FEMALE ARTISTS FROM THE GULF IN THE FACE OF COVID-19

ResiliArt

ONLINE DEBATE: ART CONNECTS WOMEN

DATE: 14 JULY 2020
TIME: 5:00 - 6:15 PM (GST)
**BRIEF**

**ZEEARTS** and the **UNESCO OFFICE FOR THE GULF STATES AND YEMEN** are organizing a **RESILIART ONLINE DEBATE** aiming to engage and embrace the experiences and initiatives taking place in the Gulf region by female artists during the lockdown due to COVID-19, and to explore the possible new regional trends, ecosystem and value chain under the **ART CONNECTS WOMEN** initiative. The webinar will bring together female artists from Bahrain, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Oman, United Arab Emirates and Qatar, and moderated by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (**UNESCO**), to discuss these urgent issues among the panelists and with the public.
RESILIART is a global movement initiated by UNESCO that aims to strengthen the resilience of artists and cultural professionals in the face of the enormous challenges posed by the current health crisis. It is an online debate series with key industry professionals and artists that raises awareness of the impact of the pandemic on the culture sector, and of the importance of cultural and creative industries for economic development and social cohesion. It also aims to support the development of policies and financial mechanisms that can help creative individuals, cultural professionals and communities overcome the current crisis.
PANELISTS

FEMALE ARTISTS FROM THE GULF IN THE FACE OF COVID-19

ONLINE DEBATE: ART CONNECTS WOMEN

14 JULY 2020
5PM (GULF STANDARD TIME, GMT+4)

GHADA KHUNJI
ARTIST - BAHRAIN

AHLAM
AL-SHEDOUKY
ARTIST - KSA

HANOUF
AL-MONAIFI
KUWAIT - ARTIST

TAHIRA FIDA
ARTIST - OMAN

MUNA AL-BADER
ARTIST - QATAR

NOOR AL-SUWAIDI
ARTIST - UAE

DANIELLE CLICHE
MODERATOR
UNESCO
ONLINE DEBATE: ART CONNECTS WOMEN

DANIELLE CLICHE
MODERATOR
UNESCO

PANELISTS

GHADA KHUNJI - ARTIST
BAHRAIN

GHADA KHUNJI is a graduate of the Parsons School of Design and the International Center of Photography’s Documentary Program, both in New York. She started her career as a freelance photographer in the fashion industry and spent two years as a research assistant for photo agencies, including Black Star and Magnum, followed by eight years as a printer and print manager for a high profile clientele including Annie Leibovitz and Steven Meisel. Khunji’s photographs are known for documenting both landscapes and people from all over the world and the inherent dignity of the human element. In her latest work she focuses the lens on herself by exploring her innermost feelings, thoughts and identity as a woman. Khunji is the recipient of the Lucie Discovery of the Year, American Photo Magazine’s Image of the Year Award, as well as the Golden Lights Award for Travel. She has exhibited widely in the US and Europe and throughout the Middle East. In 2018, she exhibited at Sotheby’s in London as part of a group show inspired by Kahlil Gibran, the Prophet. Simultaneously she was in an ongoing show, I Am, under the patronage of Queen Rania which debuted in Jordan, then London and then toured the US for over a year. She also exhibited at the American University in Washington D.C. as part of a group show organized by Tribe Photo Magazine.
HANOUF AL-MONAIFI
KUWAIT ARTIST

A PASSIONATE ARTIST & A GRADUATE IN ARTS, HISTORY AND MUSEUM STUDIES FROM PARIS SORBONNE ABU DHABI UNIVERSITY.

AN EXTREMELY EFFECTIVE MEMBER IN GROUPS WITH A FINE BALANCE OF COOPERATIVENESS IN TEAM WORK AND LEADERSHIP SKILLS AS WELL AS GOOD COMMUNICATION SKILLS AND IMPROVISATION. I AIM TO FOREVER EXPAND MY KNOWLEDGE AND EXPERIENCES IN THE FIELD OF ART & CREATIVITY. I AM A DETERMINED PROFESSIONAL WHO FOCUSES ALL HER ENERGY TO ACHIEVE HER GOALS AND DREAMS. MY STRONGEST POINT WOULD BE MY DETERMINATION TO SUCCEED AND THRIVE. AS WELL AS, GRASPING ANY AND ALL OPPORTUNITIES THAT COME MY WAY FULL HEARTEDLY. I HAVE A STRONG HISTORY OF BEING RESPONSIBLE OF ARRANGING AND GIVING WORKSHOPS AND/OR EXHIBITIONS FOR THE ART INVOLVED STUDENTS AND PUBLIC.

AL MONAIFI HAS BEEN REPRESENTED AS THE FIRST KUWAITI BY ZEEARTS GALLERY AT CARROUSEL DU LOUVRE IN PARIS IN 2018-2019, DURING THE ART CONNECTS WOMEN, 3RD EDITION, AT THE MAURITIUS INTERNATIONAL ART FAIR AND IN GEORGIA-TBILISI.
TAHIRA FIDA is an artist and a writer from Muscat. She has an MA in Visual Arts from the UK. She has taken part in many workshops with both Omani and European artists.

She has taken part in many national and international exhibitions. She has received many awards such as the first ward from the Ministry of Culture (Muscat 2005).

Her first solo show was at Bait Al Zubair Museum in 2014. The second solo exhibition was held at Bait Muzna Gallery in Muscat 2015. The third solo exhibition was in Copenhagen 2015. A joined exhibition in KL 2016.

Tahir was represented by ZeeArts in numerous exhibition in Dubai and was part of the UAE-Omani artistic and cultural dialogue exchange.
MUNA AL-BADER, also known as Artist of Blue, is a Qatari contemporary artist, entrepreneur, IT engineer, and business analyst. She is Qatar’s art ambassador at Qatar, one of the best 20 world’s change maker as per Action Summit 2020 and an artist in residence with Doha Fire Station.

Muna has been working on the blue color series for around three years as she got this inspiration from the surrounded environment which is the sea and the sky. Muna saw the blue color paint has a freedom as it flow as the sea wave float over the sea. She had illustrated the traditional folklore dances on her painting and represent the happiness and the sadness behind this color.

Muna is an example of a women, who has utilized her talent to inspire women and people in general. Despite living in a conservative setting, she has proved herself and her talent. She uses her art to express her emotions and connect with thousands of people that feel strongly towards art as a medium of expression. Muna Al-Bader has achieved immense success due to her vision and dedicated hard work. She believes in nurturing passion and working towards goals by going against the norms. She is classic example of revolution and acceptance of women in her society.
NOOR AL-SUWAIDI
UAE
ARTIST

ARTIST, CURATOR AND CULTURAL PRODUCER WITH OVER 10 YEARS’ EXPERIENCE IN THE ARTS AND CREATIVE INDUSTRIES. AL SUWAIDI GRADUATED IN 2004 WITH A BACHELOR’S DEGREE IN STUDIO ART FROM AMERICAN UNIVERSITY IN WASHINGTON, D.C. IN 2009 SHE OBTAINED A MASTER’S DEGREE IN CURATING CONTEMPORARY DESIGN FROM KINGSTON UNIVERSITY, LONDON. NOOR’S ARTWORK HAS BEEN EXHIBITED IN GALLERY SHOWS IN LONDON, KUWAIT, BERLIN, WASHINGTON, D.C., DUBAI, SHARJAH, AL AIN, AND ABU DHABI.

AS A CURATOR, NOOR SPECIALIZES IN CURATING EXHIBITIONS OF EMIRATI ARTISTS BOTH LOCALLY AND INTERNATIONALLY INCLUDING FOR THE UAE EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON D.C. AND WITHIN THE UAE FOR GALLERIES IN SHARJAH AND DUBAI. IN ADDITION, SHE WORKED FOR SOTHEBY’S IN LONDON, ING IN AMSTERDAM, AND ON ART AND CULTURAL PROJECTS FOR BOTH DUBAI ARTS AND CULTURE AUTHORITY AND TDIC’S CULTURAL DEPARTMENT. AL SUWAIDI WAS A PART-TIME FACULTY AT THE COLLEGE OF ART AND CREATIVE ENTERPRISES AT ZAYED UNIVERSITY IN ABU DHABI. PASSIONATE ABOUT CREATING CULTURAL UNDERSTANDING AND EMERGING ARTISTS’ PLATFORMS BOTH LOCALLY AND INTERNATIONALLY TO PROMOTE ARTISTS AND THEIR VISION, IN 2016 HER PROGRAM “DESERT STORM” PRESENTED PERFORMING ARTISTS FROM THE GULF AT NEW YORK UNIVERSITY’S ART CENTER IN ABU DHABI. SHE IS CURRENTLY AN ADVISOR ON THE CULTURAL DIPLOMACY BOARD OF MERIDIAN INTERNATIONAL CENTER.