



Erwin Wurm's Fat Car, part of Abu Dhabi Art.

The capital unveils its culture at the fifth Abu Dhabi Art

Anna Seaman

November 18, 2013 Updated: November 19, 2013 01:55 PM



Related



An uncommon language: New York show takes Middle Eastern art out of its usual box

The armoury show: Saudi Arabian army officer Abdulnasser Gharem is also its biggest-selling artist

Abu Dhabi Art: rain

A bus that takes audiences to a variety of performances scattered around the city, traditional dhows sailing along the shore and a Japanese-style souq fashioned to display the works of designers are just some of the new additions to Abu Dhabi Art this year - and that's before you even get to the art.

The fifth edition of the fair, which opens on Wednesday, has such a vastly beefed-up programme that even if you don't think you're interested in art, there's almost bound to be something of interest. Not only that, the buses that have been traversing the city for the past few days wrapped in artwork promoting the fair should mean that this year, the event will not pass anyone by.

If you want to hear the Emirati poets Mohamed Al Mazroui and Aita Ben Masaoud reading classical Nabati poems on the Corniche or see the digital art by Hamdan Al Shamsi inspired by their words, then you don't even have to go to Saadiyat Island to experience the flavour of the fair. That being said,

didn't stop play

Abu Dhabi Art expands its horizons with Durub Al Tawaya

What is new at Abu Dhabi Art this year

Topics: [Artists](#), [Curators](#), [Photography](#), [Art galleries](#), [Exhibitions](#)

Schedule

11am to 1pm (Thurs - Sat only)

Design workshops in the Art Zone area

The local designer Sara Alaidarous and the French culinary artist François Clerc will be leading workshops in embroidery and baking croissants in the name of art. Dh50 per person, per workshop, register through www.abudhabiartfair.ae, at the Abu Dhabi Art desk at Manarat Al Saadiyat or email manaratalsaadiyat@tcaabudhabi.ae, 02 657 5800

1pm to 1.50pm

Looking for Pearls - part of Durub Al Tawaya performance programme

A performance by Rayyane Tabet on a boat around the man-made Lulu Island off the coast of Abu Dhabi. Registration is recommended

2pm to 3pm

Abu Dhabi Art interviews

An opportunity to meet some of the artists, scholars, gallerists and others participating in Abu Dhabi Art with a series of informal, 15-minute interviews

3pm to 10pm

Durub Al Tawaya Buses

The international artists Cao Fei, Zeinab Al Hashemi, Ilya and Emilia Kabakov and Wael

consider the level of infiltration to the rest of the city as something of an indicator of the standard of art on the island and be prepared to have every sense exercised over the next four days.

The 50 participating galleries, 90 per cent of which are returning, are divided into five sections including Beyond, for large-scale installations and sculptures; Bidaya, an emerging gallery; Signature, which features solo exhibitions; and Artists' Waves, an artist-led exhibition of work from within the galleries showing at the fair.

The final category, Modern, Contemporary and Design, covers the bulk of the galleries whose artists will also contribute to events within the fair such as Small Is Beautiful, an exhibition of small-scale artworks from artists such as Mona Hatoum, a well-established Palestinian artist, and Samira Hodaei, an Iranian who assisted the internationally known artist Reza Derakshani for years.

All participating galleries are invited to include an additional small-scale artwork among their fair selections, which will be exhibited on the mezzanine level of the UAE Pavilion as a meditation on the concept of scale.

Small Is Beautiful is part of this year's Art, Talks & Sensations, the interactive part of the fair that is curated by Fabrice Bousteau. Featuring live performances, video screenings and musical and poetic installations (including one which involves hiding instruments in plants to make it seem that they are making music), the event will stimulate all your artistic taste buds. That's not to mention Julie Fruchon and Alexandrine Leclère's sand-dune-shaped sculpture made from tomatoes and salted caramel and Alessandro Sciarroni's juggling dance, which are all part of the varied programme.

In the mornings there are workshops and a packed schedule of community events for all ages. But with all this going on, don't forget to take a moment for the galleries.

Meem Gallery, a local stalwart, will present a two-part exhibition exploring the works of 11 modern and contemporary Middle Eastern artists. Key works by some of the most important modern artists such as Dia Azzawi, Louay Kayyali, Fateh Moudarres and Shakir Hassan Al Said will be joined by contemporary commissioned works from Khaled Hafez, Jeffar Khaldi and Mahmoud Obaidi, who were asked to interpret the John Lennon song How Do You Sleep?

Gallery Isabelle van den Eynde will present a series of works from artists including Hassan Sharif and Mohammed Kazem as well as Aisha Khalid and Fred Eerdekens.

The regional specialists Ayyam will present recent works by Tammam Azzam, Safwan Dahoul and Abdunasser Gharem, who are some of the hottest names in Middle Eastern art right now. The gallery will also launch Nadim Karam's new book *Stretching Thoughts*, which takes an introspective look at life, war, dreams and the human condition in the Middle East.