



Nasser Almulhim
In-Between

6 June - 6 September, 2024
Tabari Artspace, DIFC

Tabari Artspace is delighted to announce In-Between, a new solo exhibition featuring Saudi abstract painter Nasser Almulhim. For Almulhim, painting, particularly the application of vibrant, expressive colours, serves as a form of healing and therapy, contributing to his spiritual and artistic growth. The creative process acts as a catalyst for navigating circular thoughts, memories, and trauma, ultimately fuelling growth and transformation.

Building upon the themes explored in his inaugural solo exhibition at Tabari Artspace, Shadow Work, Almulhim returns to the principles of Jungian psychology. Inspired by Carl Jung's notion of shadow work, which emphasises the importance of confronting one's hidden aspects for self-awareness and inner peace, Almulhim embarks on an exploration of the human psyche.

In "The Philosophical Tree" (1945), Jung remarked, "One does not become enlightened by imagining figures of light, but by making the darkness conscious." Almulhim embraces this philosophy, seeking to illuminate both the light and darkness within the self through his art. His work challenges viewers to confront their own shadows, but beyond this, his latest work is bridging the gap between conscious and subconscious realms.

In In-Between, Almulhim explores the flows between the conscious and the subconscious. Each piece reflects the dichotomy of the human psyche, referred to by the artist as "the split" - the space in between conscious and subconscious realms.





The exhibition comprises 12 works in a palette of striking hues ranging from pistachio to tangerine, black to cerulean. The significance of the number 12 resonates deeply across religious, mythological, and magical traditions, symbolising notions of perfection, entirety, and cosmic order dating back to antiquity. It embodies the passage of time, the rhythm of seasons, and the evolving journey of the human mind over the ages. The works express a surreal, dreamlike quality, with fluid, geometric forms creating portals into the mind. The audience will notice that each piece is framed within a frame, symbolising the artist's mental world, his consciousness which he aims to safeguard.

Rather than imposing specific interpretations of individual works, Almulhim remains focused on his process and encourages his audience to engage with his art on a personal level, inviting them on their own journeys of transcendence.

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Nasser Almulhim

B. Riyadh, 1988

Nasser Almulhim is a painter and sculptor based in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia. He holds a bachelor's degree in Studio Art from the University of West Florida in Pensacola, Florida.

Utilising a highly saturated palette, absorbed from the Abstract Expressionism movement, Almulhim meditates upon the interaction between geometric and organic forms and their connection to the human psyche. His practice assumes a playful and intuitive approach to art-making, doubling as a therapeutic act that opens what the artist understands to be: "The gate of self-healing." His work materialises his inner imagination, transposing it into two- and three-dimensional forms. The artist employs various methods to establish a spiritual healing process between inner energy and universal power. A principal theme within Nasser's practice is the relationship between spirituality and mental processes, and the visual representation of this bond. He's interested in the immediate impact of forms and colours and how their unification might establish rhythmic energies and speak of inner emotions.

Almulhim examines the relationship between colour and human behaviour patterns and unpacks the ways in which colour can stimulate energetic or psychological shifts. The dialogue between these elements unfolds throughout Almulhim's practice.

ABOUT TABARI ARTSPACE

In 2003, at a time when the UAE art scene was still nascent, Tabari Artspace gallery was founded by Maliha Tabari in Dubai. With a twofold aim of preserving histories of craft emerging from the MENA region, while elevating young artists in the Gulf on a global stage, Tabari Artspace's forward-looking vision situates itself in the contemporary art world's dynamic moment. Tabari, who was trained as an artist herself, has re-envisioned the gallery since 2017 to bridge the storied past with an ever-changing present, with a program that juxtaposes the breadth of Arab heritage with the promise emerging artists hold for the future.

The foundations for this international outlook began with the realization that artists from the Arab region were noticeably absent in the West. Tabari's approach was to represent artists who were creating unique visual vocabularies in their medium and particular contexts. In Egypt, this included the late Adam Henein in sculpture and Omar El-Nagdi in abstract expressionism. In Lebanon, she worked with Hussein Madi before he became hailed for his talent of melding Cubism with Islamic abstraction. Tabari has also launched the careers of artists such as Saudi Arabian artist Ahmed Mater, Iranian artist Farhad Moshiri, Syrian artist Louay Kayyali, and Egyptian artists Mohamed Abla and Adel Siwi, before they became influential. By bridging mid-career artists with emerging talent, Tabari Artspace has succeeded in building an international collector base interested in the region's evolving artistic production across generations.

Moving fluidly between a platform for exhibition-making and artist mentorship, Tabari Artspace has taken an in-depth focus on GCC-specific, female-centered narratives, increasingly working with Kuwaiti, Emirati and Saudi artists such as Alymamah Rashed, Maitha Abdalla, Maha Aljarallah and Lulwah Al Homoud. Tabari Artspace's communal spirit extends to its all-women team, which nurtures and elevates artists who are overlooked at home, placing them in a broader historical context.

Now in its second decade of operation, the artists shown at Tabari Artspace offer a living visual archive of social change, contested borders and aesthetic movements in the region at large. Grounded in the cosmopolitan city of Dubai with a branch in Cromwell Place in London since 2015, the gallery lends visibility to its artists through international shows and residencies, as well as creative collaborations with other spaces. In line with its research-driven approach of enabling artists to grow, Tabari Artspace also functions as an incubator. It has recently partnered with the revamped boutique hotel La Serena in Forte Dei Marmi, launching an artist residency that serves as part-creative sanctuary, part-maker's studio. Located near neighboring marble and stone foundries, this art space offers sites of material exploration that resonate with the gallery's emphasis on contemporary craft.

Constantly embracing new discourses and amplifying the voices of women and youth, Tabari Artspace is committed to documenting and showcasing art practices in MENA, positioning them on a par with those on the international art scene. Its roster of artists have been exhibited in institutions and biennials including but not limited to: the Metropolitan Museum of Art, Institut du Monde Arabe, Sharjah Art Museum, Venice Biennale, Sharjah Biennial, São Paulo Biennial, and are part of collections such as the Barjeel Art Foundation, British Museum, Dalloul Art Foundation, The Guggenheim Abu Dhabi, Kamel Lazaar Foundation, Lyon Biennale, The Khalid Shoman Collection, Mathaf: Arab Museum of Modern Art and Yale University Art Gallery.

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