

Al Jaw

The Artistic Journal of the Arab World



[impatiently waiting]

© Sarah Bahbah



“3eib”

Sarah Bahbah is a Palestinian Jordanian artist and director born and raised in Australia. Raised by Immigrant parents, her culturally conservative upbringing led to a great rebellion of Art. Over the past decade Bahbah has become renowned for her signature style, giving birth to visually striking, culture-shifting stories that combine her most intimate psyche appearing as subtitles placed over cinematic stills.

Her art explores the power of vulnerability by way of giving voice to the vast spectrum of chaos and desire in imperfect relationships. She believes in embracing emotional vulnerability to break taboos and celebrate the liberation of guilt and shame. In 2020 Bahbah released her most impactful series yet titled “3ieb!” in Arabic / “Shame On Me!” in English. She provocatively posed in front of the camera, expressing her desire for sexual liberation from cultural restrictions. The added subtitles caused an uproar within the MENA community, while simultaneously giving a voice to women who held the same desire.

Balad El Fann

It takes place in Jeddah, celebrating the history of this seventh-century district until March 9.

There will be several exhibitions and concerts, including the Jeddah Jazz Festival on January 25, featuring performances by over 30 local and international artists.

The full programme is available on the event's Instagram account @baladalfann



Two exhibitions on the Villa Baizeau in Tunis next January

The 1st one opens on January 15 at Le 32bis in Tunis. It focuses on the Villa Baizau, built in Carthage between 1928 and 1930. It is the only architectural project that Le Corbusier designed in Africa.

The 2nd exhibition invites six artists to respond to the issues raised by this architectural object: the inaccessibility of its site, its early nationalisation, the symbolism of a Carthaginian villa in a context of severe economic crisis, and its particularity in Le Corbusier's career.





- I need another drink.
- Darling, you need another bottle.

1-54 in Marrakech: what's new?

The international fair dedicated to contemporary African art & founded by Touria El Glaoui will host 27 exhibitors, from Feb 8 to 11.

15 foreign galleries will participate for the 1st time. The programme includes studio visits by artists such as Yasmina Alaoui, M'barek Bouhchichi, Amina Benbouchta, ... Black Rock Global Arts Foundation will be co-hosting a symposium on the state of institutions focusing on artists in Africa.



Alia Ali

The solo show of the Yemeni artist is entitled "Horizon Rising" and takes place at the Siniya 28 gallery in Marrakech from 28 Dec to 28 Feb.

Working in photography, video and installation, Ali's work addresses the politicisation of the body, imperialism, sexism and racism through projects in which textile has a major role. Her research also tackles criminality, Yemeni futurism and feminist theory.

"As a woman artist who exists at the boundaries of identificatio, my work explores cultural binarities. It challenges culturally sanctioned oppression and confronts the dualistic barriers of conflicting notions of gender, politics, media and citizenship".

“Horizon Saudi Arabia”

The documentary will be available on Netflix on 4 January. It highlights the diversity of Saudi wildlife, as well as efforts to protect endangered species.

The production is an initiative by KonoZ, which aims to document the Kingdom's cultural richness and highlight the achievements of Saudi citizens by collaborating with local companies to produce documentaries, short films and animated features.



Dak'Art, the biennial of contemporary African art

For this new and fifteenth edition, which will run from 16 May to 16 June, 58 artists have been selected to celebrate the 2024 theme: "awakening".

Hiba Baddou, a Moroccan multidisciplinary artist born in 1997, participates. She presents a pictorial universe combining East and West, concrete and abstract. Her work questions crowds, individuals, their routines and rituals.





Asmae el-Moudir in the Oscars pre-selection

"The Mother of All Lies", directed by Asmae el-Moudir and awarded the Golden Star at the Marrakech International Film Festival, has been shortlisted for the 2024 Oscars, in the "Best International Film" category.

Synopsis: a family's web of lies and one young girl's search to find the truth.

Through her own voice, Asmae, daughter and filmmaker, flits between national and personal history to tell the 1981 Bread Riots in Morocco and shows how this event connects with contemporary Moroccan society.

Before its triumph in Marrakech, "The Mother of All Lies" had won numerous awards, including the Oeil d'Or at the Cannes Film Festival with Kaouther Ben Hania's "Olfa's Daughters".

EL GOUNA FILM FESTIVAL

First, let's take a look back at the winners of this year's festival, which took place in Cairo from 14 to 21 Dec.

The short film competition chose "Les Chenilles" by Noel and Michelle Keserwany. The El Gouna Star for the Best Arab Narrative Film was awarded to "Transient Happiness" by Iraqi director Sina Mouhammed; the El Gouna Star for the Best Arab Documentary to "Machtat" by Tunisian director Sonia Ben Slama; and the El Gouna Golden Star for Documentary Film went to Egyptian director Ibrahim Nash'at for "Hollywoodgate".

The Palestinian cause was on everyone's lips. With a programme dedicated to it, several films gave a voice to Palestinians and highlighted the obstacles they face.

On screen: "Bye Bye Tiberias" by Lina Soualem, "Drawing for Better Dreams" by May Odeh, "The Teacher" by Farah Nabulsi, ...





El Gouna Festival: celebrities wore "message" outfits, starting with Lebanese actress Manal Issa and her press waistcoat bearing names of Palestinian journalists covering the genocide in Gaza. © Ammar Abd Rabbo / AFP

Among our Readers



اللوفا أبو ظبي
LOUVRE ABU DHABI



MUCEM