



Press Release:

For Immediate Release

Eman Alhashemi at Aisha Alabbar Gallery

Superficial Transactions: Critique and Questions on Contemporary Life Systems

November 14 2024 - January 6 2025

Curated By Nasser Abdullah

In her second solo exhibition at Aisha Alabbar Gallery in Dubai, titled “Superficial Transactions,” Emirati artist Eman Alhashemi presents a series of artworks and experiences, showcasing her rich artistic journey. Curated by Nasser Abdullah, this exhibition marks her first after returning from the U.S., where she earned a Master’s degree in Fine Arts, further enriching her artistic expertise alongside her remarkable activity and prolific output.

In this exhibition, Eman presents a series of works that build on her previous experiences, appearing as annotations and reflections that encapsulate different phases she has undergone since the beginning of her career. She began with experiments in manual printing and producing repetitive editions during her early academic years. Later, she transitioned to sculpture and ceramics, eventually exploring a variety of artistic mediums, including performance art and multimedia video pieces. This artistic journey through time illustrates the evolution in her work and her shifting artistic perspective.

Eman’s work is characterized by her ability to embrace mistakes and inconsistencies across editions, accepting the existence of multiple versions of the same object, both in art and in life. This reconciled perspective on imperfection and difference reflects the diversity of human nature, as she interacts with each situation and circumstance differently. This unique approach blends experimentation with critical thinking.

Eman plays with concepts and forms of artistic production, aiming to highlight our complex and intertwined relationships with ideas and objects around us. Her work reflects a repetitive consumerist state that occasionally borders on boredom, prompting her to reassess things and ideas from different angles. This continuous critique of everyday life details encourages viewers to see the ordinary anew.

Through this artistic journey, Eman invites us to engage in constant reflection and navigate daily life with a critical eye. Her works urge us to maintain our imperfect humanity and avoid chasing perfection, positioning art as a means of connecting with ourselves and others beyond repetitive routines.

About Alhashemi

Eman Alhashemi (b. Dubai, 1993) is a multidisciplinary artist whose practice revolves around impossible tasks, repetition, productivity, inefficiency, and reimagined objects and shapes through sculpture, prints, drawings, and artist books. Inspired by the ideas surrounding mass production, value, relationships to objects, hoarding, consumerism, and sentimental value, the artist questions what it means for mundane everyday objects, like a brick on the side of the road or a spoon in a drawer, to be idly placed in an environment that focuses on productivity, constant chaos and noise. Her practice is marked by the formalism and interest in materials that emerged over the past five years in the UAE, as artists moved away from found item and Pop idioms and towards studio-based work governed by concepts of perception, investigation into the properties of materials, and geometric principles.

Eman had a solo exhibition titled *square: not square* at Aisha Alabbar Gallery, Dubai, UAE (2022). Additionally, she participated in a number of acclaimed exhibitions at home and abroad, including *Dubai Calligraphy Biennale* (2023) , Foundry Downtown, Dubai, UAE; *RISD Grad Show 2023*, Rhode Island Convention Center, Providence, RI, USA (2023); *Portrait of a Nation II: Beyond Narratives*, Manarat Al Saadiyat, Abu Dhabi, UAE (2022); *RISD Ceramics Biennial*, Sol Koffler Gallery, Providence, RI, USA

Aisha Alabbar Gallery

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(2021); *Made in Tashkeel*, Tashkeel, Dubai, UAE (2021, 2019, 2016); *Convergence: 36th Emirates Fine Arts Society Annual Exhibition*, Sharjah Art Museum, Sharjah, UAE (2019); *Youth Takeover*, Jameel Arts Centre, Dubai, UAE (2019); *Emirati Traditional Games*, Al Qattara Center, Abu Dhabi, UAE (2019); *Sikka*, House 40, Dubai, UAE (2019); *Community and Critique: SEAF Cohort 5*, Warehouse 421, Abu Dhabi, UAE (2018); *Mini Print Prize Exhibition (Printmakers Council)*, Morley Gallery, London, UK (2017); *Portrait of A Nation*, Abu Dhabi Music & Arts Foundation (ADMAF), me Collectors Room Berlin / Stiftung Olbricht, Berlin, Germany (2017); *Transition (Reconnecting Art)*, Menier Gallery, London, UK (2017); *International Miniature Print Exhibition (BIMPE) IX*, Federation Gallery, Vancouver, BC; Dungrave Print Workshop and Gallery, Vancouver, BC; UBC Okanagan Gallery, Kelowna, BC; SNAP, Edmonton, AB, Canada (2017); *Two Parts*, Lombard Street Gallery, Margate, UK (2016); *4th International Emerging Artist Award Gallery Show*, TAG bxl, Brussels, Belgium (2016); *Show at the Fair Award Exhibition*, World Art Dubai, Dubai, UAE (2016); *Portrait of a Nation*, Abu Dhabi Music & Arts Foundation (ADMAF), Emirates Palace, Abu Dhabi, UAE (2016); *International Emerging Artist Award - Qlocktwo Artist Edition Award*, MB&F MAD Gallery, Dubai, UAE (2016); *Immerse at THE BEACH Award Exhibition*, The Beach, Dubai, UAE (2016); *The 4th Wharepuke International Open Printmaking Show*, Art at Wharepuke, Kerikeri, New Zealand (2015); *50 Years of Artists Prints*, Bankside Gallery, London, UK (2015); *National Original Print Exhibition*, Bankside Gallery, London, UK (2015); *Making an Impression Book*, Printmaker's Council, London, UK (2015); *EXIT Show 10*, University of Sharjah, Sharjah, UAE (2015); *Sheikha Manal Young Artist Award Shortlisted*, City Walk, Dubai, UAE (2015); and *12th Lessedra World Art Print Annual - Mini Print 2013*, Lessedra Gallery, Sofia, Bulgaria (2013).

Eman was part of Cohort 5 of the Sheikha Salama Emerging Artists Fellowship (SEAF), Sheikha Salama bint Hamdan Foundation (SHF), in partnership with Rhode Island School of Design (RISD), Abu Dhabi, UAE (2018), in addition to being part of other residency programmes like Forsa School, Sharjah Art Foundation, Sharjah, UAE (2019 - 20); Facebook's Global Artist in Residence Program, Dubai, UAE (2017); and East Carolina University and University of Sharjah Exchange Program (2014). She is the recipient of the Printmaking Today Mini Print Editorial Prize, London, UK (2018) and the 4th International Emerging Artist Award, Dubai, UAE (2016). Her works are in various UAE and international collections, including Abu Dhabi Executive Office, ADMAF, Art Jameel Collection, and Victoria & Albert Museum.

Eman has a MFA in Ceramics at Rhode Island School of Design (RISD), Providence, RI, USA (2023). She has a BFA from the University of Sharjah, Sharjah, UAE (2016).

About Nasser Abdullah:

Nasser Abdullah is an Emirati curator. He has curated a number of exhibitions including an "Intima'a" an Exhibition by UAE Unlimited, 2020 in NYU Abu Dhabi, "From Barcelona to Abu Dhabi" an exhibition by ADMAF and the Barcelona Museum of Contemporary Art, 2018 in Manarat Al Saadiyat, The 25th and 35th Emirates Fine Art Society's annual exhibition, 2006 and 2018 in Sharjah Art Museum.

Nasser is a former Chairman of the Board of the Emirates Fine Art Society, a position he held from 2014 to 2018. The Society aims to raise awareness and continue to develop Fine Art in the UAE.

He has also had the pleasure of contributing, significantly, to a number of publications focusing on the pioneers of the Emirati Arts movement, besides being the Chef Editor of AITashkeel Magazine.

About Aisha Alabbar Gallery

Established in 2018, Aisha Alabbar Gallery stands as a pillar of contemporary and modern art in Dubai, UAE. Guided by a commitment to showcasing both emerging and established talents, we strive to elevate the voices and visions of artists from the UAE, the region, and beyond.

As a pioneering women-led Emirati gallery, we take pride in being among the first in the region to celebrate the brilliance of local and regional artists. Through meticulous curation and collaborations with esteemed curators and organizations, we invest significant resources to spotlight these artists on the global stage.



Through our exhibitions, innovative programs, and bespoke publications, Aisha Alabbar Gallery enriches the dynamic tapestry of the arts in the UAE, leaving a lasting mark on the cultural landscape.

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