

ART



01 'Dali Village School Gateman' from the series 'New Culture Movement' by Han Bing
02 'The Forever Unfinished Building No.4' by the Gao Brothers

Middle Kingdom, Middle East

GALLERY ETEMAD
DUBAI, UAE
SEPT 19-NOV 12

This controversial group show is the first time that Chinese artists of such stature will be exhibited in the region. The barge of Middle Kingdom is finally reaching the shores of the Middle East. Bringing together 25 works of art from the increasingly powerful yet enigmatic China, the exhibition features a multitude of forms: sculpture, paintings, paper cuts, political pop art, digital artwork and charcoal drawings. Highlights include the Gao Brothers' provocative



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portrayals of various iconic world figures – from Spiderman and Osama Bin Laden to Magic Johnson and Marilyn Monroe – and Qiu Jie's nostalgic charcoal poster art. Dictators like Mao and Pol Pot also feature prominently.

Swalif: Qatari Art Between Memory and Modernity

MATHAF: ARAB MUSEUM OF MODERN ART, DOHA, QATAR
UNTIL OCT 29

Mathaf's landmark new exhibition displays over 75 works from the museum's collection in a variety of media, including oils, print, ceramics, watercolour and wood. Its title, 'swalif', suggests

friendly, informal conversations and the retelling of stories.

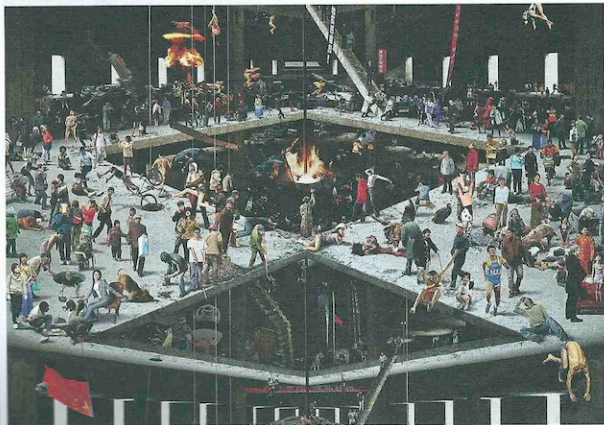
The show is structured as a narrative that spans four decades and aims to illustrate the development of the visual arts in Qatar from the 1960s to the early 21st century. These decades of rapid, socio-cultural shifts that followed the discovery of oil in Qatar are revisited via the intimate responses of 23 artists.

vs. Him

SAMA ALSHAIBI
LAWRIE SHABIBI, DUBAI, UAE
SEPTEMBER 20 – OCTOBER 20

Sama Alshaihi's 'vs. Him' is the Palestinian-Iraqi multimedia artist's first solo exhibition in Dubai. It interrogates the often contested politicised and racialised figure of the Arab male in a post-9/11 context. In this show, she incorporates sculpture into her practice and, for the first time, explores Middle Eastern masculinities, both in relationship to, and in contrast with, a female protagonist. Prototypical patriarchal roles – 'Empire', 'State' and 'Brother' among them – are destabilised through a series of encounters. The artist herself often figures as the female subject of these performances, where she chooses to work with absurdist humour, irony and generalisation about gender – 'generalisations'.

Alshaihi will also give a public talk about her art practice at the Pavilion in Downtown Dubai on September 18, as part of the gallery's efforts to engage on a wider lever with the local arts community.



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