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Installation view of *But We Cannot See Them: Tracing a UAE Art Community, 1988-2008*. Photo: John Varghese.

[Summary \(/en_US/our-exhibitions/main-gallery/bwcst-archive/#tab-1\)](/en_US/our-exhibitions/main-gallery/bwcst-archive/#tab-1)

This exhibition and book publication together surveyed the founding decades of a profoundly influential artistic community, working at the vanguard of contemporary art in the UAE since the 1980s. Eventually, some of these artists founded the celebrated Flying House.

The book tells this story through interviews with the expanded group of artists, filmmakers, poets, and writers that make up this community (including Nujoom Alghanem and Khalid Albudoor), and those who joined it or supported it along the way (Cristiana De Marchi, Abdulraheem Sharif), as well as essays by peer and writer Adel Khozam, and art historian Aisha Stoby.

The title of the exhibition and book is drawn from a poem written by a key member of the community, poet and filmmaker Nujoom Alghanem.

But We Cannot See Them was curated by Maya Allison, with Bana Kattan, and Alaa Edris. It included archival material and video interviews with members of the community, alongside artworks from the 1988 through 2008, as well as a reading room of work from other important members of the community.

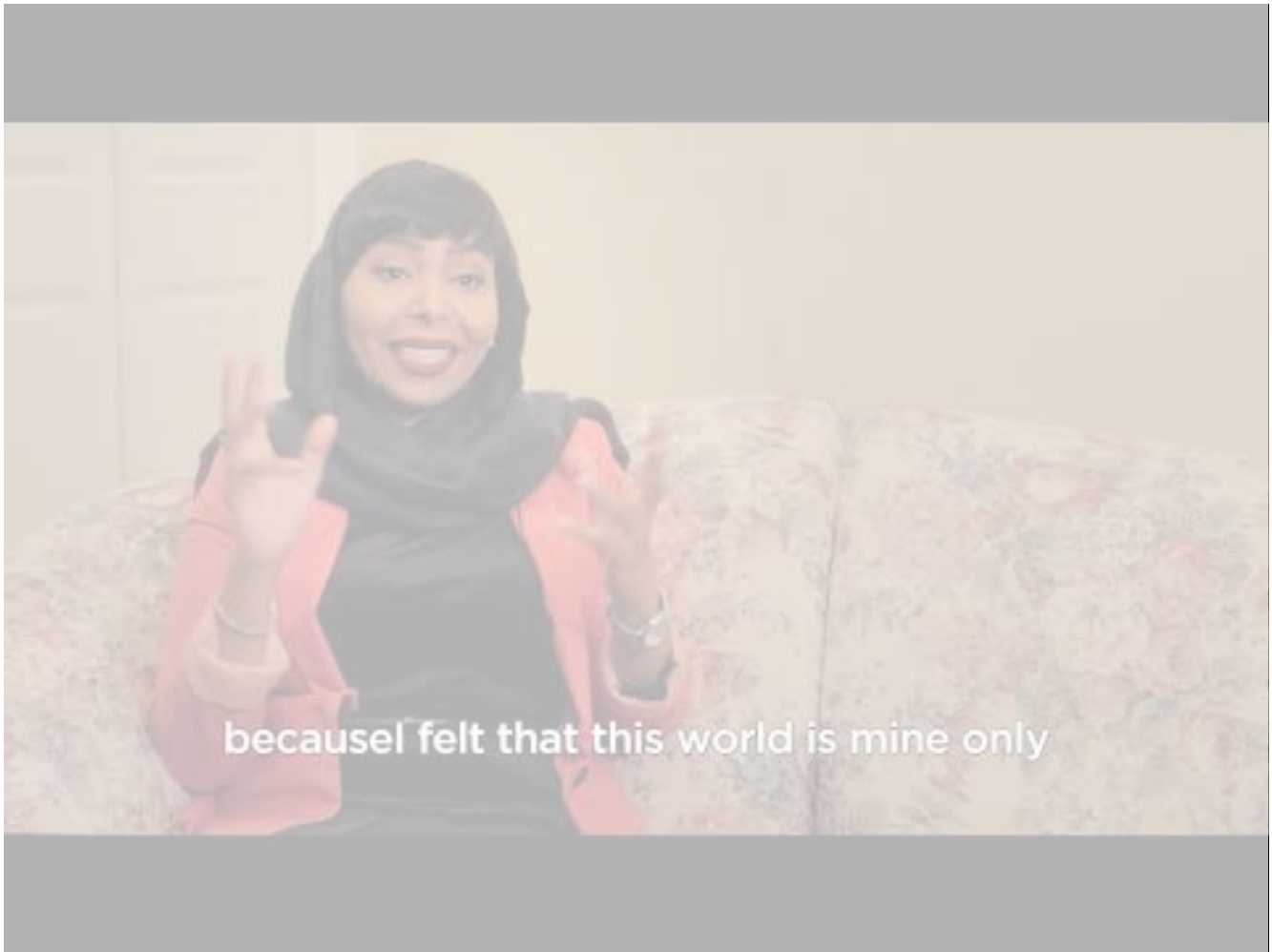
[Read the essay \(/en_US/our-exhibitions/main-gallery/bwcst-archive/#tab-2\)](/en_US/our-exhibitions/main-gallery/bwcst-archive/#tab-2)

But We Cannot See Them: Tracing a UAE Art Community, 1988-2008

with: Abdullah Al Saadi, Ebtisam Abdulaziz, Hassan Sharif, Hussein Sharif, Jos Clevers, Mohammed Kazem, Mohamed Ahmed Ibrahim, Vivek Vilasini

March 2 - August 26, 2017
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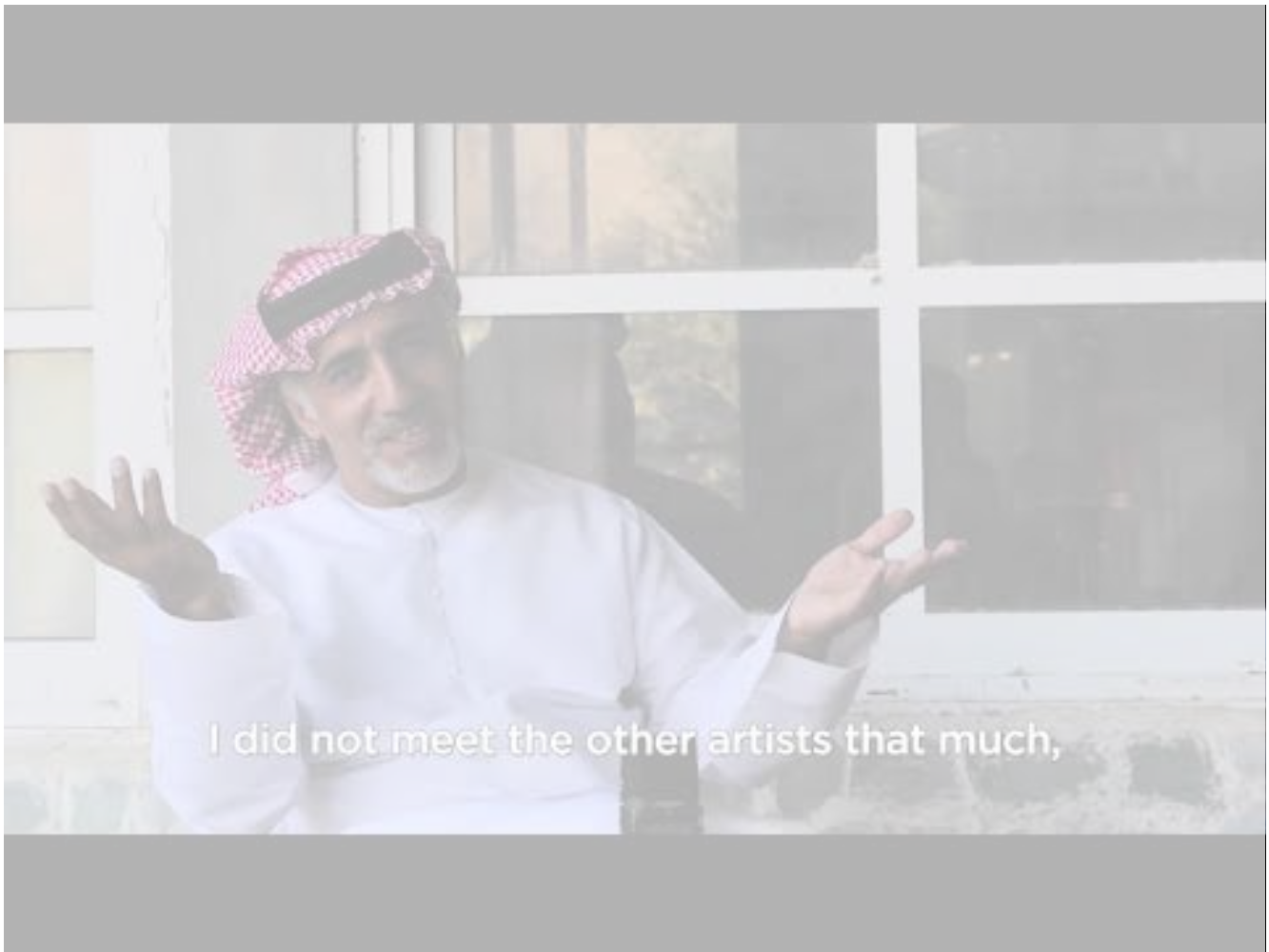


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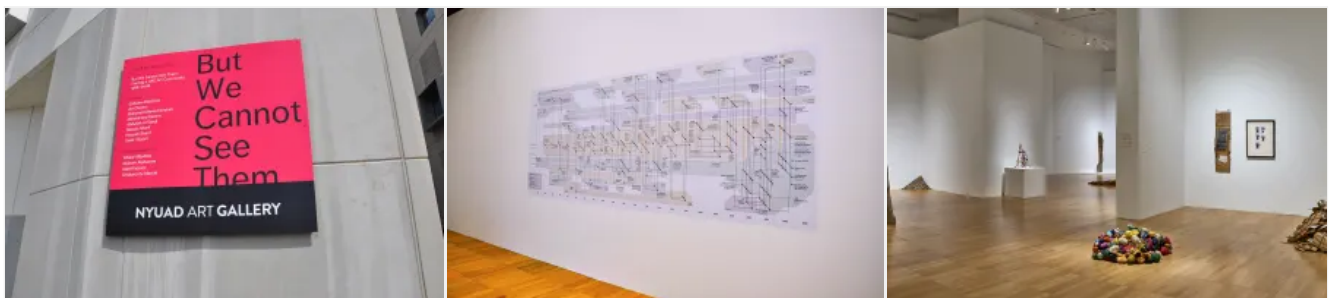
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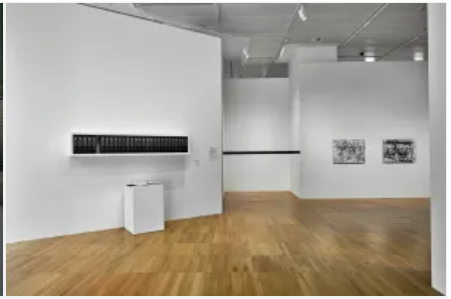
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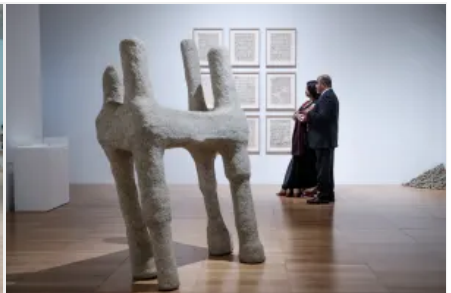


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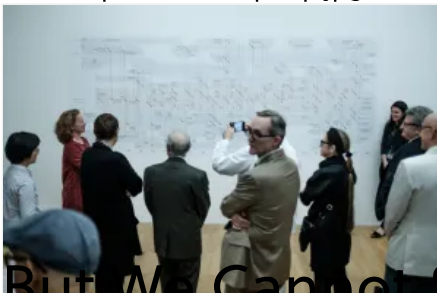


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[Media Alert: But We Cannot See Them Public Program Announcement](https://s3-eu-west-1.amazonaws.com/nyuad-artgallery-dev/Media%20Alert%20BWCST%20Public%20Program%20Announcement%20EN.pdf) [224 KB] (<http://s3-eu-west-1.amazonaws.com/nyuad-artgallery-dev/Media Alert BWCST Public Program EN.pdf>)

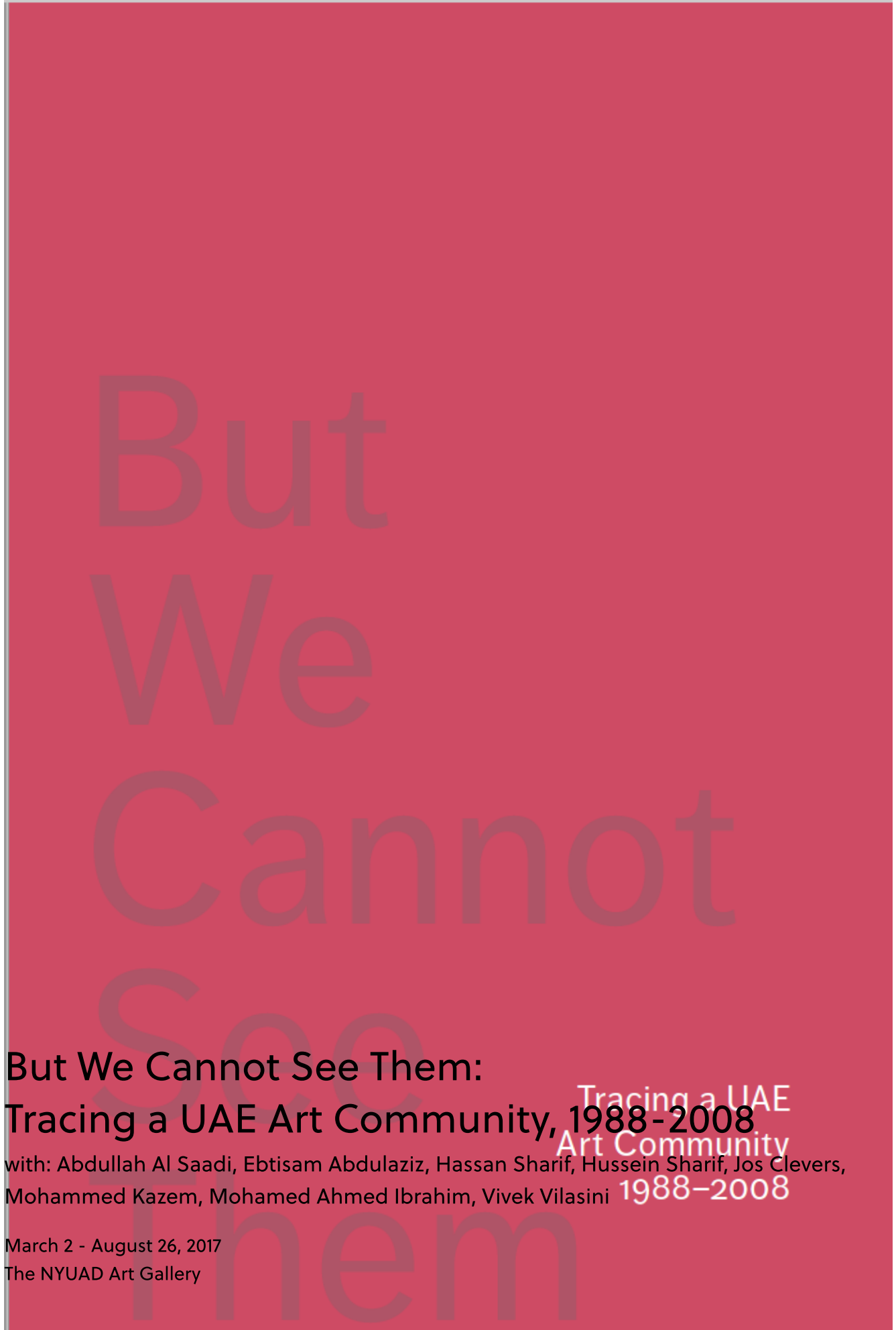
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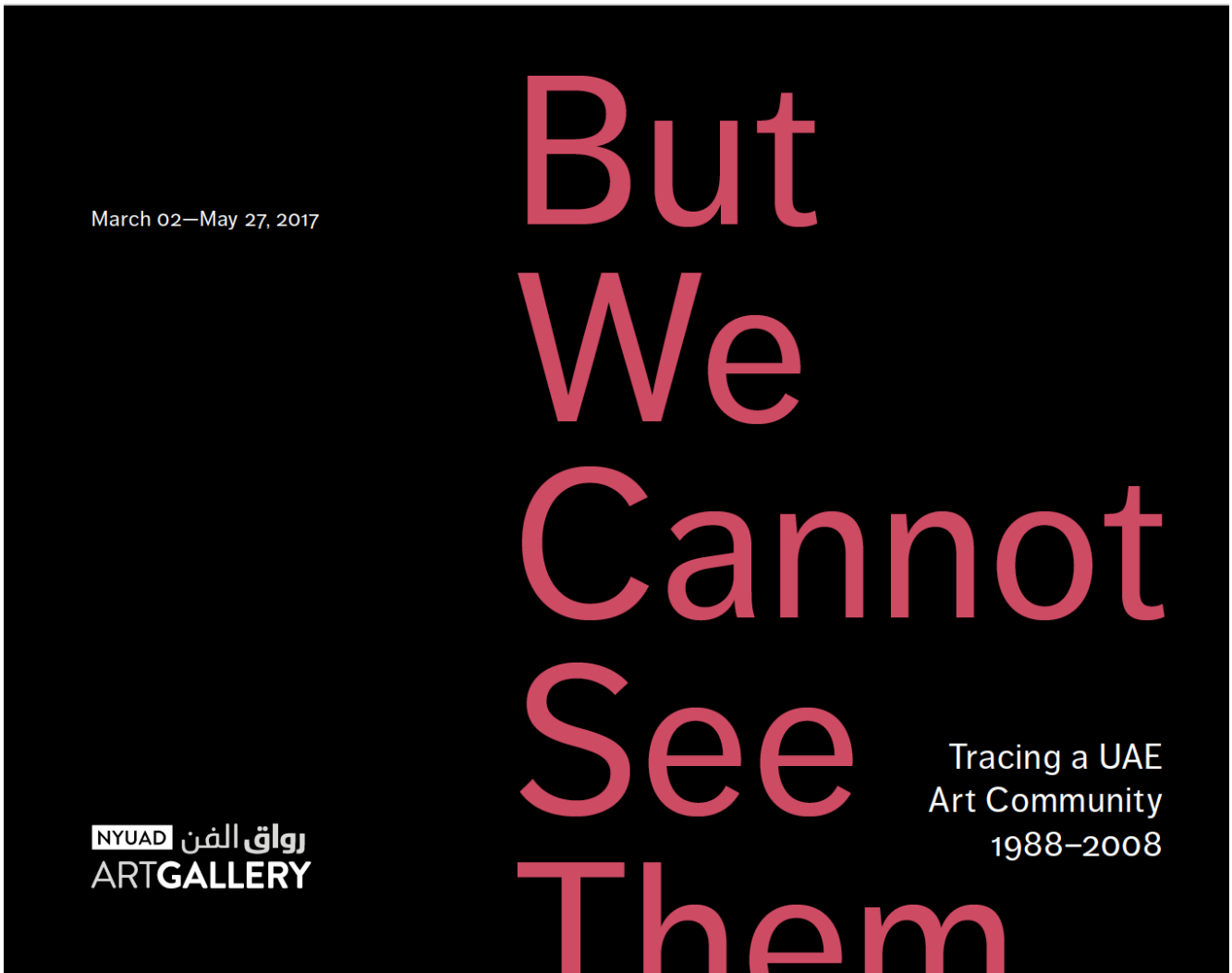
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But We Cannot See Them: Tracing a UAE Art Community, 1988-2008

with: Abdullah Al Saadi, Ebtisam Abdulaziz, Hassan Sharif, Hussein Sharif, Jos Clevers,
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A Young Person's Guide to:



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EXHIBITION PROGRAM EVENTS

[Artist Discussion: Mohamed Ahmed Ibrahim \(http://www.nyuad-artgallery.org/en_US/events/2017/community-artist-portfolio-review/\)](http://www.nyuad-artgallery.org/en_US/events/2017/community-artist-portfolio-review/) Saturday April 15, 4:00-6:00pm

[Experimental Play: Khafeef Al Rouh by Jamal Mattar \(/en_US/events/2017/khafeef-al-rouh/\)](http://www.nyuad-artgallery.org/en_US/events/2017/khafeef-al-rouh/) Saturday April 22, 7:30-9:00pm

Films by Nujoom Alghanem:

[Short Films \(http://www.nyuad-artgallery.org/en_US/events/2017/short-films-screening-nujoom-alghanem\)](http://www.nyuad-artgallery.org/en_US/events/2017/short-films-screening-nujoom-alghanem) Tuesday April 4, 6:30-8pm

[Al Mureed \(http://www.nyuad-artgallery.org/en_US/events/2017/film-screening-al-mureed-nujoom-alghanem\)](http://www.nyuad-artgallery.org/en_US/events/2017/film-screening-al-mureed-nujoom-alghanem) Friday April 21, 6:30-8pm

[Amal \(http://www.nyuad-artgallery.org/en_US/events/2017/film-screening-amal-nujoom-alghanem\)](http://www.nyuad-artgallery.org/en_US/events/2017/film-screening-amal-nujoom-alghanem) Thursday May 18, 6:30-8pm

Family Workshops:

[The Flying House \(http://www.nyuad-artgallery.org/en_US/events/2017/the-flying-house/\)](http://www.nyuad-artgallery.org/en_US/events/2017/the-flying-house/) Friday March 24, 4pm-6pm

[Lines, Numbers and Geometry \(http://www.nyuad-artgallery.org/en_US/events/2017/lines-numbers-and-geometry\)](http://www.nyuad-artgallery.org/en_US/events/2017/lines-numbers-and-geometry/) Friday April 21, 4pm-6pm

[Objects as Art \(http://www.nyuad-artgallery.org/en_US/events/2017/objects-as-art\)](http://www.nyuad-artgallery.org/en_US/events/2017/objects-as-art/) Friday May 19, 4pm-6pm

Artists

Abdullah Al Saadi

Abdullah Al Saadi (b. 1967) lives and works in Khor Fakkan, UAE.

[Read more](#)

Ebtisam Abdulaziz

Ebtisam Abdulaziz (b. 1975) is a multidisciplinary artist based in Washington DC, USA.

[Read more](#)

But We Cannot See Them:

Tracing a UAE Art Community, 1988-2008

Hassan Sharif (1951-2016) was a founding member of the Emirates Fine Arts Society, and influential figure in the UAE avant-garde.

[Read more](#) with: Abdullah Al Saadi, Ebtisam Abdulaziz, Hassan Sharif, Hussein Sharif, Jos Clevers, Mohammed Kazem, Mohamed Ahmed Ibrahim, Vivek Vilasini

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[Hussein Sharif](#)

Hussein Sharif (b. 1961) is a multidisciplinary artist who lives and works in Dubai.

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Jos Clevers

Jos Clevers (1951–2009) founded the Sittard Art Center in the Netherlands.

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Mohammed Kazem

Mohammed Kazem (b. 1969) lives and works in Dubai, UAE.

[Read more](#)

Mohamed Ahmed Ibrahim

Mohamed Ahmed Ibrahim (b. 1962) lives and works in Khor Fakkan, UAE.

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Vivek Vilasini

Vivek Vilasini (b. 1964) is an artist living and working between Kochi and Bangalore, India.

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