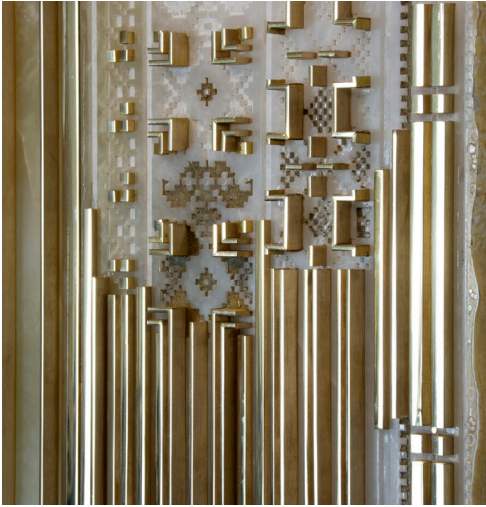


GAZELLI ART HOUSE



© Naqsh Collective, *A Story of Our Lives In a Thobe*, work in progress, 2023.



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Art Dubai 2023

Naqsh Collective: *A Story of Our Lives In a Thobe*

Fair Dates: 1 – 5 March, 2023

Location: Madinat Jumeirah, Dubai UAE

Naqsh Collective mark their return to Art Dubai (Booth F6) with a materially diverse showcase of sculptural work.

Channelling the culture of their Palestinian heritage, Naqsh Collective present materially complex relief based artworks and sculpture. These works continue the artists' career-long fascination with bringing together customarily divergent materials and visual techniques.

In *The Thobe* (2023) sculpture, a statuesque piece of natural stone is interlaced with hand-cut brass in designs that mimic embroidery. Presented in its original cut, this work represents a culmination of the stories created by Naqsh Collective throughout their practice. The material longevity is emblematic for the lifespan of tradition. For the artists, these works act as a portal to imagine “experiences of our beloved Palestine, like jumping off Akka’s cliff and going on a fishing trip by Jaffa’s Port”.

Elsewhere, three monumental wall pieces composed of onyx, Italian Verde marble, and walnut wood comprise the *Shawl* (2023) artworks. Demanding fastidious observation, these complex pieces present tactile surfaces and myriad components. The natural qualities of the materials used are given space to breathe. Through composition, shape, and design Naqsh Collective invites the viewer into a conversation of intertwined histories.

“In the distance, a thobe outline in the making from the hardest of stone, a stitch is embroidering a story to narrate our lives, with every stitch it brings us closer to our home, in a continuation of a much larger odyssey.

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From single units hitching a ride on our ancestors' thobes and surviving challenging situations, locked into our core, then set free here on stone to stitch a story of many lives.

It has taken thirteen years to reach this precious artwork in our time and existence. Every stitch has an amazing tale to tell, every motif is a link in an unbroken chain, routing us throughout the years, on cushions, thobes, fabrics, and now on stone." — Naqsh Collective

About the Artists

Inspired by the rich heritage of their culture, Naqsh Collective combine contemporary and traditional Arabic aesthetics with specialist local craftsmanship. Founded in 2009 by artist sisters Nisreen Abudail (B. 1976) and Nermeen Abudail (B. 1980) in Jordan, Naqsh Collective have exhibited their work in Tiraz Amman (Widdad Kewar house for Arab dress) and were part of the Islamic Art Festival in 2016 Al-Sharjah UAE, Dar Al-Nimer in Beirut as part of (at the seams) exhibition in 2016 (Palestinian Museum in Beir Zait). In 2018, Nisreen & Nermeen were one of the 8 finalist artists to win the Jameel Prize 5, at the Victoria & Albert Museum in London. Their work has been exhibited in several national and international museums, such as the Jordan National Gallery for Art, Jameel Art Center in Dubai, Al-Sharjah Art Museum, Victoria & Albert Museum in London.

Nisreen received her Bachelor's degree in Architecture from Jordan University of Science and Technology, and began her career as an architect. Following her move to the United States in 2004, she continued to develop her career, while studying art at the Corcoran Collage in Washington D.C. She exhibited at the Kennedy Center in Washington D.C and the Convention Center in Baltimore, Maryland, and returned to Jordan in 2009.

Nermeen graduated with a BA in graphics from Yarmouk University, and rapidly established herself as a leader in graphic design. She has worked with prominent regional and international agencies and is currently based in Dubai. Nermeen's creative efforts fuse her understanding of local culture with her understanding of brand building and identity to produce work that exudes international appeal.

About the Gallery

Founded in 2010 by Mila Askarova, Gazelli Art House in London brings a fresh perspective to Mayfair – through championing artists from all corners of the globe. Focusing on artists at the height of their practice, the gallery showcases their work through a diverse programme of exhibitions and events. Along with its sister site in Baku, Gazelli Art House specialises in promoting art from Azerbaijan and its neighbours to introduce a greater understanding of the rich linguistic, religious and historical ties that connect these areas to international audiences. In 2015, the gallery further expanded to support artists working in digital art through its online platform: GAZELL.iO, comprising an online Residency programme, NFT drops and collaborations, a dedicated Project Space holding monthly exhibitions, and a permanently installed VR Library – all in the heart of Mayfair.

For further information, please contact: press@gazelliarthouse.com | +44 (0) 207 491 8816