

Supported by the Ministry of Culture, Youth and Community Development
of the United Arab Emirates

Lausanne - Geneva – Montreux
June/July 2011

Colors of the Emirates by Muna Abdulqader Al Ali, Khaled Al Banna, Ahmed Sharif,
Nasir Nasrallah



Late Sheikh Zayed Bin Sultan Al Nahyan, Founder of the UAE, in Switzerland, Through the
lens of Noor Ali Rashid, The Royal Photographer



40 Years of Elegance Emirati Style by Mona Al Mansouri



Emirati-Swiss Friendship Forum and UAE Mission to the UN and other IO in Geneva
Presented by



شركة سويس آرٹ گیٹ اے.ج.م.

Bonjour - Welcome – Gruezi – Bongiorno - Marhaba!

On the occasion of the Emirati-Swiss Friendship Forum in Lausanne, 22 and 23 June 2011, the United Arab Emirates will be represented with three cultural highlights in Lausanne, Geneva and Montreux:

- the art exhibition “Colors of the Emirates” with four distinguished young Emirati artists - Muna Abdulqader Al Ali, Khaled Al Banna, Nasir Nasralla, Ahmed Sharif
- the photo exhibition “Late Sheikh Zayed Bin Sultan Al Nahyan, Founder of the UAE, in Switzerland, Through the lens of Noor Ali Rashid – The Royal Photographer”,
- and the fashion show “40 Years of Elegance Emirati Style” by Mona Al Mansouri, presented by Swiss Art Gate UAE.

We are pleased to welcome all artists and their work in Switzerland, and to start a fruitful co-operation in arts and culture between the United Arab Emirates and Switzerland.

Sincerely,

Kurt Blum
Curator



شركة سويس آرٹ گیٹ ا.ع.م.

www.swissartgateuae.com

23 June 2011, 19:00 h, Hotel Beau-Rivage, Lausanne

Opening of the photo exhibition

“Late Sheikh Zayed Bin Sultan Al Nahyan, Founder of the UAE, in Switzerland
Through the lens of Noor Ali Rashid – The Royal Photographer”

23 June 2011, 19:15 h, Hotel Beau-Rivage Lausanne

Opening of the art exhibition “Colors of the Emirates”

by Muna Abdulqader Al Ali, Khaled Al Banna, Nasir Nasrallah, Ahmed Sharif

23 June 2011, 20:45 h, Hotel Beau-Rivage, Lausanne

Fashion Show “40 Years of Elegance Emirati Style”

by Emirati fashion designer Mona Al Mansouri

24 June 2011, 18:30 h, Plexus Art Gallery, Villa Murillo, Clarens/Montreux

Opening of the art exhibition “Colors of the Emirates”

Exhibition until 10th July 2011

by Muna Abdulqader Al Ali, Khaled Al Banna, Nasir Nasralla, Ahmed Sharif

27 June 2011, 18:30 h, Falcon Private Bank, Geneva

Opening of the photo exhibition

“Late Sheikh Zayed Bin Sultan Al Nahyan, Founder of the UAE, in Switzerland
Through the lens of Noor Ali Rashid – The Royal Photographer”

30 June - 14 July 2011, Hotel Four Seasons, Geneva

Photo exhibition “Late Sheikh Zayed Bin Sultan Al Nahyan, Founder of the UAE, in Switzerland

Through the lens of Noor Ali Rashid – The Royal Photographer”

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Colors of the Emirates

The art exhibition “Colors of the Emirates” - under the Patronage of H.E. Obaid al Zaabi, UAE Ambassador to the UN and International Organizations, Geneva - is a selection of four young emerging artists from the United Arab Emirates, each represented with three artworks, supported by the Ministry of Culture, Youth and Community Development of the United Arab Emirates and in co-operation with the Emirates Fine Arts Society, and presented by Swiss Art Gate UAE

About Emirates Fine Arts Society (EFAS)



In 1972 there were attempts to found a group or an establishment to support artists in the United Arab Emirates. Established in 1980, this non-profit association is a member of the Arab Art Association and the International Art Association (Arab) in Paris. The Head Office of the society is in Sharjah with branches in Abu Dhabi, Ras Al Khaimah and Khor Fakkan.

The Emirates Fine Arts Society helps promote art education and art appreciation among the public, in particular to national artists and conducts art workshops, seminars and lectures, in painting, sculpture, ceramics, graphics, photography and calligraphy. The society also encourages artists to get together, assists with exhibitions, and produces publications and periodicals on fine arts.

About Plexus Art Gallery



Curiosité et audace, racines du passé et visions du futur, la Galerie Plexus à Fribourg, joue des contrastes avec les plus grands artistes et les futurs grands. Entre soutien des novateurs et confirmation des talents rares, Bernard Chassot compose la quadrature du cercle dans une ville de culture. Il se joue de ses coups de cœur et des artistes confirmés qui lui font confiance : unique Espace Jean Miotte en Suisse, intemporel et définitif, il propose de voir ses amis de longue date... et ceux de son avenir. Plexus, une galerie vivante, avec ses risques et ses bonheurs évidents.

www.galleryplexus.ch





Muna Abdulqader Al Ali

Dubai born artist Muna Abdulqader Al Ali's work tackles some pertinent local issues such as urban development, consumerism and the changing ethnic fabric of UAE society.

Her work is a complete translation of her emotions regarding matters that influence and drive her; enriching and indulging to all spectators. Most of Muna's paintings are colorful impressions of still life. Other paintings have crowded impressions of colors and thoughts, creating Muna Abdulqader's colorful, bright and lively style.



Khalid Al Banna

Artist Khalid Al Banna works in collage using fabric. He attempts to employ local culture with all its significance and artistic heritage in a work of art, delivering certain concepts and ideas to the viewer that the materials used can be reshaped and reused within different contexts.

“These works are also an attempt to discuss the issue of identity through the use of local fabrics as a symbol of the nation’s culture. Using this local fabric reinforces the traditional local culture with all the creative cultures and identities in the UAE society through an artistic medium. This reaffirms local culture as eternal regardless of the cultural influences present in society.”

Khalid Al Banna



Nasir Ahmed Nasrallah

Nasir Nasrallah's artwork is the experimentation with and the mixing of materials, be them physical materials or ideas and theorems. His paintings are the product of the components that an artist feels the need to use with the ideas he carries within that can be received by the open-minded viewer.

"I believe that my work is differentiated by the variety of the components I use, from consumer items, to buttons, paper, wood, and even small pieces of hardware. I can go as far as to say that, noticeably, my art pieces are exclusively a form of intellectual recycling of industrial, consumerist components into a work of art that uniquely stands out from the norm."

Nasir Nasrallah



Ahmed Sharif

Dubai born Ahmed Sharif holds a Bachelor of Economics of The United Arab Emirates University. He is a member of the board at the Emirates Fine Arts Society. Sharif participated in many exhibitions and art festivals since 1993 in the Middle-East, in Europe and Australia.

"The most noticeable points in my work are the white spaces, the simple formation and spontaneous designs, which represent my visual and intellectual store. Yet my works are pure reflection of my memory store."

Ahmed Sharif



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Late Sheikh Zayed Bin Sultan Al Nahyan Founder of the UAE, in Switzerland

Through the lens of Noor Ali Rashid – The Royal Photographer

Noor Ali Rashid – The Royal Photographer

19 December, 1929 – 18 August, 2010

Noor Ali Rashid's passion for photography began at an early age as a teenager. Born in 1929, in the Sultanate of Oman, Noor Ali arrived in the UAE in the 1950s and began capturing the beauty of the land, its people and its life. His brilliant career in Photojournalism spanned sixty rewarding years during which he was for a greater part the Official Photographer to the President, Vice President and Members of the Supreme Council of the UAE. He is recognized as the father of Photojournalism in the region and was the First Photojournalist to be officially recognized by the then British Political Agency.

Noor Ali Rashid had an eye for the unusual and during his lifetime published nine books that captured unique memories of the UAE's leadership, its history, people, traditions and heritage. Collections of his artistic work are a treasure trove that also includes leaders, people and culture from the region and around the world. Dedication to his profession and to the country whose land, people and leaders embraced him as his own led him to receive the honor of 'UAE's Photographer of the Millennium'. He received 83 awards throughout his life including 42 different awards on a single night to commemorate his significant contribution to recording the history of the UAE. In 2006, the 'Noor Ali Rashid Photography Student Documentary Award' was instituted by Zayed University, as an annual award.

He accompanied Sheikh Zayed on many of his earlier trips to Switzerland and his close relationship with the Royal family allowed him to not only record a unique perspective of Sheikh Zayed as a great leader of the nation, but also capture him as a man of great traditional values who lived a full life surrounded with love of his family and friends. Memories of trips abroad with Sheikh Zayed, such as those to Switzerland that are shown throughout this exhibition, remained etched in Noor Ali Rashid's mind and heart until the last moments of his life.

Noor Ali passed away on August 18, 2010. His family has taken on the responsibility to preserve and archive all his work and promote the history, heritage and culture of the region through the lens of Noor Ali Rashid.



40 Years of Elegance Emirati Style by Mona Al Mansouri

The top Emirati designer, Mona Al Mansouri, unveils a stunning collection of 25 dresses of the last 40 years of fashion of the United Arab Emirates, on the theme of “40 Years of Elegance Emirati Style”. Mona Al Mansouri has earned both, international recognition and admiration. She is a renowned designer and her designs are regularly seen on shaikhas, wives of ambassadors and local TV presenters, and her collection is also sold in Switzerland and Italy.

Regarding her collection she says:

“For different occasions I create cheerful colours and well-made outfits. My creations have a unique style and are inspired by UAE tradition. My collection is almost completely made of pure silk, and the style is simple, elegant and comfortable.”

Mona Al Mansouri, being the first designer in the world using Arab and international fashion and platforms to deliver social, political and environmental messages, the French Magazine, L’Officiel, selected her as the most influential designer in the Middle East.

Henna painting

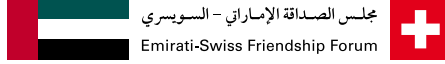
Together with the fashion show the Emirati artist, Reham Eiz Al Din, will show the traditional art of henna painting, which is a form of decoration of the hand. Travelers to the United Arab Emirates can notice women with beautiful designs painted on their feet. The practice of henna painting has taken roots throughout Arabia, India and the Mediterranean, and is becoming increasingly trendy. This ceremonial painting can be traced back to the 7th Century BC and continues to rise in popularity to this day.



Al Suwaidi & Co

About Emirati-Swiss Friendship Forum

The Emirati-Swiss Friendship Forum is a friendship forum to boost the bilateral relations between the United Arab Emirates and Switzerland by establishing more framework agreements, creating more partnerships, promoting more student and research exchange, developing business in new areas as cleantech, health and public transport and supporting projects in the field of arts, culture, sport and tourism.



About Swiss Art Gate UAE

Swiss Art Gate UAE is a UAE-based organisation that initiates, fosters and organises cultural and educational projects between Switzerland and the United Arab Emirates, by international artists, with a focus on the works and performances by Swiss and Arab artists in music, visual arts, dance, literature, drama, film and news media. Additionally to its program Swiss Art Gate UAE has established the first film club for children in the United Arab Emirates, The Magic Lantern. www.swissartgateuae.com and www.magiclantern.ae



Our thanks for their support go to:

- UAE Ministry of Culture, Youth and Community Development
- Emirati – Swiss Friendship Forum
- Emirates Fine Arts Society
- Hotel Beau Rivage, Lausanne
- Falcon Private Bank, Geneva
- Hotel Four Seasons, Geneva
- Plexus Art Gallery, Clarens/Montreux

and to:

- H.H. Sheikh Mansour Bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Presidential Affairs
- H.H. Sheikh Hazza Bin Sultan Bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Chairperson of the Sheikh Zayed Center Al Bateen, Abu Dhabi
- H.H. Sheikha Dr. Hind A. Aziz Al Qassimi, Chairwoman of the Emirates Business Women Council
- H.E. Obaid Al Zaabi, UAE - Ambassador to the UN and International Organizations in Geneva
- H.E. Pascal Couchepin, Former Swiss President
- H.E. Wolfgang-Amadeus Bruelhart, Swiss Ambassador to the United Arab Emirates
- Mona Al Mansouri, Fashion Designer
- H.E. Ahmad Al Suwaidi, Former UAE Foreign Minister
- Lukas Wegmueller, Emirati-Swiss Friendship Forum
- Shamsa Noor Ali Rashid, Dubai, and her team
- Dr. Abdullah Al Reyes, Director of Center of Documentation and Research, Abu Dhabi
- Juma Al Dharmaki, Director Sheikh Zayed Center Al Bateen
- Ibrahim Al Abed, National Media Council, Abu Dhabi
- Jasmine, co-ordinator of the photo exhibition



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