



KHALID AL BANNA

**LAYERED
CONTRADICTIONS**



AISHA ALABBAR
ART GALLERY

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KHALID AL BANNA

Layered Contradictions

27 January - 6 March

Aisha Alabbar Art Gallery is pleased to present Layered Contradictions, the first solo exhibition of the artist at the gallery.

Repetition and chance are contemporary artist Khalid Al Banna's modus operandi. Surveying his characteristic body of work in collage and fabric, Layered Contradictions reveals his approach to world building that transcends the limitations of reality. A tireless experimenter who pushes the limits of his own practice, Al Banna takes a chance on the inspiration of the moment in a meditation of form and technique that captures a tension between deep deliberation and the promise of randomness.

Al Banna looks at the principals of dimension, form and space only to subvert them. Nowhere is this irreverence more visible than in his black and white collages. In Intersection (2020), a series of abstract works on paper which he rips and re-arranges at random permutations, Al Banna probes the possibilities of color constraints and

the conflict in stratified geometric shapes. While lack of color acts as material in Intersection, it's his series of Intersection colour (2020) that allows rigor to compete with randomness. With the precision of celestial bodies orbiting in space, he cuts paper into geometric figurations and layers them into galactic swirling masses, resulting in a relentless optical illusion. In a work that has never been shown publicly, Imprints (2011), overlays paper with colored ink only to relinquish the role of fabricator in the second half of the process when Al Banna tops his composition with a second sheet of paper that he brushes over with varying degrees of pressure to let material reveal itself in a taste for the accident.

Al Banna's compositions are layered, both in subject matter and material – he blurs the lines and softens the edges of competing forces. He builds otherworldly scenarios bursting with an energetic force that reconciles contradiction and births new meaning.



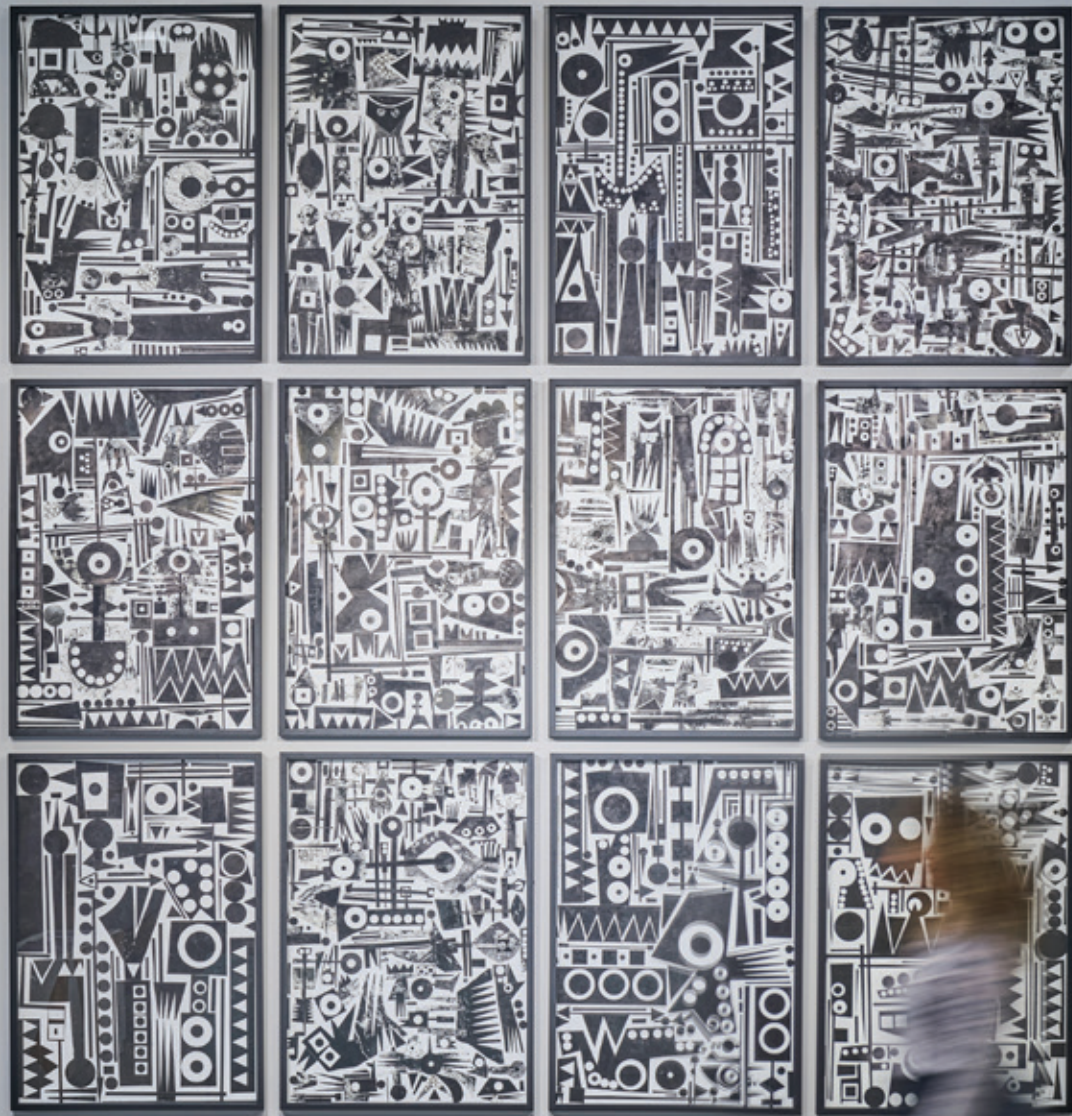
Installation View at Aisha AlAbbar Art Gallery, Dubai, 2021



Gargour, 2020-2021
Steel and Fabric
Various Dimensions



Gargour, (detail), 2020-2021



خالد البنا
طبقات متناقضة
27 يناير - 6 مارس 2021

التكرار و المصادفة هما أسلوب الفنان المعاصر "خالد البنا". متفقداً الهيئة المميزة لعمله في فن الكولاج و النسيج، طبقات متناقضة يكشف عن منهجه في خلق عالمه الخاص الذي يتجاوز حدود الواقع.

تركيبات البنا متعددة الطبقات، سواء في الموضوع أو في المادة، فهو يطمس الخطوط و ويتعمق حواف التضاد القوي. إنه يصمم سيناريوهات خيالية تتدفق بقوة و التي تخلق تناغم بين التناقضات و تولد معنى جديداً. يناقش البنا التقاليد كعامل في تغير مستمر، مستخدماً عناصر من حقبة ماضية في سياق معاصر.

كثير التجارب بلا كلل، متخطياً حدود ممارسته، يستغل البنا فرصة الإستلهام من اللحظة بتأمل للشكل و التقنية و الذي يسجل حالة التوتر بين الثابت و العشوائية.

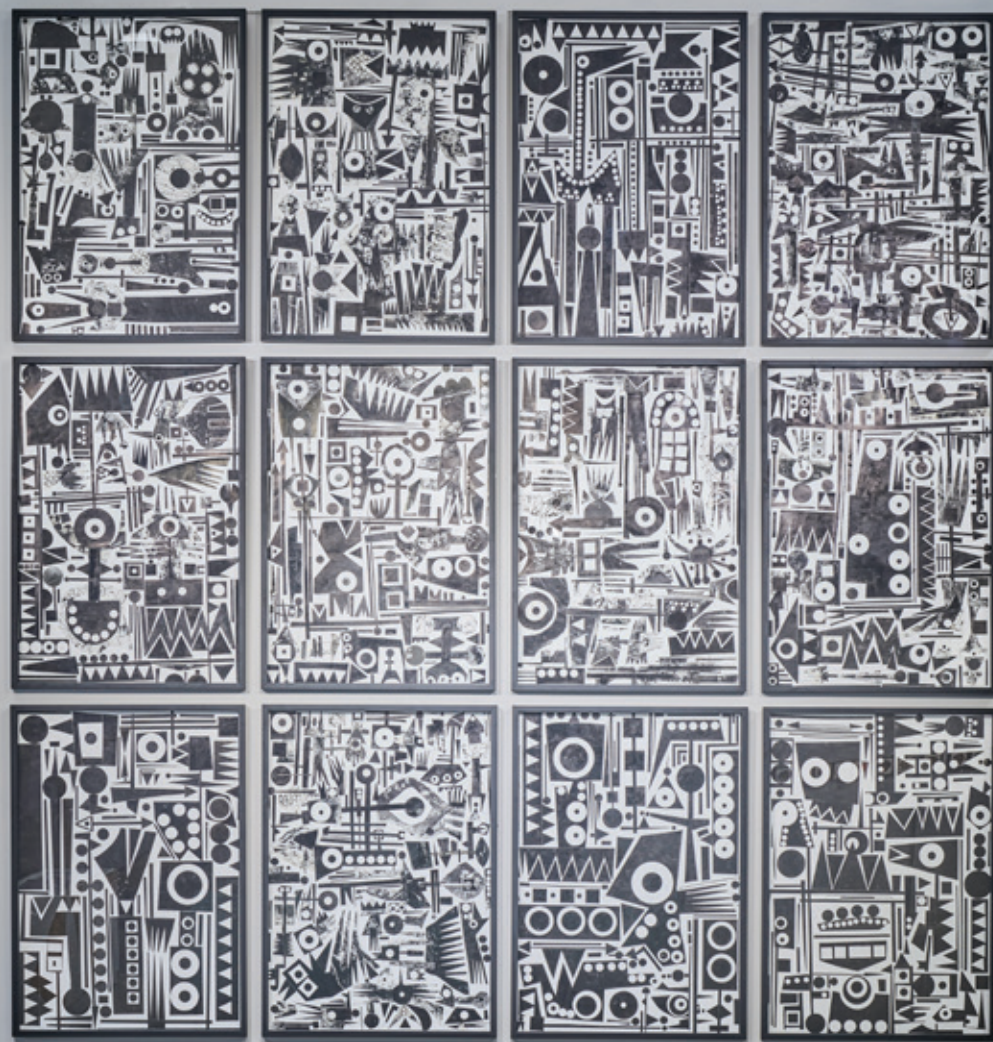
Khalid Al Banna
Layered Contradictions
27 January - 6 March 2021

Repetition and chance are contemporary artist Khalid Al Banna's modus operandi. Surveying his characteristic body of work in collage and fabric, *Layered Contradictions* reveals his approach to world building that transcends the limitations of reality.

Al Banna's compositions are layered, both in subject matter and material - he blurs the lines and softens the edges of competing forces. He builds otherworldly scenarios bursting with an energetic force that reconciles contradiction and births new meaning. Al Banna addresses tradition as an agent in constant flux, using artifacts of a bygone period through a contemporary lens.

A tireless experimenter who pushes the limits of his own practice, Al Banna takes a chance on the inspiration of the moment in a meditation of form and technique that captures a tension between deep deliberation and the promise of randomness.

Intersections, 2020
Ink and Paper Collage
Unframed 100 x 70 cm
Framed 103 x 73 cm





Intersections, (detail), 2020



Installation View at Aisha AlAbbar Art Gallery, Dubai, 2021

Imprints 3, 2011
Colored Ink on Paper
Unframed 70 x 100 cm
Framed 86 x 117 cm



Imprints 1, 2011
Colored Ink on Paper
Unframed 70 x 100 cm
Framed 86 x 117 cm



Imprints 4, 2011
Colored Ink on Paper
Unframed 70 x 100 cm
Framed 86 x 117 cm





Imprints 6, 2011
Colored Ink on Paper
Unframed 70 x 100 cm
Framed 86 x 117 cm



Installation View at Aisha AlAbbar Art Gallery, Dubai, 2021



Intersection Color, 2020
Ink and Paper Collage
Unframed 25 x 17 cm
Framed 35 x 27 cm

Intersection Color, 2020
Ink and Paper Collage
Unframed 25 x 17 cm
Framed 35 x 27 cm



Intersection Color, (detail), 2020



Installation View at Aisha AlAbbar Art Gallery, Dubai, 2021



Installation View at Aisha AlAbbar Art Gallery, Dubai, 2021



Evolution, 2017
Fabric and Mixed Media
Unframed 10 x 10 cm
Framed 16.5 x 16 cm



Evolution, (detail), 2017



Km — 2017



Installation View at Aisha AlAbbar Art Gallery, Dubai, 2021

ABOUT THE ARTIST

Khalid Al Banna (b. 1975, Sharjah) is a contemporary Emirati artist based in Sharjah, UAE. He has staked his place in the local art scene since the early 90s, renowned now for using collage as a primary technique to explore subject matter pertinent to the history and rapid transformations of his home country. Al Banna's work is a reflection of his world view. Drawing primarily from elements of design, his canvas is the negative space and his art is life projected against it. His fascination with world-building, borrowed from the field of architecture, gave rise to his hallmark Black and White collages: a diaristic series of abstract paper works using ink and collage which foreground process. He weaves together vague depictions of his landscape, the past and the present as well as blurry scenes from world affairs as experienced through his status quo.

After a decade of Black and White collages, he moved on to expanding the limits of his practice and perception. By 2009, after wandering into an old souq by his studio at Bait Al Shamsi, he stumbled upon an abundance of textile shops. The quaint storefronts, the fast-paced mercantile spirit and the muffled cacophony of overlapping cries for attention by the sellers, beckoned him into a new world – one in dizzying motion. Enter his sculptural fabric collages which are both the medium and the message. In his textile compositions, Al Banna addresses tradition as an agent in constant flux, using artifacts of a bygone period through a contemporary lens. Fabrics, crystals, beads and mirrors are worked and reworked in cathartic repetition, calling upon practices prevalent in Islamic ritual such as prayer and ablution, as well as the shapes of sacred geometry.

KHALID AL BANNA

BORN 1975, Sharjah, UAE

Lives and works in Sharjah, UAE

EDUCATION

1999 BA of Engineering Architecture, UAE University, Al Ain, UAE

SELECTED SOLO EXHIBITION

2021 *Layered Contradictions*, Aisha Alabbar Art Gallery, Dubai, UAE

2017 *Disappearing Tense*, Cuadro Gallery, Dubai, UAE

2009 *Unlimited Spectrums*, Department of Culture, Sharjah, High College Technologies, Sharjah, UAE
Black & White, Yalsa, Dubai, UAE

2006 1st Solo Exhibition, Emirates Fine Arts Society, Sharjah, UAE

SELECTED GROUP EXHIBITION

2020 *Covid Conversation*, Tashkeel, Dubai, UAE.

2019 Al Burda Endowment Exhibition, UAE Ministry of Culture & Youth, Manarat Al Sadiyat, Abu Dhabi, UAE, Abu Dhabi Art, Salwa Zeidan Gallery, Manarat Al Sadiyat, Abu Dhabi, UAE, *Convergence*, 36th, Emirate Fine Art Society Annual Exhibition, Sharjah Arts Museum, Sharjah, UAE, Sharjah Exhibition for Children's Book Illustrations, Sharjah Book Authority, Expo Centre Sharjah, Sharjah, UAE

2018 35th Emirates Fine art Society Annual Exhibition, Sharjah Arts Museum, Sharjah, UAE
Sharjah Exhibition for Children's Book Illustrations, Sharjah Book Authority, Expo Centre Sharjah, Sharjah, UAE

2017 *Portrait of a Nation*, me Collectors Room Berlin / Olbricht Foundation, Berlin, Germany
Abu Dhabi Art, Cuadro Gallery, Manarat Al Sadiyat,

Abu Dhabi, UAE

2016 *Domestic Affairs: Reshaped*, Gallery Isabelle van den Eynde, Dubai, UAE
Portrait of a Nation, Abu Dhabi Festival, Emirates Palace, Abu Dhabi, UAE

33rd Emirates Fine Art Society Annual Exhibition, Sharjah Arts Museum, Sharjah, UAE

2014 Abu Dhabi Art, Kashya Hildebrand Gallery, Manarat Al Sadiyat, Abu Dhabi, UAE

A Joint Exhibition of Emirati Art, Cuadro Gallery, Dubai, UAE

32nd Emirates Fine Art Society Annual Exhibition, Sharjah Arts Museum, Sharjah, UAE

Art Dubai, Special Project, Mohamed Al Abbar Desert Resort, Ara Gallery, Dubai, UAE

2013 31st Emirates Fine Art Society Annual Exhibition, Sharjah Art Museum, Sharjah, UAE

UEA | A Work of Art, Ara Gallery, Dubai, UAE

Abu Dhabi Art, Kashya Hildebrand Gallery, Manarat Al Sadiyat, Abu Dhabi, UAE

4th Tawasul, Emirates Fine Art Society, Sharjah, UAE, Modern and Contemporary Arab, Iranian

and Turkish Arts Sale, Christie's, Emirates Tower, Dubai, UAE

2012 *Scope Basel*, Kashya Hildebrand Gallery, Basel, Switzerland. Abu Dhabi Art, Kashya Hildebrand Gallery, Manarat Al Sadiyat, Abu Dhabi, UAE
The Present, Contemporary Art From The Emirates, Maraya Art Centre, Sharjah, UAE.

CROSSROADS #4 - Diversified Union, Swiss Art Gate, YAS Hotel, Abu Dhabi, UAE

Sikka Art Fair, Dubai Culture Authority, Al Fahidi Historical Neighborhood, Dubai, UAE

30th Emirates Fine Art Society Annual Exhibition, Sharjah Arts Museum, Sharjah, UAE

3rd Tawasul, Emirates Fine Art Society, Sharjah, UAE

- 2011 *MinD-City Dialogue*, Gallery of Light, Ductac, Dubai, UAE
Color of the Emirates, Swiss Art Gate, Hotel Beau Rivage, Lausanne, Switzerland
 29th Emirates Fine Art Society Annual Exhibition, Sharjah Arts Museum, Sharjah, UAE
Color of the Emirates, Swiss Art Gate, Delta City Mall, Podgorica, Montenegro
- 2010 *Art in Space*, Salwa Zaidan Gallery, Abu Dhabi, UAE.
Contemporary Reflections, UAE Embassy in Washington DC, Kennedy Center, Washington DC, USA
 Sikka Art Fair, Dubai Culture Authority, Al Fahidi Historical Neighborhood, Dubai, UAE
 1st Tawasul, Emirates Fine Art Society, Sharjah, UAE
- 2009 *Emirati Expressions*, Department of Culture and Tourism - Abu Dhabi, Emirates Palace, Abu Dhabi, UAE
 Selection of art work for Khalifa Tower, Courtyard Gallery, Dubai, UAE
The Seven, Qibab Gallery, Abu Dhabi, UAE
 28th Emirates Fine Art Society Annual Exhibition, Sharjah Arts Museum, Sharjah, UAE
- 2008 *Memory*, 27th Emirates Fine Art Society Annual Exhibition, Al Serkal House, Sharjah, UAE
Suhoor, an Emirati Exhibition, Sikka Art Fair, Dubai Culture Authority, Al Fahidi Historical Neighborhood, Dubai, UAE
- 2007 Sharjah Cultural Week, Sharjah Culture Authority, Ludwig Museum, Koblenz, Germany
 Sharjah Cultural Week, Sharjah Culture Authority, Palais Pallavicini, Vienna, Austria
 26th Emirates Fine Art Society Annual Exhibition, Sharjah Arts Museum, Sharjah, UAE
 Art Avenue Event, Al Seef Street, Dubai Culture Authority, Dubai, UAE
- 2006 25th Emirates Fine Art Society Annual Exhibition, Sharjah Arts Museum, Sharjah, UAE
- 2005 *Silver Jubilee*, 24th Emirates Fine Art Society Annual Exhibition, Sharjah Arts Museum, Sharjah, UAE
- 2004 *Interchange*, 23rd Emirates Fine Art Society Annual Exhibition, Sharjah Arts Museum, Sharjah, UAE. *Method to madness*, Cuadro Gallery, Dubai, UAE
- 2003 Egypt International Triennial of Graphic Art, Egyptian Ministry of Culture, Cairo, Egypt
 22nd Emirates Fine Art Society Annual Exhibition, Sharjah Arts Museum, Sharjah, UAE
 7th GCC Exhibition of Art & Calligraphy, Kuwait Fine Art Society, Kuwait
- 2002 21st Emirates Fine Art Society Annual Exhibition, Sharjah Arts Museum, Sharjah, UAE
- 2001 20th Emirates Fine Art Society Annual Exhibition, Sharjah Arts Museum, Sharjah, UAE
- 2000 Expo Hannover 2000- UAE Pavilion, Hannover, Germany.
 UAE Cultural week, UAE Ministry of Culture, Solidere Cultural Center, Beirut, Lebanon
 UAE Cultural week, UAE Ministry of Culture, Royal Cultural Center, Amman, Jordan
The Portrait, Emirates Fine Art Society, Sharjah Arts Museum, Sharjah, UAE
 19th Emirates Fine Art Society Annual Exhibition, Sharjah Arts Museum, Sharjah, UAE
- 1999 18th Emirates Fine Art Society Annual Exhibition, Sharjah Art Museum, Sharjah, UAE
 Sharjah International Arts Biennial 4th Session, Sharjah Culture Authority, Expo Centre, Sharjah
- 1998 17th Emirates Fine Art Society Annual Exhibition, Sharjah Art Museum, Sharjah, UAE
Emirates in the eyes of its artists, Cultural Foundation, Abu Dhabi, UAE
 Abu Dhabi Company for Onshore Oil Operation (ADCO) Competition, ADCO Headquarter, Abu Dhabi, UAE

1997 A Joint Exhibition of Emirati & Omani students,
UAE University & Sultan Qaboos University, Omani
Fine Art Society, Muscat, Oman

BIBLIOGRAPHY

2020 Khalid Al Banna presents his paintings, switching
between black and white (in Arabic) [shorturl.at/
jtvGS](http://shorturl.at/jtvGS)

2020 5 collage paintings reflect Al-Banna's vision in
'Tawasul' (in Arabic) shorturl.at/rKLTV

2013 I strive to keep the national memory alive (in
Arabic) shorturl.at/efBJ32011

2006 Khalid Al Banna's first solo exhibition (in Arabic)
shorturl.at/klrD8

PUBLICATIONS & CATALOGUES

Ayad, Myrna, Rania Habib and Maria Mumtaz. "The Ones
to Watch." Canvas Magazine Volume 10, Issue 6, 2014: 172-
179.

Ayad, Myrna, "Keep the Faith." Canvas Magazine Volume
9, Issue 6, 2013: 142-143.

1st Solo Exhibition, Catalogue for Solo Exhibition, Emirates
Fine Art Society, 2006.

AFFILIATIONS

2019	Committee member, Sheikha Latifa Bint Mohammed Childhood Creativity competition
2018	Committee member, Sheikha Latifa Bint Mohammed Childhood Creativity competition
2014 - Present	Member of Board of Directors of Emirates Fine Art Society, UAE
2004 - Present	Member, Architectural Heritage Society, UAE
2004 - Present	Member, Society of Engineering, UAE
1998 - Present	Member, Emirates Fine Art Society, UAE

AWARDS

1998 1st prize in Painting Competition at UAE
University, Al Ain, UAE

2001 2nd prize of Emirates Fine Art Society Annual
Exhibition, Sharjah, UAE

ACQUISITIONS

- UAE Embassy in Washington D.C, USA
- UAE Embassy in Podgorica, Montenegro
- Ministry of Culture & Youth, UAE
- Department of Culture and Tourism-Abu Dhabi, UAE
- Ministry of Foreign Affairs, UAE
- Sharjah Art Museum, UAE
- Abu Dhabi Music & Art Foundation- ADMAF, UAE
- Barjeel Art Foundation, UAE
- Emaar Properties, UAE
- Emirates Fine Art Society, UAE
- Emirates Integrated Telecommunications Company
(du), UAE
- Abu Dhabi International Marine Sports Club, UAE
- Hyatt Regency Dubai Creek Heights Hotel
- Private collection of H.H. Sheikh Zayed Bin Sultan Bin
Khalifa Al Nahyan
- Private collection of H.H. Abdulla bin Zayed Al Nahyan,
- UAE Minister Foreign Affairs and International
Cooperation
- Private collection of H.H. Sheikh Majed Jaber Al Sabah



Aisha Alabbar Art Gallery was founded in 2018 and is a platform that supports local and regional artists who communicate their innovative techniques through a diverse range of artistic genres.

The gallery is a multidisciplinary space that not only exhibits the work of artists, but also welcomes the exploration of fashion, cinema and all creative concepts. With ongoing workshops that cover multiple creative disciplines, as well as regular meet ups, talks and events, the gallery is a hub to freely engage in discussion, debate and discovery.

Founder and owner, Aisha Alabbar is recognized as a pioneering advocate for her ongoing contribution to the local art scene. She is also an established photographer, documenting her journey, growth and emotions through the use of photographic images.

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