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PRESS RELEASE

Lawrie Shabibi at Art Basel Hong Kong 2024

Shaikha Al Mazrou | Booth 3D27 | *Insights*

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Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre

Lawrie Shabibi is pleased to return to the 2024 edition of Art Basel Hong Kong with a solo presentation of works by Emirati artist Shaikha Al Mazrou. The presentation develops the forms and language of her practice, extending her investigations into materiality, tension and the interplay between structure and content.

Considered to be among the most dynamic and promising Arab artists of her generation, Al Mazrou's sculptural experimentations and investigations are expressions of materiality—articulations of tension and the interplay between form and content as well as an intuitive, keenly felt understanding of materials and their physical properties. Throughout her practice she combines and evolves ideas from contemporary artistic movements similarly preoccupied with formal and material elements, from colour theory to geometric abstraction.

For Art Basel Hong Kong the artist has developed experimentations first presented in her gallery show 'Dwelling in the Gap' (14 November 2022 – 5 January 2023). In this series the artist continues to reflect on the supple and fine properties of paper, folding and creasing them into various shapes and forms. These coloured delicate prototypes are then transmuted into larger scale stainless-steel sculptures that are wet coated in vivid colours. The sculptures are all physically produced by the artist in manufacturing workshops throughout the industrial zones of the United Arab Emirates. In these unassuming places, shapes from stainless steel are cut, welded, folded and inflated—a process that entails a combination of chance encounter and precision by the artist. The flat and rounded surfaces, and rising and descending folds, resemble giant displays of origami. Betraying the function and fixed property of the material, their vibrant colours and forms lend them an element of playfulness and surprise.

Al Mazrou's art practice draws heavily from the history of art, particularly minimalism and conceptual art, while also being influenced by artists like Paul Klee, Carle Andre, and Wassily Kandinsky from the Modernist and Bauhaus Movements. She utilises minimalism's formal aspects to explore contemporary

interests in materiality, blending ideas from various artistic movements such as colour theory and geometric abstraction.

ABOUT THE ARTIST

Shaikha Al Mazrou (b. 1988, UAE) received her MFA in 2014 at the Chelsea College of Fine Art, University of the Arts, London where she was awarded the prestigious MFA Student Prize. Prior to that she studied at the College of Fine Arts and Design, University of Sharjah where she later was a sculpture lecturer. Currently she is a Visiting Assistant Professor at NYU Abu Dhabi.

Al Mazrou's large-scale installations and sculptures form a natural and important extension to her studio practice, and she has been the beneficiary of a number of public art commissions. In October 2022, Al Mazrou's *Red Stack* (2022) - the largest single work by the artist to date - was presented at Frieze Sculpture 2022 in Regents Park, London. The public art exhibition curated by Clare Lilley, ran alongside Frieze London and Frieze Masters. Her permanent public artworks include *Union of Artists*, a collaborative project commissioned by Dubai Culture and Art Dubai under the Dubai Public Art Initiative (2024), *The Plinth* (2021) commissioned for Expo 2020 Dubai's Public Art Programme, curated by Tarek Abou El Fetouh and *Green House: Interior yet Exterior, Manmade yet Natural* (2018) commissioned by Jameel Arts Centre, Dubai.

Recent solo exhibitions include *Dwelling in the Gap*, Lawrie Shabibi, Dubai, 2022; Art Dubai with Lawrie Shabibi, Dubai, 2021; *Rearranging the Riddle*, Maraya Art Centre Sharjah, Sharjah, 2020; *Expansion/Extension*, Lawrie Shabibi, Dubai, 2019; Solo Projects, Abu Dhabi Art with Lawrie Shabibi, Dubai, 2018.

She has participated in a number of group exhibitions including: Art Dubai with Lawrie Shabibi, Dubai (2024); Art Dubai with Lawrie Shabibi, Dubai (2023); *ICON. ICONIC.*, Art Here 2022 Richard Mille Art Prize, Louvre Abu Dhabi (2022), Art Dubai, with Lawrie Shabibi, Dubai (2022); *Desert X AIUla* (2022); *Blue*, Lawrie Shabibi, Dubai (2020), Paulo Cunha e Silva Art Prize Finalist Exhibition, Galeria Municipal do Porto, Porto (2020), *Upsurge: Waves, Colour And Illusion*, Lawrie Shabibi, Dubai (2020), *MATERIALIZE*, Lawrie Shabibi, Dubai (2019), Artissima, Dialogue section, with Lawrie Shabibi, Torino (2018), *From Barcelona to Abu Dhabi: Works from the MACBA Art Collection in Dialogue with the Emirates*, organised by ADMAF, Manarat Al Saadiyat, Abu Dhabi (2018), *Beyond: Emerging Artists*, Abu Dhabi Art (2017), *Art of Nature*, Abu Dhabi Festival, Umm Al Emarat Park, Abu Dhabi (2017), *Homage Without An Homage*, curated by Cristiana De Marchi, Art Dubai, Julius Baer Lounge, Dubai (2017), Faculty Show, Al Rewaq Gallery, College of Fine Art, University of Sharjah, Sharjah (2017), Abu Dhabi Art, with Lawrie Shabibi, Abu Dhabi (2016), *Past Forward: Contemporary Art from the Emirates*, Bolivar Art Gallery, University of Kentucky, Lexington, KY, USA (2016).

Her works have been acquired by significant international collections, including RMZ Foundation, India; The Pizzuti Collection of the Columbus Museum of Art, USA; Art Jameel Collection, UAE; The Farjam Foundation, UAE; The Dubai Collection, UAE; The Royal Commission for AlUla, Saudi Arabia; EXPO Dubai Collection, UAE; Ellie Khouri Collection, UAE; Salama Bint Hamdan Al Nahyan Foundation, UAE; and Cleveland Clinic, UAE.

She is a winner of the Paulo Cunha e Silva Art Prize (2020) and was shortlisted for the Louvre Abu Dhabi Richard Mille Art Prize.

Al Mazrou currently lives and works in Dubai and Abu Dhabi.

ABOUT THE GALLERY

Lawrie Shabibi is a contemporary art gallery housed in Dubai's Alserkal Avenue. The gallery supports the long-term development of the careers of young international contemporary artists with a focus on those from the Middle East and North Africa. The gallery also organises art historical exhibitions working with an older generation of artists from the region. Liaising with curators, institutions, museums and collectors the gallery has successfully introduced international artists to the region whilst at the same time presenting Middle Eastern artists to the international contemporary art community. By holding a regular programme of exhibitions, screenings and talks, publishing catalogues and participating in international art fairs, Lawrie Shabibi has been a forerunner in the development of the contemporary art scene in Dubai.

For more information on Lawrie Shabibi please visit:

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