



PRESS RELEASE

Lawrie Shabibi at Frieze Abu Dhabi
Booth D9 | Hall D
19–22, November 2026
Manarat Al Saadiyat, Abu Dhabi, UAE

For the inaugural edition of **Frieze Abu Dhabi**, Lawrie Shabibi presents an all-female booth featuring works by **Hamra Abbas** (b. 1976, Pakistani), **Shaikha Al Mazrou** (b. 1988, Emirati) and **Mandy El-Sayegh** (b. 1985, Malaysian-British). Bringing together three distinct approaches to material, abstraction and perception, the presentation considers how artists draw on historical languages and visual systems to examine the ways we construct, experience and interpret the world around us.

At the centre of the presentation is a shared engagement with material transformation. Abbas's constructed marble inlays draw on the ornamental traditions of Mughal architecture, translating botanical forms and imagined landscapes into intricate stone compositions. Al Mazrou manipulates painted steel through folding, bending and compression, producing sculptures whose apparent lightness belies the weight and industrial nature of their material. El-Sayegh's *Net-Grid (missing eye)* (2023) approaches the question of perception through a layered visual language in which painted grids, structure and obscure fragments of imagery and information. Bringing together sculptural installation and paintings, the presentation considers how established visual languages can be revisited and disrupted.

Abbas's practice centres on *pietra dura*, a centuries-old technique involving the precise cutting and assembly of coloured stones into intricate compositions. Repositioning this historically decorative practice within a contemporary framework, she explores landscape, memory, ecology and cultural exchange.

Al Mazrou's practice reflects 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. In these unassuming places, shapes from stainless steel are cut, welded, folded and inflated. 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.

Mandy El-Sayegh works across diverse media to examine how social, cultural and political orders are formed and deconstructed in the contemporary world. In her large-scale paintings, she collages disparate fragments of information together, interrogating how meaning emerges through the relationship between different source

materials. In *Net-Grid (missing eye)* the “missing eye” becomes a metaphor for incomplete perception, damaged vision and the ways political violence, media and personal memory shape what can and cannot be seen. The fragmented body and obscured image reflect El-Sayegh’s broader interest in how information is layered, reconstructed and given meaning through shifting contexts.

Together, Abbas, Al Mazrou and El-Sayegh offer three distinct approaches to the relationship between material, structure and perception. Moving between ornament and geometry, craft and industrial production, visibility and concealment, their works demonstrate how inherited visual languages can be transformed to question how history, information and experience are seen and understood in the present.

MOHAMED AHMED IBRAHIM AT FRIEZE SCULPTURE ABU DHABI

Previously exhibited at Frieze Sculpture London in 2024, Mohamed Ahmed Ibrahim’s *The Form* (2024) is presented in Abu Dhabi for the first time at Mamsha Beach from 16 November to 16 December. Inspired by Khorfakkan’s landscape, the sculpture evokes ancient cave art and reflects Ibrahim’s enduring interest in nature, archaeology and cultural memory.

OMAR AL GURG

At Frieze Abu Dhabi, Omar Al Gurg presents a curated installation in the Deutsche Bank Lounge, supported by Deutsche Bank, Global Lead Partner of Frieze for 23 years. Through photography, Al Gurg explores overlooked narratives, subtle ecological changes and the often-unnoticed details of the environments around us.

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: www.lawrieshabibi.com

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