

ArtBooth

سلا م

A COLLECTIVE EXHIBITION FEATURING
THE STUNNING WORKS OF Lana Khayat,
Walid El Masri & Afra Soueidi.

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A collective exhibition featuring the stunning works of
Lana Khayat, Walid El Masri and Afra Al-Suweidi

31 MAY - 10 JULY 2023
ARTBOOTH GALLERY



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ABOUT THE SHOW

Under the patronage of His Highness Sheikh Nahayan Mubarak Al Nahayan, Cabinet Member and Minister of Tolerance and Coexistence, Artbooth Gallery is pleased to announce the grand opening of its new space in Abu Dhabi, UAE, on May 31, featuring our very first collective exhibition, "Salam سلام". The exhibition showcases the exquisite works of Lebanese-origin artists Lana Khayat and Walid El Masri, as well as Emirati-origin artist, Afra Al-Suwaidi.

The exhibition title "Salam," translates to "Peace" in Arabic, and the works on display place a strong emphasis on the importance of peace. Through their art, Khayat, El Masri, and Al-Suwaidi aim to channel inner peace.

Artbooth Founder Roger El-Khoury stated: "For me, 'Salam' is a special greeting to all art enthusiasts in the UAE, and this exhibition is dedicated to them. 'Salam سلام' will display a variety of artworks by each artist, including ones created exclusively for this collaboration. Visitors will be transported to a new realm where technology meets art and creativity. They know no bounds!" The exhibition will run until June 27, 2023, and visitors can view it on the ground floor of Centro Rotana Hotel in Abu Dhabi.

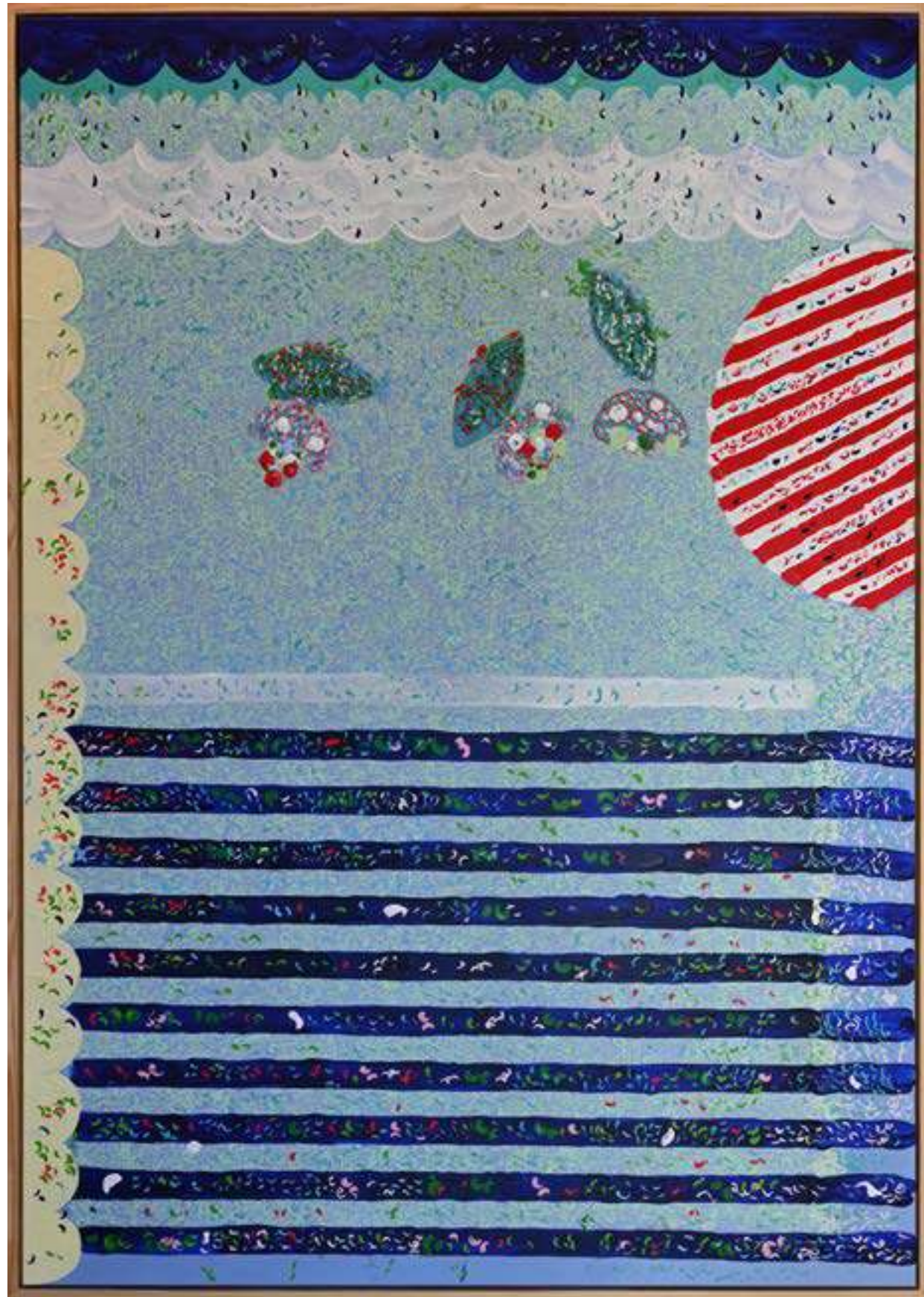
Artbooth aims to provide gifted artists with unparalleled support. "We are thrilled to have the opportunity to work together and create something truly unique," says Lana Khayat. "We each bring our own strengths and styles to the table, and we can't wait to see what happens when we combine them."

Walid El Masri adds: "There's something special about collaborating with other artists – it's a chance to push your boundaries and venture into new territory. I'm excited to see where this exhibition takes us."

Afra Al-Suweidi echoes this sentiment, emphasising that "this is a chance to bring together different perspectives and create something greater than the sum of its parts. I think visitors will be amazed by what we've created."

Artbooth Gallery warmly invites everyone to join them in celebrating the grand opening of their new space in Abu Dhabi, UAE, and the "Salam سلام" exhibition. It is an exceptional event that promises to captivate art lovers and enthusiasts alike by providing them a unique aesthetic experience.





ABOUT ARTBOOTH

Founded by Roger El-Khoury in 2019, after 11 years of experience in the art field between Beirut and the United Arab Emirates, Artbooth aims to create a cross-cultural bridge between artists, audiences, and collectors from across the world.

The gallery is dedicated to promoting a wide selection of artworks and exploring new connections and partnerships. From emerging to established artists both at the regional and international level, it aspires to provide artworks best suited for any collector's satisfaction.

ARTISTS

WALID EL MASRI

Of Lebanese origin and born in Syria in 1979, Walid El Masri initially trained as a mosaicist before enrolling in the Damascus Faculty of Fine Arts. Having earned his degree in 2005, he trained at the Darat Al Funun Summer Academy in Jordan, studying under the artist Marwan. A well-known painter based in Damascus, Walid El Masri exhibited regularly in Syria, London, Paris, Lebanon, Egypt and the Gulf States. After moving to France in 2011, he has continued his artistic work as a painter and draughtsman. Walid El Masri also took part in group exhibitions at the Busan Museum of Art in South Korea (2014); the Institut du monde arabe in Paris (2014 and 2018); the MUCEM in Marseille (2014); and the Institut des Cultures d'Islam in Paris (2020).

Among his early series, Chairs (2004-2011) displayed a vigorous hand marked by expressionist gestuality. The existentialist dimension was already felt in these empty seats evoking solitude and absence. The series Cocoons (2014-2017), dating from his arrival in France, was a discreet and laconic reaction to the violent events then occurring in Syria, and to his own exile. Countless white, oblong shapes, suspended from the branches of a tree standing between heaven and earth, constitute an eerie

presence. What are these bodies, enveloped in large cocoons, and what are they destined to become? Here everything seems to be latent, suspended, painted in an explosive palette of tart, sharp tones. "The Cocoon is both life and death, explains the artist. The worm can choose one of two paths: to be reborn as a butterfly or to be killed for the silk it makes. What it created, in order to be transformed and fly away freely, thus becomes its shroud".

In the Children series from 2015, naked babies with bloated faces float in large canvases with solid grounds.

Their dark, bulging eyes appear to be sightless. They do not seem to be interested in the ball or toy right next to them, or perhaps they are incapable of grasping them - a thinly veiled reference to the ongoing tragedy that has struck even very young children, and to whom Walid El Masri wanted to restore their innocence and insouciance. In the most recent series, The Peacocks, begun in 2018, a majestic peacock appears in the centre of the canvas. "Its only possible defence is its beauty and strange, sorrowful cry, like the call of a lonely man, he remarks. I personally feel a reverent fear of this sacred creature, which often appears in the stories told by our ancestors and in their legends."



Walid El Masri | Peacock | 162 X 97 cm | Mixed Media on Canvas | 2020



Walid El Masri | Peacock | 130 X 97 cm | Mixed Media on Canvas | 2019



Walid El Masri | Peacock | 130 X 97 cm | Mixed Media on Canvas | 2018



Walid El Masri | Peacock | 130 X 97 cm | Mixed Media on Canvas | 2019



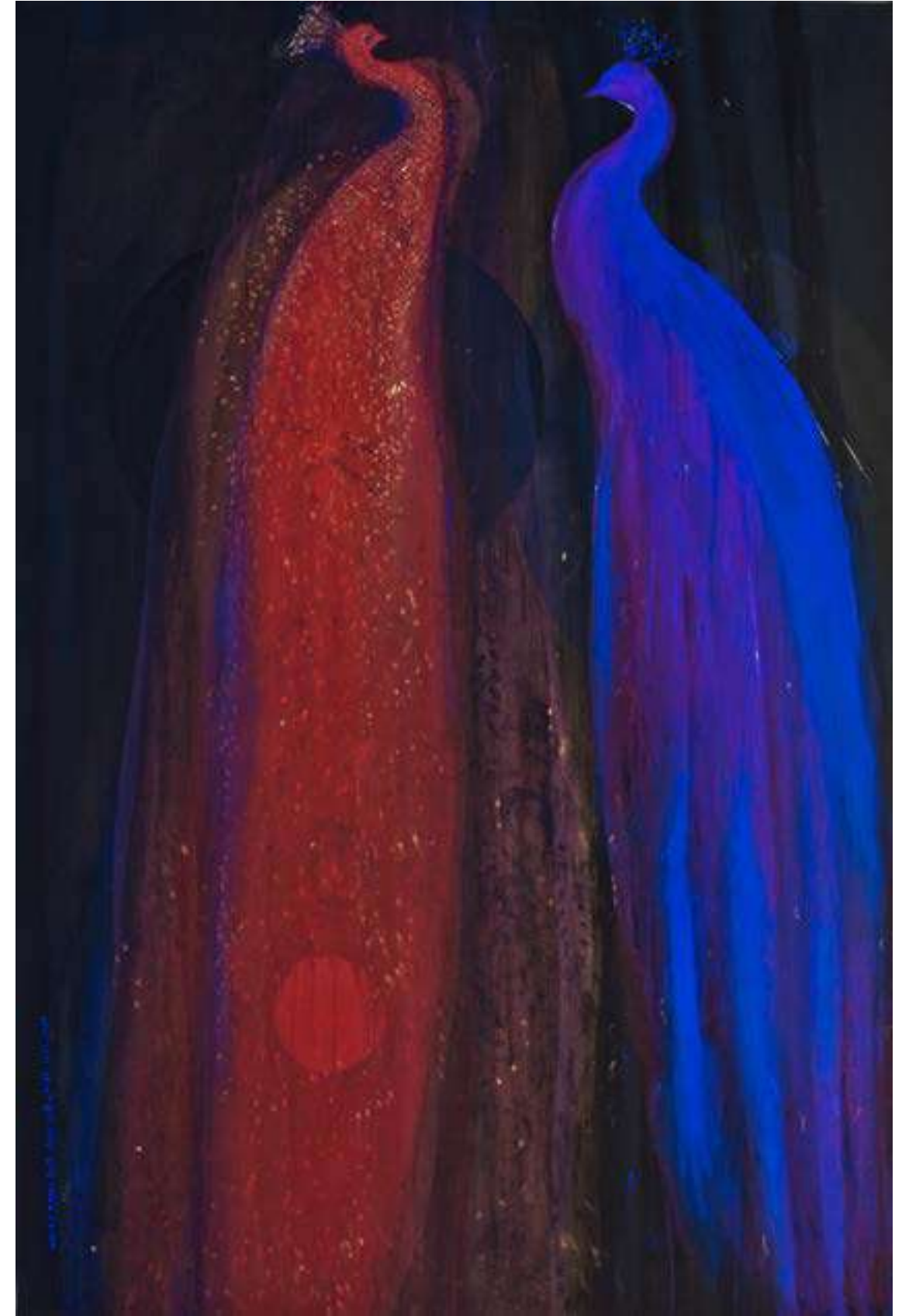
Walid El Masri | Peacock | 130 X 97 cm | Mixed Media on Canvas | 2019 - 2022



Walid El Masri
"Peacock"
130 X 162 cm
Mixed Media on Canvas
2023



Walid El Masri | Peacock | 162 X 113 cm | Mixed Media on Canvas | 2020 - 2021



Walid El Masri | Peacock | 195 X 130 cm | Mixed Media on Canvas | 2019



Walid El Masri | Peacock | 195 X 130 cm | Mixed Media on Canvas | 2019

LANA KHAYAT

Lana studied Design at the American University of Beirut, and earned her Masters in Fine Arts at the School of Visual Arts in NY. She is currently residing between Spain and Dubai.

Lana Khayat's exuberant paintings, which feature fields of calligraphy and inscriptions, have won her fans across the Middle East. The Lebanese artist self taught herself calligraphy watching her father and grandfather create and restore Ajami rooms. Her great-grand father, Mohamad Suleiman Khayat's work is showcased at the Metropolitan Museum, NYU and the ShangriLa, Hawai.

The emphasis in her new work has shifted from representing calligraphy and inscriptions(only) to depicting calligraphy with different qualities of light, atmosphere and gardens-scape. She is now increasingly sensitive to the decorative qualities of color and form.

Lana has showcased in Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, London and NY.

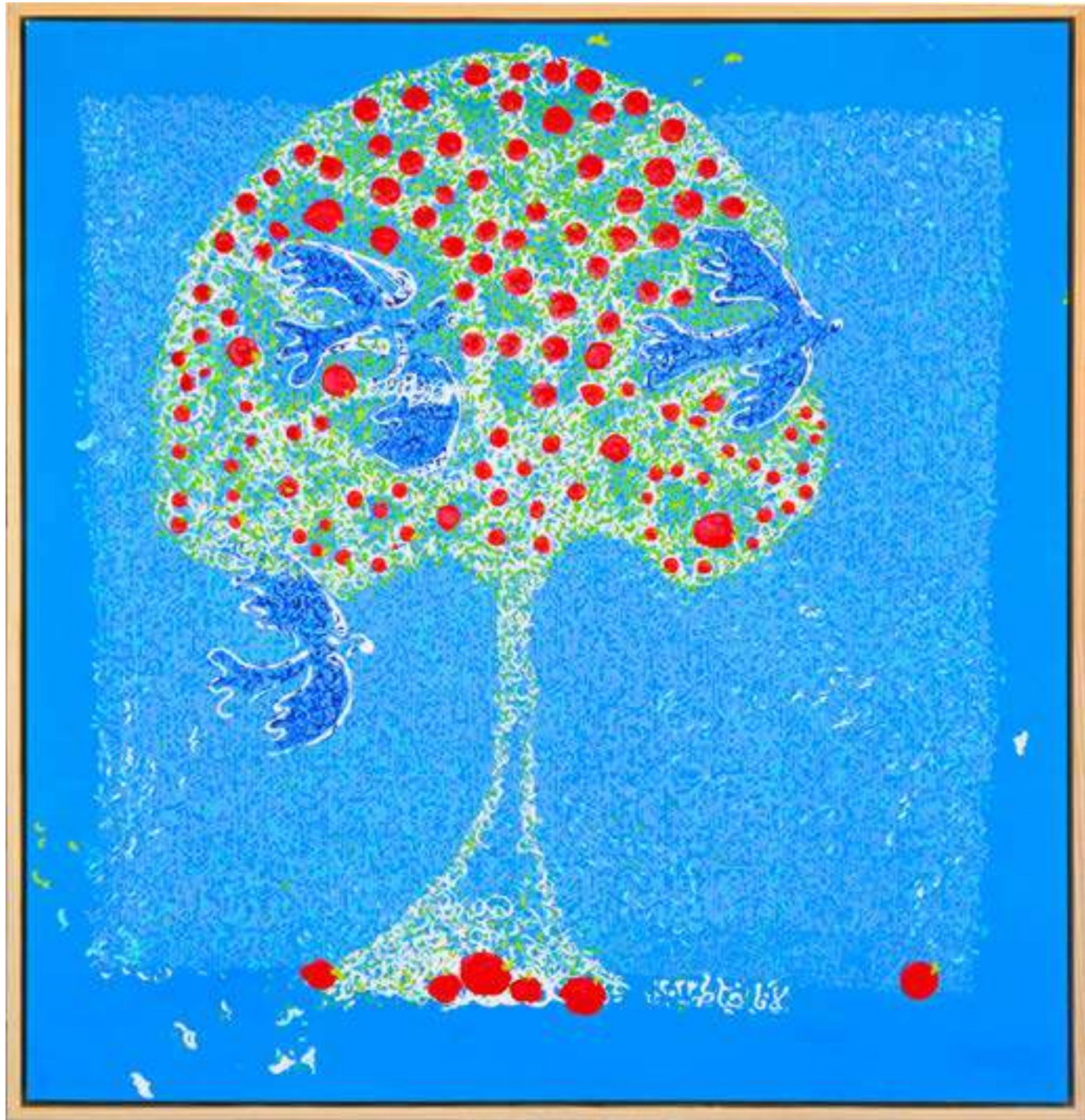
Lana is now preparing for her second Solo show with Galleria Thema in Spain, September 2023.



Lana Khayat | Lemon Tree | 120 X 175 cm | Acrylic on Canvas | 2023



Lana Khayat | Birds of Paradise | 74 X 136 cm | Acrylic on Canvas | 2023



Lana Khayat | Apple Tree | 180 X 171 cm | Acrylic on Canvas | 2023



Lana Khayat | Salam | 120 X 120 cm | Acrylic on Canvas | 2023



Lana Khayat | Under the Sea | 246 X 176 cm | Acrylic on Canvas | 2023



Lana Khayat | Voile | 176 X 196 cm | Acrylic on Canvas | 2023



Lana Khayat | White Lilies | 135 X 95 cm | Acrylic on Canvas | 2023

AFRA AL-SUWAIDI

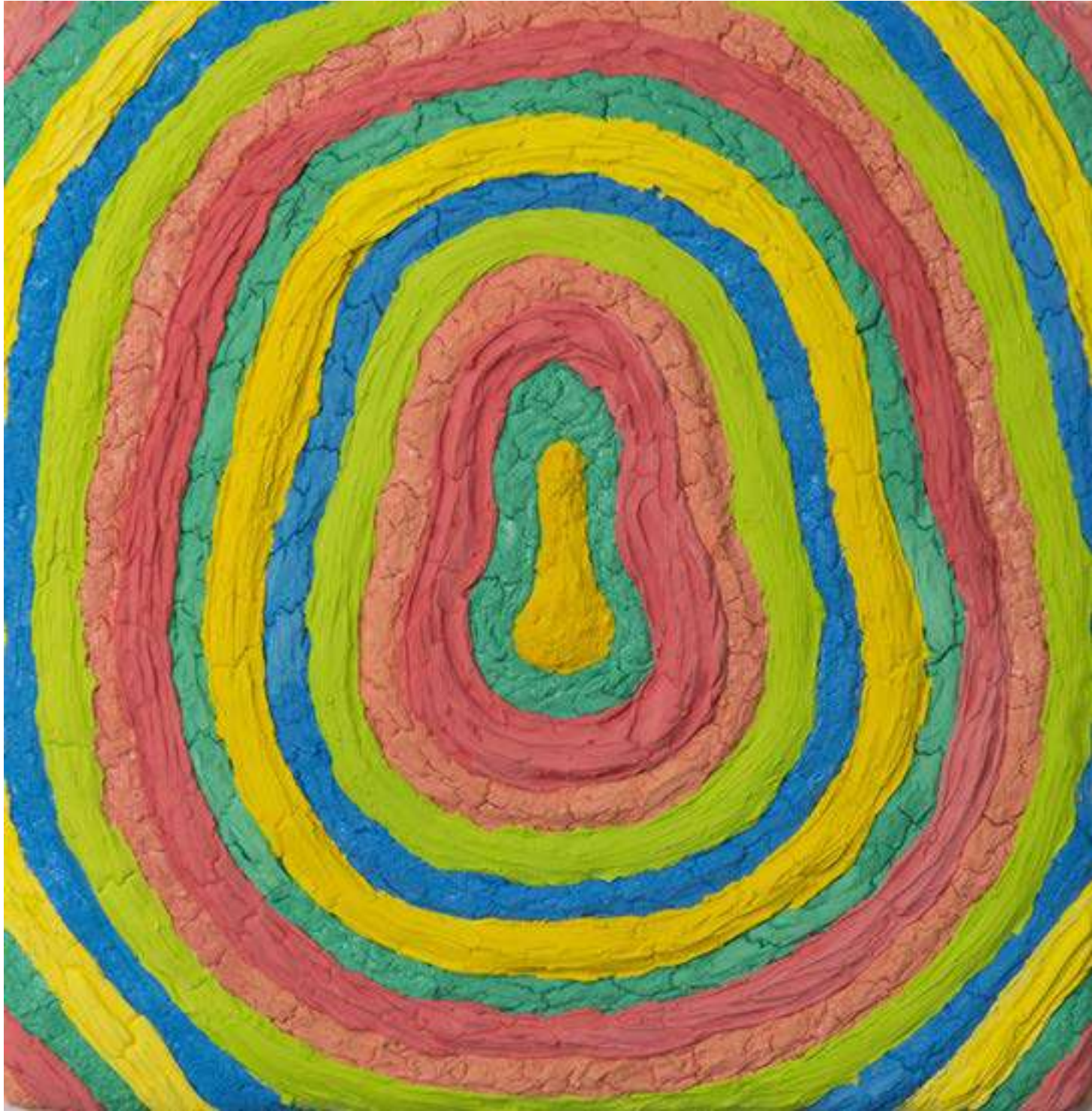
Afra Salman Al Suwaidi, Emirati born in 1992. She specialized in fine arts and received a BA Degree from Zayed University in 2016. Al Suwaidi participated in a number of shows locally and internationally. In 2015 she participated in Rochester Contemporary Art Center New York and Lessedra World Art Print Annual Exhibition in Sofia, Bulgaria. In 2017 she participated in Imago Mundi in Treviso, Italy. And in most recently she participated in Abu Dhabi art's first exhibition abroad Beyond: emerging artists program In London in Cromwell place.

Locally Afra presented her work in the Art Exhibition in Alliance Française Abu Dhabi and in Guggenheim Abu Dhabi: Do Art Do It Now, Manarat Al Saadiyat in 2017. In 2018, she participated in the 35th Annual Exhibition of the Emirates Fine Arts Society in Sharjah, UAE. In 2020, she participated in the Cultural Foundation Art Residency. Al Suwaidi participated in engage 101 "Outside in, Inside out" in Bait15 Abu Dhabi and Abu Dhabi art "Beyond: Emerging Artists" in Manarat Al Saadiyat. Work in progress show by Bleep in Aisha Alabbar Art Gallery, Dubai. In 2021, she exhibited in Art Space, a collaboration between The Department of Culture and Tourism - Abu Dhabi and ALDAR properties. Most recently she participated in the 37th Annual Exhibition of the Emirates Fine Arts Society in Sharjah, UAE.

Afra Al Suwaidi is a recipient of the Cultural Foundation Art Residency 2020



Afra Alsuwaidi | Untitled | 80 X 43 X 19 cm | ABS Cubes | 2023



Afra Alsuwaidi | Hit it O2 | 60 X 60 cm | Fiber Glass on Canvas | 2021



Afra Alsuwaidi | Hit it O3 | 60 X 60 cm | Fiber Glass on Canvas | 2021



Afra Alsuwaidi | Untitled | 110 X 75 x 10 cm | ABS Cubes | 2022



Afra Alsuwaidi | Untitled | 203 X 38 x 38 cm | ABS Cubes | 2021



Afra Alsuwaidi | Untitled | 110 X 60 X 14 cm | ABS Cubes | 2023

CONTACT US



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Services include fine art sales consultancy, second market art sales, archiving collections and curating exhibitions.

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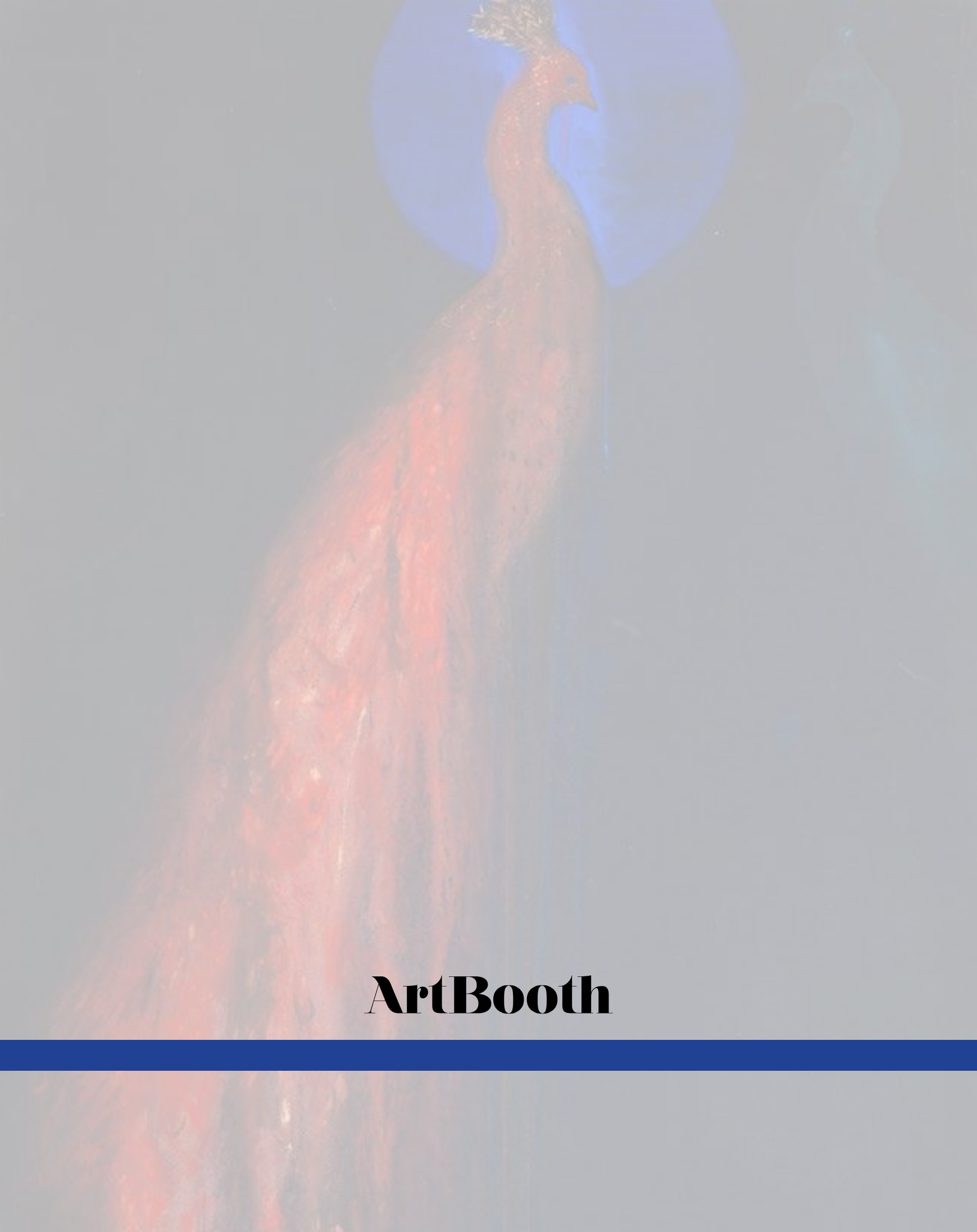
📍 Ground floor, Centro Rotana Hotel,
Al Khaleej Al Arabi Street
Abu Dhabi - United Arab Emirates

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thanks to our strong reputation will
enable us to promote the culture
of art which we all cherish.**



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