

PRESS RELEASE

Alia Lootah: *"In the Space of Becoming"*

A Solo Exhibition
Aisha Alabbar Gallery
Dubai, UAE

Aisha Alabbar Gallery is pleased to present *In the Space of Becoming*, a solo exhibition by Alia Lootah, featuring a new body of work that brings together painting, drawing, and sculpture in a fluid and contemplative exploration of form, material, and transformation.

Rooted in the idea that "a form is never finished, only paused," Lootah's practice approaches form as something living, constantly shifting, stretching, collapsing, and re-emerging in altered states. Across the exhibition, shapes migrate between mediums, creating a shared visual language that resists fixed meaning and instead unfolds gradually through repetition, rhythm, and time.

At the heart of the exhibition are Lootah's sculptural works, many of which employ knitting as both method and metaphor. Far from a purely technical process, knitting becomes a meditative gesture, one shaped by memory, labor, and touch. The resulting forms are soft, pliant, and resistant to containment, often positioned against rigid pedestals that act as counterforces attempting to stabilize what is inherently in flux. This tension between softness and structure, control and release, mirrors the central dualities within her wider practice.

Everyday materials ground the works in lived experience, evoking the gestures of domestic labor and the quiet rhythms of daily life. Yet the forms themselves remain open and unresolved, hovering between recognition and abstraction, intimacy and ambiguity. Meaning emerges slowly, asking the viewer to engage with patience and attentiveness rather than immediate clarity.

Lootah's paintings and drawings echo this sense of internal movement. Lines fold back on themselves, shapes fragment and reform, and gestures migrate across surfaces, reinforcing the dialogue between two- and three-dimensional space. Together, the works trace the evolution of form as it repeats, mutates, and subtly shifts depending on the material that holds it.

Speaking on the exhibition, Shilan Samaei, Gallery Director at Aisha Alabbar Gallery, notes:

"Alia's work exists in a quiet but powerful state of transformation. What moves me most is the way she allows form to remain open, unresolved, and alive. In a world that often demands immediacy and definition, her practice asks us to slow down, to observe carefully, and to trust in the beauty of becoming."

Ultimately, *In the Space of Becoming* is an invitation to reflect on transformation not as a dramatic rupture, but as a series of small, nearly imperceptible shifts. Through accumulated gestures and repeated acts, Lootah reveals change as something gentle, persistent, and deeply intertwined with time, attention, and care.

About the Artist

Alia Hussain Lootah (b. Dubai, 1987) is an Emirati artist, whose current work focuses on bodies of art with the theme of understanding the interpersonal relationship between mother and child in today's modern world. Uncertainty stems from both external and internal factors of unrest.

Alia has participated in multiple group and solo exhibition, such as: “Art be a part” in collaboration with Unicef India and Dubai cares at the Museum of the Future (Dubai,UAE), had a solo presentation at Art Dubai 2024, Madinat Jumeirah, Dubai, UAE (2024) and Abu Dhabi Art 2022, Aisha Alabbar Gallery, Manarat Al Saadiyat, Abu Dhabi, UAE (2022). She has participated in several exhibitions including Dubai Calligraphy Biennale (2023); The Quest, Aisha Alabbar Gallery, Dubai, UAE (2022); Sikka Art Fair, Dubai, UAE (2011, 2012, and 2013); Mawtini, Tashkeel, Dubai, UAE (2013); Metamorphosis, Tashkeel, Dubai, UAE (2013); and 40 Poems from the Desert, The Ara Gallery, Dubai, UAE (2011). Alia participated as one of the first artists in the Salama bint Hamdan Emerging Artist Fellowship Program (SEAF), graduating in 2014. Her SEAF thesis focused on exploring motherhood through different forms of sculptures. In 2017, Alia co-founded the Medaf Studio in Dubai, an art centre aimed at introducing children and adults to art as a form of self-expression and creativity.

About Aisha Alabbar Gallery

Established in 2018, Aisha Alabbar Gallery is a leading platform for contemporary and modern art in Dubai, United Arab Emirates. Rooted in a strong curatorial vision, the gallery is dedicated to presenting a diverse roster of emerging and established artists from the UAE, the wider MENA region, and the international art world. With a particular focus on fostering dialogue between local artistic practices and global contemporary discourse, the gallery aims to contribute meaningfully to the evolving narrative of art in the region.

As one of the first women-led Emirati galleries, Aisha Alabbar Gallery has played a pioneering role in championing the voices and practices of artists who are redefining the cultural landscape. We take pride in our commitment to nurturing talent through thoughtfully curated exhibitions, artist-led initiatives, and strategic collaborations with leading curators, institutions, and cultural organizations both regionally and internationally.

The gallery places a strong emphasis on research, education, and public engagement. In addition to its dynamic exhibition program, it produces bespoke publications, hosts panel discussions, and develops educational outreach initiatives that enrich the wider community and encourage critical dialogue. Our programming reflects a dedication to presenting bold, innovative practices that speak to contemporary concerns while honoring the unique cultural heritage of the region.

Aisha Alabbar Gallery is proud to serve as a cultural catalyst, supporting artists in building sustainable careers and ensuring their work resonates on a global stage. Through our ongoing efforts, we continue to contribute to the UAE’s vibrant and rapidly growing art ecosystem, leaving an enduring mark on the contemporary art scene.

Exhibition Details Artist: Alia Hussain Lootah

Exhibition Title: *'In the Space of Becoming'*

Venue: Aisha Alabbar Gallery, Warehouse 19-C,
Alserkal Avenue, Dubai, UAE

Dates:

Opening Reception: Nov 16th, 6-8 PM

Press Contact: Ramund Salinal

Email: raymund@aishaalabbar.art

Phone Number: +971 52 2801 275