



Press Release

"Architectures of the In-Between"

Group Exhibition featuring Nevine Hamza, Atefeh Majidi Nezhad, and Layla Juma

Exhibition Dates: May 31 – August 23, 2025

Venue: Aisha Alabbar Gallery, Dubai, UAE

Aisha Alabbar Gallery is pleased to present "*Architectures of the In-Between*", a group exhibition that brings together the work of Nevine Hamza, Atefeh Majidi Nezhad, and Layla Juma. Three artists whose foundational ties to architecture shape their distinctive visual languages. With practices rooted in spatial logic, metaphysical inquiry, and embodied form, each artist navigates the threshold between structure and sentiment, material and memory, between what is seen and what is sensed.

Nevine Hamza's work is a study in architectural poetics. Drawing on her background in design, she transforms metaphysical ideas into atmospheric visual compositions that float between sky and ground. Her use of photography, digital art, collage, and painting often conjures vast, contemplative skies—spaces of stillness and introspection. "My work seeks to translate metaphysical concepts into visual forms," she notes, "using architectural elements to explore the boundaries between earth and sky, the tangible and the intangible." This pursuit of inner realms and parallel worlds invites the viewer into a quiet, meditative dialogue with the unseen.

Atefeh Majidi Nezhad's installations offer a more tactile investigation of space. Her *Zero-G* series employs delicate lace and translucent materials that appear suspended in midair, confronting the viewer with a sense of both weightlessness and intimacy. Her practice examines the emotional resonance of built environments. "I am inquisitive to primarily notice and then reimagine the historical memory embedded in architectural concepts," Majidi Nezhad reflects. Her work draws a thread between space and selfhood, questioning how architectural memory embeds itself in bodies, rituals, and identities.

Meanwhile, Layla Juma's minimalist geometries present a language of form and repetition that translates social structures into visual rhythm. Through drawing, installation, and sculpture, Juma assembles and disassembles patterns to reveal coded systems and moments of alignment. "I see shapes not as we see them but as dynamic beings with the potential to align despite their unique properties," she says. Her compositions expose the intersections between control and chaos, structure and improvisation, offering a meditation on how identities are shaped, fragmented, and reorganized within spatial and cultural frameworks.

Architectures of the In-Between positions space as something deeply felt an entity that remembers, absorbs, and responds. Through varied media and approaches, Hamza, Majidi Nezhad, and Juma shift architecture from static infrastructure into a living vocabulary of perception, history, and embodied experience.

About the Artists

Nevine Hamza (b. Cairo, 1977) is a visual artist whose art is profoundly influenced by her architectural background. Spanning photography, digital art, collage, and painting, her work delves into metaphysical concepts and features geometric aesthetics that blur the boundaries between earth and sky. Often focusing on the sky, her pieces evoke a sense of silence and perspective, reflecting her ideas on parallel worlds, hidden emotions, and inner realms beyond everyday experience.

Nevine approaches her subjects through an architectural lens, translating intangible concepts into lines, perspectives, and spatial compositions. Her work emphasizes space, frequently opening into expansive skies and landscapes that



imbue a profound stillness, inviting contemplation. With meticulous attention to detail and a masterful command of line and composition, Hamza transforms abstract concepts into visually compelling works, encouraging viewers to engage in a deeper, more contemplative experience of the world.

Her work has been selected for prestigious events like the 'Exclusive Art Collection in collaboration with the French Institute', Soma Art Gallery, Cairo, Egypt (2019), as well as the 'Egypt International Art Fair', Azad Art Gallery, Cairo, Egypt (2020-2021). In 2019, she held her first solo show, 'Roaming Echoes', at Soma Art Gallery.

She participated in several group exhibitions, including 'Mu'anath', Art d'Egypte as part of Cairo Photo Week in collaboration with UN Women, Downtown, Cairo, Egypt (2021); 'Sedimentary', Soma Art Gallery, Cairo, Egypt (2021); 'The Blue Hippo Project', Cairo International Art District, Downtown Cairo, Egypt (2021); 'Dots', Art d'Egypte, Downtown, Cairo, Egypt (2020); 'Almaza Art Symposium' Art d'Egypte, North Coast, Egypt (2020); 'Sameness' organized by Adsum Art, TU Berlin Campus, Gouna, Egypt (2018).

Nevine's work has been acquired by prestigious art collections, including the international MIA Art Collection, and has been published in 'HOLA' Magazine. Her art has also been featured in auctions organized by Adsum Art Egypt, Precision Auction House London, and on Artsy with Art d'Egypte as part of virtual exhibitions such as 'Middle Eastern Galleries Now', 'Ma3radha', and 'Mu'anath'.

Nevine has a Bachelor's Degree (2000) and Master's Degree (2007) in Architecture from Cairo University, Cairo, Egypt. Currently, Nevine Hamza resides between Egypt and the UAE, where she heads her design consultancy firm, 'LEGEND&CO.,' in Cairo and Dubai.

Atefeh Majidi Nezhad (b. 1983, Isfahan, Iran) is an Iranian artist based in Dubai whose work delves into the dynamic relationship between architecture and its impact on the observer. With a Bachelor of Arts in Painting from Isfahan University of Art (2006) and a Master's degree from the University of Tehran (2009), Majidi Nezhad has cultivated a career that bridges local roots with global reach. Her work has been featured in an array of prominent local and international exhibitions, including four solo shows and over twenty group exhibitions and art fairs. A career highlight includes winning the prestigious Lorenzo II Magnifico second prize for her installation at the Florence Biennale XIV in 2023. In 2022, she was awarded first prize by the Khor-Art Initiative and the Culture and Media Grant in Germany, underscoring her influential presence in the art world.

Majidi Nezhad's works are also held in esteemed collections in Dubai, solidifying her international footprint. Her practice critically engages with themes of architecture, culture, and memory, inviting viewers into a reflective dialogue on how built environments shape personal and collective experiences.

Layla Juma (b. Sharjah, 1977) is a multidisciplinary artist from the Emirates. An artist as well as architectural engineer, Layla is interested in compositions of visible and felt connections. Experimenting with abstract concepts and physical forms, she explores links between elements of being. Her work is often open-ended yet balanced, where each composition presents a layer of traced links.

A member of the Emirates Fine Arts Society since the early 2000s, Layla is among the third-generation of Emirati artists and takes inspiration from prolific UAE conceptual pioneers – including Hassan Sharif and Mohammed Kazem.

In 2021, Juma had a solo exhibition titled *Squaring the Circle* at Aisha Alabbar Gallery, Dubai, UAE. She participated in exhibitions in the UAE and internationally, including Layla Juma & Carolin Kropff, STUDIOSPACE Lange Strasse 31, Frankfurt, Germany (2023); *From Barcelona to Abu Dhabi: Works from the MACBA Art Collection in dialogue with the Emirates*, Manarat Al Saadiyat, Abu Dhabi (2018); *Portrait of a Nation*, Me Collectors Room, Berlin, Germany (2017); *There Are Too Many Walls But Not Enough Bridges*, Kunst(Zeug)Haus, Rapperswil-Jona, Switzerland (2015); *Emirati Expressions III: Realised*, Manarat Al Saadiyat, Abu Dhabi, UAE (2014); *Mind - Dubai Contemporary*, DUCTAC's Gallery of Light, Dubai, UAE (2012); Singapore Biennial (2008); and Cairo Biennial (2006).



Her works are in several collections in the UAE, including ADMAF, Environment Agency, Al Dar Hotel & Hospitality, and the Ministry of Presidential Affairs in Abu Dhabi; Barjeel Art Foundation, and Sharjah Child Friendly Office in Sharjah; JP Morgan Chase Bank in Dubai; and internationally in Art Towada Center, in Aomori, Japan.

About Aisha Alabbar Gallery

Founded in 2018, Aisha Alabbar Gallery is one of the first Emirati-led contemporary art galleries in Dubai focused on supporting artists from the Gulf and West Asia and North Africa (WANA) region. The gallery champions interdisciplinary practices and provides a platform for emerging and established artists working across photography, mixed media, installation, and conceptual art. With a commitment to fostering critical dialogue and cross-cultural exchange, the gallery contributes to shaping the UAE's evolving artistic landscape.

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