## The National

Six Galleries not to Miss at Art Cairo 2025

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Art Cairo is holding its most expansive event yet.

The fair is running until Tuesday at the Grand Egyptian Museum. Galleries from 10 Arab and European countries are participating in the fair, showing a mix of works by established and emerging artists.

Here are six booths to look out for at Art Cairo.

Dubai contemporary art gallery Fann A Porter has been participating in Art Cairo since the event's inception in 2020. This year, it is presenting a thoughtfully curated selection of works by artists from various backgrounds. Gazan artists, Mohammed Al-Hawajri, for instance, is represented through his digital works that are very different from his painting, which often depict figures and scenes symbolising Palestinian life and identity.

The two exhibited works feature burgers. However, while one shows the buns replaced by cacti, the others swaps the meat for a spiny mass. The artworks are visceral, in the sense they target the viewer much in the same way that a fast food advertisement does, but instead evoking discomfort.

Meanwhile, the works of Khaled Jarada, also from Gaza, more directly reflect the suffering of Palestinians. His canvases features portraits rippling with an unnerving calm, signalling their subjects may be decades. Another shows legs jutting out from a tent, bringing to mind the displacement of Gaza's inhabitants.

The gallery is also showcasing the works by Jordanian-Armenian artist Arda Aslanian. The paintings convey a gamut of emotions by concealing rather than revealing. Dresses drape over unseen bodies, forming creases and folds that leave it upon the viewer to impose their own readings.

Ghada Kunash, managing director of Fann A Porter, says that after years of participating at Art Cairo, she has become familiar with the tastes of local collectors and audiences. "We were a bit scared in the beginning, because we know that that Egyptian collectors usually buys works by Egyptian artists, but we actually sold many artworks in that first year," she says.

Kunash adds that while abstract works are proving to gain traction, figurative pieces remain the most popular. "They really love the figurative, and they still love the figurative."