/default.html>)

Farhan considers Freud the key to his sculptures, which are characterized by an abstract style and the simplicity of their impression. Using wood, stone and brass, spherical shapes and hemispheres are apparent in his work, and have a focus on duality.

5. Lamyā Gargash (<http://www.barjeelartfoundation.org/artist/uae/lamyagargash/>), UAE



Source: TheThirdLine.com (<http://www.thethirdline.com/artists/lamya-gargash/selected-work-details/118/2336>)

Gargahs was the first Emirati artist to represent her country at the Venice Biennial in 2009. Her photographs examine how different aspects of tradition and culture are preserved, transformed or erased as society rapidly evolves around her.

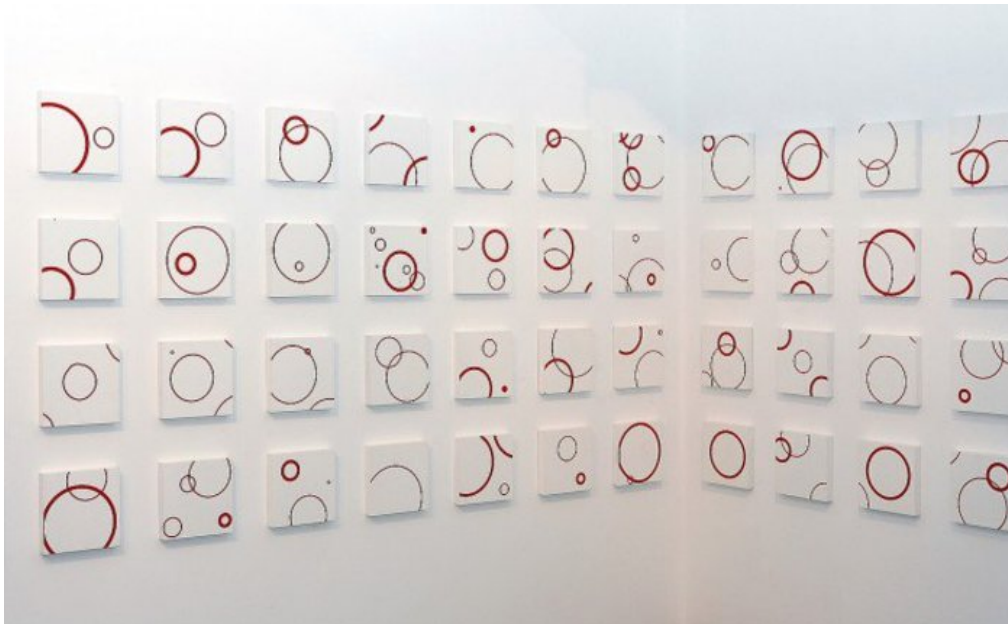
6. Abdulhalim Radwi
(<http://www.barjeelartfoundation.org/artist/saudi-arabia/abdulhalim-radwi/>), Saudi Arabia



Source: BarjeelArtFoundation.org (<http://www.barjeelartfoundation.org/artist/saudi-arabia/abdulhalim-radwi/>)

One of the first Saudis sponsored by the government to pursue a degree in art abroad, Radwi is one of the kingdom's most respected artists. His work is guided by both modernist sensibilities and cultural heritage. He represents themes surrounding desert life, folklore and traditional architecture.

7. Layla Juma (<http://www.barjeelartfoundation.org/artist/uae/layla-juma/>), UAE



Source: BarjeelArtFoundation.org (<http://www.barjeelartfoundation.org/artist/uae/layla-juma/>)

Juma employs geometric shapes to convey ideas of form and sequence in striking, rhythmic works of art. She is a member of Emirates Fine Arts Society and draws inspiration from prolific Emirati artists, such as the legendary Hassan Sharif

(<http://stepfeed.com/featured/contributions-uaes-legendary-artist-hassan-sharif-made/>) and Mohammed Kazem. Her work has been displayed throughout the Gulf as well as in Japan and Switzerland.

8. Hassan Meer (<http://www.hassanmeer.com/>), Oman



Source: HassanMeer.com (<http://www.hassanmeer.com/hassan-meer/>)

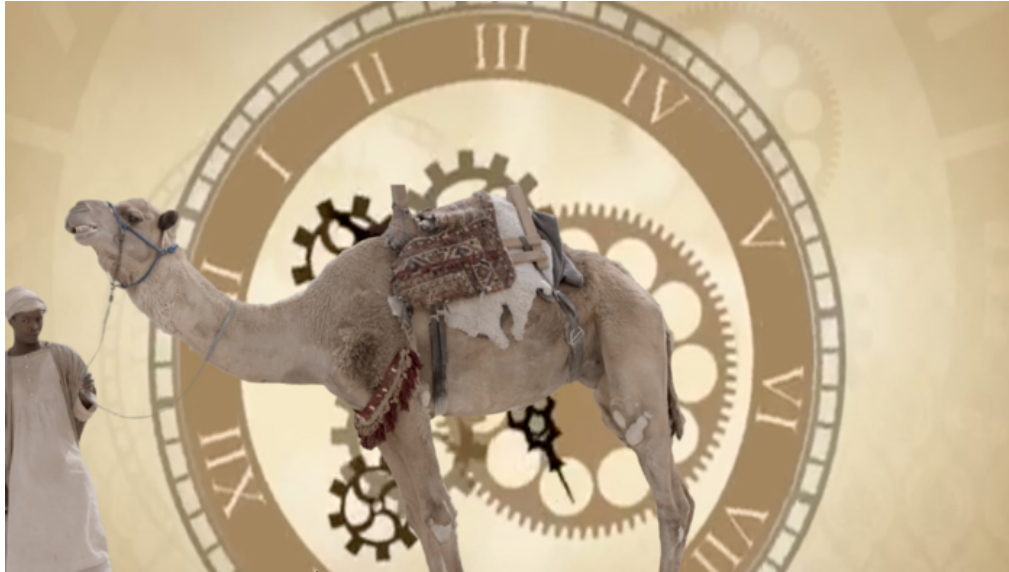
Meer's work investigates changes in cultural and individual identity in relation to a collective experience. Working with a wide range of mediums, Meer's work varies from paintings, to photographs and installations. His work has been exhibited throughout the Gulf as well as in Japan, the United Kingdom and the United States.

9. Ahmed Mater (<https://twitter.com/AhmedMater>), Saudi Arabia

Mater's not just an artist. He's also a medical doctor. Not only is he a medical doctor artist, he's also an entrepreneur.

Mater is the founder of the Al-Meftaha Arts Village in Abha. His work encompasses photography, calligraphy, painting, installation, performance and video. Recently, his work has focused on exploring local collective memory and unofficial histories behind contemporary Saudi Arabian sociopolitical life.

10. Sophia Al Maria (<https://twitter.com/SophiaAlMaria>), Qatar



Source: TheThirdLine.com (<http://www.thethirdline.com/artists/sophia-al-maria/selected-work-details/1536/1540>)

Maria's work in the last few years has centered around the concept of Gulf Futurism. Her interests primarily relate to the isolation of individuals through technology and reactionary Islam, the corrosive elements of industry and consumerism, the erasure of history and the approach of a future nobody is ready for.

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5 Lebanese wineries to visit that aren't Ksara or Kefraya

Although we definitely love trekking out to Lebanon's famous Chateau Ksara and Chateau Kefraya wineries, there are so many more options to choose from

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By **Jason Lemon** (/a/jason-lemon)
Managing Editor

(/a/jason-lemon) Spending your Saturday or Sunday sipping wine, enjoying delicious cuisine and taking in a picturesque location all while learning a bit about wine production (<http://stepfeed.com/life/food-travel/a-look-at-wine-culture-throughout-the-arab-world/>) can be the perfect way to spend your weekend in Lebanon.

Although we definitely love trekking out to Lebanon's famous Chateau Ksara and Chateau Kefraya wineries, there are so many more options to choose from. Here are 5 wineries that you should definitely visit for a perfect weekend escape.

1. Chateau Musar (<http://twitter.com/chateaumusar>)



Source: Facebook/Chateau Musar (<https://www.facebook.com/ChateauMusar/photos/>)

Chateau Musar stands out with its high quality and international reputation. Established in 1930 by Gaston Hochar, the chateau maintained its winemaking throughout Lebanon's 15-year civil war. Although it's vineyards are located in the Bekaa Valley, Chateau Musar's winery facility is located in Ghazir. For reservations and more information contact +961 09 925 056.

2. Massaya (<https://twitter.com/massayalebanon>)

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Source: Facebook/Massaya Faqra (<https://www.facebook.com/massayafaqra/>)

Massaya is a product of much love and dedication launched just in the early 1990s. During Lebanon's civil war, the Ghosn family behind Massaya moved abroad. After the war, the two brothers, Sami and Ramzi, returned to their land in the Bekaa and began distilling arak. As the family also owned land in Faqra, the brothers decided to open a winery there, which opened its doors in 2014. Now, wine connoisseurs can taste the family's wines at the Massaya Fireplace restaurant in Faqra. For reservations and more information contact +961 70 122 414.

3. Ixsir (<https://twitter.com/IXSIRWine>)

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Source: Instagram/ixsirwine (<https://www.instagram.com/p/5HHEdnFNr3/>)

Situated in the picturesque mountains of Batroun, Ixsir is an ideal place to relax and spend your weekend with friends. The winery was established by a group of friends with a passion for fine wine and Lebanon. Blending rich varieties of grapes cultivated from carefully selected terroirs, the aim is to create wine that will always be associated with its homeland. For reservations or more information contact +961 71 773 770.

4. Chateau Nakad (<https://www.facebook.com/chateaunakad/>)



Source: charliban (<https://www.instagram.com/p/BBSZLzOTL3J/>)

Established in 1923, Chateau Nakad is the result of three generations of winemakers. Today, the grandchildren of Joseph Nakad carry on the tradition he began. Located in the village of Jdita/Chtaura, the winery is built on the remains of wine cellars dating back to the Bronze Age. For more reservations or more information contact +961 08 540 191 or +961 03 982 654.

5. Domaine des Tourelles (<https://www.facebook.com/DomaineDesTourelles/>)



Source: Instagram/sarahabbottmw (<https://www.instagram.com/p/BKgbBSGjjqL/>)

Founded in Chatura all the way back in 1868, Domaine des Tourelles draws on the millennia of winemaking history that Lebanon has long been known for. In the 1960s, the winery was famous for its rose and its arak. Today, the winery continues to welcome guests to taste its unique blend of local grapes. For reservations or more information call +961 08 540 114.

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