

Curatorial Text  
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It is the misconception of many that figurative art in Saudi Arabia has ceased to exist altogether. It is true that artists approach the subject with great caution due to the mixed interpretations to prohibition in representing the human form or any living things and opinions are still divided, often rendering figurative work inaccessible. This exhibition focuses on the representation of women as a subject in art by Saudi women artists, from the beginnings of the 1980's to the present day, opening the door to a little exposed area of contemporary art in the Kingdom.

The works range from representational figurative art, to abstraction, shedding light on the diversity of genre and mediums, styles and approaches. The variety of form and representation is intended to heighten the viewer's visual experience whilst provoking the inquisitive mind to explore the context for this level of diversity within the works.

The exhibition unfolds the untold narratives; visually scribed and articulated by the selected female artists over a prolonged period of time, encouraging viewers to become active participants in a dynamic experience of shared stories. Each artwork speaks to us in a unique way, asking us to respond and engage in a reciprocal dialogue, encouraging the general public to make assumptions and draw conclusions as to the why and how these works were created.

Given that context is the main drive under which artists create their work, the milestone timeline that accompanies the exhibition seeks to provide an artistic, social and political context for the creation of the work. It also opens up possibilities to a new set of areas to investigate and explore, specifically related to social developments and achievements in different fields, that may have influenced the artists or made an impact on their work.

The selection of artworks is based on the seemingly simple criteria of female representation by female artists. The principle common ground it has uncovered is how artists' styles of representation in response to a common theme have evolved in momentum with the fast development of current Saudi art.