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RANEEN

The Sultanate of Oman's Ministry of Culture, Sports and Youth is delighted to announce that the first edition of RANEEN, a new contemporary art event, due to take place between 21 – 30 November 2024 in the historic town of Muttrah, Muscat.

Featuring new work by leading Omani and international artists, RANEEN will be sited within the historic houses of Muttrah and along the passageways and streets connecting them. Artists have responded in a contemporary way to the architecture, heritage, stories, the unique character of Muttrah and its significance in Oman's mercantile history. RANEEN's exhibitions, street art, projections, photography, video, sound art and installations capture the essence of individual and collective memories of Muttrah in creative and engaging ways.

His Excellency Sayyid Saeed AlBusaidi, Undersecretary of the Ministry of Culture, Sports and Youth, comments:

*"Oman has a long and distinguished track record for art events and exhibitions in the historic area of Muscat. It is rich in forts and heritage sites, but also with important contemporary art galleries and artists' studios. The Ministry is proud to continue to highlight these connections through Raneen: preserving our heritage and embracing local and international artists."*

The event's curator, David Drake, comments:

*"RANEEN reflects the vibrancy and ambition of the contemporary art scene in Oman, offering a platform from which the next generation of Omani artists will gain wider international exposure in the Gulf region and beyond."*

*"What visitors can expect is a curated art trail around the buildings and streets of Muttrah during which they will encounter stimulating artworks and interpretative material that illuminates Omani history and culture through the ideas and expressions of artists".*

Highlights include *Museum of the Moon*, a spectacular globally touring artwork by UK artist Luke Jerram, sited in the courtyard of Bait AlKhonji. *Abundance and Scarcity*, a public artwork by Azra Akšamija and MIT Future Heritage Lab, comprises a 70 metre long shading canopy featuring laser-cut patterns, which play with light and shadow to create a dynamic visual effect reminiscent of Sadu weaving. The world renowned Finnish photographic artist, Elina Brotherus, will premiere a body of work developed during an artist residency in Oman in December 2019. Since that time, she has provided mentoring and creative support to emerging Omani artists.

A specially commissioned 20 metre mural, *Unity in Diversity*, conceived by HH Sayyida Tania al Said, offers a visual representation of Oman's commitment to

tolerance, coexistence, and the embracing of diversity within the broader Muslim world.

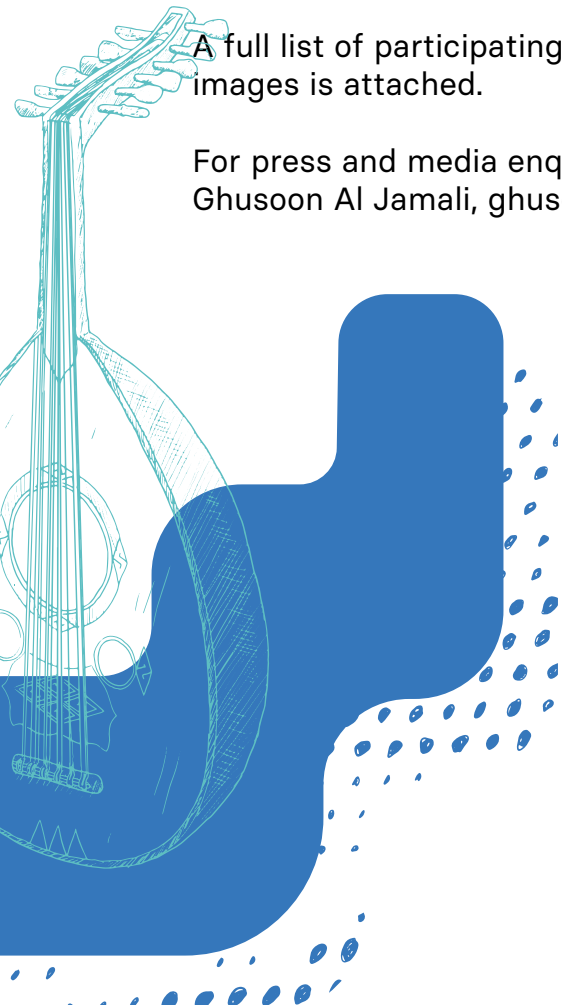
In Bait AlKhoory, Omani artist Marwa Al Bahrani will exhibit *Shifting Hues of Time*,

an octagonal structure constructed of acrylic glass paired with an iridescent sheet, creating a spectrum of colours that shift with the light and viewer's perspective. Also in Bait Alkhoory, architect and designer Haitham Al Busafi presents *Vivid Memories – Desired Objects*, an artwork inspired by his childhood memories of Mutrah, in particular the sight of stacked colourful toys. Ammar Alkiyumi's new artwork for RANEEN is inspired by the sea-breakers, as found in Mutrah, providing protection against damage from high waves, but also a distinctive architectural feature emblematic of Mutrah's identity. Mahmood Al Zadjali's *Resounding Conversations* captures personal narratives from a bygone era when in Mutrah, and Oman as a whole, public payphones served as a vital communicative tool connecting people across distances.

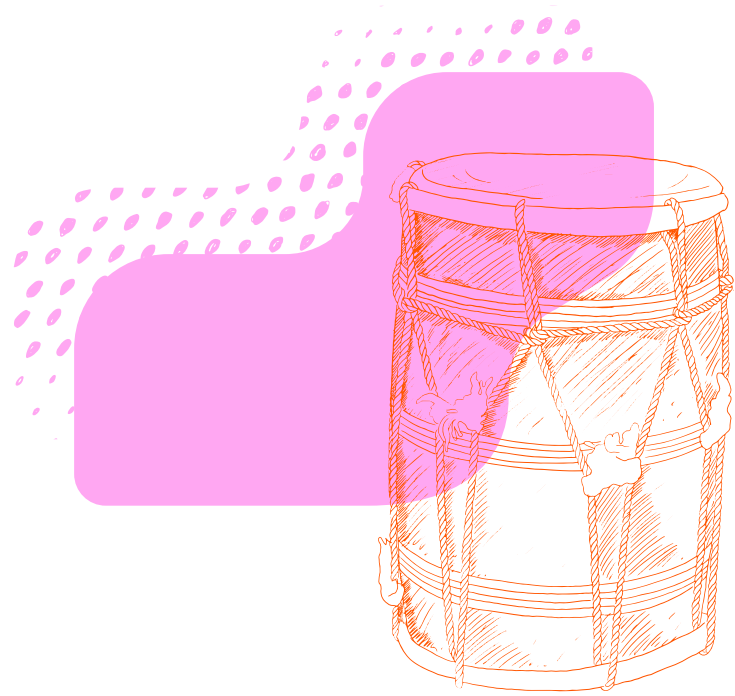
In terms of the benefits for local people, RANEEN will foster pride of place in Mutrah and offer opportunities for people of all ages to get creative whilst appreciating the cultural richness of this historic area of Muscat. An extensive public engagement programme for families and young people, led by Makan Studios, will ensure that RANEEN reflects local needs and encourages the sharing of stories and insights into Oman's past and present. There will be lightworks and projections at night, and a series of events and musical performances during the ten days of the event.

A full list of participating artists, with details of their work, bios and supporting images is attached.

For press and media enquiries, interviews and further information, contact:  
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## About the Curator, David Drake



David Drake is an independent curator, writer and producer with four decades of experience in the visual arts and media field. In the last twenty years he has curated 400+ exhibitions working with artists in five continents, and published thirty artist monographs.

As well as being Curator of RANEEN, he is currently writer/editor of a career spanning retrospective of the Magnum photographer Philip Jones Griffiths, to be published by Thames & Hudson in 2025. In 2023 he won the Casa Arabe/PhotoEspana Nur Award and curated major exhibitions in Madrid and Cordoba in Spain, featuring five artists from Egypt, Morocco and Jordan whose work addresses urgent environmental issues in the Arab world. Between 2018 and 2020, David was Curator of *The Place I Call Home*, a major UK-Gulf exhibition commissioned by the British Council which toured to eleven venues in the six GCC countries and UK. He has also curated several international projects with artists and partners in South Korea, India, North America and Africa.

Between 2009 and 2021, he was Director of Ffotogallery, the national development agency for photography and lens-based media in Wales, UK, during which time he led two Creative Europe projects: *European Prospects* and *A Woman's Work*, working with partners in France, Germany, Lithuania, Ireland and Finland. David was also Director of the *Diffusion – Wales International Festival of Photography* for five biennial editions, and Project Director for Wales' national pavilion at the Venice Biennale 2015.

# Participating Artists

Azra Akšamija and MIT Future Heritage Lab  
(Austria – United States)



The "Abundance & Scarcity" project, originally presented at the Diriyah Biennale 2024, links environmental sustainability with cultural heritage into a cultural shelter on two scales: a social shelter in form of an outdoor shading canopy. The project embodies an artistic approach to addressing the extremes of desert climates while honouring the traditions of nomadic cultures, and contemporary nomads and refugees. The 70-meter-large outdoor canopy, situated in a public walkway in Mutrah, is crafted from recycled felt used as architectural upholstery of the previous Islamic Arts Biennale. The canopy's design, featuring laser-cut patterns, plays with light and shadow to create a dynamic visual effect reminiscent of Sadu weaving. For this presentation in Oman, local designs have been integrated into the textiles.

## Artist Bio

Azra Akšamija, Ph.D. is an Austrian artist and architectural historian born in Sarajevo, Bosnia, and based in Boston, US. She is an Associate Professor in the MIT Department of Architecture, Program in Art, Culture and Technology and the Aga Khan Program for Islamic Architecture, where she directs the Future Heritage Lab. Akšamija's artistic practice and academic research explore how social life is affected by cultural bias and by the destruction of cultural infrastructures within the context of conflict, migration, and forced displacement.

<https://www.futureheritagelab.com/>

## Ammar Alkiyumi (Oman)



Ammar Alkiyumi is an architect and artist whose work revolves around challenging the use of standards, styles and images in the creation of architecture. Ammar believes that built environment should be born as a result of a buildings and structures reaction to environmental, economical, structural and social context, and a reflection of the individual users. The sea-breakers, as found in Mutrah, provide a protection against storms and high waves, but also a distinctive architectural feature emblematic of Mutrah's identity.

### Artist Bio

Ammar Alkiyumi is an award winning architect and one of Oman's emerging artists who enjoys exploring themes related to the identity of places and people. Ammar's most prominent work is the designing Oman Pavilion for Expo 2025. His latest work revolves around the repetitiveness of the built environment, the artist searched for individuality and personality in the mundane surroundings.

Instagram:- [ammaralqme](#)



## Bashair Faqir (Oman)



### Childhood Home

When we were young, our favourite game was hide-and-seek & building a castle out of pillows, sheets, chairs, and every item the house contained, in order to hide from the adult world. But when we grew up, we no longer met except in a small gathering or outside the home. We missed the hiding that used to bring us closer to each other and increase the rate of our laughter, guffaws, and conversations.

### Artist Bio

Bashair Al- Balushi is an interior designer, furniture designer, photographer & artist born in Muscat in 1991. Interested in Omani folklore & art, as well as modern Omani architecture & the Renaissance in Oman. Graduated from Scientific College of Design in Muscat, her major is interior design. The owner & the manager of the department of innovation & design at Design Skills Studio.

Instagram:- [bashair\\_albalushi](https://www.instagram.com/bashair_albalushi)

## Clive Gracey (UK-Oman)



### Yesterday's Rooms

In a series of ten large images, Clive Gracey presents forgotten and abandoned interiors of houses in Mutrah and other locations in Oman. The images offer a glimpse into the lives of the people who inhabited these spaces, and evoke strong memories of different eras and a lost way of life.

### Artist Bio

Clive Gracey graduated in Fine Art from the University of Reading in the United Kingdom in 1984. He has lived in the Sultanate of Oman for more than thirty years, during which time he has devoted much effort to recording various elements of the country's rich architectural, cultural and environmental heritage. Clive is particularly interested in documenting the traditional vernacular adobe and stone architecture of Oman's villages, as well as the now-extinct folk artforms of the painted ceilings, interiors and carved and painted wooden doors. Clive is also interested in more conceptual approaches to photography, in particular infrared and full-spectrum photography. Clive has exhibited his work in Oman, the UK, and the USA.

<https://www.clivegracey.net/>



## Elina Brotherus (Finland)



Elina Brotherus is one of the most recognised contemporary artists from Scandinavia. Brotherus' art has been alternating between autobiographical and art historical approaches. Her early series on subjective experiences gave way to works dealing with the human figure and the landscape, the relation of the artist and the model. In her current practice she is revisiting Fluxus event scores and other written instructions for performance-oriented art of the 1950s-70s. Another recent theme is architecture: Brotherus photographs in private houses designed by important architects, taking roles of various imagined characters. Her tranquil presence breathes life into these iconic spaces of architectural heritage.

### Artist Bio

Elina Brotherus lives and works in Helsinki, Finland and Avallon, France. She has an MA degree in Photography from the University of Art and Design Helsinki (now Aalto University) and an MSc in Chemistry from the University of Helsinki. She has been awarded, among others, the Artist Professorship Grant of the Arts Promotion Centre Finland (2022-2026), Carte blanche PMU, France (2017), the Finnish State Prize for Photography (2008), and the Prix Niépce of Gens d'image (2005). Her works are in over 80 public collections including the Pompidou Centre, Paris, Louisiana Museum of Modern Art, Denmark, LACMA, Los Angeles, and Moderna Museet, Stockholm.

[www.elinabrotherus.com](http://www.elinabrotherus.com)

**Haitham Al Busafi**  
(Oman)



Haitham's creative inquiry lies at the nexus of generative art, design, and real-time interaction technologies—pushing boundaries to blur the line between physical and virtual. As the founder of Beyond, Saudi Arabia's leading virtual production company, he pioneers immersive experiences that merge storytelling, architecture, and digital innovation. Haitham also remains deeply connected to academia, nurturing the next generation of architects, encouraging them to dream beyond the visible and design for worlds yet to be discovered.

### **Artist Bio**

Haitham Al Busafi crafts experiences where the tangible and the digital intertwine, navigating the fluid space between architecture, art, and technology. With over 14 years of practice, his work transforms the way we perceive form and function. At the University of Applied Arts – Vienna, under the visionary guidance of Zaha Hadid, Kazuyo Sejima, and Hani Rashid, Haitham delved into spaces of simultaneity, advanced design methodologies, and virtual realities, shaping his philosophy of design as a seamless dialogue between realms.

[www.haiform.com](http://www.haiform.com)

## Huria Al Harassi (Oman)



Art has been a core part of Huria's life since childhood, shaping her perspective and creative approach. As an artist, she thrives on experimenting with different mediums and techniques, constantly exploring new ways to express her vision. For her, each new experience in art brings not only fresh skills but also a deeper connection to the feelings she wants to convey. Whether she is working on digital designs, traditional paintings, or mixed media, she believes in the power of experimentation to uncover unique and impactful results. Her work reflects a balance between creative spontaneity and thoughtful design, with each piece offering a new journey of discovery.

### Artist Bio

Huria is a graduate in Urban Planning and Architectural Design from the German University of Technology in Oman. Based in Muscat, she works as a freelance graphic designer and artist, blending her technical expertise with artistic expression to create compelling designs. Huria has participated in numerous local events and exhibitions, earning recognition for her artistic contributions. She was awarded Best Presentation at the Young Emerging Artist Prize 2022 held at Stal Gallery. Her work was featured in Muscat Art in both 2023 and 2024, and she achieved 4th place in the Golden Talent Competition, organized by Sayyid Khalid Al Busaidi. Additionally, she showcased her talents during the Art Marathon at Bandira.

**Isra Mahmood Al Balushi**  
(Oman)



Growing up in Muttrah, the city's development mirrored my own journey. My artwork for Raneen charts 30 years of urban growth, overlaid with memories of my childhood in the old city. Through a web of light, I reflect the human exchanges that define Muttrah, creating a fluid narrative that unfolds as viewers move through the piece. It's a homage to nostalgia, inviting those who left the city to reconnect with its essence and rediscover their own sense of belonging within the evolving landscape.

**Artist Bio**

Isra Mahmood Al Balushi is an award-winning Omani conceptual artist whose work has been showcased locally, across the GCC, and globally. With a background in Urban Planning and Architectural Design (2019), Isra explores the intersections of urbanism, culture, and human experience through multimedia art. Her practice goes beyond traditional forms, delving into the relationships between people and the spaces they inhabit, capturing the fluidity of these connections. By mapping urban development and cultural forces, she uncovers the hidden patterns that shape identities, creating art that reflects on the evolving dynamics of cities and the emotions tied to them.

John Meirion Rea  
(Wales, United Kingdom)



Renowned composer and sound artist John Rea has been commissioned to create a new site-specific sound & music work for *Raneen*. The work blends Rea's original composition with the sounds of Oman and archive recordings giving the work a 'sense of place'. At the heart of this cultural exchange will be a musical collaboration with Omani Oud player Amal Waqar. The immersive, multi-speaker outcome is a site-specific response to Luke Jerram's Museum of the Moon to be presented the *Bait AlKhonji* house in the centre of historic Mutrah.

### Artist Bio

John Rea is a composer and sound artist based in Cardiff, Wales. His work is deeply rooted in Welsh culture and landscape, and in cross-cultural connections and collaborations. His interest is in responding to place, community, and in exploring new interdisciplinary approaches. Since leaving Cardiff University with an M.Mus. in composition, under the guidance of Alun Hoddinott CBE, and an early stint as a session musician & arranger for Dave Stewart's Anxious Records in London, John has subsequently worked as a freelance composer for concert platform, theatre, and film, whilst also pursuing his own interests in sound installation, and sound-art.

<https://www.johnmeirionrea.com/>



## Khadija Al Maamari (Oman)



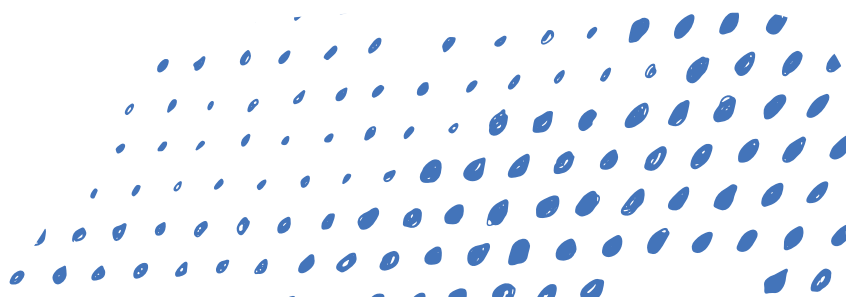
### Circles of Time

The artwork reflects the evolution of social relationships over time. In the past, society was a cohesive fabric, with interwoven circles representing the close-knit connections between individuals. Life was simple, and its daily rituals served as bridges linking families and neighbours, forming a strong social circle built on love and cooperation. As time passed and life evolved, these circles began to unravel and disintegrate. People became absorbed in their personal lives, drifting apart from one another, despite a deep yearning for a bygone era where human connection was more genuine and intimate.

### Artist Bio

Khadija Al Maamari is a visual artist based in Suhar, Oman, working across photography, video, painting, and installation. In her artistic practice, she incorporates personal life experiences, dreams, and nightmares, as well as cultural narratives. Her recent photographic works explored the symbolic role of fish in Gulf art and culture. Currently, she is working on a series that examines the idea of the artist as an element of their surroundings and how they influence each other.

Al Maamari holds both a BA and an MA in Fine Arts from Sultan Qaboos University in Muscat, Oman. She has participated in numerous exhibitions in Oman, including at Stal Gallery in Muscat, where she won the award for Best Use of Materials in the Stal Gallery Young and Emerging Artists Prize. She also achieved first place in the thematic section of the annual photography exhibition in 2019, where she showcased a collection of six conceptual still life photos. Additionally, she participated in the 2023 Saari Residency in Finland, supported by the Wapping Project and the Kone Foundation, as well as the "Tajalliyat Basaria 5" (Visual Manifestations 5) exhibition.





Laurenz Theinert

(Germany)



“My art is about freedom – freedom of meaning, opinion and messages. The works ask questions, they do not give answers, they are expressions of hunches and processes. Together they create a world within the world instead of showing an image and trigger – in the best case – amazement. The known is transformed, opening the space for the unspoken.”

In collaboration with Omani musicians, Laurenz Theinert will create *son et lumière* shows as part of the Raneen, activating the spaces of Muttrah.

### Artist Bio

Laurenz Theinert (born 1963) is a live light and media artist. His “visual piano” performances are shown all over the world. From Sao Paulo, London, Sydney, Berlin to New York and Singapore. He creates media light spaces with 360° panoramic projections. This creates abstract, live environments. The expansion of the projection into 360° allows him to expand the visual experience of the audience into three dimensions. The intensified visual experience is astonishing: The defining edges of the darkened space are replaced by big, moving structures of light and the viewer gets immersed in a totally new cosmos of moving lines and fields of colour. In order to interact spontaneously with other participating artists (musicians and dancers) he has invented the worldwide unique instrument “visual piano” in collaboration with Philipp Rahlenbeck. Live and in real time, he uses a MIDI keyboard to create graphic structures that are projected to fill the performance space.

[www.laurenztheinert.de](http://www.laurenztheinert.de)

## Luke Jerram/Museum of the Moon (UK)



Museum of the Moon is a touring artwork by UK artist Luke Jerram. Measuring seven metres in diameter, the moon features 120dpi detailed NASA imagery of the lunar surface. At an approximate scale of 1:500,000, each centimetre of the internally lit spherical sculpture represents 5km of the moon's surface. Over its lifetime, the Museum of the Moon has been presented around the world in a number of different ways both indoors and outdoors, so altering the experience and interpretation of the artwork. As it travels from place to place, it will gather new musical compositions and an ongoing collection of personal responses, stories and mythologies, as well as highlighting the latest moon science.

### Artist Bio

Luke Jerram's multidisciplinary practice involves the creation of sculptures, installations and live arts projects. Living in the UK but working internationally since 1997, Jerram has created a number of extraordinary art projects which have excited and inspired people around the world. In 2023 alone, he had over 115 exhibitions in 27 different countries, visited by more than 3 million people.

Museum of the Moon is one of Luke's most successful projects to catch the public's imagination, so far it has been presented in different ways, more than 300 times in 30 different countries. Experienced by more than 20 million people worldwide, the artwork has toured India with the British Council, been presented at the Commonwealth Games in Australia, Art Basel in Miami and exhibited in Aarhus, Denmark for the European Capital of Culture.

<https://my-moon.org/>



**Mahmood Al Zadjali**  
(Oman)



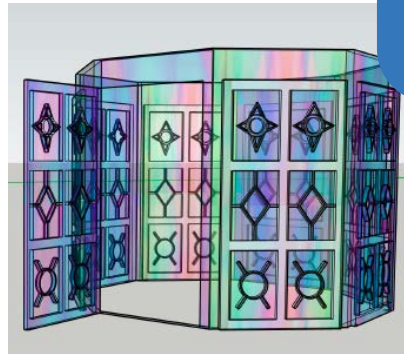
### Resounding Conversations

The artwork centres around the historical significance of payphones in Oman, specifically in Mutrah and Muscat. The project aims to capture personal narratives from a bygone era, where payphones served as a vital communicative tool, connecting people across distances. The artist has interviewed elders who experienced this time, documenting their stories and memories. Through these shared experiences, the work offers a nostalgic glimpse into Oman's past, inviting the audience on a temporal journey.

**Artist Bio:** Mahmood Al Zadjali is an award-winning Omani filmmaker, photographer, and conceptual artist with over a decade of experience in the media and production industry. His work explores themes of freedom, transformation, and cultural heritage, often reflecting on the stories of people and places that shape Oman's rich history.

A multi-award-winning filmmaker, Mahmood has been recognized for his innovative approach to storytelling. His film *"Oman binasaha"* took second place at the Oman YouTube Summit in 2019, and his short film *"Watan fi Tihi Watan"* earned second place in the Oman 2040 Vision Film Competition. His art has also been exhibited in prominent exhibitions locally and regionally, including collaborative showcases with Manarat Al Saadiyat in Abu Dhabi and international digital galleries like Khaleeji Art Museum.

**Marwa Al Bahrani**  
(Oman)



The art installation Shifting Hues of Time features acrylic glass paired with an iridescent sheet, creating a spectrum of colours that shift with the light and viewer's perspective. This represents a time free from judgment, allowing genuine connections to flourish and creating a joyful atmosphere that celebrates our uniqueness. Our individual experiences blend together, shaping who we are and who we aspire to be.


Viewed from above, the installation's octagonal shape symbolizes rebirth, renewal, and transition—a gateway to manifesting our cherished memories and embracing life with enthusiasm.

**Artist Bio**

Marwa Al Bahrani is a visual artist passionate about drawing and design since childhood. Her journey took off after discovering a package by SNASK studio. She earned her BFA in 2013 and MFA in 2019 from The Academy of Arts University. Co-founding "blancspace" with her sisters, she creates unique products like tote bags and sweatshirts. She also co-founded "Ananas Studio," focusing on multidisciplinary projects focusing in branding and graphics. Her expertise spans Strategic Identity & Brand Development, Art Direction, and Editorial Design. Marwa's works have been showcased in exhibitions like the Young Emerging Artist Prize (YEAP) 2022, and her installation 'And the Mountains Echoed' ( وتردد الجبال ) at Makan Gallery explores themes of family and identity. Through her art, she investigates the intersection of identity, memory, and place.

Instagram:- [marbelousb](https://www.instagram.com/marbelousb)





**Moath Alofi**  
(Saudi Arabia)



The Last Tashahhud documents remote and abundant modest sized mosques propped up along the road leading to the holy city of Al Madinah Al Munawerah. Alofi drove over 2000 kilometres to locate 99 edifices, turning into an account of fragmented stories of Saudi Arabia and Islamic culture. Certain mosques had been built by philanthropists for travellers and remote communities - that otherwise would have sat adjacent to petrol stations – as a means of attracting passers-by. While others are a land claim, a first foundation for future developments. Whatever their intention, the structures were effectively havens of prayer, gathering and respite. In Islamic tradition, if a place is built and dedicated for worship, it no longer belongs to the one who founded the construction. And so, before they stood vacant, these were intended as communal places, where the developer and traveller could seek shelter.

### **Artist Bio**

Born in Madina, Saudi Arabia in 1984, Moath Alofi is an artist, researcher, and explorer. Currently, he is Exhibitions and Programs Manager at Diriyah Gate Development Authority. Moath is also the Founder of artistic studio Al-Mthba, and the Co-Founder of Erth Team, a production group trained and specialized in safari trips, aerial photography, and travel documentation. After obtaining his BA in Environmental Management and Sustainable Development from Bond University in Gold Coast, Australia, Moath returned to his hometown of Madina, only to experience a culture shock towards his own community. Treating the holy city as both his studio and an open museum, Moath began a journey of photographic documentation since 2013. With a focus on cultural artifacts, heritage, and hidden treasures, Moath has since expanded to documenting and exploring the greater Madina Region, in both its barren and urbanised glories, and expresses interest in expanding his artistic explorations to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia as a whole. Throughout his artistic career, Moath has exhibited works in Jeddah, Riyadh, Dammam, Bahrain, Oman, London, Paris, Brussels, Moscow, New Mexico, Utah and Seoul.

[www.moathalofi.com](http://www.moathalofi.com)



## Radhika Khimji (Oman)



For RANEEN, Radhika Khimji has developed an interactive public artwork in the form of brightly coloured 'bleacher' boxes, a modular system that can be flexibly assembled in different configurations to provide seating and gathering places for visitors to play, be creative and enjoy the artwork and performances. Participants will be invited to modify the boxes by applying their own designs and embellishment, so the colours and patterns will evolve over the course of the event.

### Artist bio

Radhika Khimji (b.1979 Muscat, Oman) studied at the Slade School of Fine Art, the Royal Academy of Fine Arts and holds an MA in Art History from University College London. Recent solo exhibitions include *Cutting into space*, Experimenter, Mumbai, 2023, *Destined Imaginaries*, The National Pavilion of Oman at the 59<sup>th</sup> Venice Biennale, Venice, 2022, *A slight Adjustment* at Galerie Krinzinger, Vienna, 2022, *Adorning Shadows* at Experimenter, Kolkata, 2021, *Conversations on tomorrow*, Sadie Coles HQ, London, 2022, *On site*, Bikaner house, New Delhi, 2021, *Rupture* at Experimenter, Kolkata, 2020, and the 6th Marrakech Biennale, *Not New Now*, Marrakech, 2016.

<https://radhikakhimji.com/>



## Ruqaiya Mazar (Oman)



My art explores the unseen threads that bind time, place, and objects, revealing how culture and memory subtly shape our subconscious. Each piece acts as a portal, inviting viewers to reconnect with forgotten moments and emotions. By exploring these connections, my work aims to evoke a sense of rediscovery, where personal and collective histories intermingle, guiding us to experience the world anew. Objects are more than physical entities; they are vessels of stories and experiences, resonating with the silent echoes of the past. Time weaves its threads through these objects, embedding them with significance and meaning that transcend the immediate and the visible.

### Artist Bio

Ruqaiya Mazar is a multidisciplinary Omani artist. Born in 1991 in Muscat, she received a BA in Digital Design from Nizwa College in 2015. Following her graduation, she was shortlisted for Young Emerging Artist Prize (YEAP) at Stal Gallery, Muscat, where she exhibited her first works that dealt with questions of striving for personal freedom. The Reflections, 2016, an installation of nine hand-made flip books, the installation and a series of scanographic images The Mare, 2018, and a portrait video installation When they see me (why? why not). In 2019, she was commissioned by The Wapping Project, London, to produce a new body of work for a touring exhibition Resonance. In 2023, she was supported by The Wapping Project, UK, and the Kone Foundation, Finland, to attend an art workshop in Saari Residence, Mynämäki, Finland. Her works have been shown at Stal Gallery, Muscat, The Gallery, R House in Saudi Arabia, Al Markhiya Gallery in Qatar and Greece. In addition to her artistic practice, Ruqaiya Mazar works as an art director.

Instagram:- [ruqaiyamazar](https://www.instagram.com/ruqaiyamazar)

**Seif Kousmate  
(Morocco)**



The series "WAHA واحة" is a four-year research project about the complex relationship between people and their environment. Through this photographic series, the artist wanted to explore and experiment with new processes and visual narratives to extend the metaphor of degradation within the oasis. It is a work that tells the story of oases' present-day ecological, economic, and social reality.

**Artist Bio**

Seif Kousmate (1988) is a visual artist born in Essaouira and living in Tangier, Morocco. In 2014, he left his civil engineering career and bought his first camera at 26. As a self-taught artist, he began his journey into photography by exploring documentary photography. His lens was focused on capturing the various manifestations of marginalisation in Africa. In Morocco, Seif's work revolved around Boujloud celebrations and documented the lives in the Atlas Mountains facing climate change. He is currently working on his series "Waha واحة" and his first monograph, a four-year essay on the oases and the changes they are facing.

<https://www.seifkousmate.com/>

## HH Sayyida Tania al Said (Oman) – Unity in Diversity Mural



The mural *Unity in Diversity* shows the diverse cultural heritage of our Omani community, celebrating the shared histories that have shaped our collective identity. The mural will serve as a visual representation of Oman's commitment to tolerance, coexistence, and the embracing of diversity within the broader Muslim world. Situated in Mutrah, this mural will serve as a testament to the unity within diversity that characterises, Muscat/ Oman positioned near the port that served as part of the various trading routes. The objective is to demonstrate Oman's diverse population that has 'always' lived in harmony. Following the recent event of 15/16 July 2024, the importance of unity within a culturally and religiously diverse population is unique and a quality to be cherished . To visually represent a diverse group praying to one God in their individual ways yet together in one mosque is something to be celebrated. Through this mural we hope to engage viewers in a way that everyone can see themselves in the artwork and be able to feel proud and appreciative that they are in a country that is so accepting of all and that everyone can feel they belong to. Beyond its immediate visual impact, this mural is intended to be a lasting landmark, fostering a deeper appreciation of a shared heritage.

### About HH Sayyida Tania al Said

HH Sayyida Tania al Said has been a champion for environmental and humanitarian causes since a very young age. She grew up in a household that was committed to the environment as her father served as the Minister of Environment from 1984-94. Until 2023, she served as President of the Environment Society of Oman having been in that position since its inception in 2004. Oman Woman of the Year 2020, in 2022 she received the Mother Teresa Memorial Award for Social Justice 2021 on the theme of Environmental Sustainability.

Tariq AlHajri  
(Oman)

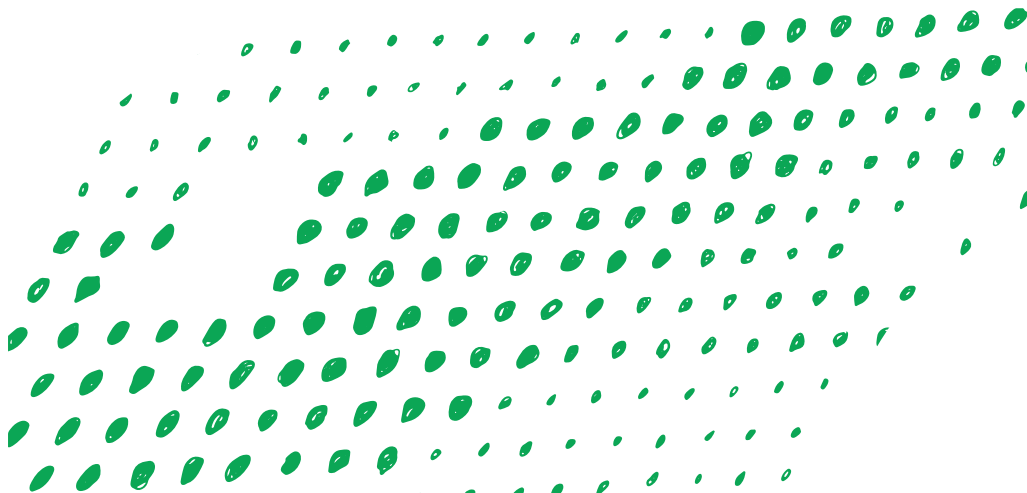


### Summer Retreat (2024)

Summer Retreat is a motion film shot on 8mm colour film, inspired by the artist's childhood summers in Sur. It portrays the ten cleansing rituals through abstract, rhythmic scenes, reflecting traditions once performed by loved ones at the start of each summer. These rituals, now fading, are reimagined to preserve and revive their essence. Using the aesthetics of Sergei Parajanov's *The Colour of Pomegranates* (1969), the film blends memory, colour and abstraction, displayed on a retro television screen, inviting viewers to reconnect with a sense of nostalgia and community.

### Artist Bio

Tariq AlHajri (1995) is an Omani conceptual visual artist, born in Sur and based in Muscat. His work spans still film, motion film and various visual experiments that reimagine cultural elements from his past and present, blending analogue warmth with early digital aesthetics. Inspired by his memories and the essence of Omani culture, he explores themes of connection, nostalgia, identity and cultural preservation.





## Makan Studios (Oman)



Makan Studios in Muscat is a prominent artist-run gallery and creative space that plays a pivotal role in the city's contemporary art scene. It is known for its dedication to fostering creativity, collaboration and cultural exchange. Located in an accessible part of Muscat, Makan Studios serves as a vibrant hub for artists, creatives, and art enthusiasts alike.

Makan Studios is not only about displaying finished works but also about the creative process itself, offering a peek into the artistic journey through open studios and in-progress exhibitions. Workshops and events are a core part of Makan Studios' offerings, with sessions that range from painting, drawing, and printmaking to digital media, photography, and crafts. These activities are designed to be accessible to all skill levels, encouraging both amateurs and professionals to engage with art.

The space often hosts cultural events, artist talks, film screenings, and collaborative projects, making it a dynamic gathering place for the Muscat art community.

Overall, Makan Studios is a cornerstone of Muscat's contemporary art landscape, providing a platform for experimentation, dialogue, and creative growth, while enriching the local art scene.

<https://makanstudios.com/>