



TABARI
ARTSPACE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Maitha Abdalla

INT. The Body - Sunrise

October 10 - 16, 2022 Cromwell Place, London

Tabari Artspace, ADMAF and An Effort are delighted to announce **INT. The Body - Sunrise** the solo exhibition of Emirati visual artist Maitha Abdalla at Cromwell Place, London, 10 October until 16 October 2022.

The exhibition marks the culmination of Abdalla's three-month An Effort residency supported by Abu Dhabi Arts & Music Foundation (ADMAF).

An Effort residency that Abdalla participated in is founded around narratives. **An Effort** supports artists who, either through their messaging or their process, seek to connect and engage with their audience and wider community in a unique way. The programme engages artists at different stages of their careers with a particular focus on those artists who explore connection. Endeavouring to provide a new space of belonging, the residency and studio is a space for the selected artists to research, discuss and create; each program is a collaboration between the artists and the residency committee.

Abdalla's multidisciplinary practice crosses photography, film, performance, works on canvas and installation. Much of Abdalla's art is invested with research-based cultural narratives and folklore as well as explorations of psychology, social interactions and memory. She interrogates dualities of right/wrong, sin/righteousness and exposes the fragility of social constructs through her art. Abdalla constructs theatrical scenes cast with characters that represent various facets of the self. The exhibition's title **INT. The Body - Sunrise** draws from theatrical codes and script writing with "INT" signifying the internal. During the An Effort residency programme Abdalla continued her explorations of these themes using the An Effort framework to refine her technique, explore new mediums and connect with the London art community.



Act 2 - Confrontation - Tiled Corner , 2022
Charcoal and oil
220 x 160 cm





“Regional folklore, passed down from generation to generation, regularly informs my work. These tales are often verbally communicated rather than documented by the written word; the residency offered me a chance to share these narratives and open up new dialogues surrounding them with a new community. It’s always so interesting to see how those from other cultures connect with these stories and relate them to their own experiences. An Effort offered an immersion into the local art scene as well as connection to former An Effort residents. I was, for example, able to collaborate with a previous resident, a sculptor who helped me to explore the potential of translating my sculptural works into new mediums and consider the way that new technologies might enhance my output, I think this freedom and opportunity for collaboration and experimentation will deeply benefit my practice.”

The An Effort residency came during a pivotal moment during Abdalla's career as she prepares for key international events including Sharjah Biennial 2023 as well as a public art commission to be displayed during Art Basel 2023. She's also preparing to embark upon the prestigious Cité Internationale des Arts residency in Paris in November 2022. As such the scope of the An Effort residency has allowed Abdalla to refine her ideas and approach to art while also offering an immersion in London's cultural climate.

Maitha's artworks produced during the An Effort residency will be on view at Cromwell Place between 10th October - 16th October 2022.

On The Residency Huda Alkhamis-Kanoo, Founder of the Abu Dhabi Arts & Music Foundation (ADMAF) and Founder and Artistic Director of Abu Dhabi Festival says:

“The Abu Dhabi Arts & Music Foundation is committed to investing in the talent and creative potential of Emirati artists and empowering them to realise their dreams and ambitions. We are pleased to support Maitha Abdalla as the first Emirati to be invited to the residency programme at London's An Effort Art and to nurture and develop the passion she has shown for the arts from an early age. Maitha's solo exhibition is an exceptional opportunity to introduce London audiences to her unique practice and foster cross-cultural understanding by giving insight into the UAE's thriving art scene.”

Ends.

PRIVATE VIEW
11 OCTOBER 2022
6 - 8 pm
Cromwell Place

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About Maitha Abdalla B. 1989

As if harnessing the subconscious, Maitha Abdalla's work oscillates between the diaphanous, vibrant and surreal, and is always marked by an atmosphere of reminiscence and nostalgia. Often evolved into series articulating strong cultural narratives, her paintings and mixed media works are assemblages of memory, travel and human interactions. Informed by exchanges and experiences, her socially driven commentaries on the human condition reveal astute, intuitive observations on the world around her, in a narrative form. A particularly influential encounter was with the children of an orphanage, where Maitha taught English and art. The motifs of childhood began to permeate her work after this time, becoming an eloquent vernacular in which she further explores the difference between the imaginary and the real; mapping the liminal space between these interconnected worlds, she plays out many questions of social and cultural identity.

About Tabari Artspace

A Bridge Between Worlds

For the last two decades, Tabari Artspace gallery has played a vital role in connecting international audiences and institutions to the modern and contemporary art of the MENA region.

Grounded in the notion that art has the capacity to dismantle borders, foster new ways of knowing and stimulate cross-cultural understanding, Tabari Artspace gallery forms a bridge between worlds, a platform pioneering a diverse roster of exhibitions at the intersection of the local and the global.

Programming

Over twenty years Tabari Artspace has chartered the evolution of MENA art. Our represented artists from the MENA region and its diaspora are conceptually engaged with issues pertinent to the human condition and united through fine art quality. Advanced by an all-women team, Tabari Artspace foregrounds female figures and marginalised perspectives in contemporary art.

Our approach to presentation transcends the rigidity of the white cube space. In dialogue with our artists, we diffuse their artistic explorations into immersive and unexpected environments that establish new modes of engagement with art. The cultural ecosystem in the UAE has been central to the Tabari Artspace trajectory; as such the gallery strives to contribute to the region's cultural vision. Through the representation of artists originating from and taking root in the GCC, as well as international practitioners that cast their gaze towards it Tabari Artspace forms a platform for discovery.

Community

Community engagement and wider social access to MENA art are at the core of Tabari Artspace's missions. Physical programming is supplemented by digital counterparts, talks, publishing, workshops, and community events. The Tabari Artspace international residency programme encourages the artists of the region to expand their practice amid new contexts.



Act 1 - The Secret Teller - Midnight, 2022
Charcoal and oil
220 x 160 cm



Act 3 - Is This A Dance - Pink Sunset , 2022

Charcoal and oil

215 x 220 cm