## **My Urban Freej** Artists

February 2020







#### **Abdulla Lutfi**

Cartooning, animations, murals



Abdulla Lutfi is a young and dynamic Emirati artist. He has been training and practicing at *Mawaheb from Beautiful People*, a Dubai-based art studio for adult People of Determination. Lutfi's passion for art is expressed through paintings and drawings inspired by his daily life, with an emphasis on buildings and cars.

Famous for his eye for detail, Lutfi was commissioned to create artwork for Emirates airline's ice inflight entertainment system. He possesses a unique perspective of the world, and his graphics are bold, fun and playful.

Lutfi has a humble human side, and does not hesitate to help fellow People of Determination.



### Amrita Sethi Installation art



Amrita is an award-winning artist born and raised in Kenya, a British citizen of Indian origin. She has lived in Dubai since 2007 and has also resided in Switzerland, Zimbabwe, Uganda, and the United Kingdom.

Amrita's art reflects her international diversity and combines the sweetness of tradition with the energy of a modern world to showcase the rich layers that can make up a country's identity and a person's character.

Amrita's Collection Voice note Art © has won an award and has been showcased internationally since its debut release at Art Dubai in March 2019.



#### Ali Kashawani

Street art



Ali Kashwani is a 24 year-old Emirati artist from Sharjah, United Arab Emirates. He graduated with a Bachelor's degree in Design Management from the American University of Sharjah (AUS) in 2017.

Kashawani's art style ranges from character and conceptual designs to story-telling through his artwork. He reflects Arabian designs, habitats and elegance in his artwork through the details and line work, as well as the features of his artwork subjects. His art skills include, sketching, painting, digital art, Arabic calligraphy, graffiti, and mural design.



#### **ASHEKMAN**

Installation art and street art



ASHEKMAN is an Arabic street art group that started in 2001 in Beirut by identical twin brothers Omar and Mohamed Kabbani. 18 years later, ASHEKMAN is now a platform representing art, culture, and people.

Based in Dubai and Beirut, ASHEKMAN's mission is to revive Arabic culture in an urban context, bringing back the Arab golden age where poetry, science, and knowledge were exported and adapted by cultures all over the world. The duo are also committed to spreading a positive message of tolerance.

ASHEKMAN's style is Arabic calligraffiti, which is a mixture of classical Arabic calligraphy with modern Arabic graffiti. They developed their passion into a unique business model that now also includes a clothing line, a design studio, and a graffiti academy.



#### Huvil

Graffiti and street art



Mahmood Al Sharqawi, known as *Huvil*, is a Bahraini graffiti artist with a portfolio of installations around the globe including Bahrain, the UAE, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Malaysia, Lebanon, Berlin, Paris and London.

Huvil is passionate about promoting graffiti as a legitimate art form and his strength lies in delivering workshops for youth. Inspired by the culture of the Gulf, his work is a fusion of modern elements and traditional Arabic motifs and subjects.

Huvil was chosen as one of the artists to contribute to the creation of the world's longest graffiti wall in Dubai in 2014, which broke the Guinness World Record for the longest graffiti scroll at 2.2454 km. In addition to his collaborations with Red Bull, Huvil created art that can be found in an area that represents the best of London's street art scene, Leake Street.



#### **Maitha Demithan**

#### 3D installation



Maitha Demithan forged her place on the UAE's visual arts scene thanks in no small part to her mastery of scenography, which she combines with several other mediums, including photography, painting, drawing and photo transfers.

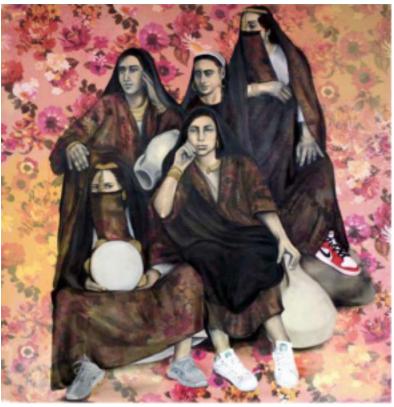
For Demithan, scanography is like painting with light, allowing her to bring together her knowledge of painting and photography. Her signature use of light to document intense moments of encounter vividly capture three-dimensional moments in a two-dimensional plane. She sees the distinction from photography in the layers of construction and deconstruction that occur when creating an image; scanography is a slower process, bringing it closer to painting.

Maitha has participated in several exhibitions in Dubai, Abu Dhabi, Venice, London and Paris, including Abu Dhabi Art (2011), Gyeonggi Museum of Modern Art in Korea (2012), and Art Dubai (2012–14). She is a member of Tashkeel where she held her first solo show 'Mutajadid' (2014). Demithan was selected for Stephen Shore's 'Emirati Expressions II' (2011) and received a Bachelor's degree in Art and Design from Zayed University in 2012.



### **Perry El Ashmawi**

Street art



Born in Bahrain in 1988 to Egyptian parents, Perry El Ashmawi is an accomplished artist who has showcased her work in Montreal, Athens, Bahrain and Dubai.

Perry finds inspiration from the innovative styles of contemporary and urban art, and her designs are particularly influenced by graphic and graffiti illustrative works.

She was fortunate to be selected to showcase in three editions of The Bahrain Annual Fine Arts Exhibition, held at the Bahrain National Museum.



# **Shabir Mir**3D installation



Shabir Ahmed Mir is a multifaceted artist and sculptor from Pakistan, based in Dubai, UAE. His appetite to explore all forms of art and constantly seek refinement in his work has gained him a reputation as being one of the most sought-after artists in the region.

Shabir's exquisite sculptures are a result of his constant experimentation with and manipulation of hard metals like titanium, aluminum, brass, copper etc. His work requires extensive study of these materials in order to transform them into delicate letters, highlighting the curves, softening the edges and creating mesmerizing words whilst maintaining the true integrity and beauty of calligraphy.

His sculptures reflect his long held fascination for calligraphy in its purest forms, honoring each alphabet of the Arabic language and refining each letter as a work of art; words that may have been spoken a million times, but when crafted in to sculptures, come alive as tangible poetry.



#### **Wafi Albakheet**

3D installation



Wafi Albakheet is a Calligrapher and Art Designer from Saudi Arabia with over 20 years of experience.

Wafi practices Arabic calligraphy, painting, sculpting, graphic design, live art performances, calligrafitti, and more. He specialised in Arabic calligraphy and its structure and evolution, and has always been focused on using Arabic letters to express his art and passion. In 2003, he created a new free-style font and made it free-for-use on the internet.

Wafi has participated in many national and regional art exhibitions, art festivals and created a number of large murals and art walls in Saudi Arabia, UAE and Bahrain.

He holds a Bachelor's degree in Computer Science from King Fahd University of Petroleum and Minerals and a University-Diploma in Accounting.

