



Threads of Landscape: Engraved Narratives

Farid Abu Shakra | Solo Exhibition | Presented by Gallery One, Ramallah

4 December 2024 – 4 January 2025

Opening Reception:

4 December 2024; 5 – 9 PM

Threads of Landscape: Engraved Narratives presents the evocative and deeply textured works of Farid Abu Shakra, an artist whose practice intertwines themes of memory, resilience, and cultural identity. Through his unique fusion of engraving, embroidery, and landscape, Abu Shakra invites us to traverse spaces that are both physical and symbolic. His artworks serve as portals into a heritage-rich world, revealing the complex relationship between people and land.

In Abu Shakra's work, landscapes are more than geographical representations; they are woven tapestries of experience and narrative. Each piece captures a layered perspective, where fine lines and punctuated textures convey the enduring presence of land and community. The engravings draw from traditional forms while experimenting with contemporary techniques, creating a visual language that is both timeless and strikingly relevant.

Embroidered elements, carefully interwoven into each composition, symbolize the unbreakable threads of culture and tradition that bind communities together. Whether portraying open skies, expansive fields, or the essence of Gaza's storied landscapes, Abu Shakra uses these motifs to evoke a sense of place imbued with history and spirit. His work transforms landscape into a form of narrative, where each line and stitch serves as an homage to resilience and continuity.

This exhibition not only showcases Abu Shakra's technical skill but also invites viewers to engage with a broader conversation about heritage, memory, and belonging. In *Threads of Landscape: Engraved Narratives*, landscape is not merely a backdrop; it is an active storyteller, revealing the layered histories and enduring spirit of the communities it represents.

About the Artist

Farid Abu Shakra, born in 1963 in Umm al-Fahm, is a multi-disciplinary artist, writer, and curator. He studied art at the Kalisher School in Tel Aviv, Jaffa, and currently teaches at Oranim College.

A prominent figure in the regional art scene, Abu Shakra co-founded the Umm al-Fahm Art Gallery, where he served as curator from 1996 to 2001. He is also a founding member of both the Nazareth Art Gallery and the Ibdaa Group for Contemporary Artists.

Abu Shakra's artistic language traverses both Eastern and Western influences, reflecting his profound engagement with the physical, spiritual, and intellectual aspects of place. His works often feature figurative elements—such as cats, airplanes, flowers, and cacti—that express layers of personal and political identity.

With numerous solo and group exhibitions nationally and internationally, Abu Shakra's contributions to art have been widely recognized, earning him honors such as the Young Artist Prize from the Moshe Sharett Foundation (1986 and 1988) and the Artist-Teacher Award from the Ministry of Education (1999, 2000, and 2006). His works are held in major collections, including those of the Tel Aviv Museum, the Islamic Museum in Jerusalem, the Eretz Israel Museum, and the Umm al-Fahm Art Gallery.

About Fann À Porter

Fann À Porter is a contemporary art gallery that represents a diverse selection of emerging international and regional artists, with locations in Dubai, UAE and Amman, Jordan. The gallery aims to nurture the burgeoning and dynamic contemporary art scene through quality exhibitions, non-profit events, auctions, and an active community program.

The gallery's exhibition program includes eight curated exhibitions a year, and features artists working across diverse media. Fann À Porter has established a series of dialogues and collaborations with curators, writers, museums, governmental entities, and institutions to affirm its commitment to support the long-term development of young contemporary artists from the Middle East.

In 2015, the gallery organized a charity auction *Artists for the Kids of Syria* under the patronage of His Highness Sheikh Nahyan Mubarak Al Nahyan, UAE Minister of Culture and in collaboration with the UAE Red Crescent. The charity auction helped raise over AED 500,000 to help the children in the refugee camps in Jordan. In 2019, the gallery launched *Art for All Collective (AFA)* to provide a platform to make quality art accessible through bespoke payment plans, a first of its kind initiative for the Middle East.



By hosting a regular public programming including exhibitions, talks, non-profit initiatives, and by participating in fairs, Fann À Porter has established itself in forefront of the region's exciting arts landscape.

Founded in 2006 by collector Ghada Kunash, the gallery was initially known as Vindemia.art, opened adjacent to and under the umbrella of Vindemia, an antiques and collectibles gallery at Jumeirah Beach Residence, Dubai. The same year, in partnership with Kempinski Hotel Mall of The Emirates, a dedicated space for the art, Fann À Porter, was formed at the hotel.

In 2016, Ghada Kunash opened The Workshop Dubai, combining her two ventures – Vindemia and Fann À Porter, a unique community space consisting of a café and design space, providing visitors with a unique artistic and cultural experience. The Workshop with its naturally bathed garden is in the heart of Jumeirah.

With the vision to expand and provide a local platform, Ghada Kunash opened a second Fann À Porter outpost, in Amman, located at Manara Arts & Culture, a creative hub and social space in the heart of Jabal Al Lweibdeh.