

AD

CREATIVE VISION

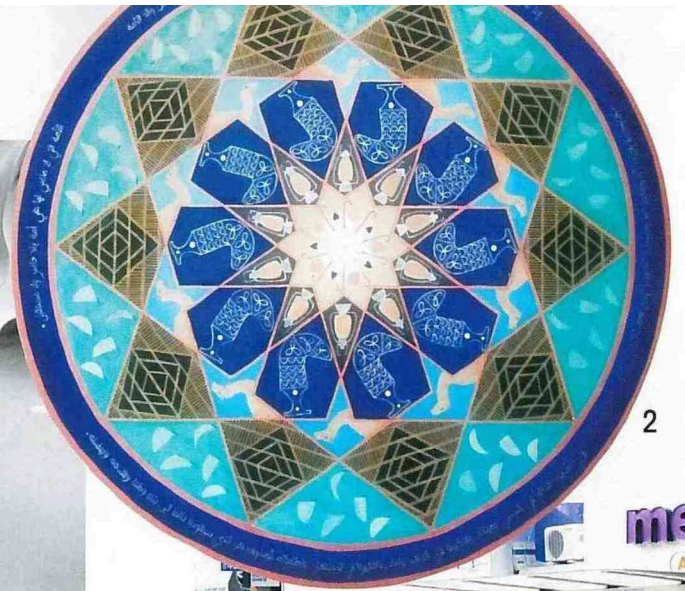
Khuloud Al Thani, Kueng
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DESERT ODYSSEY

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THE FANTASTIC FOUR

Must-see exhibitions in the Middle East and beyond



EARTHLY WONDERS

The latest addition to a range of learning centres run by Sharjah's Environmental Protected Areas Authority, the Buhais Geology Park has opened its doors to eager eco-tourists. Framed by the soaring Jebel Buhais ridge, the park has an abundance of marine fossils dating back 65 million years. Five interconnected pods designed by Hopkins Architects (4) were inspired by fossilised sea urchins, and house exhibition areas, an immersive theatre and a café with panoramic views of the mountain range. Inside, interactive displays highlight the tectonic history of Sharjah's mountains and sand dunes, while outside, a looping trail with raised viewing platforms meanders across natural rock formations and ancient burial grounds. *Open daily from Wednesday to Monday, 9am to 7.30pm.*

RAK AND ROLL

The Ras Al Khaimah Fine Arts Festival (RAKFAF) has returned for its eighth edition, transforming the historic 17th-century pearl fishing town of Al Jazirah Al Hamra into an outdoor gallery. More than 100 artists from 33 countries are exhibiting their work during the festival, which runs until 31st March with a programme of must-see events. RAKFAF aims to emphasise the power of art and how it

can help society transcend differences and connect over shared experiences. Notable talents involved include Australian artist Lyn Naismith (2) and Emirati designers Azza Al Qubaisi and Nesa Al Shehhi. rakfinearts.ae

NEW YORK MINUTE

UAE-based artist Farah Al Qasimi has debuted a brilliantly unconventional solo show in New York, splashing her photographs across 100 bus shelters in the city's five boroughs (3). Presented by the Public Art Fund and curated by Katerina Stathopoulou, *Back And Forth Disco* features Al Qasimi's latest images, which capture the beauty of fleeting moments amidst the chaos of New York City. Represented by The Third Line gallery in Dubai, Al Qasimi's previous work has explored the effects of consumer culture on members of society, particularly women, with promises of beauty or self-improvement. *Until 30 August, 2021.*

THE ART OF DRESSING

Flavio Lucchini, the avant-garde art director and publisher of *Vogue Italia* and *Casa Vogue* in the 1960s and 70s, knows a thing or two about style. Having since become a celebrated sculptor, Lucchini is staging an exhibition exploring the 'meaning of the dress' at Oblong Contemporary Art Gallery in Dubai. Titled *From Fashion to Art: The Vogue Lesson*, the retrospective includes bronze, resin and steel sculptures, paintings, bas-reliefs (1), and digital-art, offering both a visual account of the garments evolution over time, and commentary on its cultural and political significance. *Until 10 March.*

WORDS: RIMA ALSAMMARAE, JUMANA ABDEL-RAZZAQ