

ABU DHABI ART: MOHAMED AHMED IBRAHIM SELECTED FOR COMMISSIONS IN CULTURAL SITES

COMMISSIONED INSTALLATION IS EXHIBITED IN THE AL AIN OASIS, ABU DHABI

Launched in 2017 by Abu Dhabi Art, **Artist Commissions in Cultural Sites** sees established artists invited to create site-specific works across Abu Dhabi emirate. One of this year's commissioned artists is **Mohamed Ahmed Ibrahim**, who is one of the pioneering five who put the UAE on the conceptual art map in the 1980s (the others of

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Mohamed Ahmed Ibrahim's installation *Al Ain Oasis*, commissioned by Abu Dhabi Art, comprises dynamic, colourful tree-like sculptures made of natural and found materials that celebrate the vibrant greenery of Al Ain's oasis terrains. The artist combines his signature medium of paper-mâché, recycled cardboard and found objects to create a unique landscape of organic forms.

Ibrahim's practice is deeply rooted in a processed-based approach, which he views as both experiential and meditative. Through this site-specific installation, he creates a profound sense of presence, inviting viewers to experience an encounter with his artistic expression and the UNESCO heritage site of Al Ain oasis. In a departure from his previous works, Ibrahim introduces new elements, adding his symbol motifs directly onto his biomorphic sculptures, a harmonious integration between his two-dimensional paintings and his three-dimensional sculptures.

The commissioned installation reflects his deep connection to the local environment, and in keeping with his practice, addresses concerns of urbanization's impact on nature. Conceptualized as a gift to Al Ain, the installation is reminiscent of Ibrahim's distinct land art works which are inspired by a lifelong relationship with the nature of the region. As visitors engage with the installation, they are encouraged to contemplate local developments in sustainable art, their own connection to their natural surroundings, and ways they can contribute to its preservation.



Mohamed Ahmed Ibrahim, 'Al Ain Oasis' Installation, Al Ain Oasis Farm, Abu Dhabi, UAE, 2023. Courtesy of the artist, Abu Dhabi Art and Lawrie Shabibi.

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