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Hunt on for all-woman orchestra in the UAE

Oscar-winning musician will also start Firdaus Studio at Expo site



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Djoko lifts fifth Dubai title

World No 1 sends Tsitsipas to second successive loss in final



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Should UAE's delivery bikes go electric?

Company has created vehicles for sustainable delivery options



"The reading of all good books is like a conversation with the finest minds of past centuries." Rene Descartes

AFGHANISTAN | NEW CHAPTER



US, TALIBAN IN DEAL TO END 18-YEAR WAR

The US yesterday signed a historic deal with the Taliban, laying out a timetable for a full troop withdrawal from Afghanistan within 14 months as it seeks an exit from its longest-ever war | P11

BUSINESS

Why Indian rupee hit a six-month low

Sharp fall was driven largely by the selloff on stock market | P15



UAE shuts nurseries, suspends school trips

BANKS TOLD TO RESCHEDULE LOANS TO CUSHION VIRUS IMPACT

DUBAI Gulf News Report

Nurseries in the UAE will be closed for two weeks from today, as a precautionary measure against coronavirus, according to the UAE Ministry of Education. Hussain Ebrahim Al Hammadi, Minister of Education, and Abdul Rahman Bin Mohammad Al Owais, UAE Minister of Health and Prevention, yesterday explained measures taken to prevent the spread of virus in the country.

Al Hammadi said that all internal and external trips, activities and events at schools across the country would be suspended.

Al Owais said two more cases were confirmed, taking the total number to 21. Five of them recovered, he added.

He also said that the UAE is preparing two planes to evacuate all UAE citizens stranded in Iran.

The UAE Central Bank, meanwhile, asked banks to re-schedule loans and reduce fees and commissions as part of measures to mitigate the economic effects of the virus outbreak.

In Saudi Arabia, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs has temporarily suspended entry of GCC citizens to Makkah and Madinah.

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→ Updates, more related articles on Covid-19



813 more cases confirmed in South Korea yesterday taking the total to 3,150

US REPORTS FIRST DEATH, IMPOSES TRAVEL CURBS

President Donald Trump yesterday confirmed the first US death from coronavirus and urged not to panic. He said the victim was a 'medically high risk' woman in her 50s in Washington State. The US issued the strongest warnings possible against travel to Iran, parts of Italy and South Korea. The development marked a new, urgent phase in the response to the virus in the US, where 65 cases were reported.

The total number of cases in Iran rose by more than 50 per cent in 24 hours to 593, with 43 deaths.

Iraq detected five new cases, taking the total number to 13.

Qatar confirmed its first case.

Lebanon confirmed three new cases, bringing total to seven.

Cases hit 1,100 in Italy and the death toll reached 29.

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FROM THE COVER



Tens of thousands likely to get tested in Iran P2,3

BUSINESS



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Dubai's non-oil foreign trade rose 6% last year | P14

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As Delhi counts the dead, brutality of violence emerges | P12

SPECIAL REPORT

How Dubai Cares is committing Dh26m to boost education in Jordan | P6



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ALL THE WAY



Dresses that will last forever

CULTURAL ROUND-UP

Collaboration between galleries

Green Art gallery, Dubai is collaborating with Mumbai based Jhaveri Contemporary to present a joint exhibition that sets up a dialogue between leading Middle Eastern and South Asian artists from different generations. The featured artists include late Indian-born artist Anwar Jalal Shemza. The exhibition runs until March 14.



Commemorating Kamal Boullata

Meem gallery is celebrating the life and work of late Palestinian artist and writer Kamal Boullata with an exhibition titled Qasida, featuring a selection of his silk screen works ranging from early pieces created in Washington DC in the 1980s to his last work, Qasida. During the exhibition, running until March 11, the gallery launched two books.



Soft Borders

London-based artist Vivien Zhang grew up in China, Kenya and Thailand. Her show, *Soft Borders* running at Lawrie Shabibi gallery until March 5 conveys her experiences as a third culture citizen through abstract paintings that combine personal and collective memories from different times and places. Key motifs in her work include patterns from Central Asian kilims and mountains.



Black and White

El Marsa Gallery's latest show, *Nuances of Black and White*, focuses on works in black and white and the nuanced shades in between by well-known modern and contemporary North African and Middle Eastern artists. It includes paintings, drawings, engravings, ceramics, stone mosaics and photography by various artists and runs until March 7.



Italian artist Lucchini, whose artistic mining of fashion forms is rich and varied, is exhibiting in Dubai

DUBAI
BY JYOTI KALSI
Special to Weekend Review

Flavio Lucchini's life revolves around fashion. The Italian artist, who was born in 1928, studied architecture and fine art but switched tracks to establish the country's first publishing group specialising in high-fashion publications, and later launched *Vogue Italia* and other fashion magazines for Conde Nast.

In 1990, he gave up his successful publishing career to become an artist and explore the relationship between art and fashion. Since then, his work has been exhibited at prestigious venues including the Venice Biennale and he has published several books about his journey from an avant-garde fashion publisher, editor and art director to a renowned artist. These include *Dress-Art*, a life in fashion and the autobiographical *Il Destino* - "I had to be a farmer but I met fashion [and I'm not a fashion designer]".

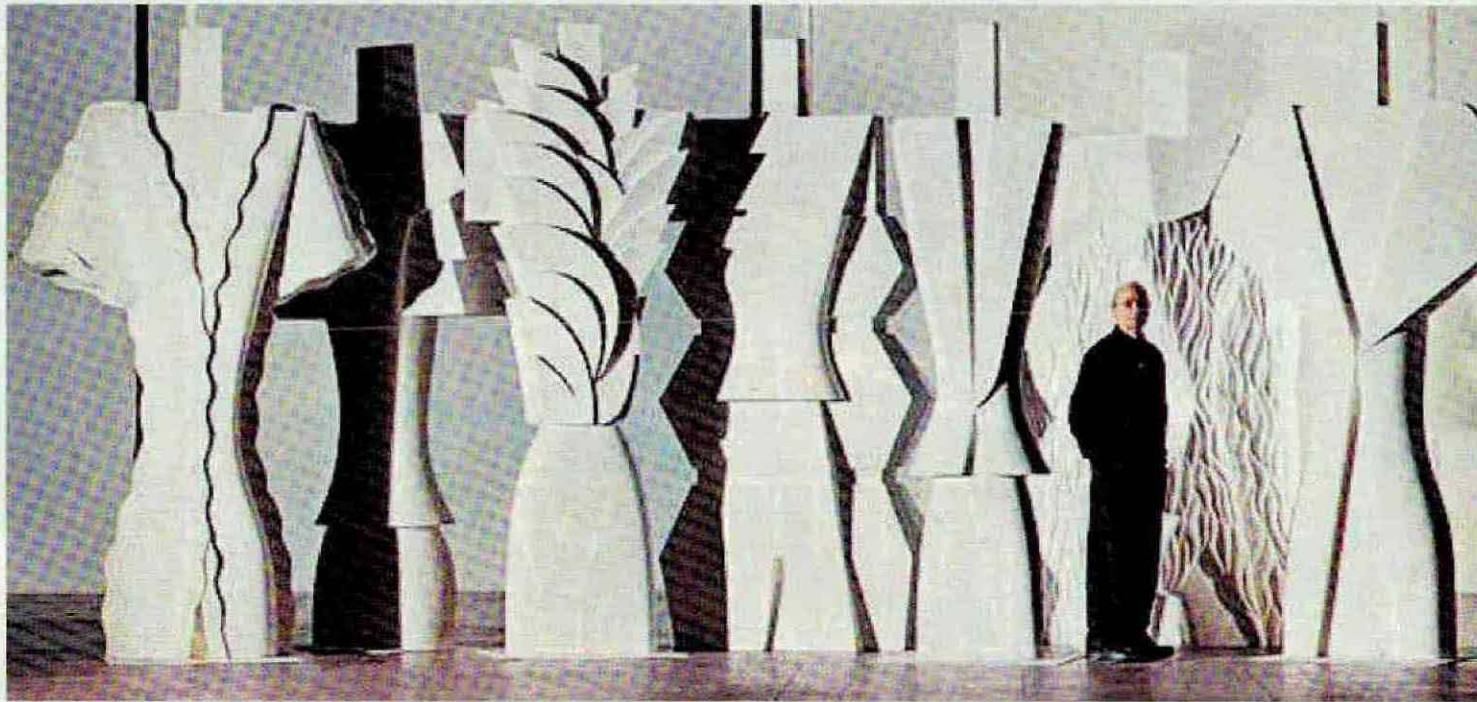
The artist, who has homes in Milan, Paris and Dubai, is presenting his fashion-inspired paintings, bas reliefs, sculptures, and digital artworks in Dubai in an exhibition titled, *From Fashion to Art: The Vogue Lesson*. Lucchini spoke about his journey and his work:

■ **Why did you move from writing to making art about fashion?**

Fashion is ephemeral and trends fade away, but I wanted to preserve the beauty and power of a dress forever. By moving from the page to the material I wanted to share the emotions each dress has evoked in me. Through my art, I want people to contemplate the mystery, magic, meaning and essence of a dress and to go beyond fashion and think about a dress as a metaphor for the new values of contemporary society.

■ **What is the concept behind your Totem series?**

These iconic dresses, sculpted from cast iron, corten steel, silver, bronze, or wood covered with gold leaf are like modern urban talismans symbolising the almost religious value that fashion has



Flavio Lucchini's 'Totem' series, featuring dresses sculpted from various materials and covered with gold leaf.

“Fashion is ephemeral and trends fade away, but I wanted to preserve the beauty and power of a dress forever.”

-Flavio Lucchini,

assumed in contemporary society, and linking the past with the present.

■ **What does your series of doll-like sculptures signify?**

These dolls represent the child that resides within every woman as well as the teenager who will soon be a woman with her individual personality. They remind us how fast time flies. I have captured them in the present moment, but they are already people of tomorrow.

■ **Has living in Dubai influenced your work?**

I have been visiting Dubai for ten years and this city is a living demonstration that all cultures



can coexist harmoniously. I am fascinated by the architecture in Dubai and I think the Burj Khalifa is one of the most important works of art in the world. So, I have created a series of paintings and sculptures of the skyscrapers here. The traditional Emirati abayas and burkas have also inspired me to create paintings and sculptures that reflect on Islamic culture and traditions.

■ **The exhibition will run at Oblong Gallery on Blue Waters island Dubai until March 10.**

■ Some of his works are sculpted from various materials and covered with gold leaf.



■ Top: Flavio Lucchini is presenting his fashion-inspired paintings, bas reliefs, sculptures, and digital artworks in Dubai.

■ Above: A doll, in resin and acrylic colours, and bas relief format.

■ Left: A bronze sculpture from Lucchini's iconic totem series.

Impressions of Egypt

Barry Iverson's long association with the country led to a stunning collection

DUBAI
BY JYOTI KALSI
Special to Weekend Review

American artist Barry Iverson's father worked in the oil industry, so he spent most of his childhood in the Middle East and Egypt. After graduating, he returned to Egypt and has been living in Cairo for over four decades. He worked as a photojournalist with *Time* magazine for 25 years, covering stories that have shaped social and political life in the region and witnessing seismic events such as the as-

sassination of Egypt's President Anwar Sadat. While working on assignments, he also captured with his large format analogue camera the architecture, culture, history and everyday life on the streets of Cairo and other cities he visited. In 1985, he received a Fulbright Scholarship to research the history of photography in Egypt and has been collecting old photographs of the region since then.

Important events recalled

Iverson is presenting a collection of stunning photographs that reflect his abiding interest in the history of the Middle East and the history of photography in the region in an exhibition titled *The Tour*. Each of the artist's artworks is a composite constructed by juxtaposing archival images from the late 19th and early 20th centuries with

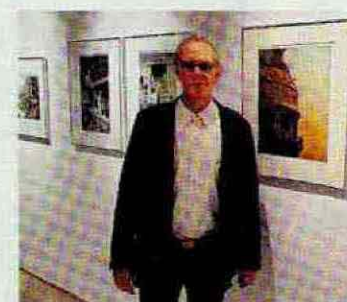
his own photographs from the 1980s to the present. The black and white images, rich in detail and tone, have been hand-painted with oil, water colour and acrylic paints using an old technique from the early days of photography to create images that delve into the layers of memories and history from ancient to modern times.

In some works, Iverson has transported people from the old pictures, dressed in styles of the time into his photographs of architecture ranging from historic buildings such as the Karnak Temple and the Ottoman era Gawhara Palace to modern apartments and auditoriums.

Other works recall important events. For example, he has placed a picture of an Egyptian delegation that visited the Louvre, Paris in the 1860s in a 2009 photograph he took of the mu-



■ Iverson's *The View from Gawhara Palace, Cairo*.



■ Artist Barry Iverson with some of his works.

seum. Similarly, in *Harem Revisited*, he has created an image reminiscent of 19th-century Orientalist paintings by placing a portrait of a woman from an 1870s photograph on a couch in a room that he specifically photographed for this purpose. The image is a witty comment on the stereotypes about the region perpetuated by Western travellers.

"The idea behind this project was to add a new dynamic to old photographs and create

something that is beautiful and meaningful. These images reflect the layers of history and memories that a city or a culture are built on and remind us that some things do not change. The title of my show refers to the 'Grand Tour' of Middle Eastern cities taken by Europeans in the old days to learn about the ancient world," Iverson says.

The *Tour* will run at Fann a Porter gallery at The Workshop in Jumeirah 1 until March 14.

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