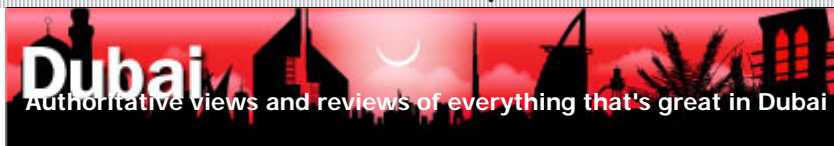




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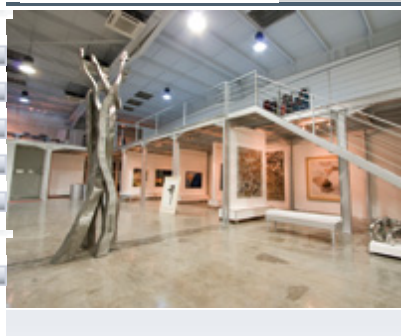
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## New gallery opens

### Artsawa

It's always quite an occasion when a new gallery opens its doors. This week, Artsawa joins the ranks of Dubai's booming art scene, a 12,000 sq ft space in a converted warehouse in Al Quoz. The inaugurating collection features artists from around the region, with a strong presence from North Africa.

'Sawa means together in spoken Arabic, that's what I wanted to express with this gallery,' says Artsawa's owner Amel Makkawi. 'What links this region together is art and culture. It's that language that brings us together. We are aiming to promote lesser known artists – I want to move away from the usual suspects. That's my plan.'

The opening show includes works by Ali Raza, Ahmed Al Bahraini and Essam Marouf, whose work we got a sneak look at before the launch. An Egyptian artist, Marouf paints his subjects in solid blocks of colour, each with rapt expressions of melancholia.

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A welcomed, exciting addition to the art scene.

*Artsawa (04 340 8660) Exit 43 Sheikh Zayed Road, head towards Rasaas Road, Road 323, U-turn at Grand Hypermarket, gallery is on the right opp. Shirawi Equipment. From October 23*

By **Chris Lord**, Monday October 20 2008



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