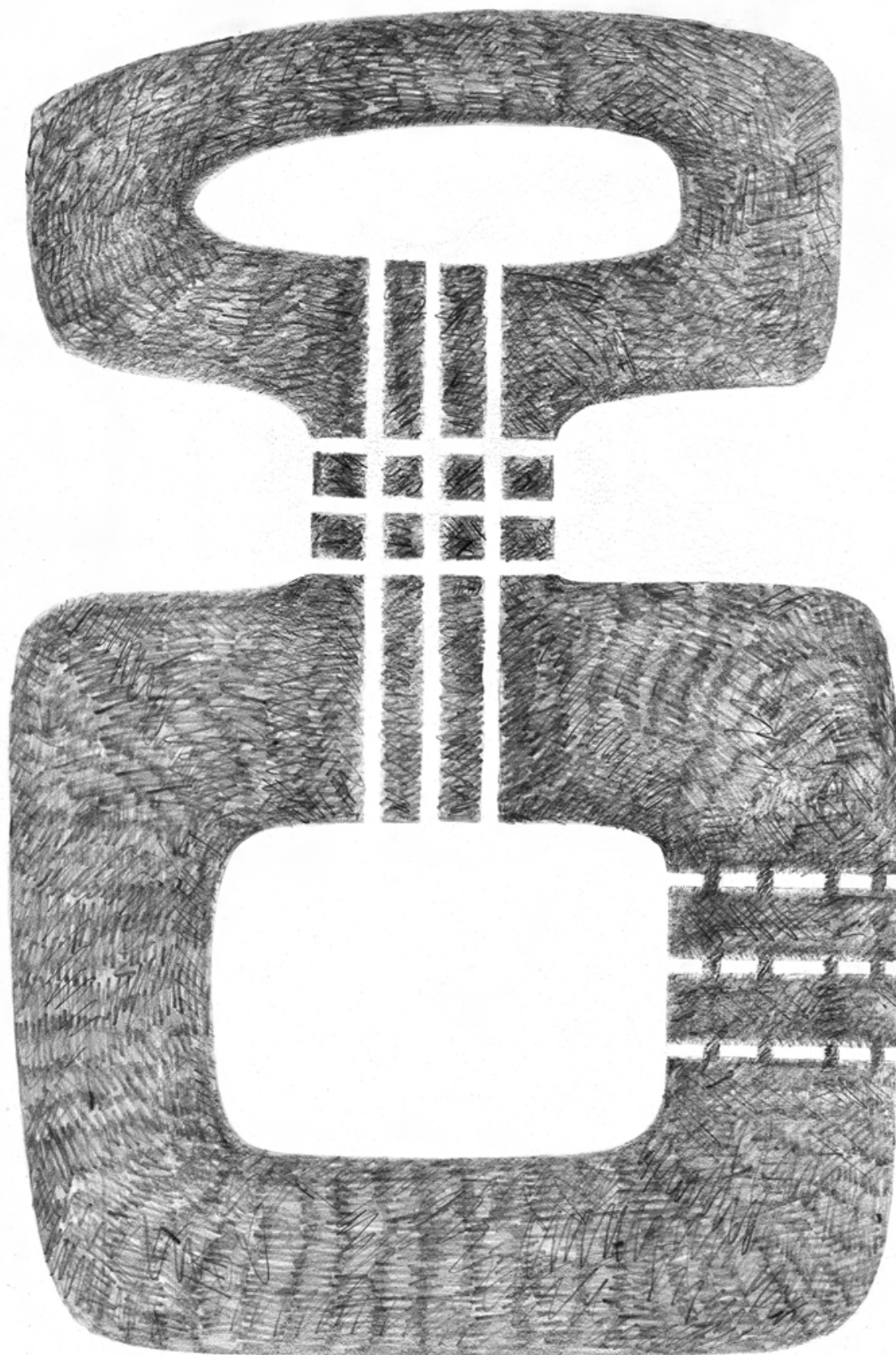


Mona Saudi | Sculptures and Works on Paper 1995-2017

[India Stoughton](#) Published on [September 27, 2017](#)

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As the new season gets underway, Selections reflects on the late-running summer shows and previews some upcoming autumn exhibitions that are not to be missed

Mona Saudi: Sculptures and Works on Paper 1995-2017

SALEH BARAKAT GALLERY

September 15 to November 4

Mona Saudi is a veteran sculpture, poet and artist whose work has consistently engaged with the culture and history of the region. Born in Amman in 1945, Saudi was raised in Jordan, studied in Lebanon and France and has lived in Beirut since 1969. This solo show at Saleh Barakat Gallery promises to stage a deserved semi-retrospective of her work over the past two decades, exploring her fascination themes of vitalism, growth and the life cycle, which have long shaped her practice.





Saudi's sinuous stone sculptures are executed spontaneously, without preparatory drawings. Since creating her first stone sculpture, *Mother/Earth*, in 1965, she has frequently returned to themes of fertility and growth. Taking basic geometric shapes as her starting point, she constructs timeless forms with inherent movement and grace. Her choice of stone — white marble from Tuscany, pink limestone and green marble from Jordan, black diorite from Syria — betray her deep links to the Middle East and the Mediterranean region. This solo show promises to celebrate one of Jordan's best-known artists at the peak of her artistic and creative

power.

Featured image: *Invisible City II*, Pencil, 70 x 100 cm, 1995, Inspired by Italo Calvino.

A version of this article appeared in print in *Selections, A Dialogue Between Generations of Arab Women in Art* #42, pages 27.

by

India Stoughton graduated from the University of Edinburgh with an MA in Arabic and Middle Eastern Studies. During her course she spent a semester studying in Damascus, where she developed a deep interest in Syrian, Lebanese and Iraqi art and culture. Having traveled extensively in the Middle East, spending time in Morocco, Turkey, Jordan, Iraq and

Qatar, as well as Syria, she is currently based in Lebanon, where she works as an art and culture reporter.