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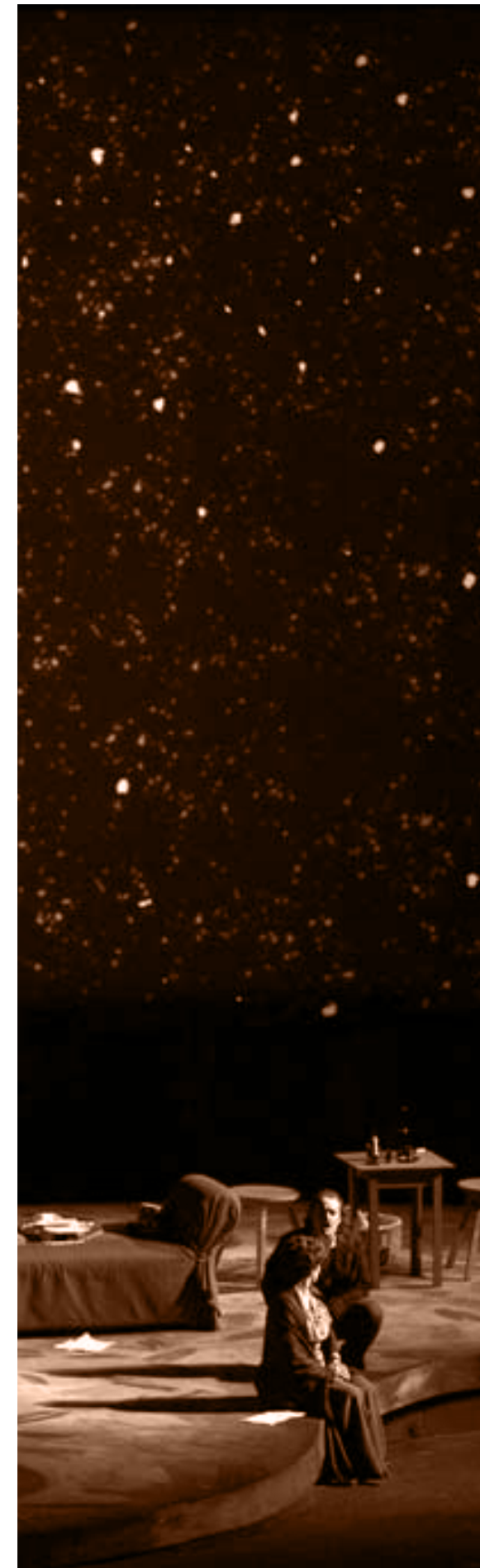
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EDITOR'S WORD

From the editor

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CULTURE is published 12 times a year by

turret MIDDLE EAST

Exhibitions • Conferences • Media

Printed by:

EMIRATES PRINTING PRESS (U.A.E.)

Media Licence number: 1/106185/20992

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Letters and readers' contributions may be edited at our discretion.

Seiji Ozawa concert cancelled

Abu Dhabi Authority for Culture and Heritage (ADACH) has announced the cancellation of the concert by Japanese conductor Seiji Ozawa. The conducting has to undergo cancer surgery, and our thoughts go with him. Purchased tickets for the event –planned for 2 March at Emirates Palace as part of the Abu Dhabi Classics season – will be refunded.



Haft-Sin Zazen: art from fragments

Abu Dhabi-based Iranian-American artist Naz Shahrokh presents unusual content concerned with the natural environment as seen through the lens of different media and frameworks, while reworking detritus, as most of her materials at one time or other were to be discarded!

The work in this exhibition will consist of several site-specific installations, including Spice Wall, where a room will be transformed into a rainbow coloured box, with walls covered from floor to ceiling in a grid format and filled with spices collected in this region.

Another installation, Haft-Sin Zazen, is a meditative study of Zen gardens in conjunction to the Zoroastrian sofreh to celebrate the Persian New Year. Also included in the exhibition is an investigation and study of the Emirati landscape painted on sage maple leaves.

The exhibition is runs from 25 April till 5 May at Ghaf Gallery.

Michoacán Artists Cooperative



In celebration of their one-year anniversary, Acento Gallery is showcasing a stunning collection of 'art that you can use'.

The functional artwork is all handmade exclusively by Michoacán Artists Cooperative, a group of expert woodworkers and artists from the Mexican state of Michoacán who use techniques and styles that predate the Spanish introduction of decoration in the 16th century.

Each piece is original and has been stunningly created with outstanding detail. The artwork will include armoires, storage boxes, furniture, masks, columns, trunks, trays, and toys; the completion of each piece takes between one and a half months to two months.

It begins by firing, carving and sealing the wood, before a base pain is applied in dark or light tone. Once dried, it is hand drawn and painted on, then moves to the process of poly-acrylic lacquering and in some occasions it is antiquated. The piece gets coated by two or three layers of another lacquer and is sanded by water for sealing, before the final stage of hand polishing. Although some of them will have similar motif or designs, no two pieces are the same. Each piece can also be custom made according to a photographic image.

Gnosis unfolds in Abu Dhabi

Akram Khan's latest dance masterpiece Gnosis has arrived in Abu Dhabi. The award-winning choreographer of contemporary dance has stunned crowds worldwide with his vitality and ability to break boundaries between tradition and originality.

In his latest solo work, Gnosis, inspired by the Mahabharata story of queen Gandari who is known to have blindfolded herself for life to follow her blind husband, Akram Khan begins the show in a classical set up before transforming mid way to deconstruct the formal presentation and turn it into an informal situation.

This story of movements is bound to fascinate everyone who watches it. The show will take place on 4 March at the Abu Dhabi Theatre near the Breakwater.



Winner of the Arabic Fiction Prize 2010 announced

"Spewing Sparks As Big As Castles" by Abdo Khal has been awarded the prestigious Arabic fiction prize on the first day of the Abu Dhabi International Book Fair 2010.

Supported by the UK's Booker Prize Foundation and funded by the Emirates Foundation, the International Prize for Arabic Fiction (IPAF) aims to recognise and reward excellence in contemporary Arabic creative writing and encourage wider readership internationally through translation.

For the 2010 prize, the judges read and discussed a total of 113 Arabic novels from 17 countries. Six titles were shortlisted, and each received \$10,000.

The winner, Abdo Khal, received an additional \$50,000. His extremely satiric novel illustrates the destructive impact that power and unlimited wealth has on life and the environment. It reveals the seductive powers within a palace and tells a story of those who have been enslaved by its promise of glamour. The narration expresses the inner and hidden world of that palace and of those who chose to become its puppets, from whom it has stolen everything.

The chair of judges included Taleb Alrefai, the renowned Kuwaiti writer; Raja' Ben Salamah, Tunisian Lecturer at the Faculty of Letters, Arts and Humanities at Manouba University; Frederic LaGrange, French Academic, translator and Head of the Arabic and Hebraic Department at the Paris-Sorbonne; and Omani writer and poet Saif al-Rahbi.



The Million Poet Show enters its final phase



Who will win? Thousands of viewers around the Middle East and beyond are eagerly waiting to hear the name of the winner of the Million Poet Show. He or she will leave with a grand total of AED 5 million.

Currently the largest Arabic poetry competition in the region, the four-year old Million Poet Show is an attempt to preserve the ancient literature form of Nabati poetry, an essential part of authentic Bedouin heritage and Arabic dialect.

Launched in 2006, the live show which is broadcasted every Wednesday evening on Abu AED abi TV from Al Raha Beach Theatre has become the most successful of its kind. It runs over 15 weeks. Supported by Abu AED abi Authority for Culture and Heritage and recorded at Al Raha Beach Theatre, the show consists of three top experts in Nabati Poetry forming the jury panel: Dr Ghassan Al Hasa, Sultan Al Amimi and Hamad Al Saeed. The most exciting part is that along with the judges, the audience

largely contributes to the number votes, selecting the best Nabati poet amongst 48 contestants.

But what classifies the "best"? In this poetry of the desert, several factors are taken into consideration. Figures of speech, metaphors and rhythm are all crucial; so is the topic of the poem, which can touch the hearts of the audience by expressing common feelings or social issues to which most people can relate.

But that alone is not enough – the judges are seeking more challenging aspects. The panel of experts looks toward the style of narration, the complexity and combination of the poetic virtues, as well as the level of spontaneity. The latter in particular is significant as it is one of the main characteristics of Nabati poetry, which reflects a natural, unforced form of expression, almost equivalent to conversational speech that reveals what occupies one's mind.

Nabati is one of the oldest forms of Arabic poetry, dating back to the 16th century and the pre-Islamic age of the

Arabian Peninsula. Historical events from this era were mostly recorded through Nabati poems, and passing on from one generation to the other, they became the only source of information to what happened in those days. Nabati poetry typically addressed subjects such as chivalry, proverbs, satire, communal pride and exaltation, description (especially nature), advice and wisdom, social commentary, riddles, pastiche, epics and eulogy.

Unlike Classical Arabic poetry, Nabati poetry comes out in a rush, without consideration, and is a stronger reflection to a person's artistic flair and ability to create on the spot. In the Western world, the most comparable would be "freestyling", a form of creating rap lyrics, with little or no background music and relying solely on whatever comes to mind.

Today, however, the strong Bedouin dialect of Nabati has been removed from classical Arabic. As a rich form of literature representing the roots of the Gulf's inhabitants, preserving Nabati has become crucial.

Talents from all over the region appeared with the commencement of the show's fourth season. Contestants came from a dozen Arab countries: UAE, Kuwait, Qatar, Oman, Bahrain, Saudi Arabia, Jordan, Tunisia and Sudan, Iraq, Syria and Yemen.

In the previous, second phase, poets were required to deliver a free rhyme of 15 verses, before proving that they possess the skills to build up a poem which must keep up with famous poems in rhyme and content (a technique known in Arabic poetry as "Mujarah"). As the second phase ended, competitors So'ud Al-Awaji, Muhammad Bin Artyan, and Nayef Bin Arweel were excluded – and with the departure of Abdullah Al-Jabri, no Emirati poets were left, leaving the court to poets from Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and Qatar.

Having made it through the first two phases, contestants are now facing the toughest of all: the third and final phase. Only five contestants will compete: Falah Al-Muwarqi and Sultan Al-Asemar from Kuwait,

Mohamed Al-Saeed and Hessa Helal from Saudi Arabia, and Ali Al-Gayatheen from Qatar.

The stakes are high. The winner receives the grand prize of AED 5 million. Second place is worth AED 4 million, the third gets AED 3 million, the fourth AED 2 million and the fifth wins AED 1 million.

If it weren't for the Million Poet Show, who knows what would have happened to Nabati poetry? It might have remained within closed books, or within unacknowledged talents, essentially fading away from our culture and education. Thus the revival of the beautiful art of Nabati poetry, and the comeback of Nabati poets, can both be attributed to the Millions Poet Show.

It is a relief that millions are now acquainted with our ancestors' way of expressing themselves and narrating their lives. Perhaps one way of expressing gratitude is by becoming involved and voting for who we think deserves to be the Million Poet! □





The return of WOMAD

The action-packed WOMAD is back to entertain us through the early-summer nights in Abu Dhabi – and this year in Al Ain too.

WOMAD, which stands for World of Music, Arts and Dance, is an international festival that has been bringing together artists from all over the globe since 1982. Unlike other music festivals, the audience at WOMAD gets to meet the artists and learn about their music, and children can participate in dozens of workshop and activities in visual and performing arts.

Hosted by Abu Dhabi Authority for Culture & Heritage (ADACH), this year's festival will feature Taste the World as well as more than 35 artists from over 15 countries.

“ADACH is proud to present WOMAD Abu Dhabi as an annual event after the huge success of the festival last year” commented Mohammed Khalaf Al-Mazrouei, Director General of ADACH. “This glorious global festival celebrating the spirit of world music is another event that implements ADACH’s strategic plan to make Abu Dhabi the cultural centre of the

region by reinforcing the message of multicultural understanding.”

The internationally-renowned WOMAD Festival came to Abu Dhabi for the first time last year. Considered a huge success, the event saw over 80,000 people gather on the Corniche to enjoy the thrilling atmosphere of the festival and diverse musical offerings.

This year, the gathering of international performers on numerous stages in Abu Dhabi and Al Ain will be expanded and enhanced.

During the free festival, spread over multiple stages, WOMAD-goers

will see performers from countries including the UAE, UK, Cuba, India, Palestine, Tanzania and many more. WOMAD Abu Dhabi’s far-ranging and musically adventurous selection of performers will have something for everyone’s tastes. One particular style – always popular – will be the drum-based groups, igniting the rhythm!

In addition to the imaginative line-up of performers – many of whom are stars in their homelands – WOMAD Abu Dhabi is offering family-orientated workshops featuring music, dance and visual art brought by the programme

WOMAD Beyond.

Also part of WOMAD is the “Desert Cultures” tent, in Al Jahili Fort in Al Ain. This highlights the heritage of the Arabic host emirate, presenting Abu Dhabi’s traditional hospitality and cultural richness to a world audience.

WOMAD Abu Dhabi 2010 will offer a stunning array of artists and colourful cultural fusion. The three-day open air world music festival will take place on Abu Dhabi Corniche on 22-24 April and at Al Jahili Fort in Al Ain on 22 and 23 April. □



LATEST NEWS

Dominican Republic: the joy of independence



On the occasion of the 166th Anniversary of Independence, the embassy of the Dominican Republic in coordination with the Abu Dhabi Music & Arts Foundation, has announced the opening of “Colours of the Dominican Republic 2010”. In commemoration of this significant day, an exhibition showcasing selected paintings and photographs will continue until 14 March, opening daily from 8pm at Ghaf Gallery.

A Cultural Perspective

This polychromatic exhibition will see Peruvian artist Cynthia Capriata present eclectic visual reflections that address a variety of cultural perspectives through popular symbols, shared rituals, and artistic traditions that cross imaginary, social, or historical borders reflective of different times, places and ethnicities. In visual terms, this means that alongside brightly coloured artwork related to a popular Latin American tradition of offerings called ex-votos (usually made in silver), one can find artwork that draws attention to the Middle Eastern influence in Spain carried over to the Americas. The exhibition is open from 25 April to 5 May at Ghaf Gallery.



Arab urban insights: reflecting on the Disorientation II



If Disorientation was a man, he would be exuding non-conformism, realism and to some, maybe pessimism.

Unlike other exhibitions that shed light on the greener side of things, with pleasing inspirational artwork, Disorientation has taken an independent path and chooses not to stop and wonder what will people think, but to present the reality as it is. An exhibition that can be classified as an artistic movement, it boldly addresses extremely sensitive historical and political issues that have become neglected over the decades.

Disorientation II: The Rise and Fall of Arab Cities was the first exhibition to be held at Abu Dhabi's new cultural venue, Manarat Al Saadiyat, where it showed for nearly four months. The curator of the exhibition was Jack Persekian, Sharjah Biennial's Artistic Director.

The artists in Disorientation convey sad truths and hypocrisies that lie within Arab nations by using the art of silence – through thought-provoking

objects that overflow with meanings and messages. Images, sketchbooks, drawings, and monument replications take us through a startling journey, commencing with the utopian period of the sixties and seventies marked by the optimistic views of former Egyptian president Jamal Abdel-Nasser, whose era had promised unachieved hopes of unity between Arab nations.

In the first edition of Disorientation, held in 2003 at Berlin's House of World Culture, contemporary artists from the Middle East portray the Arab dissatisfaction through elaborate visuals. In Disorientation II, the focus extends to define two significant eras of the Arab world.

This begins with Hala Elkoussy's "On red nails, palm trees and other icons", a collection displayed within an intimate room brimming with hundreds of images, video screens, side lamps, and chairs, all reminiscent of a period dating to half a century ago.

One cannot help the rush of

nostalgia, reminding us of a time when there was a hope for salvation from occupation and western domination. On one side of the room, newspaper clippings hang, showing Che Guevara posing for a picture with farmers. The artist points to a time when such legendary figures would visit the villagers and farmers in Egypt, not only the city of Cairo as the case is today.

Moving from an insider's view of Cairo to an outsider's perspective, we meet the disoriented works of Ali Jabri. The Jordanian homosexual artist was infamously murdered in 2002 at his hometown apartment by a killer who was never identified (although the main suspect remains his Egyptian lover).

Jabri's philosophical work is based on values of unity and selflessness. He is also known for his anthropologist views displayed in the sketches and drawings of Cairo's harsh streets, which he had called City Kitsch. In the eighties, however, Jabri's work witnessed a major shift. Driven by

shock and disappointment over the series of wars in the eighties and two-facedness of leaders, his collages from this period illustrate the disjointed lives and agonies of the time.

The end of this era comes with Wael Shwaky's Telematch Sadat. This piece is based on the famous German television competition "Telematch", broadcasted in the seventies and eighties, which had teams from different German towns play games in costumes.

In Telematch Sadat, village children re-enact Anwar Al Sadat's 1981 assassination, a point that symbolized the end of a period that defined Egypt as a leading force in the Arab world. Two years prior to that, Egypt had been suspended from the League of Arab States when Anwar Al Sadat signed the Camp David Peace Accords with Israel. More importantly, the following decades saw more wars, losses, displacement, bloodshed and instability than ever before. From the Iran-Iraq war and Lebanon's invasion by Israel, to the Sabra and Shatila massacres, Arab nations were being torn apart and thousands of innocent lives were being lost.

Monument replicas largely contribute to the portrayal of this chaotic division. Marwan Rechmaoui's Beirut Caoutchouc is a map made of thick, flattened rubber etched to divide 60 pieces, not to merely delineate different neighbourhoods of Beirut, but to penetrate into the history of the socio-political and economic causes of shifting through this complex urban cartography.

Rechmaoui's second work is portrayed in a three-dimensional human-sized model of Burj Al Murr, a skyscraper that still stands today. The tower, initially built for commercial

purposes, was used by militia factions during the civil war in Lebanon as a sniper's nest, a prison and a place for captured hostages.

Too high to knock down and too dense to implode, Burj Al Murr today is left neglected and unused. The monument has been called "the tower of death" and is living reminder of and witness to the tragic events that occurred in Lebanon.

The story of Sabra and Shatila camps is represented through Monika Borgmann's film Massaker – a personal initiative which led to the recording of narrated confessions from six people who participated in the massacre in these refugee camps.

Toy-cars make up Yto Barrada's satiric model Gran Royal Turismo. In a shabby Moroccan town three black Mercedes cars obviously carrying diplomats pass along the track; as they do, dirty buildings magically turn into pristine, palm trees suddenly pop out, and the sidewalks flip to reveal fresh paint and clean surfaces dotted with flags.

This instant cleanup disguises the appalling living conditions that some authorities use when the only country's leader, the one person with the power to effect change, visits a poor area of the town.

Other bold pieces have reflected on similar issues and gaps within the Arab world, but there is one notion that Disorientation II seems to follow – the repetition of familiar failings, wasted opportunities and aggressive power struggles that leave behind bitter and divided societies. It is yet for us to witness an end to this era, which is currently intoxicated by injustices and discrimination, hopefully be replaced with higher morals, ethics and value. □

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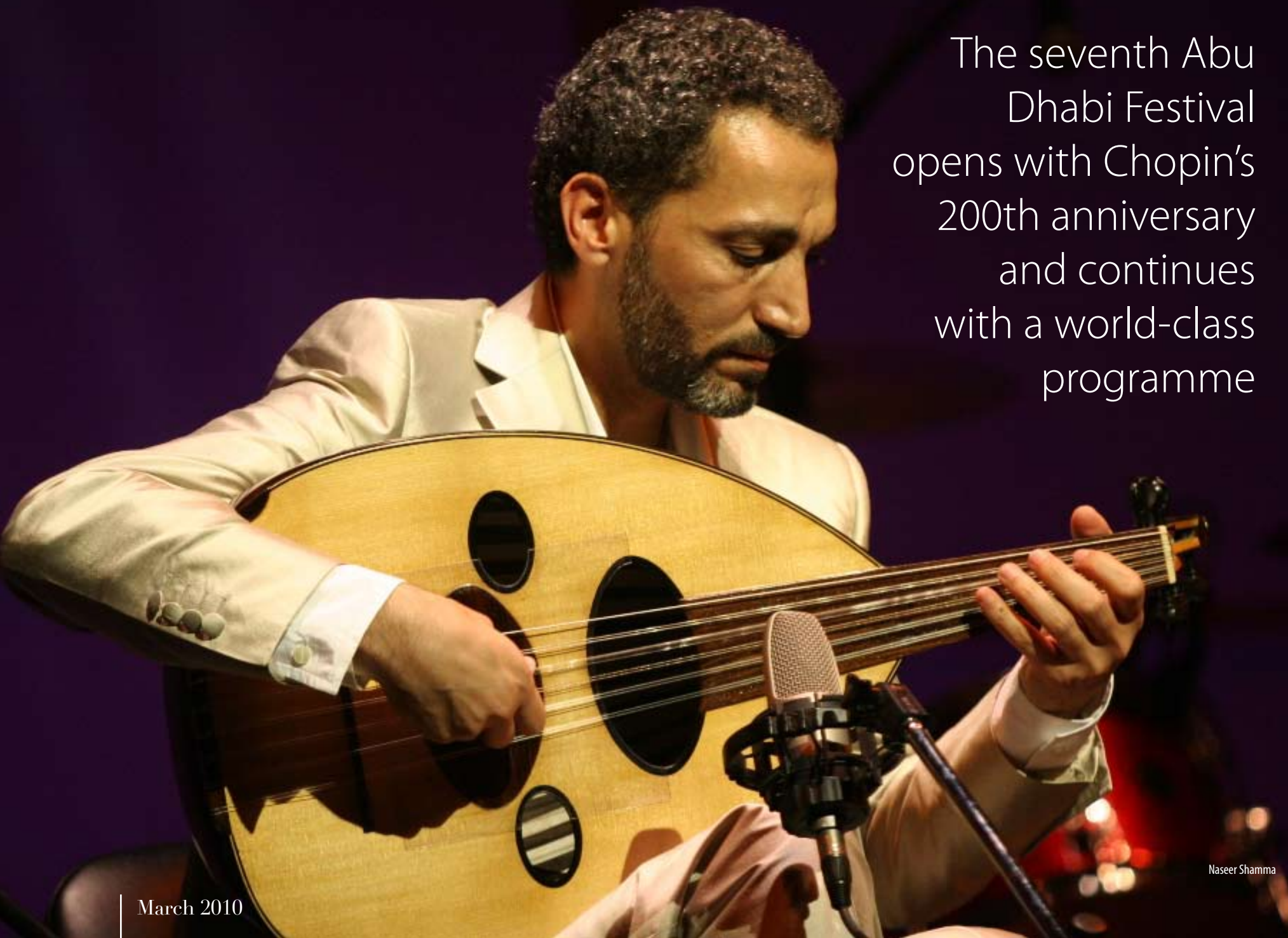
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TDIC

Georges Seurat, Robert Morier, Seurat in the Chair (Peinture avec deux figures), 1889. Oil on canvas, 91 x 61.1 cm. Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum, New York. Solomon R. Guggenheim Foundation Collection. No. 68.17.14
Georges Seurat, Letter to Phémis Baudry, August 26, 1890. Reproduced and installed in Milan, Italy, by the Solomon R. Guggenheim Foundation. No. 68.17.14

Festival time

The seventh Abu Dhabi Festival opens with Chopin's 200th anniversary and continues with a world-class programme



Naseer Shamma

ABU DHABI FESTIVAL

Talking arts

In addition to the performance programme, ADMAF is introducing a major initiative this year – the ADMAF Debates, which will feature leading figures from the global arts community ignite the capital's intellectual appetite.

Three panel discussions will precede the festival's evening events, addressing key global and regional issues affecting the current cultural sector on an international scale. In the last session of ADMAF Debates, Emirati artistic practice shall come under debate; proving the festival's desire to support the nation's artists.

Oriental icons

Wadih El Safi, a cultural idol often called "the voice of Lebanon", will perform a selection of his greatest songs in a new orchestration by composer Hiba Al Kawas.

This will be the first time for his songs to be composed and performed in an international orchestral dimension. El Safi will be accompanied by the Cairo

In its seventh edition, the spectacular Abu Dhabi Festival will unveil performances from the master artists in traditional, classical and jazz music, drama, fine arts, and ballet.

The ambitious cultural event was started in 2004 by Hoda Al Khamis Kanoo, founder of the Abu Dhabi Music & Arts Foundation (ADMAF); it has been developing apace ever since.

The two-week Festival will launch on 20th March and continues until 7th April at the Emirates Palace. The theme of "Bilad Al Khayr" or "the Land of Blessings" underpins the festival, a way of gathering communities from the seven emirates around a shared love of music, arts and culture.

"Year after year, the Abu Dhabi Festival has developed," said Hoda Kanoo. "As well as having the world's most prestigious performers, it now involves the whole community – not just in Abu Dhabi but across the seven emirates."

This year, the festival has not only commissioned works from prestigious performers from the east and west, but will also reveal some of the highest calibre of visual art exhibitions. The appreciation of art will also be reinforced through knowledge through with the educational programme, which will feature opportunities for hands-on experience, lectures, and workshops.

These sessions will be led by internationally-renowned artists and aims to inspire and enrich students, children, young artists and the general public with both artistic and musical knowledge, helping them expand the horizons of their creativity.

The education program will include workshops at the British School led by adventurous British cellist Matthew Barley, the Salzburg Marionette Theatre performance of 'The Sound of Music', Birmingham Stage Company performances and workshops for Shakespeare's 'Twelfth Night', and Live Music Now! workshops with students at Abu Dhabi special needs centres.

Celebrating Chopin

The opening gala celebrates Chopin's 200th anniversary with the National Polish Radio Symphony Orchestra, conducted by Grammy Award winner Krzysztof Penderecki – himself a renowned composer – and one of the greatest piano virtuosos, Chopin award winner

Krzysztof Jablonski.

This opener is carried out in conjunction with the Ludwig van Beethoven Association, based in Poland.

The Festival will also present Chopin recitals featuring two piano prodigies – Nobuyuki Tsujii, the acclaimed 22-year-old, is coming from Japan; and Yundi Li from China, the youngest musician to win the International Frederick Chopin Piano Competition, is making his first Middle East appearance.

Chopin will be further celebrated in a new oriental adaptation of his Concerto No.1, re-orchestrated by Hiba Al Kawas with Arabic oriental instruments and orchestra with solo piano. This world premiere will be played by the Cairo Symphony Orchestra and conducted by maestro Walid Gholmieh.

LSO | Photo Gautier Deblonde



Symphony Orchestra together with musicians from the Lebanese National Orchestra.

Oud legend Naseer Shamma will return this year to present one of his most ambitious performances – Paganini's Caprice No. 24, one of the most complicated pieces ever composed for string instruments now rescored for the oud. This world premiere will witness a fusion of Middle Eastern and Western cultures as Shamma escalates the capacity and potential of his instrument.

The enchantment of the classical

Another first performance for the region will be given by the Puccini Opera Festival, presenting 'La Bohème' in its entirety and featuring a stellar cast that includes Ana Maria Martínez and Ana James.

Every summer, the Puccini Opera is performed in Puccini's hometown, Torre del Lago, where he was inspired to write his cherished melodies.

Classical pianist Leif Ove Andsnes and artist Robin Rhode will come together for a joint performance in "Pictures Reframed", an innovative work inspired by Mussorgsky's epic 'Pictures at an Exhibition'. The show will revolve around distinguished and original musical compositions as well as a unique videographer installation, linking classical music to contemporary art.

A visually and mentally stimulating joint collection will be presented by two of the greatest living masters of contemporary Middle Eastern art- sculptors Parviz Tanavoli and Adam Henein.

Closing this year's Festival is the world-famous London Symphony Orchestra with their legendary principal conductor Sir Colin Davis and maestro Kristjan Järvi. They will be joined on stage by star soloists Arabella Steinbacher on violin and Wayne Marshall on piano. □

Wynton Marsalis | Photo rob wayman: piano suit



ABU DHABI FESTIVAL

Maxim & Irina | Photo IMG A



Abu Dhabi Festival programme

Saturday 20th March

Opening Gala – Chopin Bicentennial Celebration

The National Polish Radio Symphony Orchestra featuring Krzysztof Jablonski (piano) and conducted by Krzysztof Penderecki.

Time: 8pm | **Venue:** Emirates Palace Auditorium

20 March to 7 April

Middle Eastern Modern Masters –

Tanavoli & Henein

A joint retrospective exhibition of works by Parviz Tanavoli and Adam Henein, two of the greatest living masters of contemporary Middle Eastern art.

Tuesday 23 March

The Sound of Music

Salzburg Marionette Theatre.

Time: 7pm | **Venue:** Abu Dhabi Theatre

Thursday 25 & 26 March

La Bohème

The Puccini Opera Festival with Ana María Martínez (Mimi) and conductor Alberto Veronesi.

Time: 8pm | **Venue:** Emirates Palace Auditorium

Saturday 27 March

The Metropolitan Opera – Hamlet

Live Broadcast from New York (private screening)

Sunday 28 March

Nobuyuki Tsujii – Chopin Bicentennial Celebration

Concert by the acclaimed 22-year-old pianist from Japan.

Time: 8pm | **Venue:** Emirates Palace Ballroom

Tuesday 30 March

Night at the Ballet

An independent production by Maxim Beloserkovsky and Irina Dvorovenko, principal dancers of the American Ballet Theatre, in a unique collaboration with principal dancers from the Bolshoi Theatre and Mariinsky Theatre. Accompanied by the Puccini Festival Orchestra.

Time: 8pm | **Venue:** Emirates Palace Auditorium

Wednesday 31 March

Pictures Reframed

Leif Ove Andsnes (piano) joins artist Robin Rhode in a performance inspired by Mussorgsky's 'Pictures at an Exhibition'.

Time: 8pm | **Venue:** Emirates Palace Auditorium

Thursday 1 April

Yundi Li – Chopin Bicentennial Celebration

The youngest musician to win the International Frederick Chopin Piano Competition makes his Middle Eastern debut.

Time: 8pm | **Venue:** Emirates Palace Ballroom

Friday 2 April

Il Divo in Concert

Original, refreshing and unusual operatic quartet. Presented by Flash Entertainment

Time: 7:30pm | **Venue:** Emirates Palace West Park

Saturday 3 April

Chopin in Arabia & Wadiah El Safi

A new adaptation of Chopin's Concerto No. 1 by Hiba Al Kawas. Performed by the Cairo Symphony Orchestra, conducted by Walid Gholmieh; followed by Wadiah El Safi accompanied by the Cairo Symphony Orchestra and members of the Lebanese National Orchestra, conducted by Hiba Al Kawas. World premiere and Abu Dhabi Festival commission.

Sunday 4 April

Oud Horizons – Concert for Humanity

Naseer Shamma joins the Egyptian Philharmonic Society Chamber Orchestra in a masterful rendition of Paganini's Caprice No. 24 on the oud. Conducted by Maestro Ahmed El-Saeidy. World premiere.

Time: 8pm | **Venue:** Emirates Palace Auditorium

Monday 5 April

Wynton Marsalis in Concert

Nine-time Grammy Award winner for both jazz and classical records and the first jazz musician to win the Pulitzer Prize for Music.

Time: 8pm | **Venue:** Emirates Palace Auditorium

Tuesday 6 & 7 April

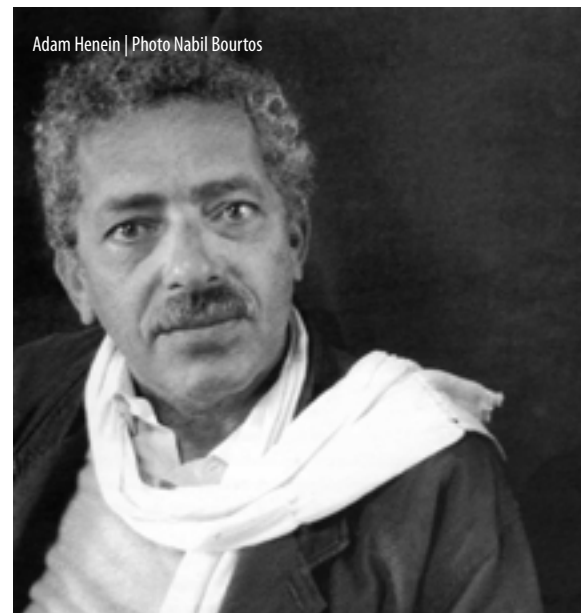
London Symphony Orchestra

Principal conductor Sir Colin Davis and maestro Kristjan Järvi with Arabella Steinbacher on violin and Wayne Marshall on piano.

Time: 8pm | **Venue:** Emirates Palace Auditorium



Krzysztof Penderecki



Adam Henein | Photo Nabil Bourtos



Pavariz Tenevelli | Photo John Gordon



La Bohème scene costumi | Jean Michel Folon

ABU DHABI FESTIVAL



Matthew Barley | Photo Nick White



Matthew Barley and students during 2009 festival



Salzburg Marionette Theatre



Yundi Li

Every year, Abu Dhabi Festival holds a major outdoor concert featuring a globally renowned artist from the popular operatic genre. In 2009, the crowds were entertained by Andrea Bocelli on the grounds of the Emirates Palace.

For this year, the chart-topping operatic pop vocal quartet Il Divo has been confirmed to perform on 2nd April at Emirates Palace West Park as part of the Abu Dhabi Festival 2010.

"This concert will bring something completely new to the capital, bridging the gap between classical music and pop culture and introducing the younger generations to a whole new style of music," commented John Lickrish, Managing Director of Flash Entertainment, the Abu Dhabi based event organisers responsible for booking Il Divo.

"We're really excited to be finally making it to Abu Dhabi and playing this special show as part of the Abu Dhabi Festival," said Sebastien Izambard from Il Divo. "We're really keen to learn more about the community and be part of this special arts and cultural festival."

Tickets start at AED 345 and are available from www.boxoffice.com, www.ticketingboxoffice.com and Virgin Megastores.

Art in the third dimension

For the first time in the capital's history, the Abu Dhabi International Sculpture Symposium is bringing some of the world's top sculptors to town

The Sculpture Symposium is more than just an exhibition.

It is, in essence, a movement that arose from the Austrian town of St Margaethen in 1959 demanding more for this type of performance art. Led by Karl Prontl, members of the international sculpture community came together in a forum for communication and exchange; and Abu Dhabi's art community has realised the value of this kind of union.

"The response to the announcement of this symposium from artists around the world was overwhelming," said Salwa Zeidan, Director of Abu Dhabi International Sculpture Symposium (ADISS) and also director of the Salwa Zeidan Gallery. There were over 400 applications, ranging from abstract ideas to semi-realistic designs, mainly aimed at complementing Abu Dhabi's culture and history.

All sculpture symposia around the world are characterised by common elements. Work is usually created in public during a defined period by invited artists; sculptures are usually left with the sponsor after the event; the sculptors are paid an honorarium and hosted warmly at the country to which they have been invited.

Most importantly, communities gain in stature – and become an artistic destination – by having an ongoing cultural event.

Where else can a sculptor receive live feedback and continuous support from audience as he creates and forms his piece? As one sculptor, Neal Barab, puts it: "there is nothing more embarrassing as hitting your hand with a hammer as a crowd watches and nothing as satisfying as

feeling a positive response from a public that once had thought uninterested or even hostile to art."

The extraordinary sculptures finally selected for ADISS have been created by 17 contemporary artists, each piece concealing a story and representing potential depths and meanings. Although cutting edge technology and pneumatic tools today have changed the techniques and the pace of working in stone, some primary methods cannot be replaced; it remains an arduous form of art that involves great physical effort.

"The aim here is to have ADISS take on the form of a performing art event, an open sculpture studio involving participation of both artists and the public," explains Zeidan. "People will be able to



(L-R) Salah Khider, Abeer Al Mutawa, Dr. Sulaiman Al Jassim, Salwa Zeidan

SCULPTURE

observe the evolution of a sculpture as it goes from conceptualisation through planning, carving, roughing, smoothing and polishing." Artists will indeed be creating their sculptures live every day (except Friday) throughout the two weeks of the event.

Fostering new sculpting talents is one of ADISS's top priorities. Having found 16 artists of the highest calibre on the international stage, the organisers ensured that one emerging artist with a promising talent was also given a chance. For 2010 ADISS has selected Husam Chaya from Lebanon, and the plan is to introduce a new artist every year.

Encouragement for new talent also extends to art students, who are getting major attention as part of this initiative. "The lecture series include several workshops and presentations to Zayed University students, especially those enrolled in the art programs at the Abu Dhabi and Dubai campuses as well as four public lectures that will be open to anyone is interested in the topics covered," says Salwa Zeidan.

All of the lectures will be held by the participating artists on the grounds of Zayed University in both the Abu Dhabi and Dubai campuses. Seven will be limited to Zayed University staff and students, four additional lectures will be open to the public – including a Public Panel with Hassan Sharif, Caroline Ramersdorfer, Ehab El-Laban and Jon Barlow Hudson.

The first of the public lectures will debate public art, its history and how it fits into Abu Dhabi. The second, "Art in the Urban scene", has Juanjo Novella reviewing art as an agent for regeneration of public space. The third session by Konstantine Dimpoulos is titled "Art saving the World" and the fourth will discuss Art and the Environment.

The Sculpture Symposium is undoubtedly a sculptor's fantasy come true, and it is an idea that the art-loving community of Abu Dhabi has been long contemplating. "We have been developing this idea over the past two years," declared Zeidan. "I am proud to work with this wonderful team that is equally excited about making it history!"

The Abu Dhabi International Sculpture Symposium is held at the Armed Forces Officers Club, from February 25 until April 7. Visiting hours are 5pm to 7pm, Saturday to Thursday. Entry is free. For details on the public lecture programmes and workshops, visit www.adiss-ae.com □

Gregor Kregar- Brick Bay Polyhedron, 2007, 549x366x366cm, stainless steel, Bick Bay Sculpture Park, matakana, NZ

Meet the artist

Billy Lee

Born of Chinese and Dutch parentage, South African Billy Lee graduated from Birmingham College of Arts and received his MFA at the Royal College of Art in London. On graduation he received a prestigious Kennedy Scholarship (and he remains the only artist ever to receive one). His maquettes symbolise human expression and simplicity can be felt in his granite, stone, steel and bronze-made monumental masterpieces.



Caroline Ramersdorfer

Austrian Caroline Ramersdorfer studied philosophy in Paris in 1979, and went on to African art history, museum science and analysis of Renaissance frescoes and their restoration at the International University of Art in Florence. Ramersdorfer finds her joy when carving fragments from blocks of stones or marbles and repositioning them.



Piece by Juanjo Novella



Ehab El Laban

Born in Cairo in 1976, Ehab El-Laban obtained a degree in Art Education in 2000. He leads a dual career as a creator and as a cultural operator. El-Laban's achievements earned him the Jury prize in the 13th Youth Salon, the Grand Prix in the 14th edition and the Top Prize in the 15th Edition of the same Competition.



Fabrizio Dieci

Dieci holds a Masters Degree from the Academy of Carrera, Italy. He has been exhibiting throughout Europe, the Middle and Far East since 1998, and has been regularly participating in major International Symposia since 1993.

Gheorgi Filin

Gheorgi Filin from Bulgaria has been referred to as a "sculptor of liberated free forms". Filin was educated first at the artistic Academy of Sofia, then at the Academy of Fine Arts where he became a teacher; for more than ten years he held the post of Professor of Sculpture at the Academy. Filin believes in getting





Hasan Sharif, Spoons 5, 2008



Piece by Ehab El Labban



Piece by Husam Chaya

involved with the sculpture in every phase of the work, from the raw block to the final refinements, arriving close to a quality resembling human skin.

Gregor Kregar

Gregor Kregar from Slovenia usually makes large-scale site-specific work which makes the audience question their role as the viewer. He employs glass, stainless steel and plastic as well as familiar found objects and recycled cardboard; these he uses to mould and shape forms in all shapes and sizes that literally and symbolically reflect the world in which they are placed.



Hassan Sharif

One of the artists first to awaken the UAE to contemporary art, Hassan Sharif is known for his great versatility. He concentrates on objects whose twisted perspectives reflect on the consumer society; he collects common objects, hundreds and thousands of these serially manufactured objects, evoking the production process and almost repeating it but without the senselessness that characterised the original production.



Hussam Chaya

Born in 1976, the Lebanese artist has shown his work extensively since the early 1990s and exhibits a definitive trademark style. Chaya's works range in scale from small tabletop pieces to some large monumental marble sculptures – placed prominently in Lebanon, but also Los Angeles, Michigan, Pinamar, Tunisia, Montreal and Dubai.



Hwang Seoung

A graduate of the Fine Art Academy in Carrera, this Korean-born artist currently lives in Italy and has participated and acted as a commissioner in over 25 International Symposia. A giant stack of papers, according to him "serves as a kind of 'hidden power' bearing the language that we use".

Caroline Ramersdorfer
Urumqi

Jo Kley

Jo Kley completed his study of Fine Arts in sculpture at Muthesius School of Fine Arts in Kiel, Germany under Prof Jan Koblasa. Since 1992, Kley has participated in more than 70 single and group exhibitions; he has won several art competitions and received many awards for his work.



Jon Barlow Hudson

Jon Barlow from the United States designs with the architectural context and environmental ambience in mind. A regular participant in international sculpture symposia since 1993, he mostly works with stone. His latest series signifies the shape of a slender maiden without heads or arms; the concept behind this is two Sufi ideologies – the "hidden" and "manifestation".

John Gogaberishvili

John Gogaberishvili is a professional sculptor who lives in Tbilisi, Georgia. His work tries to mould new scopes in the core of an object to combine space and light. The result is a dynamic form resembling an illusion of vibrant energy, leaving an impression which is both stylistic and technological.

Juanjo Novella

Award-winning artist Juanjo Novella was born in Portugalete, Spain. During his career he has participated in many events with his giant mural interventions and open space sculptures. His work can be seen in various public spaces across the Spanish Riviera.



Konstantin Dimopoulos

Born in Egypt, Konstantin Dimopoulos emigrated to New Zealand in 1963 and took his Arts degree at Victoria University. He travelled to London to continue his studies at the Chelsea School of Art. His public installations mainly focus on social art. The dynamics of colour, geometric forms, optical dynamic and lines are all elements that are strongly associated with him.

Masahiro Hasegawa

Masahiro Hasegawa graduated from Osaka University of Fine Arts. Hasegawa's professional artistic career includes over 20 solo exhibitions, regular participation at international sculpture biennales, and inclusion in several prominent public collections. In ADISS, he sculpts the lotus in hand-brushed steel dotted with raindrops made of glass or resin.

Petre Petrov

Petre Petrov has earned a MA in Sculpture and a PhD in Art History from the National Academy of Fine Arts in Sofia. A consistent feature of his sculpture is a fine eye for balance; while his compositions remain solid, they lean and look ready to move with their massive bulk.

Yoshin Ogata

Ogata exhibited his first sculptures in 1969 in Tokyo, before moving to London where he studied at the British Museum. Since then, his 30-year career has involved regular solo exhibitions and numerous international sculpture awards. Ogata carves and reshapes stone, metal and wood into curves, attempting to express two opposing concepts: nature and abstraction.

Piece by
Hwang Sewoo

The ADISS lecture programme

Open to public

Public Panel Presentation: What is public art? What is its history and how is it relevant? How does public art fit into Abu Dhabi?

Janet Bellotto, Ian Harris, Yvonne Lammerich; Hassan Sharif, Caroline Ramersdorfer, Ehab El Labban, Billy Lee and Jon Barlow Hudson

Sunday 14th March, 7pm to 9pm

Venue: Y Auditorium Zayed University, South Campus

Art in the urban scene: Juanjo Novella

Thursday 25th March, 7pm to 9pm

Venue: Z Auditorium Zayed University, South Campus

Art saving the world: Konstantin Dimopoulos

Monday 28th March, 7pm to 9pm

Venue: Y Auditorium Zayed University, South Campus

Sculpture and Environment: Caroline Ramersdorfer and John Van Alstine

Wednesday 31st March, 7pm to 9pm

Venue: Y Auditorium Zayed University, South Campus

The difference between public art and public sculpture: Hassan Sharif

Monday 5th April, 12pm to 1pm

Venue: Municipality Auditorium



Piece by Jo Kley

Open to Zayed University community and students only

Sculpture, that's energy form: Jo Ley

About a sculptor's life, sculpture symposium and its origin.

Sunday 7th March, 3pm to 5pm

Venue: Zayed University, South Campus, X010

Resin Casting Workshop: Husam Chaya

Stone sculpting creative and technical process introduction, how to create a stone sculpture, how to make copies of your model

Tuesday 9th March, 3pm to 5pm

Venue: Zayed University, South Campus, X010

Artist talk: Jo Barlow Hudson

Thursday 11th March, 12am to 1pm

Venue: : Zayed University (all classes)

Artist talk: Gregor Kregar

Sunday 14th March, 3pm to 5pm

Venue: Zayed University, South Campus, X206

Identity and Originality: Hwang Seoung-Woo

Sunday 21st March, 12pm to 2pm

Venue: Zayed University Dubai, D-L1-054

The difference between public art and public sculpture: Hassan Sharif

Tuesday 23rd March, 12pm to 1pm

Venue: Zayed University, South Campus, X-010

Artist talk: Billy Lee

Monday 29th March, 12pm to 1pm

Venue: Zayed University Dubai, D-L1-054



Abu Dhabi Classics: the continuing story

Two months are left till the end of the second season of Abu Dhabi Classics – but then all good things come to those who wait!

Bavarian State Orchestra- Bayerische Staatsorchester

ABU DHABI CLASSICS

Abu Dhabi is doing it again. The Emirate is uniting world-renowned orchestras and musical artists for first-time appearances in the region; maintaining its commitment to making art, music and culture all part of the UAE capital's daily life, Abu Dhabi Classics launched its second season last October with performances that will continue until May 2010.

Last year, 35,000 people attended the first season's concerts and the series was named "Abu Dhabi's Best Festival of 2009" by What's On magazine. Abu Dhabi Classics 2009 generated 8,000 hotel nights and the concerts were attended by more than 3,000 students.

The current series has already delighted us with some of the top orchestras and soloists in the world, including the New York Philharmonic, the Orchestre Philharmonique de Radio France, Vienna Philharmonic, violinists Anne-Sophie Mutter and Frank Peter Zimmermann, and pianists Emmanuel Ax, Christoph Eschenback and Kit Armstrong. Many of these names are new to the Middle East.

Executive Director of Abu Dhabi Classics, Till Janczukowicz, reminds us that "classical music or a classical composer is not the property of a single nation. Germany does not own Beethoven, France does not own Ravel. All nations have clear responsibilities of safeguarding the traditions of their composers, but at the end, all these geniuses have contributed to a universal language that is understood internationally. This is a great opportunity in a globalised world".

And there is more to come.

April: Teatro La Fenice

In April, Abu Dhabi and Al Ain can look forward to seeing the orchestra of Venice's Teatro La Fenice performing selections from two of Verdi's most powerful and dramatic operas: Act 2 from "La Traviata" and Act 3 from "Rigoletto". The conductor is John Fiore, soloists are Ramon Vargas, Franco Vassallo, Nino Machaidze and Julia Gertseva.

One of the most famous theatres in Europe, Teatro La Fenice is a perfect example of how an opera theatre can literally rise from the ashes. Since its opening under the name named La Fenice, the theatre has burned down twice and been rebuilt. In 1774, the San Benedetto Theatre, which had been Venice's leading opera house for more than 40 years, fell to the flames. Shortly after being rebuilt, a legal dispute broke out; when it was resolved, the new theatre company decided to build a theatre of its own. At the beginning of the 19th century, Rossini staged two major productions in La Fenice; Bellini premiered two operas there. It was the start of the company's reputation.

Late in 1836, another fire destroyed the theatre. This time, however, it was quickly rebuilt and reopened the following year. During the Second World War, La Fenice was closed for some time but reopened after



Petra Lang- Soprano at Wagner Opera Gala by The Bavarian State Orchestra



Thomas Hengelbrock- Conductor of Wagner Opera Gala by The Bavarian State Orchestra

ABU DHABI CLASSICS



Klaus Florian Vogt- tenor at Wagner Opera Gala

the war. Then another fire again caused its complete destruction, this time as a result of arson.

Serious reconstruction only started in 2001 after numerous delays. In less than two years the ambience of the old theatre was completely recreated at a cost of around €0 million. It reopened on 14 December 2003 with an inaugural concert of Beethoven, Wagner and Stravinsky; its first opera production was La Traviata in November the following year, and it's this opera which Abu Dhabi Classics will present on 18 April.

The performance will take place in the lavish settings of Abu Dhabi's Emirate Palace and also within Al Jahili Fort in the oasis city of Al Ain. It will be the last of the concerts to be held in Al Ain Classics this season.

April: Bavarian State Orchestra

A week later, Munich's Bavarian State Orchestra makes a rare visit to the region. Presenting an evening of scenes from some of Wagner's phenomenal masterworks, the performance includes the passionate love story of medieval minstrel and poet Tannhauser and the tragic tale of the famous Flying Dutchman, doomed to sail the seas until redeemed by a faithful woman's love, as well as the comic, touching and stirring story of the Meistersingers of medieval Nuremberg.

In association with the Abu Dhabi Richard Wagner Society, the Bavarian State Orchestra will be conducted by the outstanding Thomas Hengelbrock with tenor Klaus Florian Vogt, sopranos Petra Lang, Nina Stemme, and baritone Alan Titus.

May: Evelyn Glennie

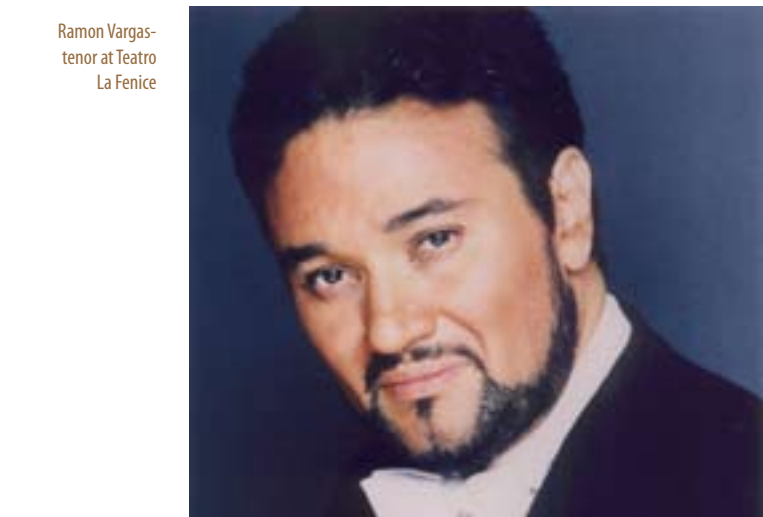
One of the world's foremost solo percussionists will perform at the Abu Dhabi Theatre in May – indeed, Evelyn Glennie is the first person ever to create and sustain a successful full-time career as a solo percussionist.

Her irrepressible energy and enthusiasm makes her one of the most eclectic and innovative musicians on the scene today, and her sound productions have the power to permanently redirect one's listening preferences. Dame Evelyn currently gives more than a hundred performances a year worldwide, performing with the greatest conductors, orchestras, and artists. Her diversity of collaborations has included Nana Vasconcelos, Bela Fleck, Bjork, Bobby McFerrin, Sting, Emmanuel Ax, Kings Singers, the Mormon Tabernacle Choir and Fred Frith.

Of her 25 solo recordings to date, Evelyn's first CD, Bartok's Sonata for two Pianos and Percussion won her a Grammy in 1988. A further two Grammy nominations followed, one of which she won for a collaboration with Bela Fleck. Evelyn's twelfth solo CD, Shadow Behind the Iron Sun, was based on a radical improvisational concept and has once again questioned people's expectations. Her first high quality drama



Nina Stemme- Soprano at Wagner Opera Gala by The Bavarian State Orchestra



Ramon Vargas-
tenor at Teatro
La Fenice



Franco Vassallo-
tenor at Teatro
La Fenice

DISORIENTATION II

THE RISE AND FALL OF ARAB CITIES
22 NOV 2009 - 20 MAR 2010
AN EXHIBITION AT ARTS ABU DHABI GALLERY
MANARAT AL SAADIYAT
SAADIYAT ISLAND, ABU DHABI
OPEN DAILY 2PM-8PM

FILM PROGRAMME

In partnership with Middle East International Film Festival a selection of films will be shown in conjunction with *Disorientation II: The Rise and Fall of Arab Cities*. Poignant, significant, and humorous, these films will touch the audience and prompt a sense of community reminiscent of the pan-Arab unity initiative of the 20th century.

AMREEKA, 2009

10 Feb, 7pm
Directed by Oberjen Dabiz

NEIGHBORS, 2009

24 Feb, 7pm
Directed by Tahani Rached

The *Disorientation II* Film Programme is complimentary.
All films are bilingual (Arabic & English)

TCIC

ABU DHABI ART FOUNDATION



ARTSABU DHABI.AE

20th March - 7th April 2010

Abu Dhabi Festival



Saturday, 20th March 2010

Opening Gala: Chopin Bicentennial Celebration
National Polish Radio Symphony Orchestra
Krzysztof Penderecki, Conductor
Krzysztof Jablonski, Piano
Time: 8:00 pm - Venue: Emirates Palace Auditorium

Tuesday, 23rd March 2010

The Sound of Music
Salzburg Marionette Theatre
Time: 7:00 pm - Venue: Abu Dhabi Theatre

Thursday, 25th and Friday, 26th March 2010

La Bohème
The Puccini Festival Opera
Alberto Veronesi, Conductor
Time: 8:00 pm - Venue: Emirates Palace Auditorium

Saturday, 27th March 2010

The Metropolitan Opera - Hamlet
Live Broadcast from New York (Private Screening)

Sunday, 28th March 2010

Chopin Bicentennial Celebration
Nobuyuki Tsujii, Piano Recital
Time: 8:00 pm - Venue: Emirates Palace Ballroom

Tuesday, 30th March 2010

Night at the Ballet
Principal dancers from the Bolshoi Theatre, Mariinsky Theatre and more... with the Puccini Festival Orchestra
Valery Ovsyanikov, Conductor
Time: 8:00 pm - Venue: Emirates Palace Auditorium

Wednesday, 31st March 2010

Pictures Reframed
Leif Ove Andsnes, Piano - Robin Rhode, Visual Artist
Time: 8:00 pm - Venue: Emirates Palace Auditorium

Thursday, 1st April 2010

Chopin Bicentennial Celebration
Yundi Li, Piano Recital
Time: 8:00 pm - Venue: Emirates Palace Ballroom

Main Sponsor



Friday, 2nd April 2010

Il Divo in Concert
Time: 7:30 pm - Venue: Emirates Palace West Park
Presented by Flash Entertainment

Saturday, 3rd April 2010

Wadiah El Safi in Concert
Time: 8:00 pm - Venue: Emirates Palace Auditorium

Sunday, 4th April 2010 (World premiere)

Oud Horizons - Concert for Humanity
Naseer Shamma, Oud
Egyptian Philharmonic Society Orchestra
Ahmed El-Saeidy, Conductor
Time: 8:00 pm - Venue: Emirates Palace Auditorium

Monday, 5th April 2010

Wynton Marsalis in Concert
Time: 8:00 pm - Venue: Emirates Palace Auditorium

Tuesday, 6th April 2010

London Symphony Orchestra
Kristjan Järvi, Conductor
Wayne Marshall, Piano
Time: 8:00 pm - Venue: Emirates Palace Auditorium

Wednesday, 7th April 2010

London Symphony Orchestra
Sir Colin Davis, Conductor
Arabella Steinbacher, Violin
Time: 8:00 pm - Venue: Emirates Palace Auditorium

20th March - 7th April 2010

Middle Eastern Modern Masters
Parviz Tanavoli and Adam Henein
Free admission - Venue: Emirates Palace

www.abudhabifestival.ae

Tickets on sale now at:



ABU DHABI CLASSICS



Evelyn Glennie- Solo Percussionist

produced a score so original she was nominated for a BAFTA award, the UK equivalent of an Oscar. When Evelyn is not working, she is still highly active – her consortium with Sir James Galway, Julian Lloyd Webber and the late Michael Caman led to the British Government raising £332 million towards music education. Her other pastimes include jewellery-making; in conjunction with Ortak, she has designed a complete collection inspired by her experience as a solo percussionist. Evelyn is also an international motivational speaker to many diverse corporate companies and events. To top it all, the multi-talented percussionist performs with various orchestras on the Great Highland Bagpipes.

May: BBC Concert Orchestra

The following evening, the BBC Concert Orchestra from London will give us an evening of traditional classics from the British Isles – including Edgar's famous Pomp and Circumstances March ("Land of Hope and Glory") and "Rule, Britannia!", recreating the unparalleled atmosphere of the famous Last Night of the Proms at London's Royal Albert Hall.

Formed in 1952, the BBC Orchestra Symphony is has survived more than half a century of musical transformations, developments and variations. With such incredible flexibility in performance, it is not hard to see how the legendary Orchestra managed to remain on the top. Its widely-known radio showcase "Friday Night is Music Night" is heard by millions across the world; the weekly show is miraculously polished for broadcasting in just a three-hour session on the day itself.

The orchestra is also central to Radio 3's Discovering Music series, where new commissions from Tansy

Davies, Fung Lam and Graham Fitkin rub shoulders with classical favourites by Schumann, Liszt and Richard Strauss. "You name it and we will play it": this seems to be the BBC Concert Orchestra's underlying endeavour. With unusual versatility, its repertoire has evolved from providing light music, ballet and opera into performing full-scale musicals such as Guys and Dolls, Carousel, On the Town, Pal Joey and On Your Toes. It has also staged full operas such as Madame Butterfly, Aida and Carmen; and it has performed concerts based on the music of Abba, with jazz legend Ornette Coleman, and with film composer Michael Nyman.

Over the decades, it has performed with artists ranging from Shirley Bassey, Dionne Warwick, Tony Bennett, Jools Holland and the Corrs, to Sir Yehudi Menuhin, Andre Previn, Jose Carreras, Maurice Jarre

and Julian Lloyd Webber.

Watford Coliseum has been the BBC Concert Orchestra's temporary home venue for some time, but from April 2010 it closes for a year to undergo a major facelift – so the players will be on the road more than ever. Their plans already include a three-day residency at Eden Centre in Cornwall, the Abu Dhabi Classics tour, tours across North America, a fifth year of residency at Chichester Festival Theatre, and one-off concerts elsewhere. In December 2011, you can hear the BBC CO in the pit at the Royal Opera House playing Tchaikovsky's Nutcracker with Barry Wordsworth- its former Principal Conductor who is now Conductor Laureate and also the Musical Director for the Royal Ballet. Are there any other Orchestras around the British Isles who can samba as gracefully as they strut to waltz? Only you can decide! □

The Abu Dhabi Classics schedule

April 2010

Sunday 18 April 2010

6pm: Pre-concert talk: Marina Callas and La Traviata: History of a magic relationship
Venue: Emirates Palace (Auditorium)

Sunday 18 April 2010

8pm: The Magic of Opera – Verdi's "La Traviata" and "Rigoletto"

Venice's historic opera house Orchestra e Coro del Teatro La Fenice performs under the noted American conductor John Fiore, with Ramon Vargas, Franco Vassallo, Julia Gertseva, and Nino Machaidze.
Venue: Emirates Palace (Auditorium)

Thursday 29 April 2010

6pm: Pre-concert talk: Richard Wagner's Myth
Venue: Emirates Palace (Auditorium)

Thursday 29 April 2010

8pm: Wagner Opera Gala
In Cooperation with the Abu Dhabi Richard Wagner Association Society, the Bavarian State Orchestra, Munich's greatest opera house, will perform under the outstanding German conductor Thomas Hengelbrock, presenting an evening of Wagner.
Venue: Emirates Palace (Auditorium)

May 2010

Friday 14 May 2010

6pm: Listen – the world's foremost solo percussionist
Evelyn Glennie, the first person in musical history to successfully create and sustain a full-time career as a solo percussionist, performs with pianist Philip Smith.
Venue: Emirates Palace (Auditorium)

Saturday 15 May 2010

8pm: The "Best of British" Gala
The BBC Concert Orchestra presents a traditional evening of moving and beautiful classics from the British Isles.
Venue: Emirates Palace (Auditorium)

The Al Ain Classics schedule

April 2010

Saturday 17 April 2010

8pm: The Magic of Opera in Al Jahili Fort
Venice's historic opera house Orchestra e Coro del Teatro La Fenice performs under the noted American conductor John Fiore
Venue: Al Jahili Fort, Al Ain



Abu Dhabi Authority for Culture and Heritage presents:

For the first time in the Middle East, Spectacular Flamenco Dance Show "INTIMO" with Flamenco Superstar

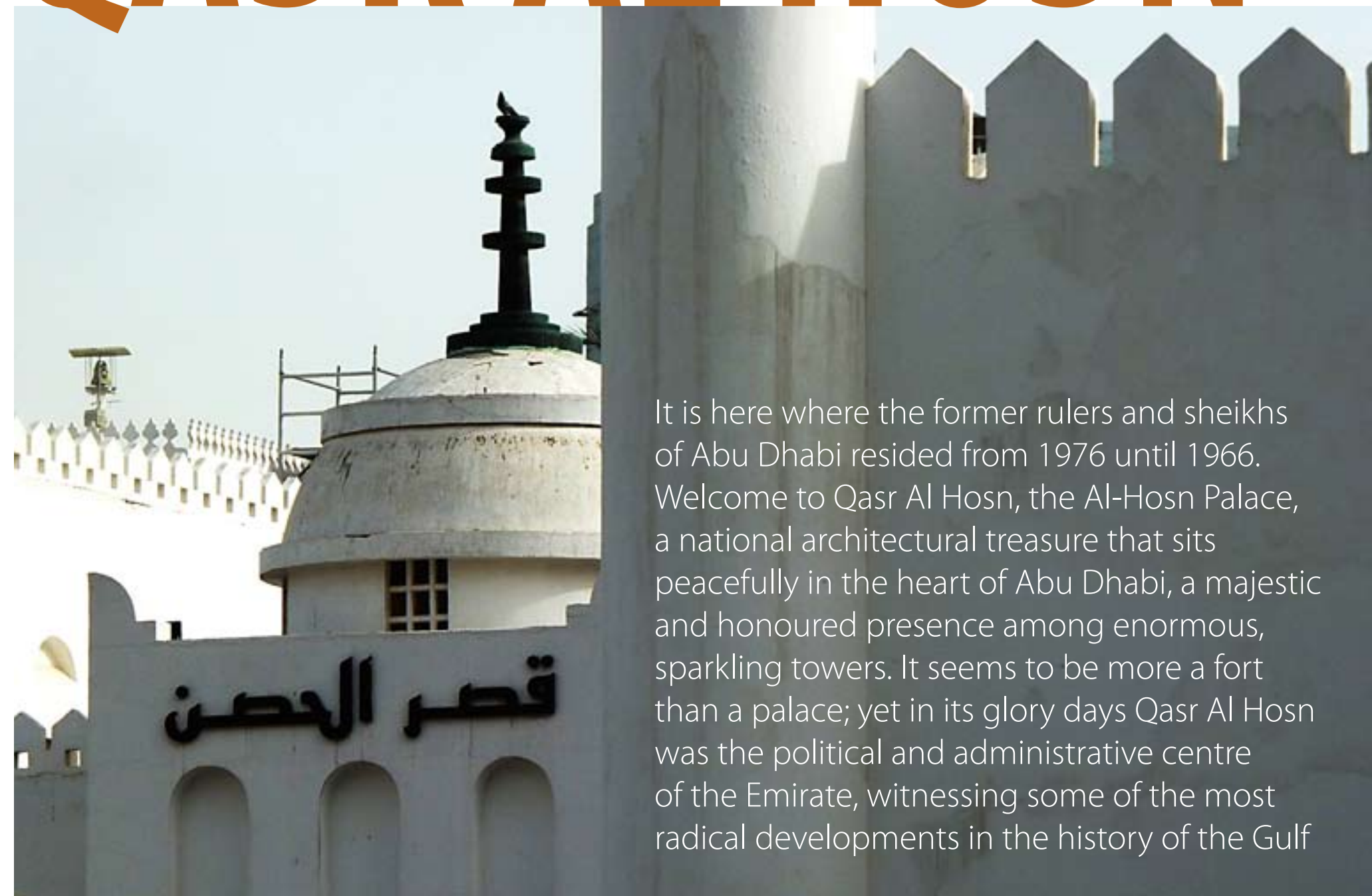
RAFAEL AMARGO

Sun 24th & Mon 25th January 2010
8:30 pm / Emirates palace, Abu Dhabi
Tel: 02 6576359

Tickets are available on:
Timeoutickets.com and Emirates Palace



The Oldest Building in Abu Dhabi QASR AL HOSN



It is here where the former rulers and sheikhs of Abu Dhabi resided from 1976 until 1966. Welcome to Qasr Al Hosn, the Al-Hosn Palace, a national architectural treasure that sits peacefully in the heart of Abu Dhabi, a majestic and honoured presence among enormous, sparkling towers. It seems to be more a fort than a palace; yet in its glory days Qasr Al Hosn was the political and administrative centre of the Emirate, witnessing some of the most radical developments in the history of the Gulf

Built originally as a defensive watchtower to guard a waterhole in 1761, it became a fully-fledged fort in 1793 when it accommodated Sheikh Shakhbut Bin Dhiyab Al Nahyan.

As ruler of the largest emirate within the British-controlled Trucial Coast, Shakhbut maintained friendly relations with the United Kingdom and successfully resisted territorial incursions in a prolonged border dispute with Saudi Arabia. He was an early supporter of Western oil exploration and granted drilling rights that earned Abu Dhabi as much as \$70 million per year in the mid 1960s.

In 1939 Sheikh Shakhbut used some of the revenue generated by an oil exploration concession to begin a major redevelopment of Qasr Al-Hosn. The fort remained the seat of power for the Al Abu Falah dynasty of the Al Nahyans until 1966; in that year, the family moved out of

Qasr Al Hosn when Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan became the ruler of Abu Dhabi. The palace then became an administrative centre until the 1990s; Sheikh Zayed ordered a renovation of the building between 1976 and 1983 when it was painted white, hence the common reference to it as the “White Fort”.

Over the years, various rulers had lived in and around Al-Hosn, conveying the image of power to the population and creating a refuge for tribes during unsettled times. It also served as a centre for majlis for resolving civic disputes, according to Dr Xander Veldhujzen, an associate of Prince Research Consultants, a UK firm advising on the ongoing restoration. He explains that he has been working on a renovation that will result in “a space where Emiratis and tourists can come and enjoy the feeling and spirit of the place. A place where UAE nationals can come

and reminisce and talk about their memories. A place where people can come and celebrate when the UAE football team wins the World Cup ...”

Until recently, the palace housed the Cultural Foundation, which ran the Documentation and Research Centre, and has often held exhibitions and displays.

Qasr Al Hosn has been a landmark in the city for many years, but as it approached its third century the authorities decided that time had come for renewal and rebirth. Now the fort is undergoing a major transformation, as it goes through a three-year rehabilitation and conservation programme –one of numerous projects that the Abu Dhabi Authority for Heritage and Culture (ADACH) has undertaken for museums and historic sites around the Emirate. Among them was the Sheikh Zayed Palace Museum, which is currently also being reconstructed, as well as the



HERITAGE PROFILE



Qasr al Hosn

Qasr al Hosn, the oldest and most iconic building in Abu Dhabi, is a reason for pride. The fort is the origin of Abu Dhabi's story and culture. Around it we are creating a place for arts and crafts, for poetry and song, dance and performance; a destination where people can gather to enjoy and celebrate the richness and diversity of Emirati culture. In this place of history we are building a new creative and social hub for the modern city.

قصر الحصن
قصر الحصن الأقدم والأكثر رمزية للعمارة في أبوظبي، هو مصدر للفخر والاعتزاز. إنه أساس تاريخ وثقافة أبوظبي. حول هذا القصر، نبني مكاناً للفنون والتحف، للشعر والغناء، للرقص والمسرح. نبني مكاناً حيث يجتمع فيه الناس ليستمتعوا ويحتفلوا بتنوع وغنى الثقافة الإماراتية. في هذا الموقع التاريخي نُسبّد بناءً للتلاقح والإبداع والخلق في مدينة عصرية.

Muwaiji Palace and Sheikh Zayed the First Museum, both being developed in Al Jahili Fort in Al Ain.

Director-General of ADACH, Mohammed Khalaf Al Mazrouei, explains that “the authority is mandated to conserve, protect and promote the cultural heritage of the Emirate of Abu Dhabi; we have a commitment to vernacular heritage.

“Al Jahili Fort in Al Ain, for example, has already undergone renovation. It has reopened to the public in

2008, and draws large numbers of tourists, especially through the various cultural festivals organised here. Qasr Al Hosn ... is also undergoing a transformation towards making it a cultural attraction in the near future.”

Meanwhile, Dr Sami El Masri, ADACH Deputy Director-General for Arts, Culture and Heritage and Director of Strategic Planning, notes that awareness campaigns are also run by the Authority to promote the Emirate locally, regionally and internationally. “We believe that this will trigger interest in the cultural field, thus resulting in more visits to the museums and

changing the perception that heritage is unexciting.

“Part of our goal is to offer a variety of cultural activities and experience, and highlight the many cultural sites that already exist in Abu Dhabi. This not only includes heritage sites, but also a dynamic experience that will encourage a longer stay in the emirate.”

On the basis of these ambitious and promising initiatives, our anticipation of seeing Qasr Al Hosn develop into a lasting memorial site for Abu Dhabi and Al Nahyan Ruling Family persists, and the day that marks the end of this critical facelift will be celebrated with immense joy. □

SOUNDS OF ARABIA

Celebrating Arab Voices

This month Amal Maher revives Umm Kulthoum's music as part of ADACH's ongoing Sounds of Arabia season



Magida Al Roumi's distinguished and passionate voice echoed through the Emirates Palace auditorium last November, as the audience was reminded of Lebanon's vulnerability during the invasions, tales of love and passion, and hopes for peace in the Arab world. Such is the potency of Magida's voice and lyrics, and such is the way the second season of Sounds of Arabia was launched.

Since then, every last Thursday of the month has been an evening of "tarab", Arabic classical music with singing or chanting in the purest melodic form – sounds that fill the listener with many sensations. Magida Al Roumi played for two nights, doubling the excitement of her fans which came from various Arab nationalities.

The respected Lebanese soprano is also a UN goodwill ambassador. She was one of the first modern singers to start combining western classical music with tarab; Ihsan Al-Monzer, Elias Rahbani, Elie Choueiri and Jamal Salama are just some of the celebrities with whom Magida has worked.

Now that March is drawing to an end, the Abu Dhabi Authority for Culture and Heritage (ADACH) is delighting us with another angelic Arab voice, that of Amal Maher, who has grown up knowing one sound only – the music of Umm Kulthoum, "the star of the east", the "diva of Arabic music".

An iconic Egyptian singer of the 1950s and 60s, Umm Kulthoum spoke freely about her personal life, repeatedly identifying herself as a villager, a peasant or "fallahah" and emphasising that she shared common values with the majority of Egypt's populace. In her interviews, she told full stories of her family and of the

qualities in village life. Even today, the name Umm Kulthoum is known to every generation, the young and the old, both in Egypt and the wider Arab world.

Eventually Umm Kulthoum became a spokeswoman for various causes. Most importantly, after Egypt's defeat in the 1967 by Israel, she travelled throughout Egypt and other Arab countries, donating the proceeds of her performances to the government of Egypt. These concerts were much publicised visits and Umm Kulthoum was regularly received by heads of state. One of her most enjoyable activities was touring cultural monuments in every country she went to.

Her songs deal with themes of love, longing and loss. They are nothing short of epic in scale, with durations measured in hours rather than minutes. A typical Umm Kulthoum concert consisted of a performance of two or three songs over a period of three to four hours. In the late 1960s her age and weakened vocal abilities meant the star of all stars had to shorten her performances ... to perhaps two songs over a period of two and a half to three hours.

In some ways, her performances are reminiscent of the structure of Western opera, consisting of long vocal passages linked by shorter orchestral interludes. However, she was not stylistically influenced by opera and she sang solo most of her career.

Umm Kulthoum has been notably referred to as "the Lady" by Charles de Gaulle, and was called "the incomparable voice" by Maria Callas. In memory of her historical contributions to the music industry, culture and society, and after 35 years since her death on 3 February 1975, Amal Maher is coming to Abu Dhabi to perform some of Kulthoum's notable songs. Accompanied by the orchestra of Umm Kulthoum Arabic Music, and led by conducting maestro Dr Khalid Fouad along with 55 musicians and singers, Amal Maher will revive Umm Kulthoum's nostalgic and moving music – songs such as Seerat al Hob ("Memoirs of Love"); Daret Al Ayam ("Days have passed"); Alf Leila ("A Thousand Nights"); and Arooh Li Meen ("Who do I turn to?").



Through this special evening, ADACH hopes to demonstrate devotion and appreciation to Umm Kulthoum's unforgettable epics, while cherishing her as one of the most accomplished and admired Arab female singers in history.

Sounds of Arabia will continue to unveil the best of Arab voices every last Thursday of both April and May 2010. To stay updated with Sounds of Arabia's future events, please visit www.adach.ae □

DISORIENTATION II

THE RISE AND FALL OF ARAB CITIES
22 NOV 2009 - 20 MAR 2010
AN EXHIBITION AT ARTS ABU DHABI GALLERY
MANARAT AL SAADIYAT
SAADIYAT ISLAND, ABU DHABI
OPEN DAILY 2PM-8PM

FILM PROGRAMME

In partnership with Middle East International Film Festival a selection of films will be shown in conjunction with *Disorientation II: The Rise and Fall of Arab Cities*. Poignant, significant, and humorous, these films will touch the audience and prompt a sense of community reminiscent of the pan-Arab unity initiative of the 20th century.

AMREEKA, 2009

10 Feb, 7pm
Directed by Cherise Dabis

NEIGHBORS, 2009

24 Feb, 7pm
Directed by Tahani Rached

The *Disorientation II* Film Programme is complimentary.
All films are bilingual (Arabic & English)

Abu Dhabi Authority for Culture and Heritage
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Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi and Deputy Supreme Commander of the UAE Armed Forces

Abu Dhabi Festival reflects the determination of the capital to take the lead in cultural understanding. Spectacular performances, fascinating exhibitions, new commissions, world premieres, partnerships with leading international festivals, pioneering educational and community programs through the seven Emirates...

A Symphony of Global Culture.

20th March - 7th April 2010

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