

The Third Line at Abu Dhabi Art 2025

Booth S9

Manarat Al Saadiyat, Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates

VIP Preview: 19 November 2025

Public View: 20 – 23 November 2025

The Third Line is pleased to present a dynamic group of works by **Anuar Khalifi**, **Farah Al Qasimi**, **Jordan Nassar**, **Nima Nabavi**, **Rana Begum**, **Vian Sora**, and **Youssef Nabil** at Abu Dhabi Art 2025. Together, these artists reflect a multiplicity of practices rooted in personal narrative, cultural inheritance, and formal experimentation.



Farah Al Qasimi, *Prayer Rugs*, 2021, Archival Inkjet Print
177.8 x 121.9 cm, Edition of 5, 2AP

Working across a range of material and conceptual frameworks, the abstract works in the presentation engage with perception, geometry, memory, and transcendence. **Rana Begum** experiments with light, color, and form to create paintings that transform the viewer's experience of space, while **Jordan Nassar** reinterprets traditional Palestinian embroidery to construct speculative landscapes of home and yearning. **Nima Nabavi** maps out the universe with his geometric compositions that invite viewers to lose themselves in. **Vian Sora**'s layered, gestural paintings stand as vessels for psychic excavation, shaped by experiences of displacement and resilience.

Figurative works in the presentation explore identity, performance, and narrative through a critical and often deeply personal lens. **Youssef Nabil**'s hand-colored portraits of renowned Iranian female figures such as Farah Diba Pahlavi, Googoosh, and Shirin Neshat reimagine cultural icons with intimacy and care, blending personal memory with broader narratives of identity. **Farah Al Qasimi**'s photography captures everyday scenes with a vibrant, surreal sensibility, investigating consumer culture, gender, and the construction of identity in the Gulf and beyond. **Anuar Khalifi** employs visual irony and symbolism to subvert orientalist tropes, constructing nuanced portrayals of masculinity, rebellion, and postcolonial identity.

Collectively, the artists reflect The Third Line's commitment to presenting contemporary voices from the region and its diasporas that challenge, illuminate, and reimagine the spaces they inhabit.

Artist Highlights

Tarek Al-Ghoussein at Abu Dhabi Art

In and Around 6

A selection from Tarek Al-Ghoussein's final body of work titled *Odysseus* will be presented in the *In and Around* section of Abu Dhabi Art. The *Odysseus* series was a long-term photography project in which the artist set out to document the more than 200 islands of the Abu Dhabi archipelago, where he was residing at the time. Al-Ghoussein visited approximately 30 of these islands, and documented their diverse geographies, including both natural desert landscapes and man-made structures, through his contemplative and often dreamlike images. His work echoes the voyage of Odysseus—the hero of Homer's epic poem, *The Odyssey*—tracing a journey through landscapes both real and metaphorical, in search of belonging and self.

Lamya Gargash at Abu Dhabi Art

Curated by Cima Azzam and commissioned by Maraya Art Centre

**Community Partners Section presented by Abu Dhabi Music & Arts Foundation (ADMAF)
in collaboration with Salasil**

Kun, an Arabic term meaning “to be”, evokes the very act of becoming, the threshold between what exists and what is yet to unfold. In this context, the series reflects Lamya Gargash's exploration of liminal spaces as catalysts for spiritual reflection and personal transformation.

Originally commissioned and exhibited by Maraya Art Centre in Sharjah, Lamya Gargash's *Kun: To Be* inaugurates a new body of work that weaves nostalgia with restlessness, connecting Sharjah, Dubai, London, and Bath through gestures of gold drapery, a symbol of continuity and renewal.

For Abu Dhabi Art, Maraya Art Centre reimagines *Kun: To Be* as a special edition, expanding upon its initial presentation to respond to Abu Dhabi's unique architectural and cultural context. The installation deepens Gargash's investigation into transition and belonging, transforming the space into a contemplative threshold between the temporal and the spiritual. Here, the viewer is invited not merely to look, but to dwell, to inhabit the delicate pause between what has been and what may yet become.

Special Programming

Book Launch: *Ardeshir the Thirteenth* by Nazzy Beglari

HSBC Collector's Space

3-3:45 PM | Wednesday, 19 November 2025

Ardeshir the Thirteenth: The Interview of Ardeshir Mohassess with Ardeshir Mohassess, published by Nazar Publishing, is authored by **Nazzy Beglari**, an award-winning Iranian-American journalist and long-time friend of the legendary Iranian painter, **Ardeshir Mohassess** (1938–2008), who was celebrated for his sharp political satire and distinctive style rooted in Persian miniature, chronicling themes of power, oppression, and social justice, political satire and woman rights.

For the book launch at Abu Dhabi Art, Beglari will be joined by **Alma Bahmanpour** from Nazar Publishing and the Iranian painter, illustrator, and printmaker, **Nicky Nodjoumi**.

Mapping Primary Structures: Sahand Hesamiyan

HSBC Collector's Space

4-4:45 PM | Wednesday, 19 November 2025

Sahand Hesamiyan: Primary Structures is the artist's first monograph published by Black Dog Press. Edited by **Saira Ansari**, with essays contributed by **Nada Raza**, **Maymanah Farhat**, and **Helen Pheby**, this richly illustrated monograph offers the first comprehensive look at the practice of **Sahand Hesamiyan**, who works across a wide range of forms that investigate the connections between geometry, mythology, and philosophy within Islamic and Persian architectural traditions.

Hesamiyan will be joined by **Nadine Khalil**, art critic, editor, and curator, for a conversation at Abu Dhabi Art, moderated by Ansari.

About The Third Line

Founded in 2005, The Third Line is a Dubai-based gallery that represents contemporary artists locally, regionally, and internationally. With two decades of dedicated commitment to the arts, it has become a pioneering platform for established talent and emerging voices from the region and its diaspora, building a dynamic program that explores the diversity of practices in the region.

In addition to its exhibitions, The Third Line engages in the production of art publications in English and Arabic and hosts numerous non-profit, alternative programs that add to the discourse on art, film, music, and literature in the region.

Represented artists include: Abbas Akhavan, Ala Ebtekar, Amir H. Fallah, Anuar Khalifi, Bady Dalloul, Farah Al Qasimi, Farhad Moshiri, Fouad Elkoury, Hassan Hajjaj, Hayv Kahraman, Huda Lutfi, Joana Hadjithomas & Khalil Joreige, Jordan Nassar, Kamran Samimi, Laleh Khorramian, Lamya Gargash, Monir Shahroudy Farmanfarmaian, Nima Nabavi, Pouran Jinchi, Rana Begum, Sahand Hesamiyan, Sara Naim, Sarah Awad, Shirin Aliabadi, Slavs and Tatars, Sophia Al-Maria, Tarek Al-Ghoussein, Vian Sora, yasiin bey, and Youssef Nabil.

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