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[Art Dubai 2018: 10 things to do](#)

Ahead of its 12th edition, Myrna Ayad, the fair director of the international art fair lets us in on all that we simply cannot miss this season

Pratyush Sarup, [Special to tabloid!](http://gulfnews.com/writers/pratyush-sarup) (<http://gulfnews.com/writers/pratyush-sarup>)

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Bolstering its portfolio of world class, investment worthy art, its non-commercial thought-leadership programme makes it one of the most extensive in the world of art and design fairs. Through education and commissioning local designers and artists, the fair has firmly established itself at the top of the leader board.

Whether you are an artist, an art collector or an enthusiast, Myrna Ayad's selection is bound to lead you onto the soul-satisfying path of cultural revelation and a greater appreciation of the arts.

1. The Contemporary halls

Spread over two halls are 78 galleries from 42 countries that showcase contemporary art from around the world with new energies coming from Iceland, Ethiopia, Ghana and Kazakhstan. This is the platform to discover trends and take the pulse of today through young talents whose careers are launched at Art Dubai, and also established, recognised artists.



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Art Dubai invites 11 artists from nine countries to spend between four to eight weeks in Dubai and Abu Dhabi to immerse themselves and engage with the landscape on social, cultural and artistic fronts. The fruits of their time in the UAE will be exhibited through their representative galleries in this novel section of the fair. It will be fascinating to see how this experience impacted their work that is shown at Art Dubai, but also for years to come.

3. Visit Modern

Nowhere else can one explore and engage with modernist art from the Middle East, Africa and South Asia. This is the venue that showcases the work of 20th century masters operating primarily between the 1940s-1980s; and no one can narrate history or tell a story quite like modernists do. This year, Modern marks its largest edition to date with 16 galleries from 14 countries.





The Family by Abdelhadi Al Gazzar as part of 'That Feverish Leap into the Fierceness of Life'.

4. That Feverish Leap into the Fierceness of Life

This seminal exhibition surveys five schools or groups, operating in five Arab cities across 50 years, and is curated by Sam Bardaouil and Till Fellrath. More than 70 paintings have been sourced from public and private collections around the world that demonstrate the varying modernist movements in Baghdad, Cairo, Khartoum, Casablanca and Riyadh. The show is supported by the Misk Art Institute. (1.2190200)

5. Have you heard of the Modern Symposium?

Now in its second edition, this series of talks delves into the lives and legacies of modernist artists from the Middle East, Africa and South Asia and reflects on the content in the Modern hall. In the absence of literature and documentation on modern masters, the Symposium offers a glimpse into the practices and climate (economic, social and political) of the 1940s-1980s and is led by scholars, curators, experts and patrons alike.



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Dance by Jennifer İpek.

6. Global Art Forum

Titled *I Am Not a Robot*, the Forum takes on the theme of automation for its 12th iteration. Commissioned once again by Shumon Basar, who works alongside co-directors Noah Raford, chief operating officer and futurist-in-chief of the Dubai Future Foundation, and Marlies Wirth, curator of digital culture and design collection at the MAK, Vienna, sessions will delve into the implications that automation has on our lives, today and tomorrow.





Manoucher Yektaei's 1959, still life with flowers.

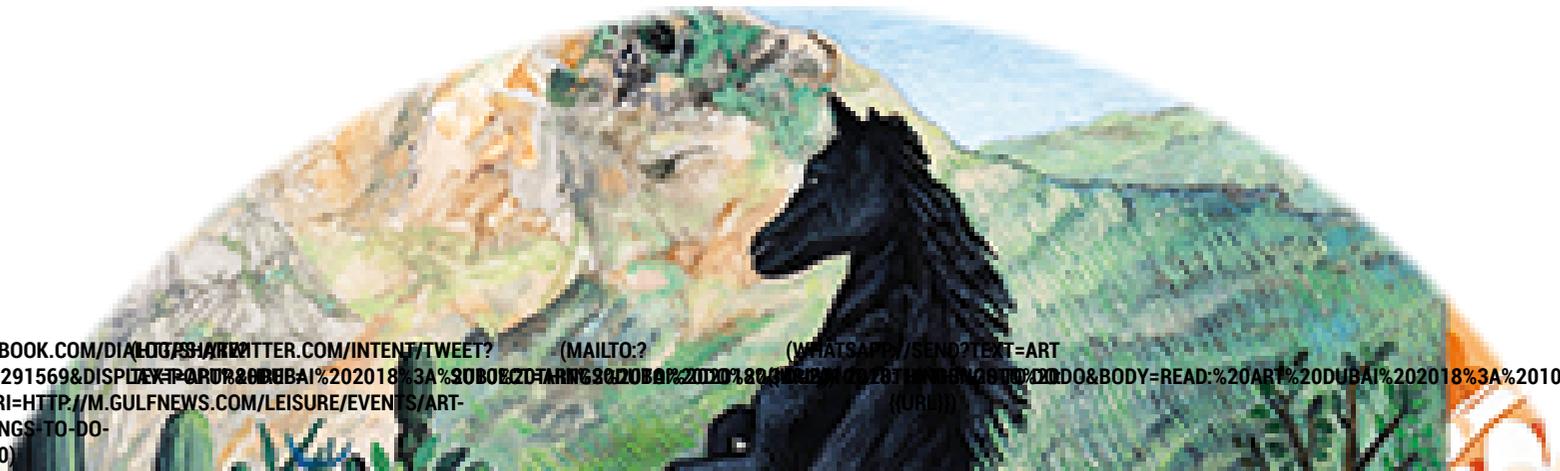
Celebrating art from the Middle East, North Africa and South Asia, this is one of the most important prizes in the art world. Over the last decade, many of the winners have gone on to achieve greater success in the region and abroad. This year, we unveil Lawrence Abu Hamdan's winning work alongside those of shortlisted artists Neil Beloufa, Ali Cherri and Basma Alsharif all working under the curatorship of Myriam Ben Salah.

9. Explore the World of Karim Noureldine

The Swiss-Egyptian artist takes over the Julius Baer lounge to create a never-seen-before, site-specific installation. The commission is composed of an abstract textile work that forms a metaphorical bridge between three civilizations and cultures – Switzerland, the Middle East and India. The featured textiles celebrate the wealth of handicraft and design indigenous to these regions.

10. The Precious Art of High Joaillerie

High art and high jewellery have a long standing relationship. And why not? They are both born from a passionate desire to express, and the refined artwork that goes into detailing fine jewellery is a fine art in its own right. This year, Piaget presents a dazzling new collection inspired by the beautiful Amalfi Coast, Sunlight Journey.



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