

# حضارات Civilizations

## Ras Al Khaimah Art 2026 Festival

Al Jazeera Al Hamra Heritage Village

Sheikh Saud bin Saqr Al Qasimi Foundation for Policy Research

Exhibition Theme: **Civilizations**

Date: 15.02.2026 - 31.03.2026

Executive Director: **Dr. Natasha Ridge**

Ras Al Khaimah Art Director: **Suqrat Bin Bisher**

### Exhibition

Curator: Alfio Tomassini

Manager: Gretchen Flores

Marketing: Luis Carlos Soto

Production: Abubakker Nazeer

Construction: Ariel Fajardo, Jerrmaine Emil, Bon Flores

Al Jazeera Al Hamra Heritage Village: Hanadi Muhammed, Mohammed Tarbosh

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Presented By | برعاية



# Preface

“What sets worlds in motion is the interplay of differences, their attractions and repulsions. Life is plurality, death is uniformity. By suppressing differences and peculiarities, by eliminating different civilizations and cultures, progress weakens life and favors death.” Octavio Paz’s profound words remind us that the rich diversity of human civilizations is not merely to be preserved but celebrated.

For the Ras Al Khaimah Art 2026 Festival, we invite you to explore the grand narrative of Civilizations - both as relics of our shared past and as living, breathing frameworks that continue to shape our present and future. It is through the intertwining of countless human decisions, innovations, and exchanges that civilization continuously evolves - a process spanning millennia that has given rise to extraordinary achievements in art, architecture, philosophy, science, and governance.

From the ancient Silk Road routes that once connected Ras Al Khaimah to distant shores, to the modern metropolises that now define our global landscape, Civilizations examines how artistic expression has flourished in every human community. The 2026 Festival seeks to celebrate both the magnificent diversity of human cultural expression and the universal aspirations that bind us together.

From ancient wisdom to contemporary visions, from technological marvels to sustainable practices, from individual experiences to collective memories - we ask you to consider: What endures when civilizations meet and merge? What falls away? And most importantly, what new forms of art, beauty and understanding emerge from this continuous dialogue?

Join us in exploring the infinite ways Civilizations manifest through art, for as Margaret Atwood reminds us, “When any civilization is dust and ashes . . . art is all that’s left over.

**Dr. Natasha Ridge**

Executive Director

Sheikh Saud bin Saqr Al Qasimi Foundation for Policy Research



# Participating Artists

## Fort

Aisha Al Suwaidi  
Amira Lamti  
Fatma Al Shehhi  
Greg Metro  
Mariyam Alibay  
Olga Sova  
Rajesh Dhar  
Shireen Mufti  
Shyjith Onden Cheriya  
Spencer Hogg  
Vidhya Chandramohan

## Bayt 1

Marina Wendy Castro Deza  
Adolfo Gonzales Finseth  
Ana Nuñez  
German Fernandez Cantos  
Liz Ramos-Prado  
Mayra Correa  
Renzo Rafaeli  
Ursula Sanchez  
Vivian Vilca

## Bayt 2

Mariam Al-Noaimi

## Bayt 3

Boris Bučan

## Bayt 4

Sina Dyks  
Ilja Visser  
Pierluigi Pompei  
Adam Foxwell

## Bayt 5

Amir Taba

## Bayt 6

Rodrigo Ohtake  
Mariana Tanajura  
Tatiana Rocha  
Flavia Renault

## Bayt 8

Gillian M Robertson

## Bayt 9

Carlos Valdez  
Kim Ji-Hye  
Zeynab Kazemzadeh

## Bayt 10

Fatma Lootah  
Hend Rashed  
Liang Han  
Feng Lanting  
Zhou Junlin

## Bayt 12

Arjun Shroff  
Artonis Talebi  
Ava Torabt  
Ayman Waheed  
Hanaya Ahuja  
Hannah Gabrielle  
Mahamoud Ali El Shewy  
Mark Onishchuk  
Morvarid Mohammad  
Rea Balotia  
Reeman Abdel Baki  
Saidbilol Alimov  
Savi Neb  
Sofia Abou Shioun  
Taksh Ketankumar Soni

## Bayt 13

Zainab Alblooshi  
Ameena Aljerman Alali  
Amna Badr Alteneiji  
Safurah Abdul Jalil  
Mustafa Pracha  
Zahidah Abd Kadir  
Lamis Mawafi  
Jana Dambekalne  
Henry Lim Tien Meng  
Adnan Mujawar  
Noor Hasbi Yusoff  
Tarang Taswir  
Noura Nabil Alameri  
Sumaya Abdulrahman Alali  
Asma Jasim Almarzooqi  
Rawdhah Salem Alyammahi  
Taif Abdalla Alnaqbi

## Bayt 14

Reem Abu Alfotouh  
Reem Al Khoori  
Rouhoallah Safavi  
Stella Spenedi  
Taksh Soni

## Bayt 17

Agnieszka Gotowała  
Muneera Alsubaiee  
Renata Rara Kaminska  
Salome Kobulashvili  
YUMNA

## Bayt 18

Hussain Alismail

## Pathway 1

Byamba Batkhuyag  
Fabiola Liacy De Felip  
Farhat Darasiko  
Joy Saha  
Rene Ruis  
Salwa Saeed  
Sandeep Rasal

## Pathway 2

Adil Ghani  
Aigerim Bektayeva  
Ana Caroline De Lima  
Cécile André  
Fabrizio Cicconi  
Kirill Svityashuk  
Kouto Rafael Edem  
Lars Dyrendom  
Mehrdad Mosaferi  
Mohammad Sorkhabi  
Mohsen Kaboli  
Mouneb Taim  
Nawal Ahmad  
Panos Chatzistefanou  
Paola Magini  
Parastoo Ahovan  
Parvin Zandi  
Pui Kar Lau  
Rana Hemdan  
Rosa Rodriguez  
Sergei Stoirelev  
Verena Andrea Prenner  
Yao Zhou  
Ziaul Huque

## Pathway 3

Andrew Tarica  
Anja Bamberg  
Anna Thackray  
Ayanava Sil  
Farbod Bavehie  
Iwa Kruczkowska  
Lynn Peiffer  
Mahsa Kheirkhah  
Mohammed Hassan  
Mustafa Abdul Hadi  
Santiago Escobar-Jamarillo  
Suraj Pai  
Tamir Shefer  
Tasneem Fatema  
Wieslawa Nowicka

## Pathway 4

Aslam Noor  
Fatema Pardiwala  
Mahdieh Ezzati

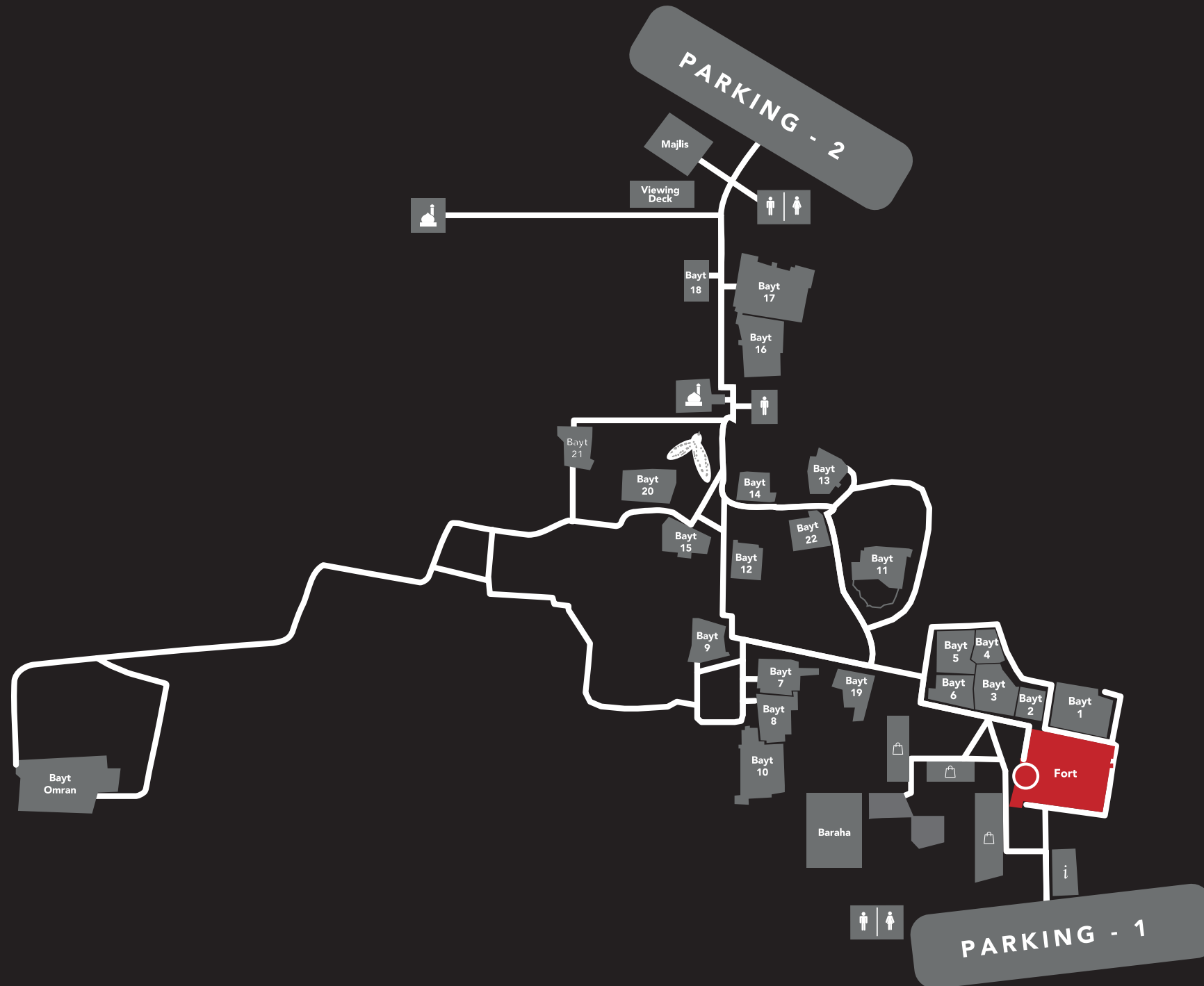
## Souq

Melika Arianasab  
Reza Ghasemi  
Sanjeev Kumar  
Zainab Abo Hussain

## Memory Lane

Alena Grom  
Alireza Attariana  
Asma Thabet  
Florian Spring  
Jed Bacason  
Pyaephyo Thetpaing  
Reem Al Khoori  
Reza Akram  
Salim Al Sayegh

# Fort



# Aisha Al Suwaidi

## Civilization Homeland

This artwork captures the intricate beauty of ancient ornaments found at Emirati archaeological sites and in UAE museums. With fine details and distinctive patterns, these decorations appear on jewelry, pottery jars, incense burners, metal utensils, and seashells. One of the most prominent recurring elements is the circle, a key motif in Emirati and Arabian Peninsula ornamentation. In early civilizations, the circle was more than decoration: inspired by the sun, moon, and planets, it symbolized life's continuous cycle, encompassing both good and evil. It also represented infinity, depth, connectivity, and harmony, and was linked in ancient myths to destiny, unity, and the endless flow of existence. These ornamental patterns reflect periods including the Bronze Age, the Iron Age, and pre-Islamic civilizations, highlighting the UAE's deep historical roots.



# Amira Lamti

## Sacred Crystals

Digital photography, inkjet printed on 190g matte paper as a triptych (108×72cm, 55×72cm, 55×38cm). Edition of 3.



# Fatma Al Shehhi

## The Beauty Behind the Burqa

An elderly Emirati woman sits quietly on the floor inside a traditional majlis furnished with Arabic carpets, embroidering an Emirati patch with golden thread. Around her are the tools of the craft - needles, threads, and fabric - while her face reflects the patience and experience passed down through generations. The burqa she creates is not just a piece of cloth, but a symbol of Gulf women's identity and their deep connection to Arab cultural roots. This traditional attire reflects ideals of modesty, beauty, and privacy, and has long been an essential part of women's dress in both Bedouin and urban communities.



# Greg Metro

## Stars Over Ancient Meroe

I was drawn to Sudan and the ancient Nubian civilization as so little is known about both the country and its past. With my guide's help, I accessed the Meroë Pyramids before dawn. The day before, I scouted a north-facing vantage point aligned with Polaris, the North Star, aiming to capture long exposures. I returned, set up my camera and tripod, and shot a sequence that became this final image by stacking 100 exposures to reveal the stars' movement. Under a canopy of stars, I imagined life here over 2,500 years ago and was thrilled when the finished photograph matched what I had envisioned.



# Mariyam Alibay

## Horse Races

In Kazakhstan, some of the most significant traditional games are equestrian competitions. This image reflects the country's deep cultural connection to horseback riding through the excitement and heritage of horse racing.



# Olga Sova

## Wedding

Wedding is a hand-painted watercolor that celebrates Emirati traditions through a desert wedding scene. Set within a serene landscape, it features four women in flowing traditional garments.



# Rajesh Dhar

## Morning Glory

A boy worships the morning sun and offers holy water in memory of his deceased ancestors, a common ritual in Hindu communities in India. The photograph was taken in the ice-cold waters of the Narmada River in Madhya Pradesh, India.



# Shireen Mufti

## The Gathering

This composition features Emirati Bedouin men seated in a circular formation, engaged in a communal gathering. They wear traditional garments in muted tones of white, beige, and rose. Two camels stand tethered and alert behind the group, symbolizing their vital role in Bedouin life. In the background, sparse desert trees rise against an untouched raw linen canvas, enhancing the scene's natural, earthy atmosphere. The figures are rendered in realistic detail, while the unpainted linen subtly contrasts the painted forms, emphasizing the timeless dignity of Bedouin culture.



# Shyjith Onden Cheriyath

## Nordic Elegance



This black-and-white visual narrative, captured at the Finland Pavilion during Expo 2020 Dubai, reflects Nordic civilization, where minimalism, sustainability, and design ingenuity converge. The architecture's flowing lines and sculptural form echo nature's quiet strength while embracing modernity. Beneath the dramatic skylight, four traditionally dressed Emirati men become a symbolic bridge between cultures, honoring heritage within a space shaped by forward-thinking innovation. Nordic Elegance is not only a portrait of a structure, but a dialogue between civilizations and a testament to cultural exchange and global unity.

# Spencer Hogg

We Once Were Nomads  
(Who Walked Gently Upon the Earth)

Digital Photography



# Vidhyaa Chandramohan

Shadows of Civilization

A young man in traditional attire walks past a wall, his shadow cast beside the dramatic silhouette of a soaring bird. The interplay of human and avian forms suggests a connection between heritage and aspiration, illuminated by warm, golden light.



# Bayt 1





Embassy of Peru  
in United Arab Emirates



Consulate General of  
Peru in Dubai

Our bayt brings together nine Peruvian artists from diverse creative backgrounds, united by a shared engagement with tradition, history, and the profound relationship between humans and nature.

Through digital art, textiles, ceramics, and painting, the artists reinterpret ancestral knowledge and cultural memory for a contemporary audience.

Their works explore Peru's rich narratives, including its landscapes, rituals, and mythologies, while highlighting the multiplicity of perspectives within the country's artistic scene.

Together, they create a collective dialogue that honors heritage and celebrates identity, offering viewers a layered vision of Peru where past and present continually inform one another through material, form, and imagination.

# Adolfo Gonzales Finseth

Andean Suit &  
Terracotta Tile  
Collection



# Ana Nuñez

Where Horizons Meet



This digital artwork creates a visual dialogue between Andean Peru and the United Arab Emirates, two civilizations that, although geographically distant, share a deep connection with extreme environments. The work invites the viewer to reflect on how, even from opposite ends of the planet, cultures can meet, inspire each other, and weave a deeper collective meaning.

# German Fernandez Cantos

The Journeyman



# Liz Ramos-Prado

Ceramic Ties: Peru & The Emirates

The installation will include a group of 20 ceramic pieces with customised drawings and paintings executed by the selected artists; four large painted fabrics and a video-art projection.



# Marina Wendy Castro Deza

Us

Archaeological finds from different ancient Peruvian cultures demonstrate the importance of women in these societies. Despite this, many archaeological studies shaped by colonial, racist, and heteropatriarchal perspectives have portrayed pre-Hispanic women as figures of little importance, valued only for procreation and motherhood. On Peru's central coast, the Chancay culture developed in pre-Hispanic times, known for "Chancay dolls": mostly female representations and funerary objects that point to women's significance in the region's pre-Columbian culture. In Huacho, the artist's hometown and a Chancay cultural area, it was common to find remains such as Chancay dolls and cuchimilcos.

Drawing on this collective memory, the artist reimagines the Chancay doll as a feminine archetype of women of yesterday and 17 today, while questioning Western colonial sexism reflected in state policies that deny women's importance and obscure inequality faced by women and girls across Peru.



# Mayra Correa

Bridges to Heaven



The work incorporates astrological language and Andean calendrical time, referencing the sun, moon, stars and agricultural cycles that guided ancient societies. Animals and natural elements - such as the Condor, Puma and Serpent - are subtly embedded, embodying guardianship, wisdom and the balance between worlds.

Here, the Chakana functions as a spiritual clock tracing the rhythm of life, death and renewal. Clay becomes the material bridge between the physical and the cosmic. Bridges to Heaven invites reflection on ancestral knowledge and the core beliefs of Andean civilization, offering a timeless dialogue between humanity, nature and the universe.

# Renzo Rafaeli

Dance in the Desert



A scissor dancer, an emblematic figure of Andean cosmology, is depicted suspended mid-jump, captured in a moment of ritual intensity. Their traditional costume stands out against the arid landscape, symbolizing cultural resilience in the face of oblivion and desolation. The setting is an infinite desert that seems to open to mystery. The figure of an Oryx, a desert antelope, gazes serenely at the dancer, while two black birds traverse the sky, evoking spiritual presences or messengers between worlds.

The presence of these desert animals creates a bridge between the natural and spiritual realms, in dialogue with the ancestral dance, which in this context celebrates not only life but also identity and memory.

# Ursula Sanchez

## Echoes Between Deserts and Threads

Technique: Organic dyes, gauze conglomerate, threads, papier-mâché



In *Echoes Between Deserts and Threads*, the deserts of the Emirates merge with the eternal dunes of Peru, as if shaped by the same wind. The Paracas culture—master of textiles, color, and memory - meets the Arab heritage that traveled through Spain and crossed the ocean to reach our shores.

On this canvas, enriched with threads, gauze, papier-mâché, and organic dyes, fibers become storytellers. They recall the ancient hands that embroidered the funerary mantles of Paracas, and those who, in the Arab world, transformed weaving into a sacred language. Each stitch is a bridge; each texture, an echo of trade and cultural routes that, like the Silk Road, once united continents.

The shapes of the desert - its waves of sand, its vast silence - symbolize what binds two civilizations: perseverance in adversity, the ability to turn the arid into beauty, and memory as a thread that weaves through time.

This work is a tribute to roots and encounters, to heritage that transforms when worlds recognize themselves in each other's reflection. It is a gesture of gratitude to the United Arab Emirates and a reminder that civilizations are linked not by borders, but by the invisible thread of culture and art.

# Vivian Vilcarrromero

## Machu Patch-U

Assembly of textile scraps / waste / leftovers



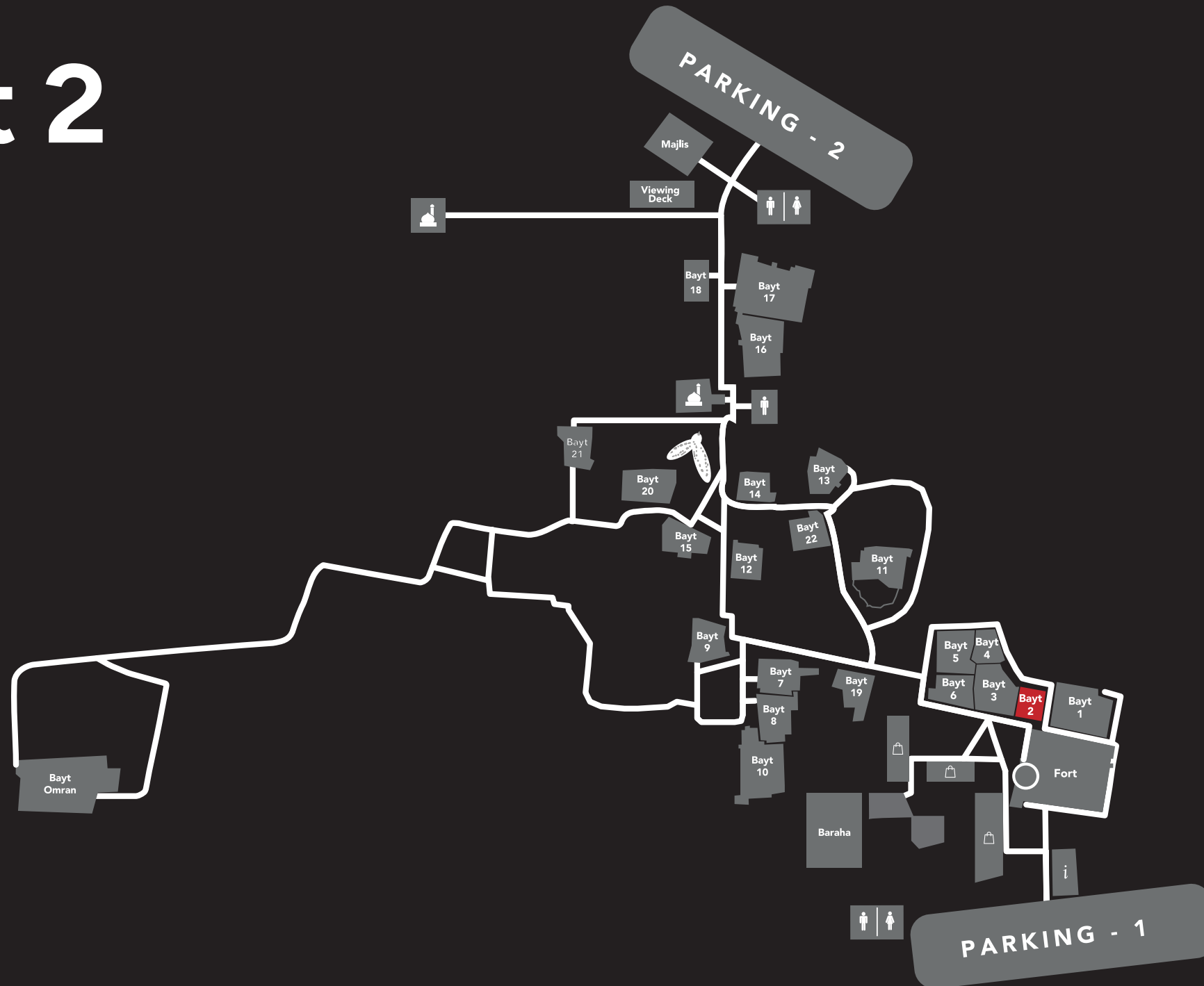
I envision Machu Picchu, not in stone, but in fragments of discarded fabrics.

I will cut them into small pieces, shaping mountains, clouds, and terraces one scrap at a time. With light and shadow as my guide, I will place each fragment carefully, letting texture and tone build the depth and realism of this sacred landscape.

This work is a tribute to the strength and vision of the Inca civilization, an empire that flourished in the heart of the Andes, building wonders in perfect harmony with nature. Machu Picchu stands as a symbol of resilience and artistry, and I feel profound pride in bringing the spirit of my ancestors to the Arab world.

By transforming waste into beauty, I aim to spark reflection on sustainability, cultural identity, and the power of creation with purpose. Every fragment will become a brushstroke in a dialogue between past and present, waste and wonder, and between two worlds connected through art.

# Bayt 2





United Kingdom in the United Arab Emirates



# Mariam Al-Noaimi

## The Water that Asked for a Fish

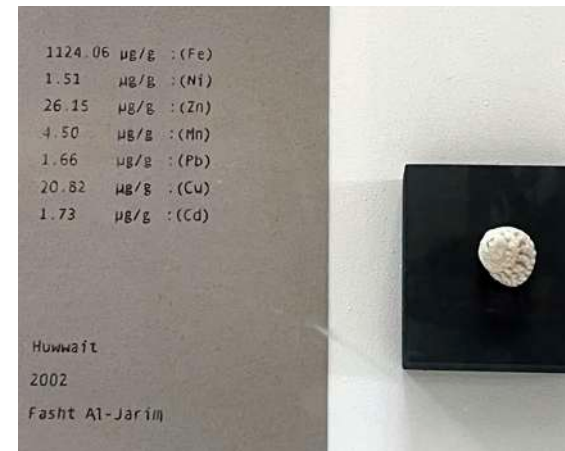


Mariam Al-Noaimi is a Bahraini multidisciplinary artist and urban researcher whose work explores the relationship between communities and land through cartography, archives, and narrative forms. You are invited for a walk through a liminal space, an ever-shifting space between water and land. This intertidal space, submerged at high tide and exposed at low tide, is synced with the rhythms of the spheres and constellations. The boundary between land and sea is in constant flux, and with each tide, the sea reveals a path for us to walk upon its bed.

In walking, we embody knowledge - knowledge of the land, the water, and the space in between. Through walking, we speak the language of the place, allowing us to see the life it holds within.

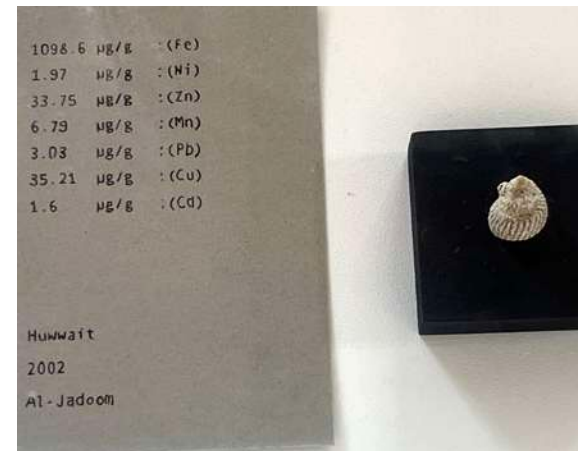
"Walking is a state in which the mind, the body, and the world are aligned."  
- Rebecca Solnit

Walking is a slow practice, and slowness allows us to build knowledge, fostering an alternative understanding of land and nature. Walking makes space for listening, for experiencing wonder, for life to unfold.



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1.51 µg/g : (Ni)  
26.15 µg/g : (Zn)  
4.50 µg/g : (Mn)  
1.66 µg/g : (Pb)  
20.82 µg/g : (Cu)  
1.73 µg/g : (Cd)

Huwait  
2002  
Fasht Al-Jarim



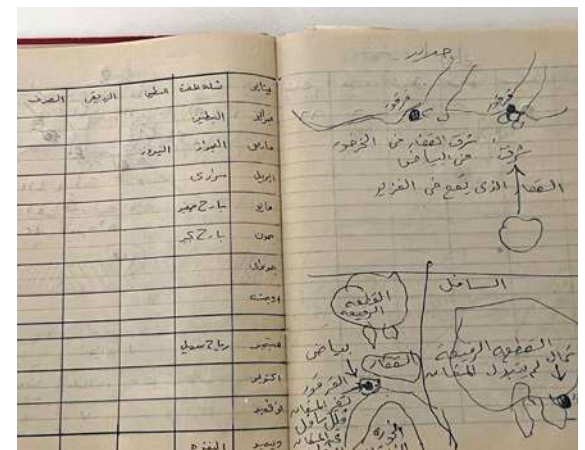
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2002  
Al-Jadoom

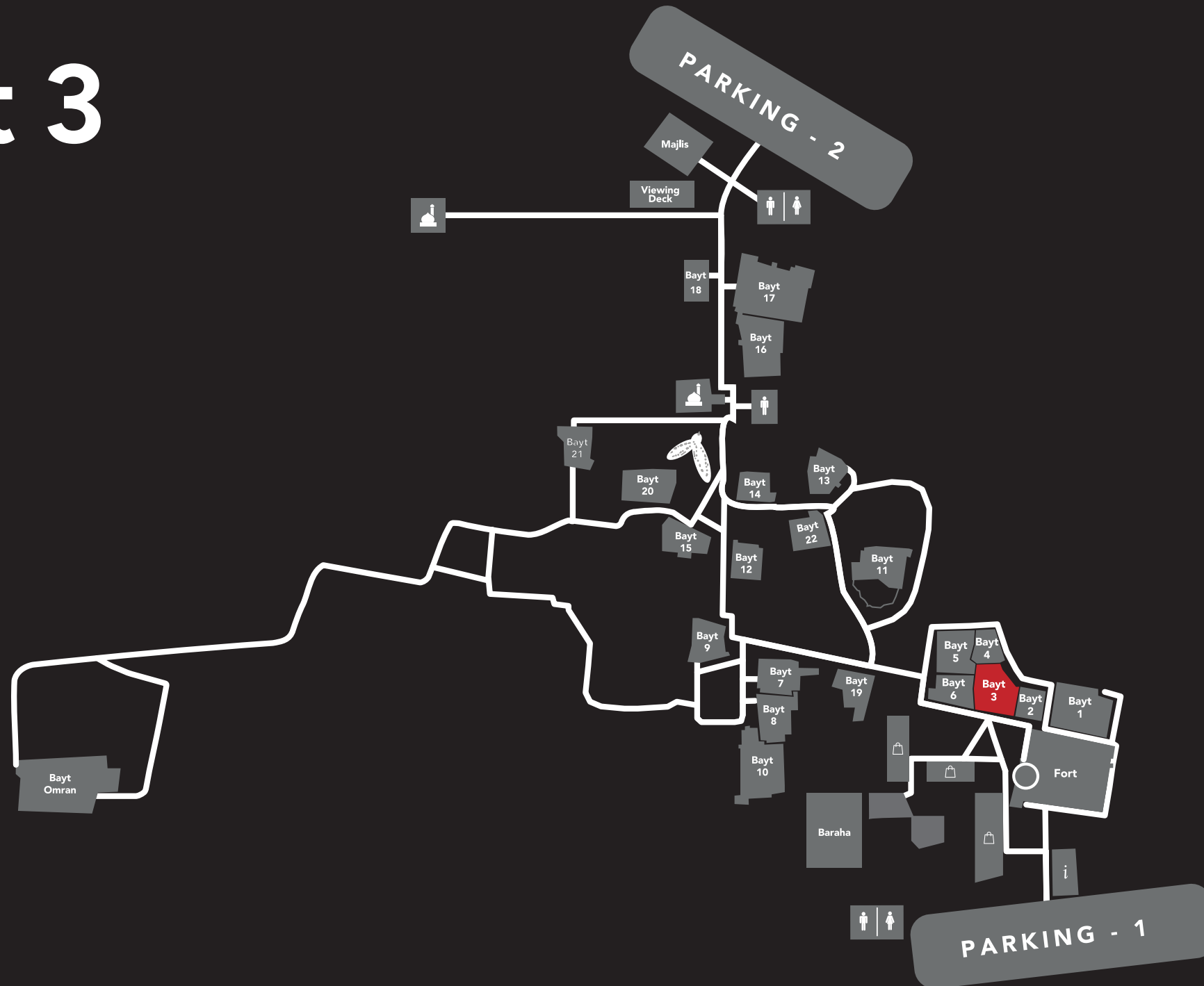


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2.13 µg/g : (Pb)  
38.7 µg/g : (Cu)  
0.13 µg/g : (Cd)

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2002  
Al-Qulayah



# Bayt 3





MARINKO SUDAC  
FOUNDATION

# Boris Bućan

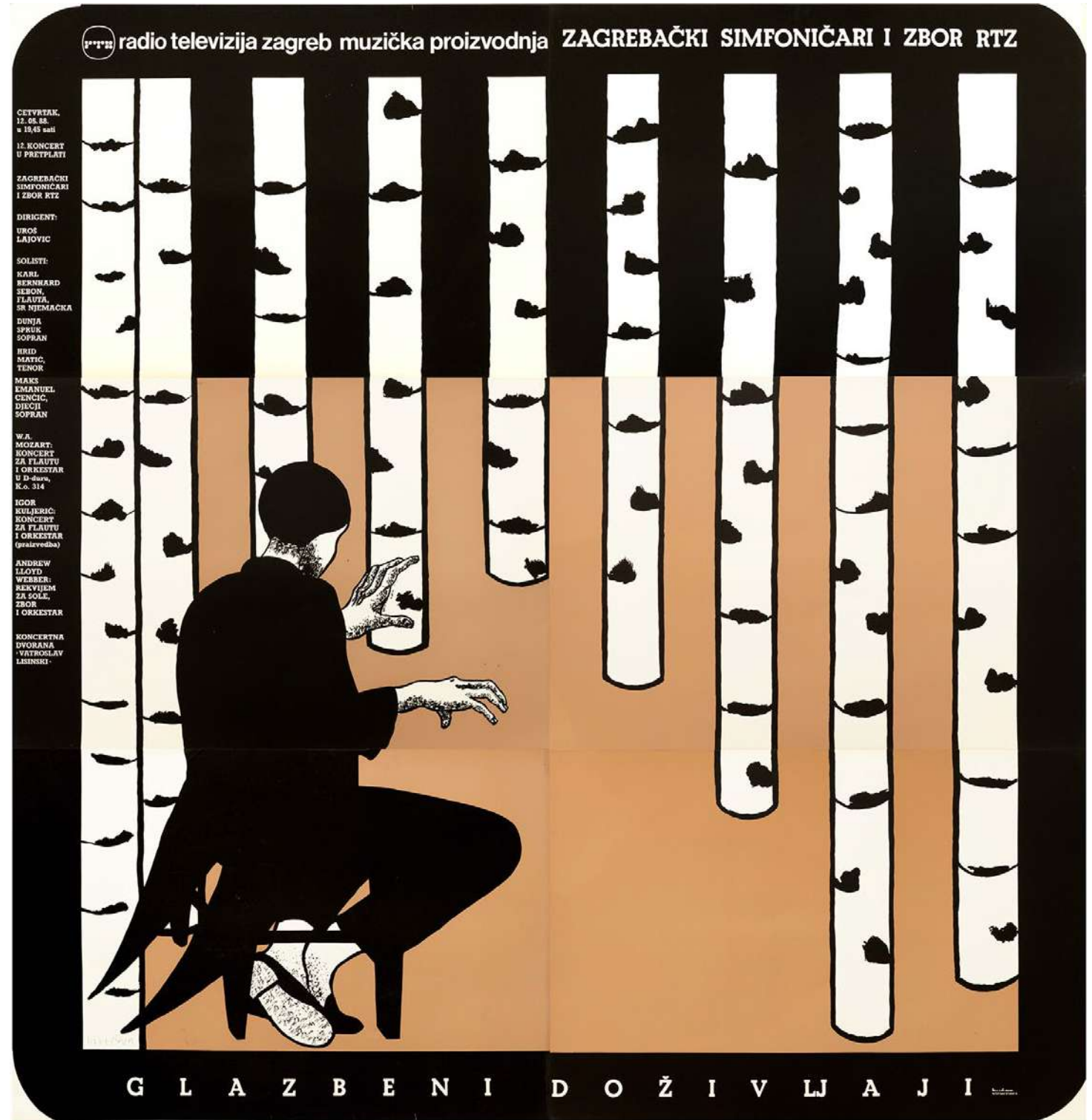


**Boris Bućan** (1947–2023) was a leading European visual artist whose work bridged art, design, and public space, reshaping how images and symbols operate in contemporary culture. He developed a large-scale visual

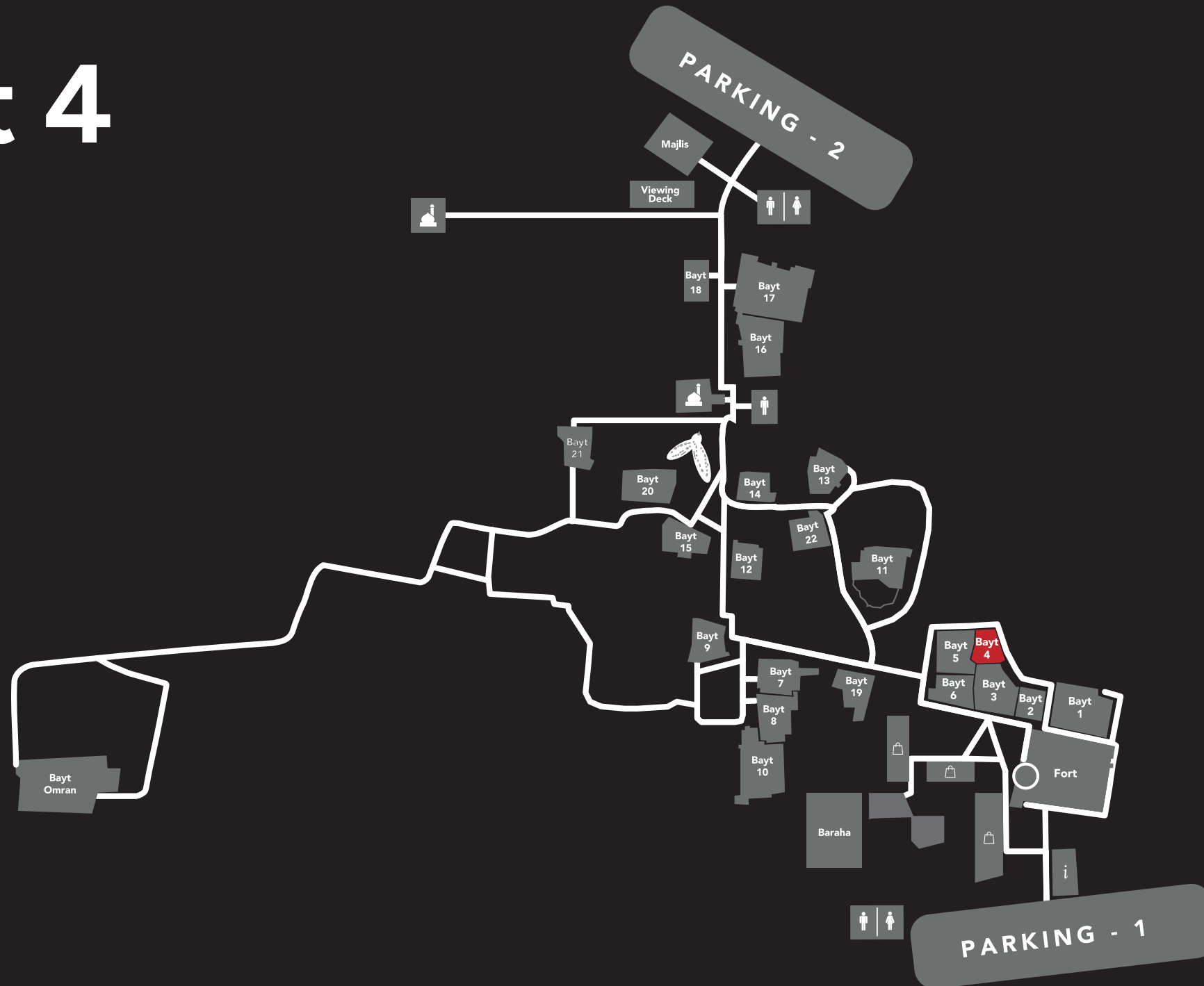
language rooted in abstraction, symbolism, and conceptual thinking. His iconic poster *The Firebird/Petrushka* (1983) exemplifies his ability to transform narrative motifs into universal symbols.

Bućan's work is held in major global museums and has appeared in exhibitions alongside Warhol, Johns, and Lichtenstein. For the Ras Al Khaimah Art 2026 exhibition, his series "Bućan Art" (1972) highlights his transformation of global commercial logos into the word "ART," revealing his critical engagement with consumer culture and the blurred boundaries between art, media, and the market.

Collectively, Bućan's oeuvre underscores the enduring power of visual symbols to move across cultures and eras, affirming visual art as a universal language of civilization.



# Bayt 4





Embassy of the  
Kingdom of the Netherlands



# Sina Dyks



“**Civilizations: Weaving Connections Through Dutch Art and Design**” is a curated exhibition by Dutch curator **Margriet Vollenberg**. The presentation explores how civilizations grow through exchange, transformation, and creative dialogue.

Margriet Vollenberg is the founder and owner of Organisation in Design and an experienced curator, organiser, and consultant working across art, design, and international exhibitions. She is the founder and curator of Ventura Projects (2010–2020), through which she organised 26 exhibitions in Milan, Dubai, London, Kortrijk, and Berlin. Her work includes large-scale outdoor installations and design experiences that have attracted international audiences of more than 500,000 visitors. She also curated the Design Biennale in Ljubljana in 2012, the Dutch Pavilion’s Design Exhibition at Expo 2020 Dubai in 2022, and the Dutch exhibition at the Ras Al Khaimah Art Festival in 2022, 2023, 2025 and 2026.



**Sina Dyks** uses recycled PET yarns to create large woven compositions that express emotion through color, texture, and movement. Her work turns discarded materials into layered reflections on connection, memory, and sustainability.



Exalted Era



Flowing Neuron



Ages Eternity

# Ilja Visser



**Ilja Visser** blends fashion sensibilities with contemporary art. Her richly textured wall pieces made from embroidery, reused fabrics, paint, and drawing are shaped by an intuitive process influenced by contrasting musical rhythms.

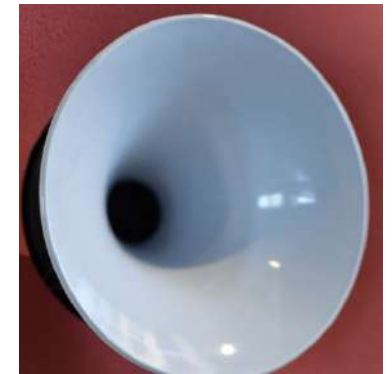


# Studio Vocum

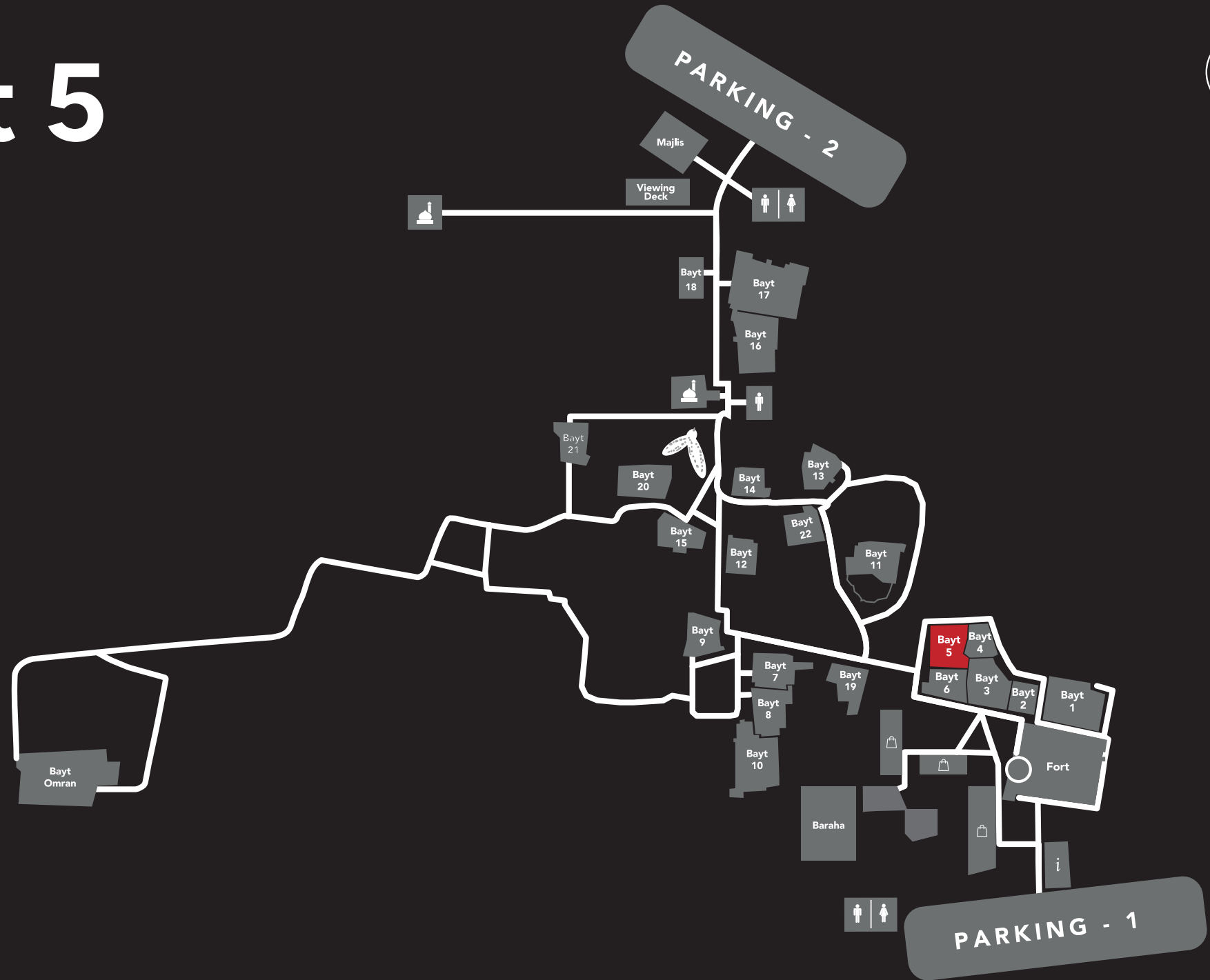


**Studio Vocum** (Pierluigi Pompei and Adam Foxwell) merges sculptural ceramics with advanced acoustics. Their work, including the sculptural Vocum21" loudspeaker, creates immersive experiences where sound, form, and color blend into one sensory environment.

Together, the artists offer a poetic meditation on civilization as something continually created through imagination, culture, and shared artistic expression.



# Bayt 5





# Rodrigo Ohtake

The Brazilian Bayt 2026 explores the theme of Civilization through a diverse collection of artworks that honor heritage, traditional craftsmanship, and ancient artisanal techniques, reinterpreted in contemporary forms. Brazilian artists revive stories passed down through generations, inviting visitors to reflect on how civilizations preserve identity, memory, and values through art. The exhibition creates a cultural dialogue between Brazil's rich historical legacy and the artistic landscape of the Middle East, highlighting art's power to connect cultures and transcend borders.

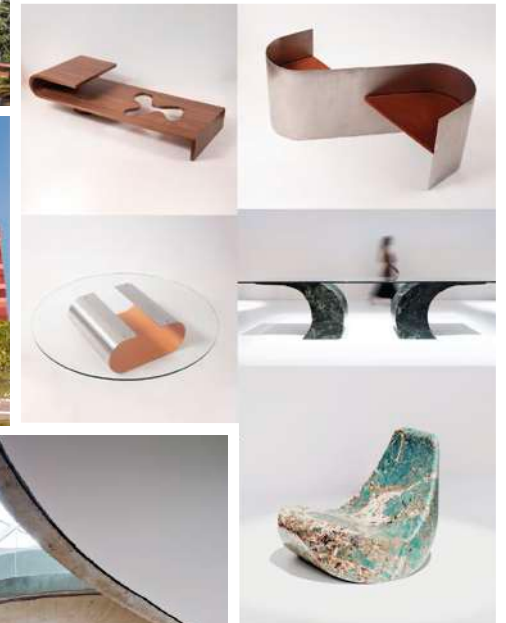
Curated by Mrs. Georgia Mourad, founder of Banadura, the Bayt reflects her strong commitment to cultural exchange and supporting Brazilian artists on an international stage. In her second year as curator, she continues to build bridges between cultures by celebrating diversity, emotion, and human stories, while creating meaningful spaces for regional audiences to experience the depth and warmth of Brazilian artistic expression.



Born in Rio de Janeiro, **Georgia Mourad** holds a bachelor's degree in journalism and sits on the board of two companies with diversified real estate holdings. Being an art lover, Georgia's dream is to introduce Brazilian art to the UAE, starting with architect Rodrigo Ohtake, and the artist Mariana Tanajura whom she is currently curating. She lives in São Paulo with her husband and daughter.



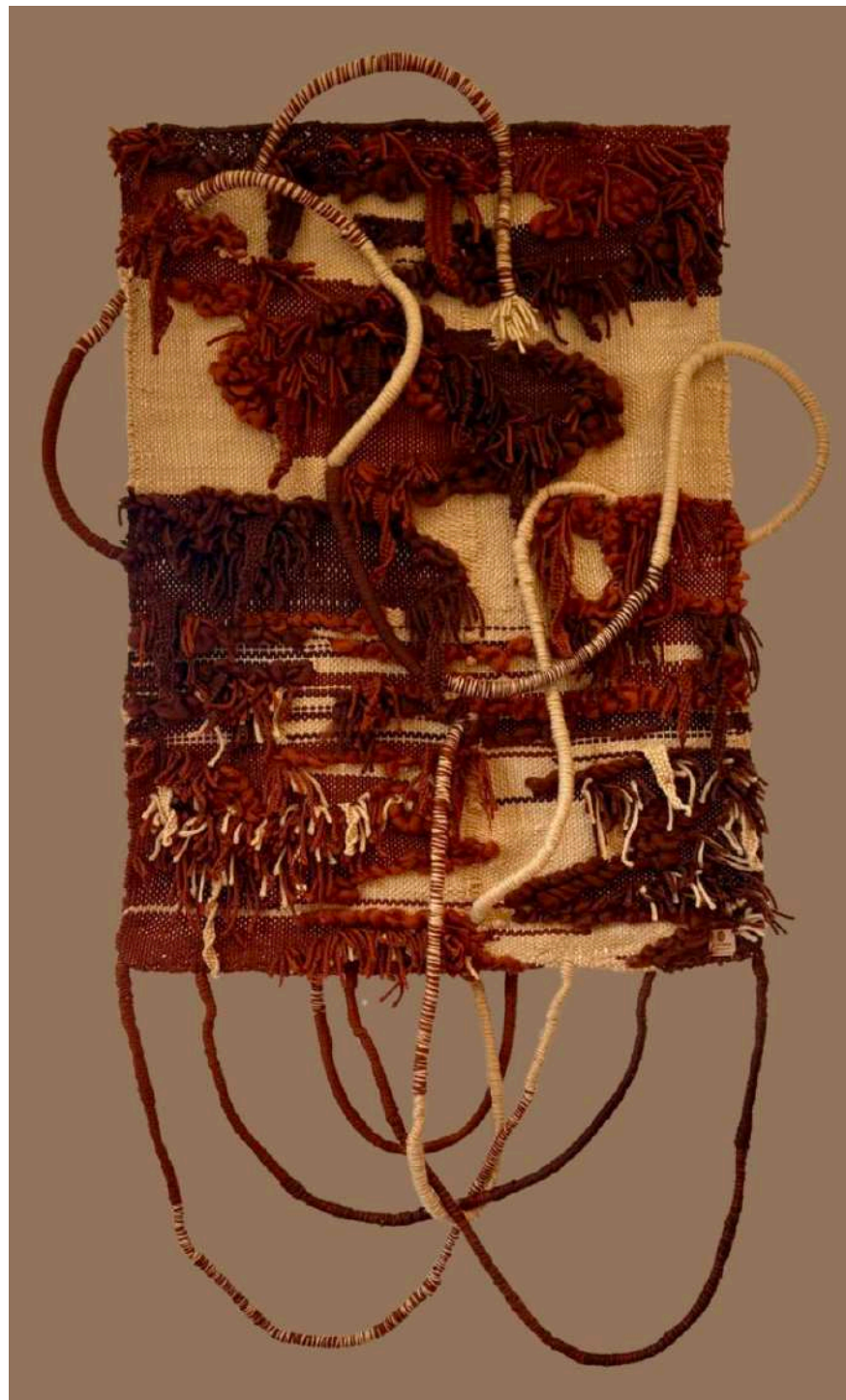
OHTAKE studio, merging architecture and design with a multidisciplinary approach



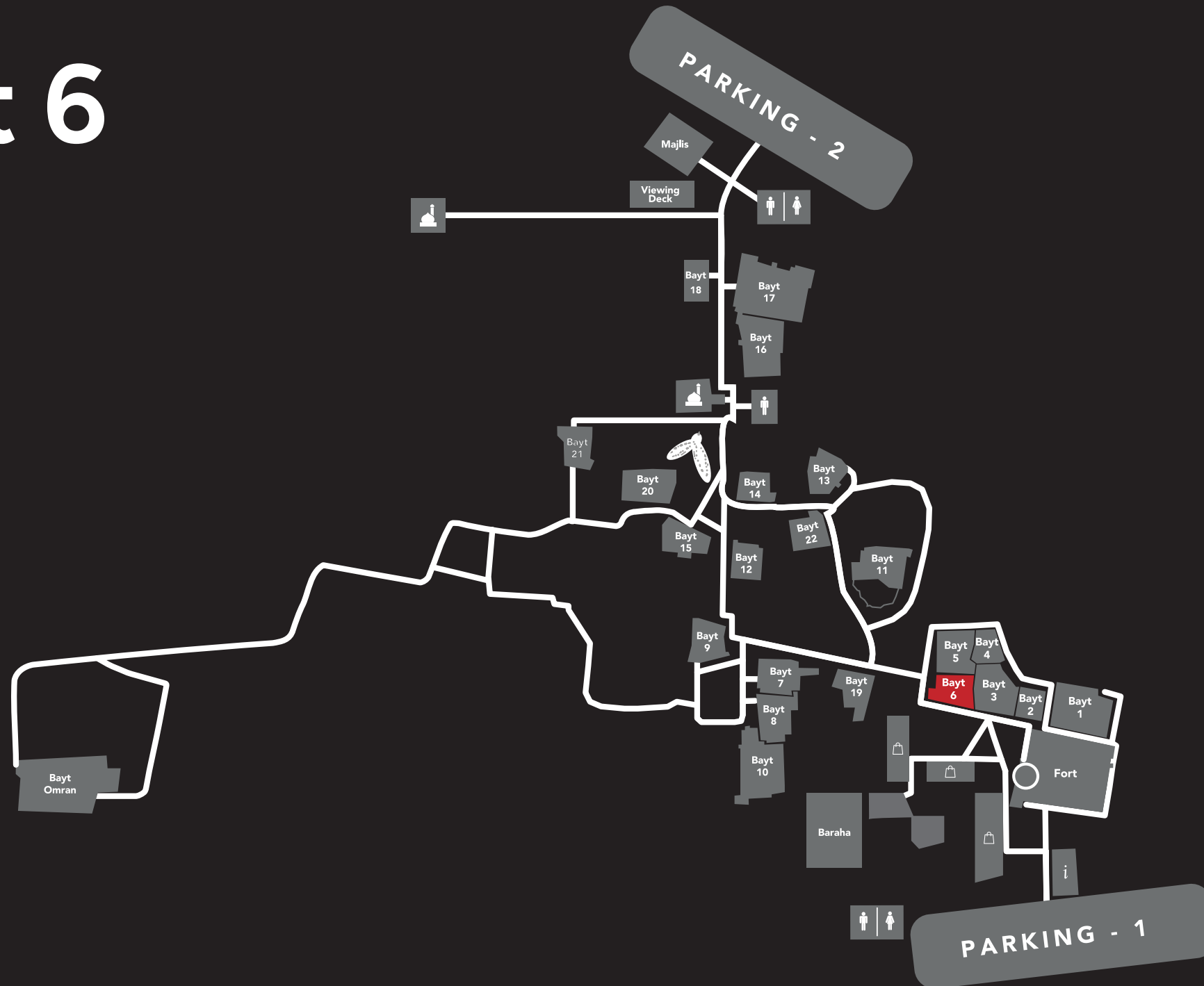
# Mariana Tanajura



**Mariana Tanajura** was born in Salvador and has been based in São Paulo for 16 years. With a deep passion for weaving, she turned it into her life's purpose, creating unique pieces that translate her emotional memories into art. Her works, marked by an abstract character, do not depict concrete forms but rather sensations and emotions, capturing the essence of what is human and natural. Another strong characteristic of her work is the way she blends the traditional art of loom weaving with contemporary approaches, offering new possibilities for artistic expression. The artist also often combines natural fibers - such as straw and seeds - with wool and cotton. The concept of "imperfection" is a central element in her work, reflecting the beauty of the handcrafted and handmade, bringing authenticity and humanity to each piece.



# Bayt 6





Consulate General  
of the Federal Republic of Germany  
Dubai



GOETHE  
INSTITUT

Sprache. Kultur. Deutschland.

German Cultural Center  
معهد جوته المركزي الثقافي الألماني

## Entwined Paths

# Amir Taba



Amir Taba, a German-Swedish artist, was born and grew up in Tehran. Art and design were part of family life and he was always surrounded by vibrant fabric, tools, and materials. His journey has taken him to Sweden, Morocco, and Germany, where he worked across illustration, advertising, and corporate identity before dedicating himself fully to painting.

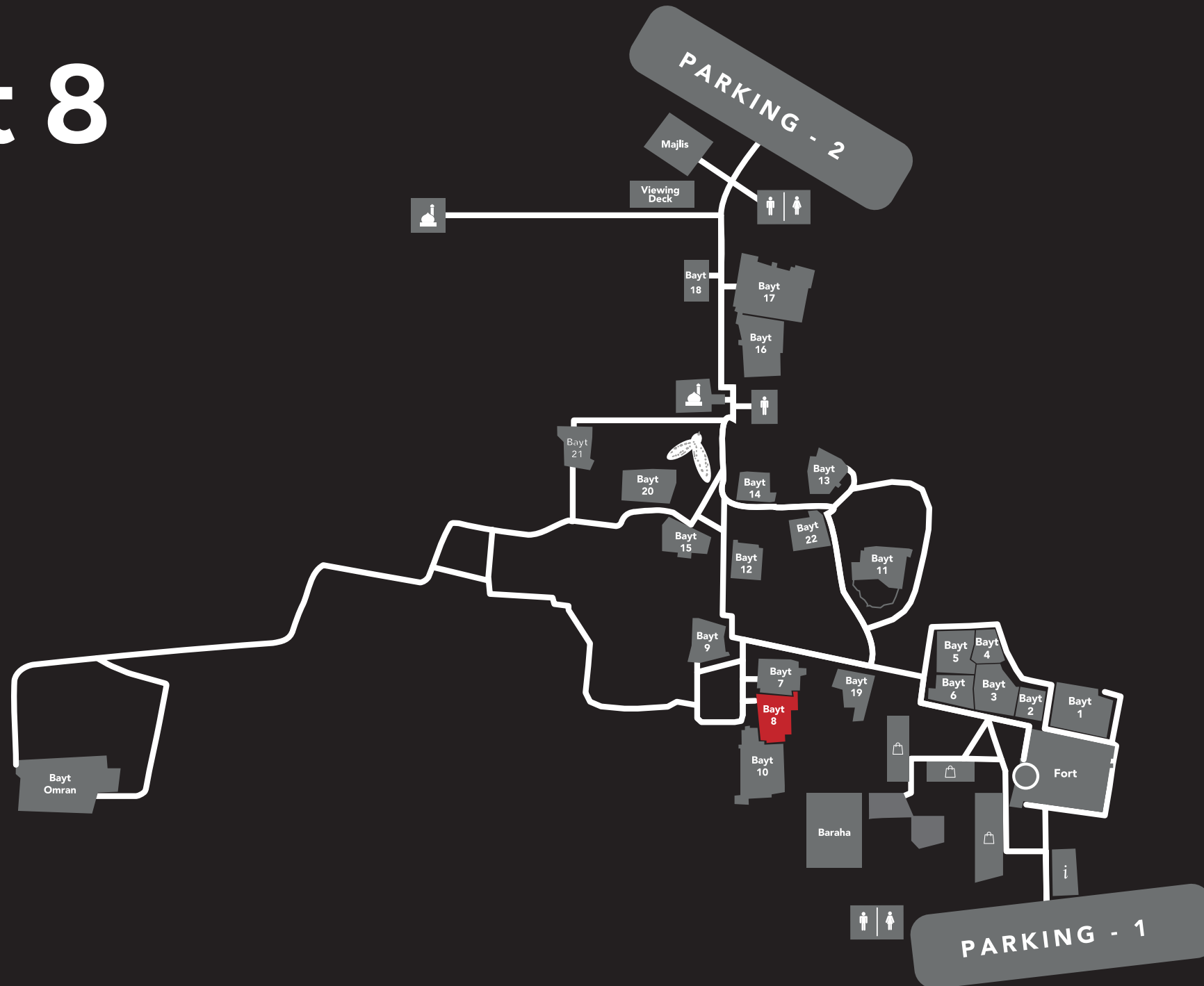
Although he values harmony and vitality, contrasts have been a constant presence in his life. As a child in times of war, he experienced life on the edge, where constant innovation was essential for survival, demanding invention and resilience. Now based in Dubai, he continues to develop his practice, drawing from both his surroundings and the dynamic international community.

His artwork is complex, detailed, often emotional, evoking the experience of life and what it means to be human, where identity is always present. Reality is not smoothed over but opened up, asking for reflection rather than resolution.

## Condemned at First Sight



# Bayt 8





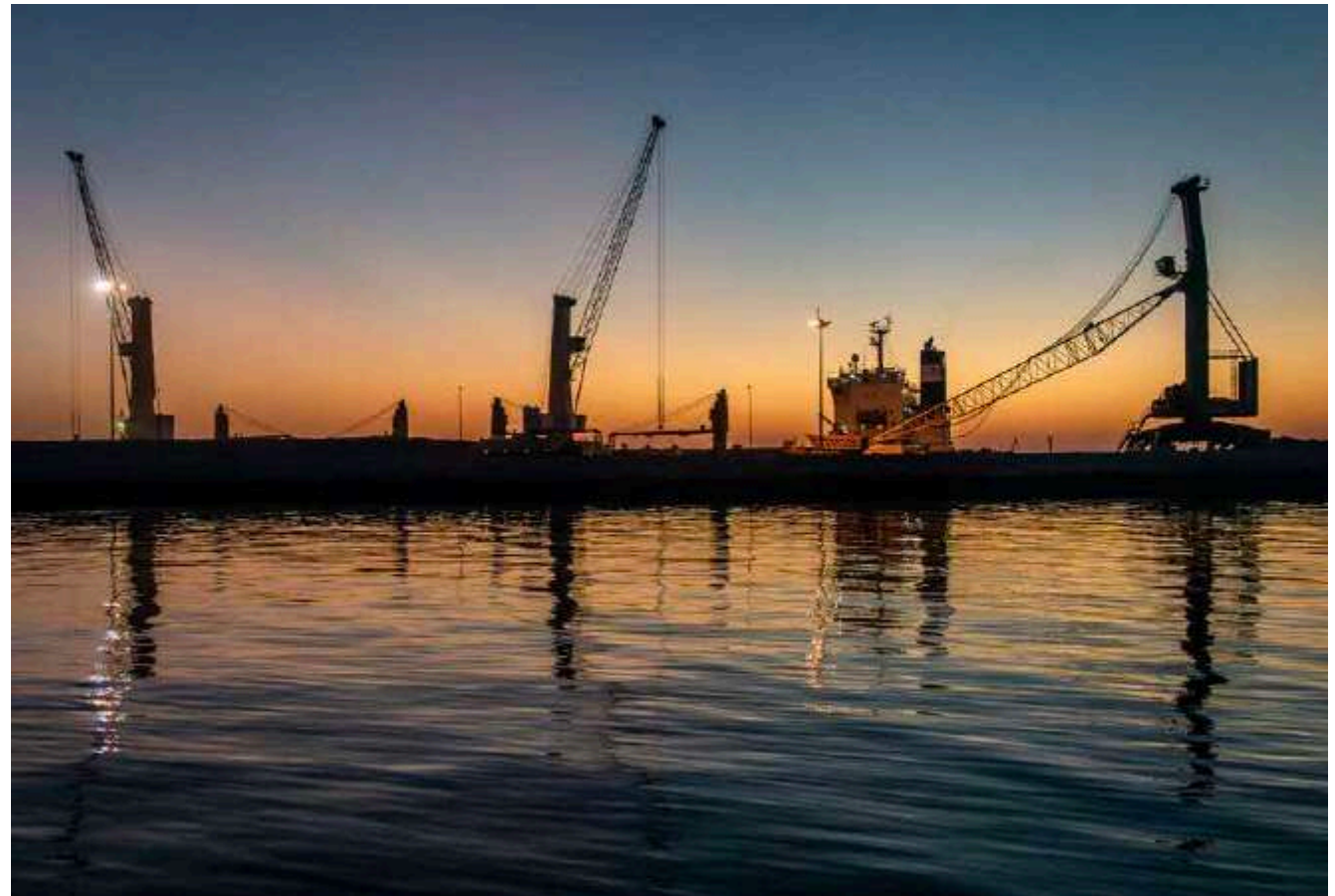
# Gillian M Robertson

## Ports as Crossroads of Civilization

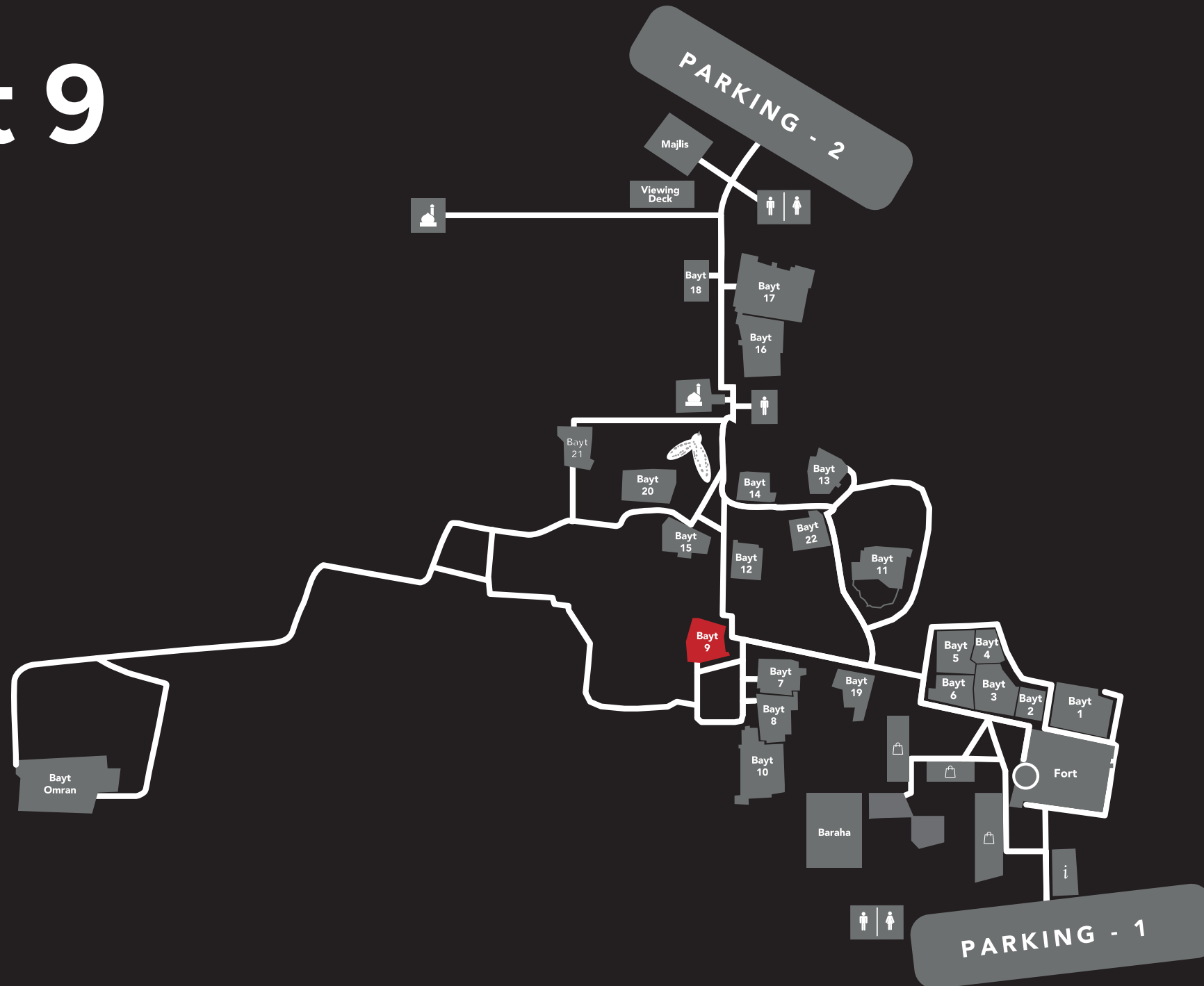
RAK Ports, comprising five major maritime hubs in Ras Al Khaimah, are vital gateways for global commerce and local prosperity. Handling over 75 million tonnes of cargo annually, including the largest bulk port in the region, they form a dynamic landscape where industry meets the sea. Expansive docks, towering cranes, and sleek cargo ships create striking geometric forms, reflecting the Emirate's growth and international connectivity.



Through the lens of photographer **Gillian M Robertson**, commissioned by RAK Ports, this exhibition artistically captures the interplay of light, shadow, and industrial beauty, highlighting the convergence of trade, culture, and Ras Al Khaimah's unique spirit.



# Bayt 9



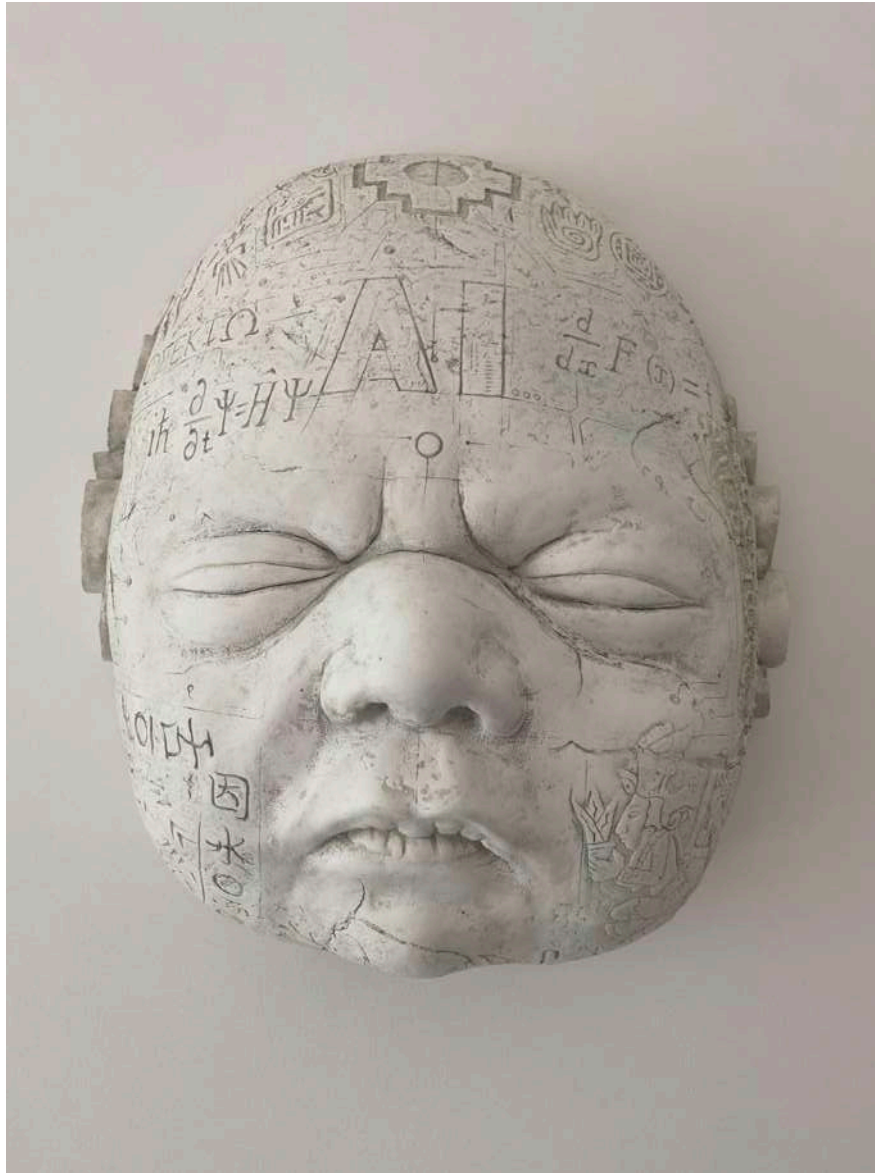
# Zeynab Kazemzadeh

Pulse of the Earth, Melody of Stone



# Carlos Valdez

YO SOY



# Kim Ji-Hye

Traces Through Time



# Bayt 10



خولة للفنون والثقافة  
KHAWLA ART & CULTURE

**Khawla Art & Culture** presents its participation at the Ras Al Khaimah Festival through a dedicated artistic space that reflects its vision of empowering Emirati artists and showcasing influential creative voices within both regional and global art scenes. This curational presentation brings together two distinct artistic trajectories those of internationally acclaimed artist **Fatma Lootah** and contemporary Emirati artist **Hend Rashed** within a framework that explores identity, imagination, and the continuous search for beauty.

The selection of these two artists is part of a curational plan that highlights multiple layers of Emirati artistic expression: one grounded in decades of global presence and cultural depth through Fatma Lootah, and another shaped by fresh contemporary sensibilities through Hend Rashed. Together, their works offer visitors a nuanced understanding of the diversity and richness of the UAE's visual arts landscape.





广州美术学院  
GUANGZHOU ACADEMY OF FINE ARTS

**Guangzhou Academy of Fine Arts (GAFA)** is a leading Chinese art institution, renowned for award-winning painting, sculpture, and design, shaping artists and cultural innovation nationally and internationally.



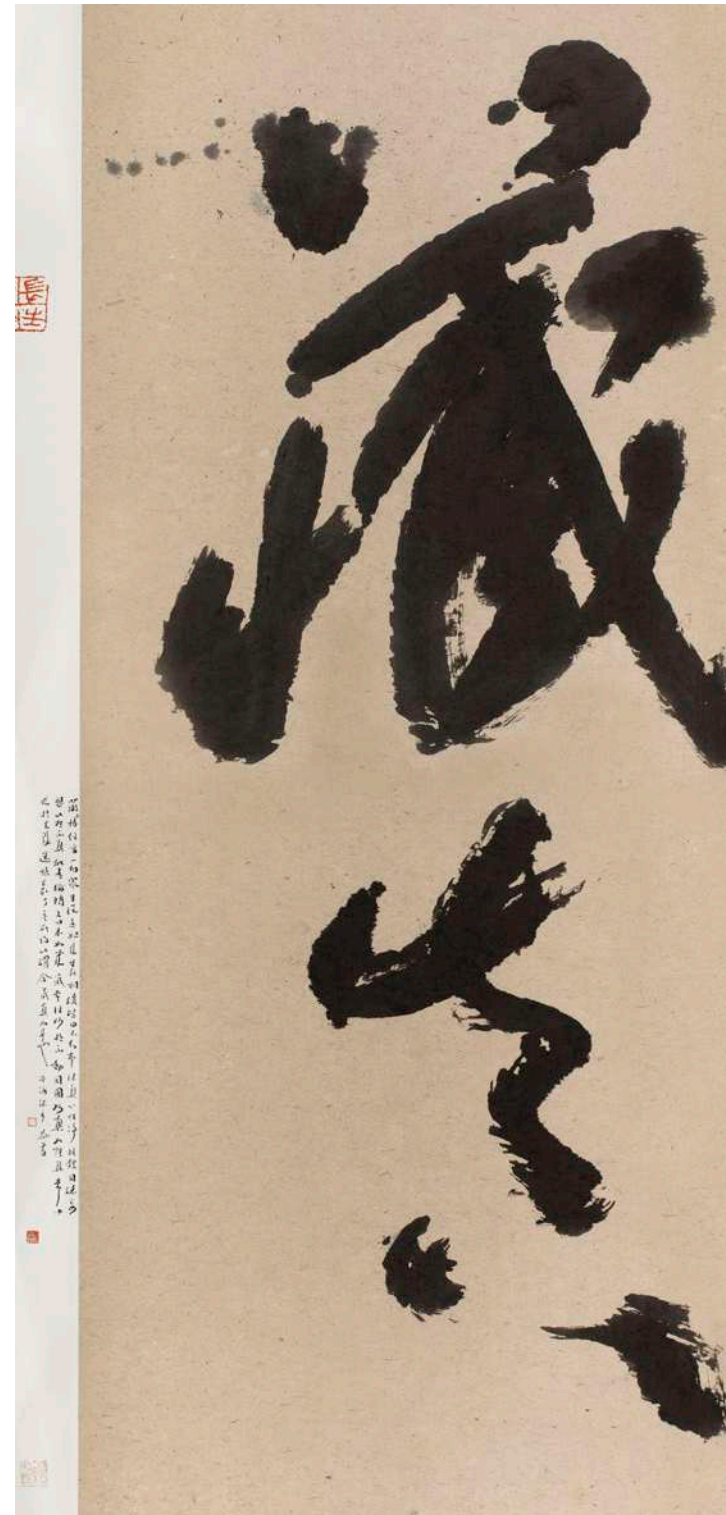
Feng Lanting



Liang Han

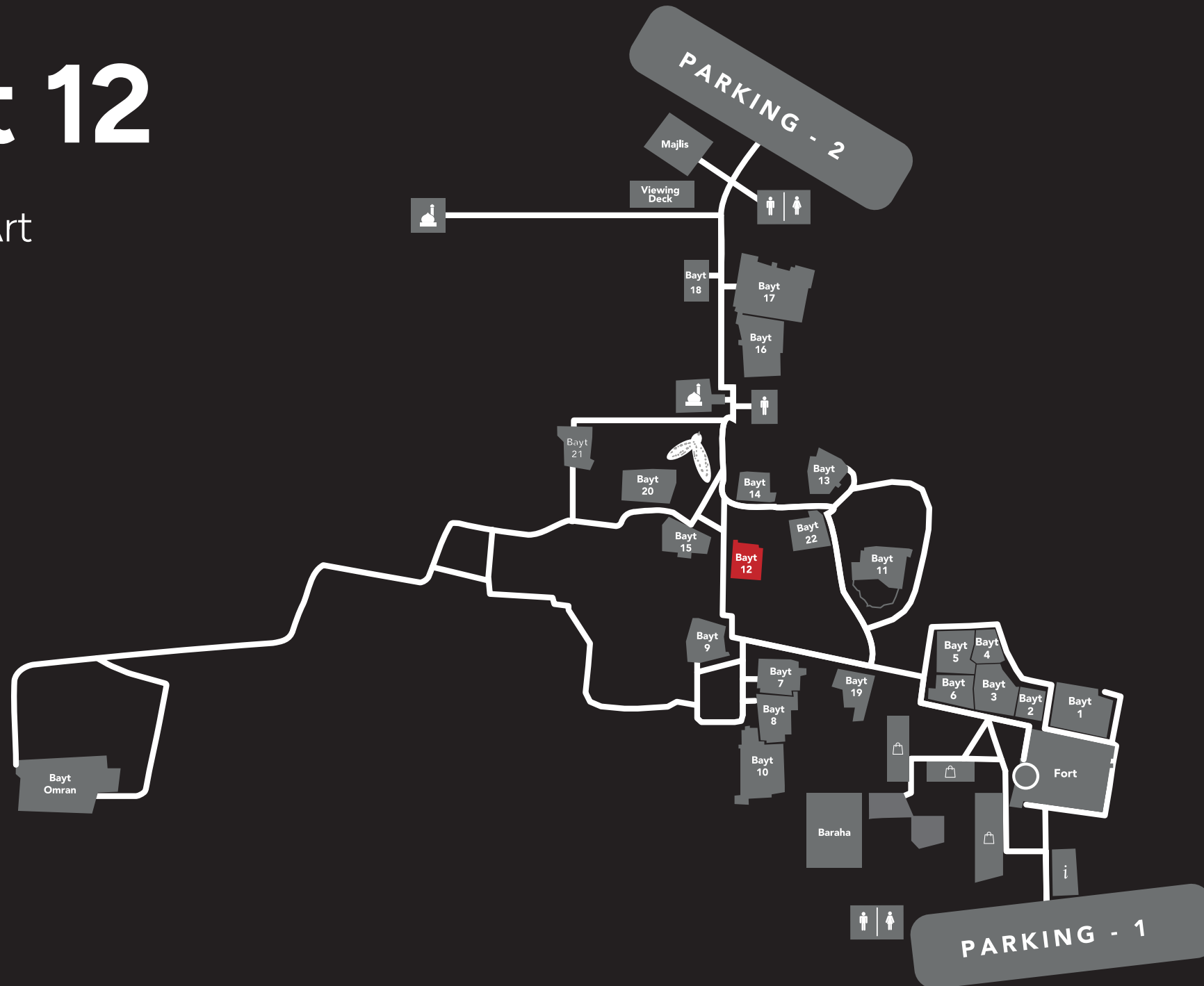


Zhou Junlin



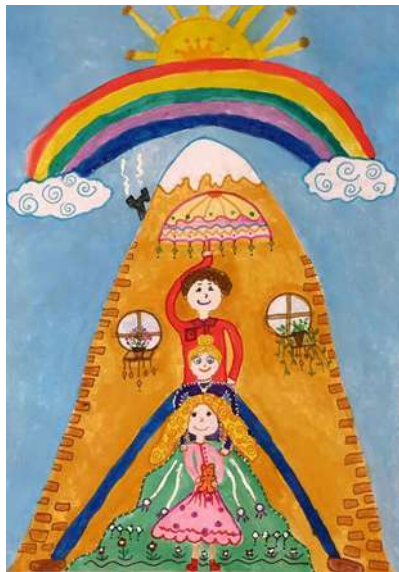
# Bayt 12

Students' Art



# Andia Jamshidi Artonis Talebi

In the Shelter of Civilization  
(75x107cm) Material: ACP



Imaginary future city (75x106cm)  
Material: ACP



# Ayman Waheed

Cave Era (106x75cm)  
Material: ACP



# Hannah Gabrielle

Three civilizations in me (75x77cm)  
Material: ACP



# Arjun Shroff

The Book Village (75x106cm)  
Material: ACP



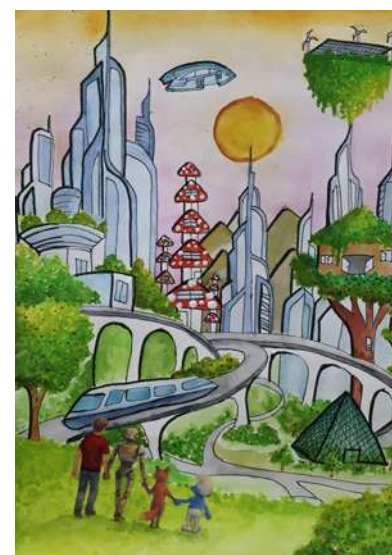
# Ava Torbat

Civilization and culture (107x75cm)  
Material: ACP



# Hanaya Ahuja

Co-Existence (75x106cm)  
Material: ACP



# Mahamoud Ali El Shewy

Fishing in U.A.E (110x75cm)  
Material: ACP



# Mark Onishchuk

Guardian of the Wild (110x75cm)  
Material: ACP



# Rea Balotia

Cross Culture (100x75cm)  
Material: ACP



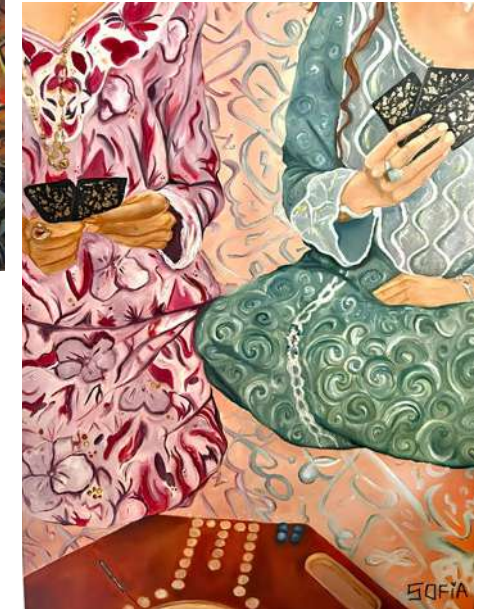
# Saidbilol Alimov

From War to Peace (147x75cm)  
Material: ACP



# Sofia About Shoun

Warmth of the Jalabiya and the Gathering of Loved Ones (75x106cm)  
Material: ACP



# Morvarid Mohammad

This Place (75x107cm)  
Material: ACP



# Reeman Abdel Baki

Spirit of Power (106x75cm)  
Material: ACP



# Savi Neb

Genesis of Life (75x106cm)  
Material: ACP

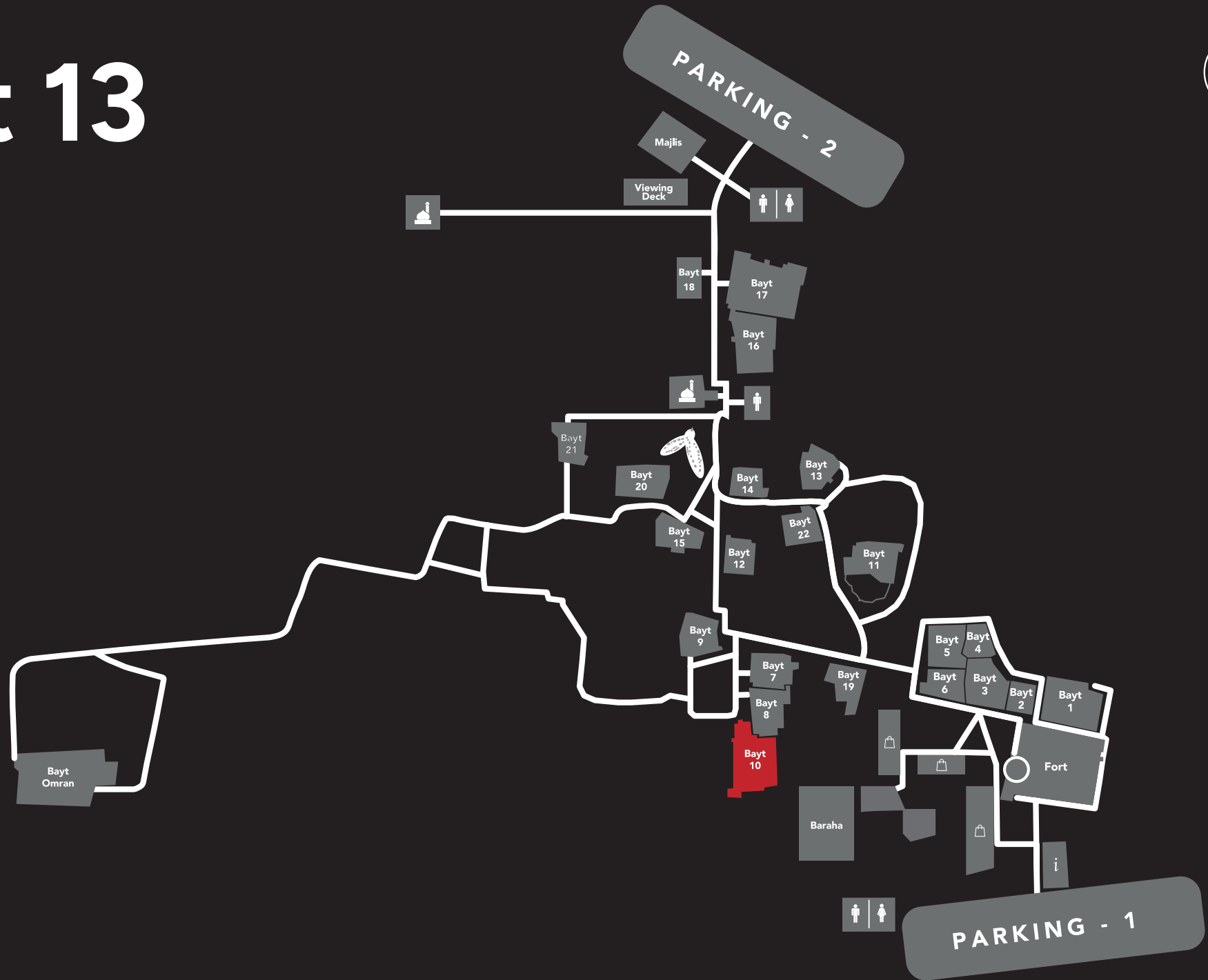


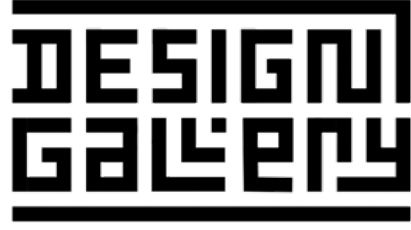
# Taksh Soni

Modern Civilization (107x75cm)  
Material: ACP



# Bayt 13





# Zainab Alblooshi

is an Emirati photographer and chemical engineer whose practice bridges science and art. Drawing from her professional background, Zainab seeks connections between the precision of engineering and the expressive nature of photography, creating images that reflect both structure and emotion.



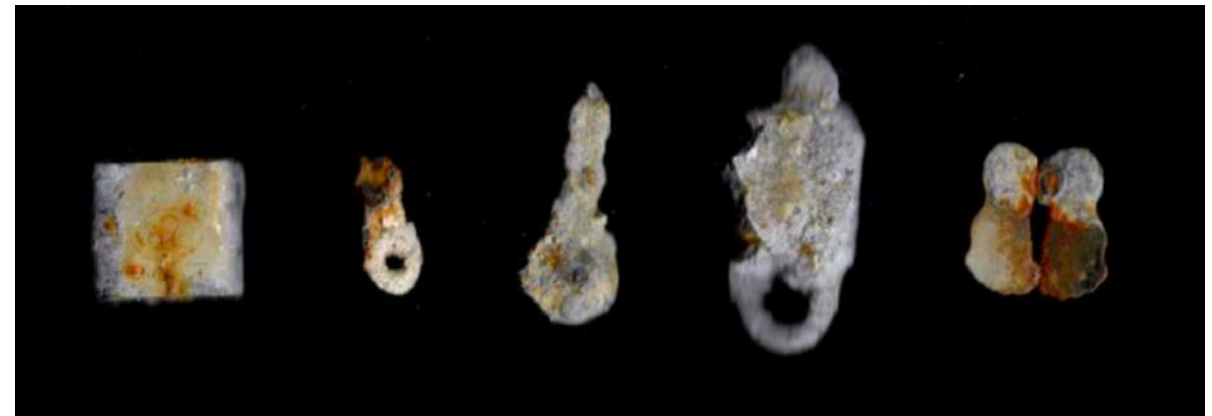
# Ameena Alali

## Sacred, Sidroh Series III

Ameena Alali is an Emirati artist whose work explores Afro-Emirati history through family memory, oral and visual archives, and themes of trauma. Using video, sculpture, photography, and text, she reimagines layered narratives that blend fiction and reality, highlighting alternative Afro-Emirati histories within the wider Indian Ocean region.

“Sidroh” is a long-term visual documentation project that explores emotional ties to place, memory, and forgotten objects. Named after the Sidr tree, the project reflects on the area’s layered interactions between people, objects, space, and time.

The “Sacred” series focuses on scanned objects found with a metal detector represented as collective memories. The work emerges from uncovering histories hidden beneath the sand, where each discovery evokes a connection to the past.

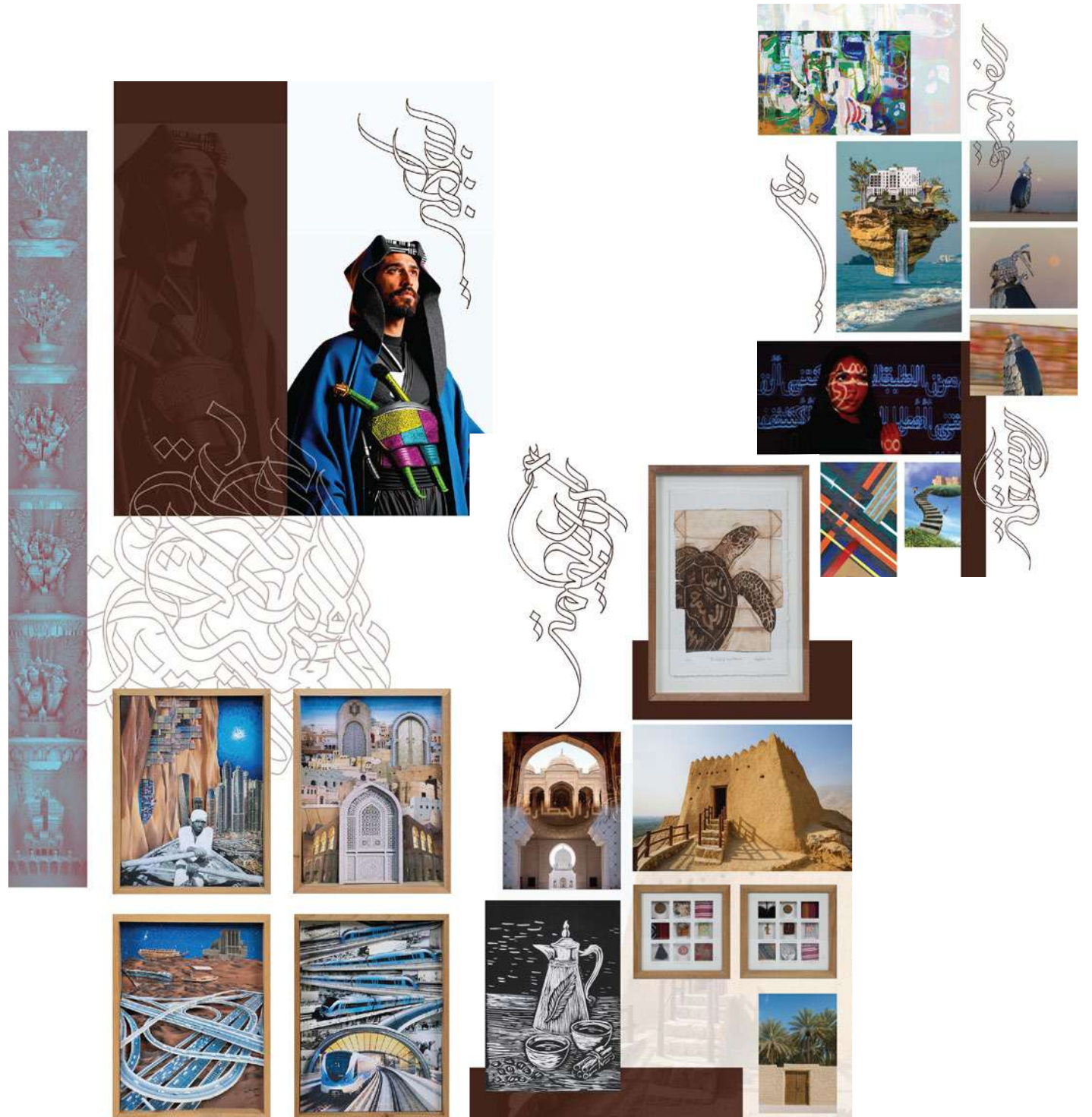


The Higher Colleges of Technology (HCT), Faculty of Applied Media, presents a collective exhibition of artworks created across its campuses in Ras Al Khaimah, Sharjah, Dubai, and Abu Dhabi, in response to the festival's central theme, "Civilizations." The exhibition brings together works in printmaking, photography, mixed media, and digital art.

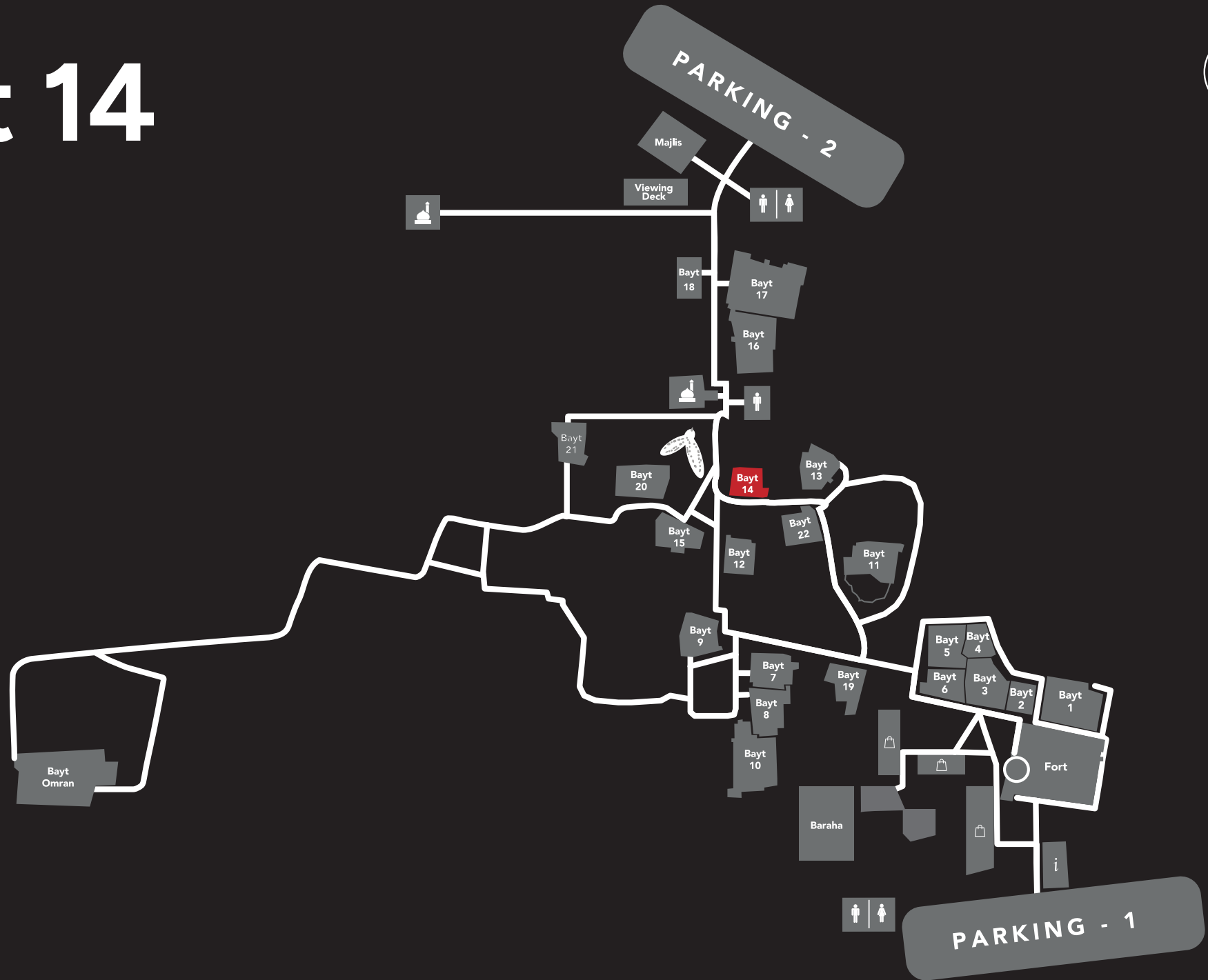
Each artwork explores how civilizations evolve and endure through heritage, environment, technology, and human experience. Presented as a unified body of work, the exhibition creates a dialogue between past and present while highlighting HCT's commitment to creative practice and contemporary artistic inquiry within the UAE.

Participated Artists:

- Amna Badr Alteneiji**
- Safurah Abdul Jalil**
- Mustafa Pracha**
- Zahidah Abd Kadir**
- Lamis Mawafi**
- Jana Dambekalne**
- Henry Lim Tien Meng**
- Adnan Mujawar**
- Noor Hasbi Yusoff**
- Tarang Taswir**
- Noura Nabil Alameri**
- Sumaya Abdulrahman Alali**
- Asma Jasim Almarzooqi**
- Rawdhah Salem Alyammahi**
- Taif Abdalla Alnaqbi**



# Bayt 14



# Reem Al Khoori

## Mountain Imprints Journey

The research explores how minerals form rocks over time and notes that, among minerals found in the UAE, around ten contain pigments that can be turned into paint. I plan to collect rocks from across the country and identify pigment-bearing samples through simple tests, then document place memory through photographs, using extracted powder to represent the minerals and the slow natural forces that shape rock formations.



# Rouhoallah Safavi

## The Desire of Love Panel

The Desire of Love panel is composed of over 150 meticulously handcrafted wooden pieces made from ten distinct types of trees. Each element is carefully selected and assembled into a mosaic that evokes passion and emotion, using



natural wood tones without artificial coloring so the materials' inherent beauty remains visible. Measuring 105 × 145 cm, the work celebrates artistry and craftsmanship through the interplay of grains, hues, and textures, creating a sense of depth and movement. The panel is inspired by a renowned work by Master Mahmoud Farshchian, one of the world's great miniaturists, and reflects the influence of his intricate visual language. It invites viewers to experience the emotional resonance and transformative power of traditional craft.

# Stella Spenedi

Non puoi trattenere la primavera

This work consists of four bronze-cast swallow nests—one completed and three still in production—installed outdoors using a screw or hook so they adhere to the architecture of houses, barns, and small buildings. Initially polished, the metal oxidizes over time, shifting in color and texture depending on the acidity of the air.



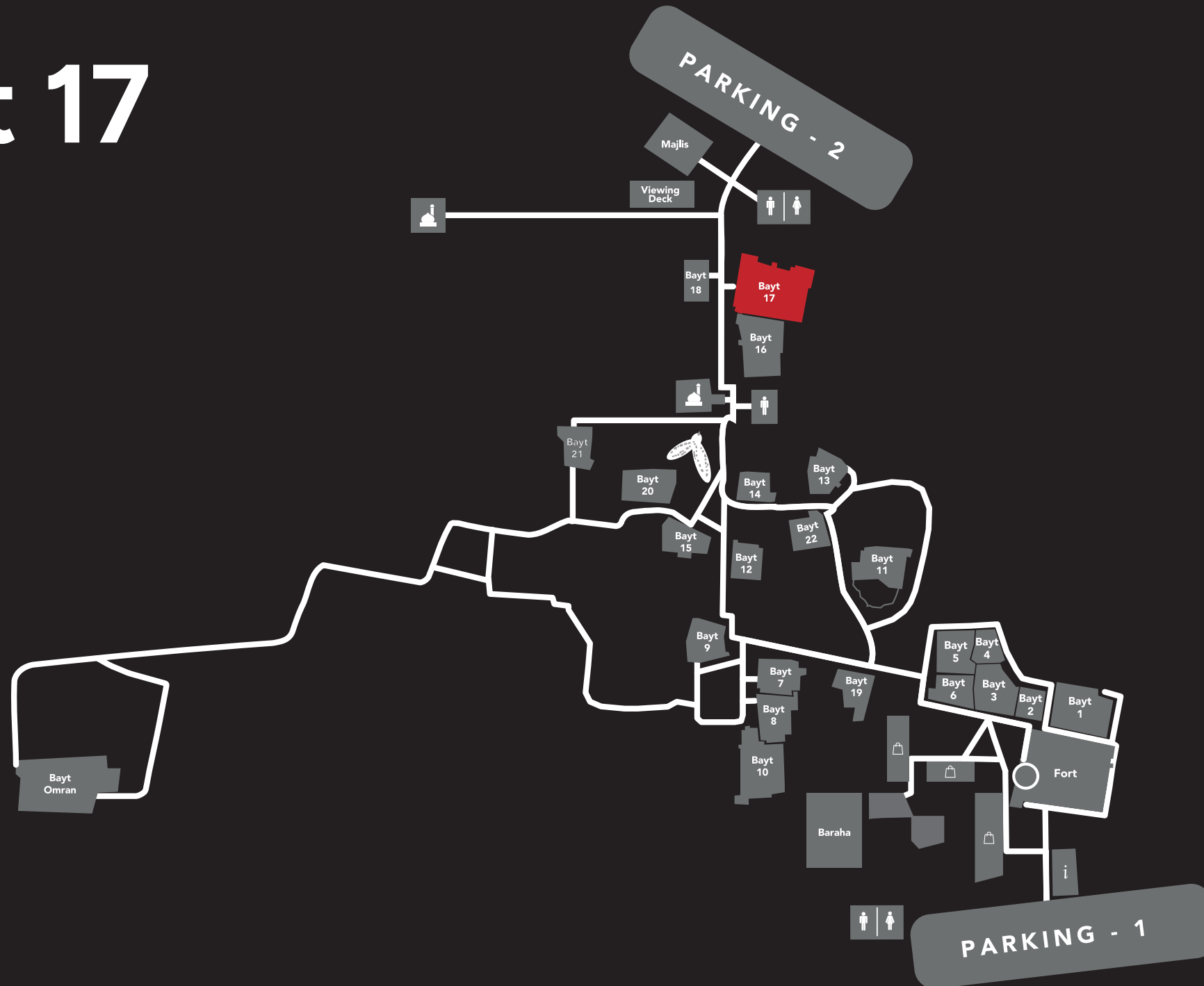
# Taksh Soni

Shelter of Light

This installation features a cluster of 24 to 32 pod-like forms suspended from the ceiling at varying heights. Each form is hand-woven with natural fiber and shaped to evoke the delicate, cocoon-like aesthetic of weaver bird nests. A soft internal light glows within each structure, illuminating the woven textures and casting warm ambient shadows across the space. The forms gently move with air currents, introducing subtle kinetic motion that suggests breathing and presence, and enhancing the work's organic, living quality.



# Bayt 17



# Agnieszka Gótcowała

Return to another shore

Material: Textiles



# Muneera Alsubaiee

The Ten Mu'allaqat: A Narrative of the Soul

This textile installation features ten vertical panels inspired by the ancient Mu'allaqat poems. Through layered calligraphy, texture, and color, the work translates an oral poetic heritage into a contemporary spatial experience.



# Renata Rara Kaminska

## Indoor Forest

Indoor Forest is a sculptural work adapted to ruins that reflects on a central conflict in society: the tension between economy and ecology. It considers how this imbalance can lead to future crises, including border disputes, wars, and escalating violence. The work also addresses colonialism and coloniality as ongoing global forces that have shaped - and continue to shape - policies and ways of living for humans and nonhumans across the planet, including on the Eurasian continent. Rather than treating these legacies as the past, it frames them as present realities that still determine injustice and environmental collapse. The piece ultimately asks how we imagine shared futures: what comes after empire, after the "post-Soviet," and after nature's collapse.



# Salome Kobulashvili

## Waiting

Waiting captures a quiet, contemplative moment held in time. A delicate bronze figure lies atop a weathered slate formation, face turned outward, suspended between vulnerability and endurance. The raw, layered texture of the stone evokes the slow erosion of time, while the bronze body - both resilient and fragile - becomes a symbol of emotion in stillness. The work speaks of patience, solitude, and the weight of expectation, echoing the natural world's silent strength and the inner landscapes we inhabit. The union of bronze and stone creates a dialogue between permanence and transience, sculpted form and organic matter.



# YUMNA

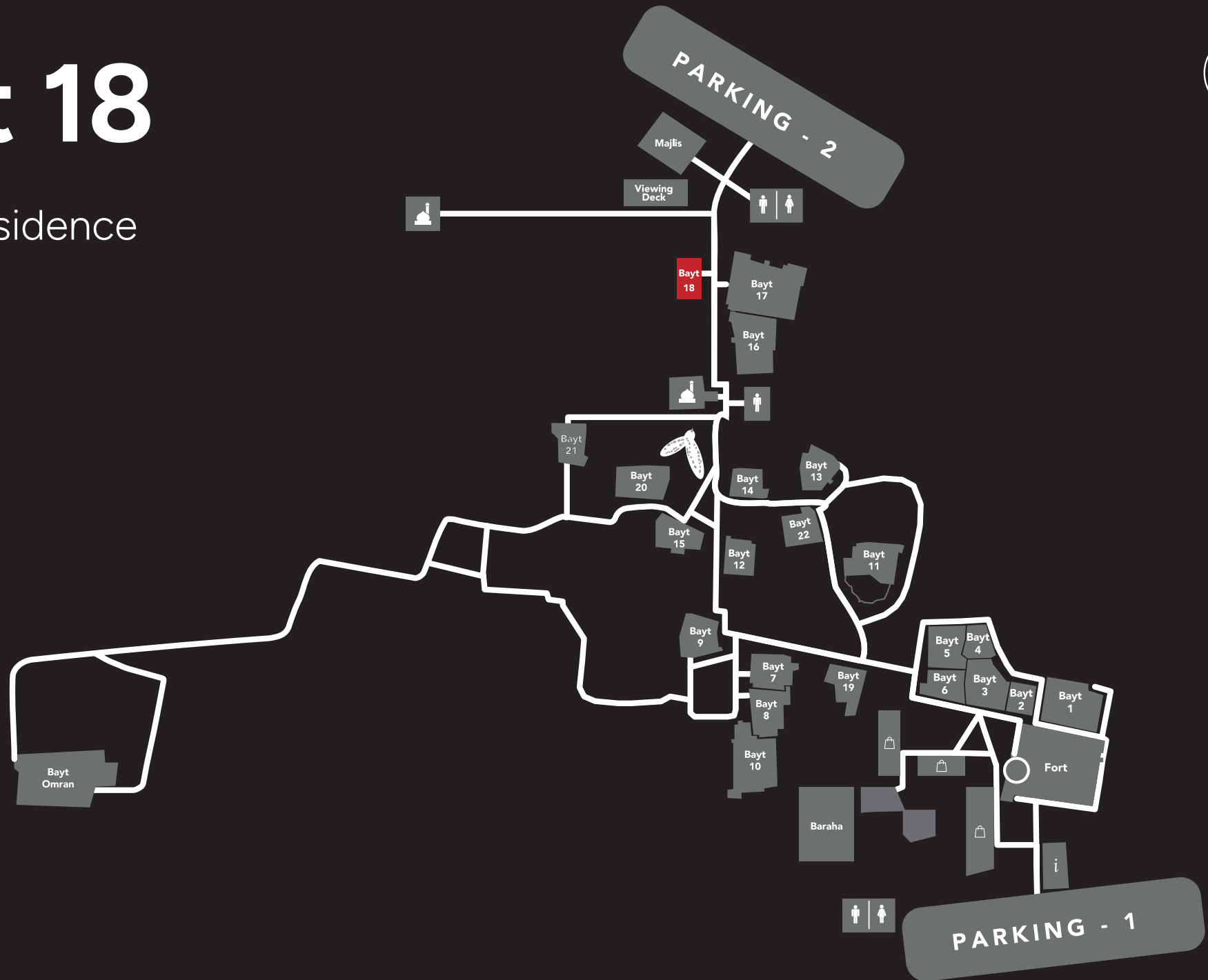
## Vanishing Civilizations

The artist delves into the profound implications of industrial pollution on the rich cultural heritage of block printing indigenous to Sindh and decay of marine ecosystem at large. Through a visual narrative that intertwines the fading 5000 years old tradition of block print craftsmanship with images of fishes fading away in bleached water that serves as a stark reminder of the toll exacted by human activity on our oceans, underscoring the interconnectedness of cultural and environmental erosion.



# Bayt 18

Artist-in-residence



# Hussain Alismail



**Hussain Alismail** is a multidisciplinary artist from Saudi Arabia and the Al Qasimi Foundation's current Artist-in-Residence. His work explores identity, social interaction, and discourse. He holds a BFA in Drawing and Painting from OCAD University, Toronto (2018), and a BCA in Visual Effects and Entertainment Design from Flinders University, Adelaide (2021). His residency experience includes a sponsored studio residency at The Mill in Adelaide in 2021.

Website: [www.hussainalismail.com](http://www.hussainalismail.com)



Ladders



Drink Tea

## Salalim "Ladders"

2025

A series of 40 drawings by ink on handmade paper

- Through sustained observation and reflection, this series emerged to take an extended walk through the old souq "Kuwaiti Souq", in order to understand its commercial and residential environment and the everyday lives of those who constantly present there.

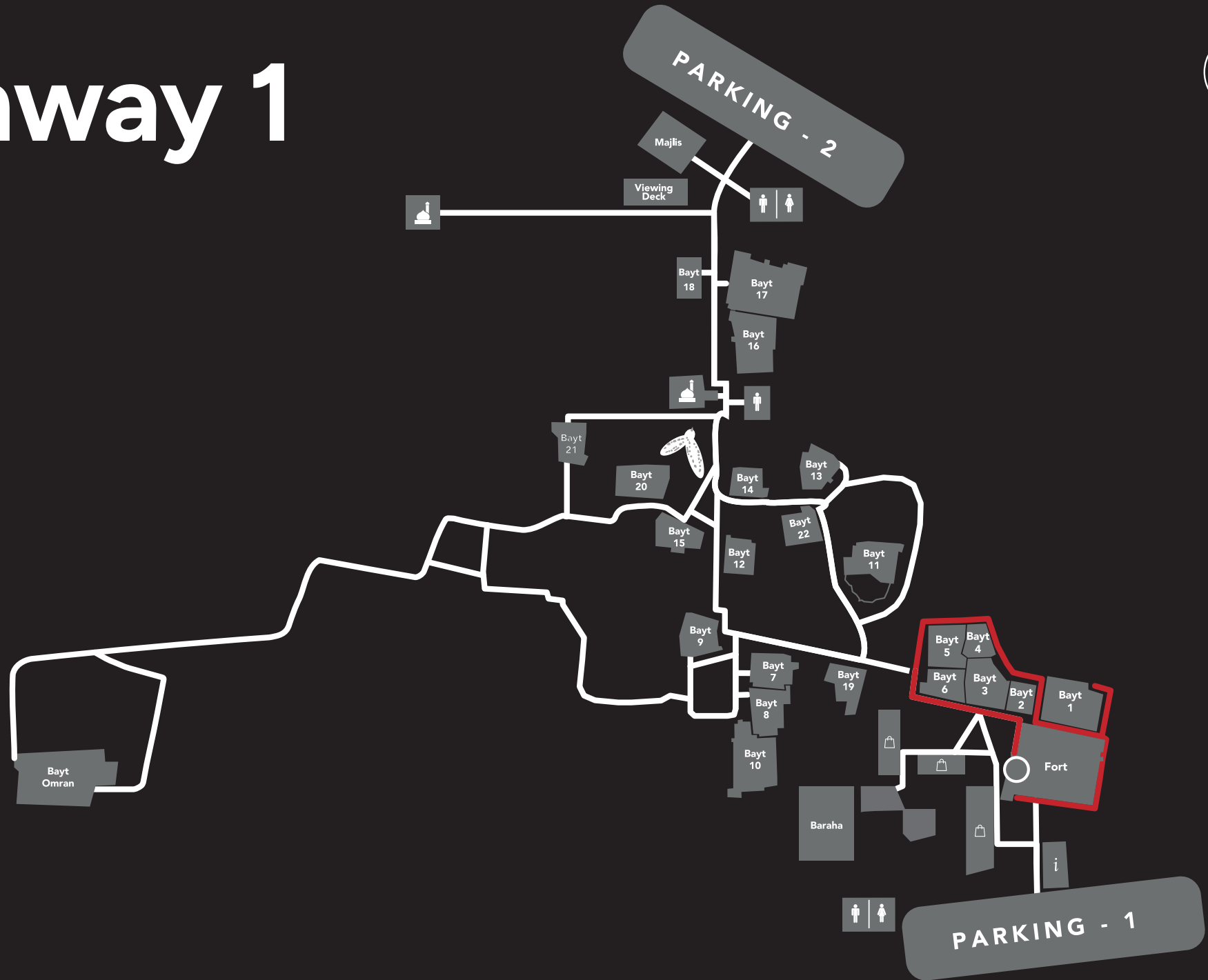
## Drink Tea

2025

A series of diverse artworks

- This series focuses on the human presence within the souq, particularly the generosity and informal hospitality extended by those who work there. While sketching portraits of forty individuals, the repeated invitation to "drink tea" became a recurring gesture of welcome; an act that momentarily suspends work and transforms the space into one of shared time and familiarity. These portraits reflect moments of connection, where hospitality becomes a common language across cultural and social differences.

# Pathway 1



# Byamba Batkhuuyag

## I Wish I Had a Horse

Modern Mongolian herders are increasingly relying on motorcycles, cars, and even drones instead of horses to manage their livestock. This shift is changing daily life, as herding becomes a race against time, and more Mongolian children are growing up away from horses. Traditionally, herding children are surrounded by domestic animals from birth, with the horse holding a central place in their upbringing and identity.



# Fabiola Liacy De Felip

## The Fisherman

This portrait of Mr. Huang, a fisherman in Yangshuo, China, captures a sacred, silent moment at dawn. Surrounded by the Guilin mountains, he sits in stillness, embodying peace, tradition, and a sense of timeless harmony.



# Farhat Darasiko Sayyad

## Desert Flow

Inspired by the timeless landscapes of the Emirates, this work reflects the flow of culture, trade, and tradition - where nature and human history intertwine on a journey through time.



# Joy Saha

## Legacy of the Waters

Hundreds of fishermen stand in knee-deep water, catching fish with bamboo-made traps during a traditional fishing festival on a foggy winter morning. The scene offers a rare glimpse into age-old practices carried forward through generations.



# Rene Ruis

## Banch in the Ice

This work presents a view of an ice wall from a garden bench in the Saas-Fee glacier in Switzerland, inviting a quiet encounter with vast, frozen landscapes shaped over time.



# Salwa Saeed

## Voyage

This artwork captures a passage between two worlds: a body sits calmly in a golden boat while a mysterious figure stands behind, touching the head as if offering a blessing or transferring spiritual energy. Birds in flight, lotus flowers, and fish in the water symbolize cycles of life and renewal. The painting is contemplative, raising questions about body and soul, time and eternity, and the threshold between separation and crossing toward another light.



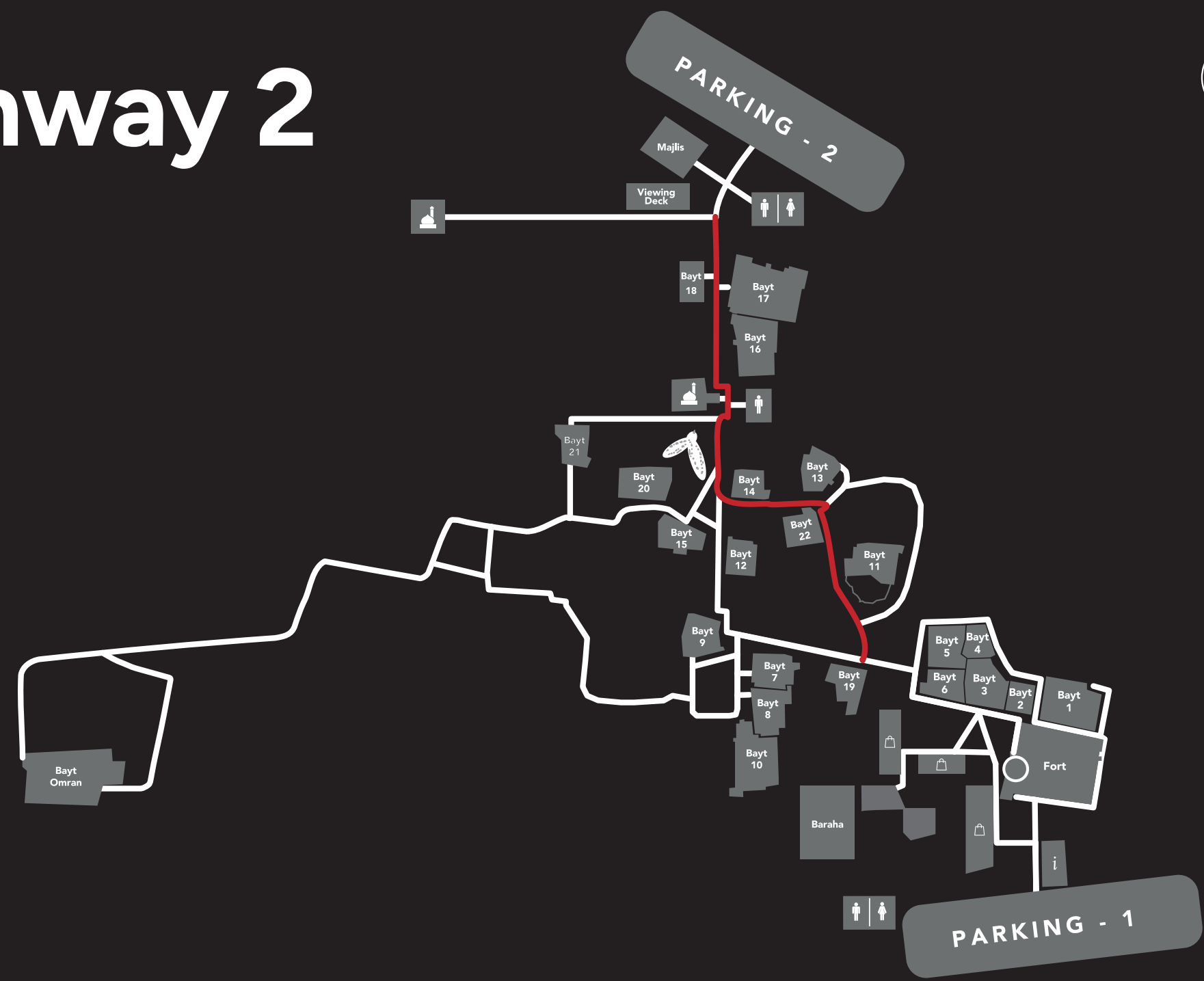
# Sandeep Rasal

## Dance of Goddess

A man dressed as the goddess Durga poses during Kulsai Dussehra, a festival with a history of nearly 300 years. Held in Kulasekarapattinam village in Tamil Nadu, this rural celebration is unique to the local community and has been preserved in its original form. As part of the larger Dussehra and Durga Puja traditions, the festival includes special rituals and feasts at the Kulsai Mutharamman Devi Temple. It draws large numbers of devotees from surrounding districts, celebrating local culture, devotion, and tradition through performance and worship.



# Pathway 2



# Adil Ghani

## Oval Vase 2006

With a full copper Raku finish, this vase bursts with iridescent blues and purples that swirl like galaxies. Formed through chemical transformation in fire, its surface becomes dynamic and almost cosmic. Bridging ancient ceramic traditions with contemporary expression, the work suggests how civilizations preserve and reinterpret cultural knowledge through craft, flame, and form.



# Aigerim Bektayeva

## Zere

A portrait of a Kazakh girl in traditional attire, Zere reflects the artist's interest in ancestral aesthetics and cultural continuity. Blending academic realism with symbolic detail, the work offers a quiet homage to nomadic heritage.



# Ana Caroline De Lima

## Chaccu Part 1

Part of a 12-photo series on the Inca "Chaccu" tradition, villagers Rosa and Jose reflect on their bond with vicuñas and the future of their village. Their words affirm continuity and interdependence: the vicuñas will remain, and people far away may come to know them and the origin of their beautiful coats - rooted in the animals and in the community itself, as one.

## Chaccu Part 3

This artwork reveals how Inca civilization's sustainable practices merged with nature, preserving biodiversity and inspiring modern conservation, showing the enduring legacy of cultural wisdom. Inspired by the Inca's Chaccu tradition and local communities' respect for vicuñas, it celebrates the blend of heritage, environmental care, and resilience in protecting endangered species.



# Cécile André

## Legacy of the Huntress

This portrait of Aibota, a young Mongolian eagle huntress, captures the power of quiet resistance. Clad in traditional fur, she stands as both heir and disruptor - rooted in her culture, yet rewriting its codes.



# Fabrizio Cicconi

## Politotdel 1 - 2 - 3

In the Soviet era, the Politotdel kolkhoz in Uzbekistan was renowned as a model of productivity - so notable that official visits to the country often included a stop there. Close to Tashkent and nicknamed "the rich kolkhoz," its prosperity was reflected in strong public services and civic buildings, giving the place the feel of an "ideal city." Today, only faint flashes of that splendor remain.





# Kirill Svityashuk

## Blue Cow / Cow Skeleton

The Blue Cow's Skeleton reflects the cycle of life and death in consumer society. The cow, once a source of nourishment, becomes plastic packaging once it loses its usefulness. Made from used milk cartons and trash bags, the piece questions our relationship with nature, consumption, and the environment.



# Kouto Rafael Edem

## Circular Heroes



"Circular Heroes" is a collaboration between Rafael Kouto and the Eran Jije Project by Peter D. Abayomi, portraying Nigerian teenagers from the seaside of Isale Akoka in Bariga as key players in closing the loop of the circular economy. The portraits incorporate scarves produced with local Lagos artisans through screen printing and hand dyeing. The works emerged from three workshops: first with local teenagers in Bariga, second with Lagos's creative community, and third at Maison Shift in Zürich. The project was developed during Rafael Kouto's residency at G.A.S. Foundation / Yinka Shonibare Foundation, supported by Pro Helvetia Johannesburg.

# Lars Dyrendom

## Isbjørn

The polar bear symbolizes Denmark's northern ties, design, and quality - seen in Royal Copenhagen figurines and Nordisk Film's logo - yet archives also reveal it as a conquered icon. This project explores Denmark-Greenland colonial ties through Danish archives, presented as a zine and exhibition.



# Mohammad Sorkhabi

## Mourning for the Father

This project portrays real women who have lost their fathers in war. Their grief is expressed through symbolic black veils and classical lighting, creating a heightened emotional atmosphere. The work explores the profound psychological weight of loss and mourning, reflecting on how war shapes individual lives while leaving lasting marks on societies at both personal and collective levels.



# Mehrdad Mosaferi

## Eternal Routine

Watching the view behind me reminded me of a situation I was always present in, a ground for gradual taming. I had accepted that life is made of determined paths and specified choices, and living beneath a giant shadow left me unable to imagine unknown boundaries.



## Drain of the Soul

Subconsciously, I was always searching for a way out: something that would let me leave everything from my past life behind and step into a new world of experiences. The dream sometimes felt distant, sometimes close, but it has never come true.



## Invasion

I felt heaviness and confusion, but there was no clear way to reflect the experience. I could not identify the labyrinth I had suddenly found myself in the middle of.



# Mohsen Kaboli

## Timeless Embrace

Two elderly women embrace with warmth and affection, one kissing the other on the cheek. Dressed in traditional white garments before a rustic backdrop, they symbolize cultural heritage, shared history, and the universal values that connect civilizations through love and respect.



## Mosque

A Turkmen man returns from the mosque and pauses to pray as he leaves, capturing a quiet moment of devotion embedded in daily life.



# Mouneb Taim

## They Had Dreams

Syria's Idlib on July 16, 2018, the image depicts Mohammad, a child from the village of Ehsim in northern Syria. He is shown with an amputated foot due to the bombing by Syrian regime forces on his school earlier. Mohammad had a keen interest in football and dreamt of becoming like the famous football player Lionel Messi. However, after the amputation, it has become challenging for him to pursue his dream.



# Nawal Ahmad

The light that remains



# Panos Chatzistefanou

Jenny at Her Desk

A woman sits at her desk, absorbed in the light of her screen. Behind her, the room is dark, lit only by scattered warm lamps, while the space around her feels cold and isolated. The image lingers on stillness and separation within a familiar domestic setting - when attention turns inward and the world quiets down.



Looking for Something

Natalie stands in her kitchen, leaning into the fridge late at night. It is a simple everyday moment caught between action and pause, where light, space, and posture quietly suggest something unspoken.

# Paola Magini

Le Dimore

Inspired by John 14:2-4, this symbolic painting evokes spiritual dwelling and unseen dimensions. The presence of Kurt Gödel, known for exploring the limits of logic, reinforces themes of invisible truths and the search for a hidden order.



# Parastoo Ahovan

Waiting for the Promised Day

This self-portrait, painted in the style of Persian miniatures, portrays a faceless figure adorned in richly detailed garments. Positioned beside a cypress and a blossoming tree, the composition blends Eastern aesthetics with Western influences, suggesting cultural fusion, waiting, and identity.



The Prince and His Abigails

Drawing from Persian rug design, this work reflects Iran's rich cultural heritage. A layered cone of threads veils traditional figures, evoking tension between identity, oppression, and the pursuit of self-expression within a politically complex society.



# Parvin Zandi

## The King of Nothing

A lonely king sits on his throne in a silent graveyard. Though crowned, the stillness around him speaks to the emptiness of power. Behind him, a forest of dry branches suggests nature's decay, and the contrast between throne and graves evokes decline, time's passage, and isolation at the height of authority. The work invites reflection on the fragility of life and the true meaning of power.



# Pui Kar Lau

## Atem

Inspired by the German word for "breath," Atem explores breath as a force shaping thought and spatial coexistence. Moving beyond portraiture, the project reimagines fashion as a lens on human-environment relationships across ten countries, reflecting cultural evolution and change.



# Rana Hemdan

## Lovers

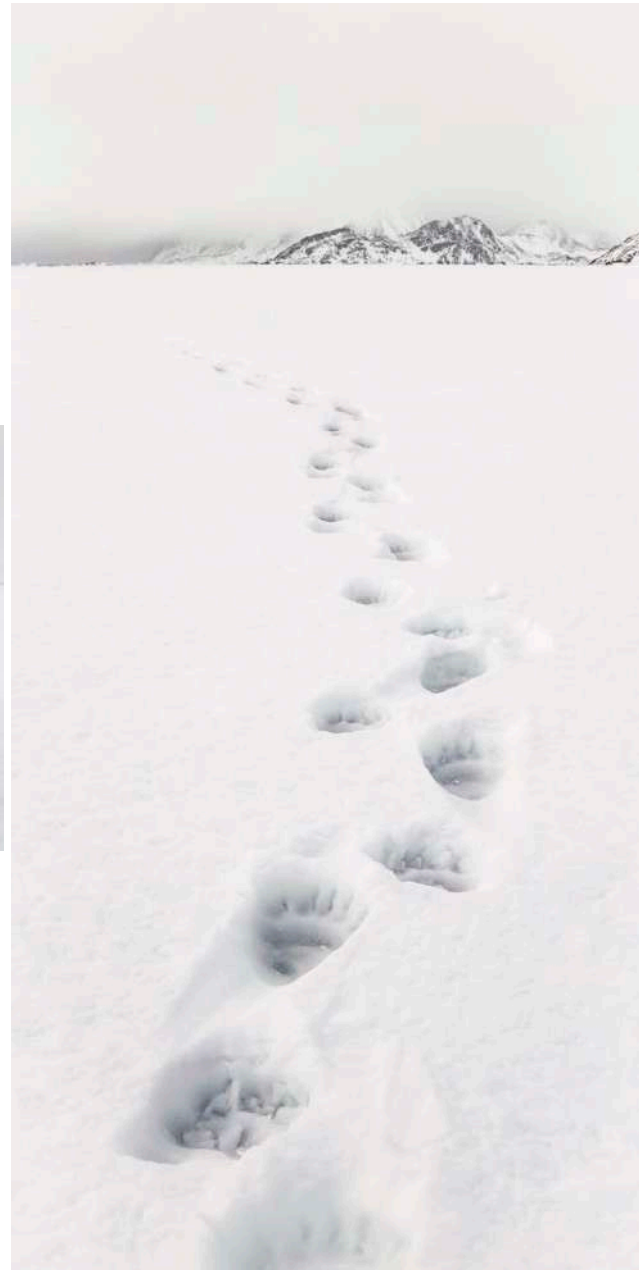
Lovers portrays a girl embracing a leopard in a moment of quiet intimacy between two beings often seen as opposites: the delicate and the wild, the human and the untamed. Inspired by love's complexities - fierce and gentle, instinctual yet vulnerable - the leopard symbolizes primal energy while the girl represents tenderness and emotional depth. Together, they reflect the beauty of accepting the "other" and coexisting despite difference.



# Rosa Rodriguez

## The White Line

The places humans have not been able to conquer and reshape are, paradoxically, those where we can feel free and rediscover identity. In that sense, the Arctic becomes one of the most inaccessible spaces - where you return to the roots of human nature.



# Sergei Stroïrelev

## Lubov' and the Contents of Her Bag

From the series Bermuda Rectangle (Russian Women's Bags From the Inside), this work pairs a portrait with personal belongings to offer a sharp first impression of its subject. Lubov', a 31-year-old gallery director, mentions carrying a saw for preparing picture frames while getting ready for an exhibition, revealing the practical and playful realities behind everyday objects.

## Svetlana and the Contents of Her Bag

Also from Bermuda Rectangle, Svetlana, 24, speaks about her love of pink, describing it as a "magical" color tied to everything good in her life. The portrait and items together highlight how identity can be expressed through small, intimate choices.

## Tatiana and the Contents of Her Bag

From the same series, Tatiana, 51, explains that she carries a calculator because she values order - in numbers, in life, and in finances - along with shoe covers required for cleanliness at work. The work underscores how personal items can quietly map routines, values, and self-image.



# Verena Andrea Prenner

## Camping

After moving to Tel Aviv, the artist lived in Dheisheh Refugee Camp for a photography project. As a single woman, she encountered suspicion and strict social norms, but trust gradually grew. Camping is a series made between 2014 and 2023, capturing the atmosphere and daily life of the camp over time.



# Yao Zhou

## Nomadic Chronicles

"Nomadic Anthropology" draws on nomadic culture and society to explore mobility, migration, and pastoral life, shifting from studying nomadic forms to examining cultural exchange and transformation through civilization. In these works, movement becomes both spatial and spiritual, reflecting identity crises amid globalization. Blurred figures and images centered on "home" express tensions between settlement and wandering, stability and change, and suggest how identities weaken as lifestyles become fragmented and fast-moving. The project ultimately asks what it means to adapt - and warns that, in a rapidly evolving world, our sense of spiritual grounding may be growing more fragile.



# Ziaul Huque

## Cricket is My Emotions

Mohammad Jisad, 20, a physically impaired cricket player in Hathazari, Chittagong, poses for a portrait. Born with a condition affecting his legs, he continues daily life with determination, cherishing cricket as his childhood love and finding joy in the game despite physical challenges.

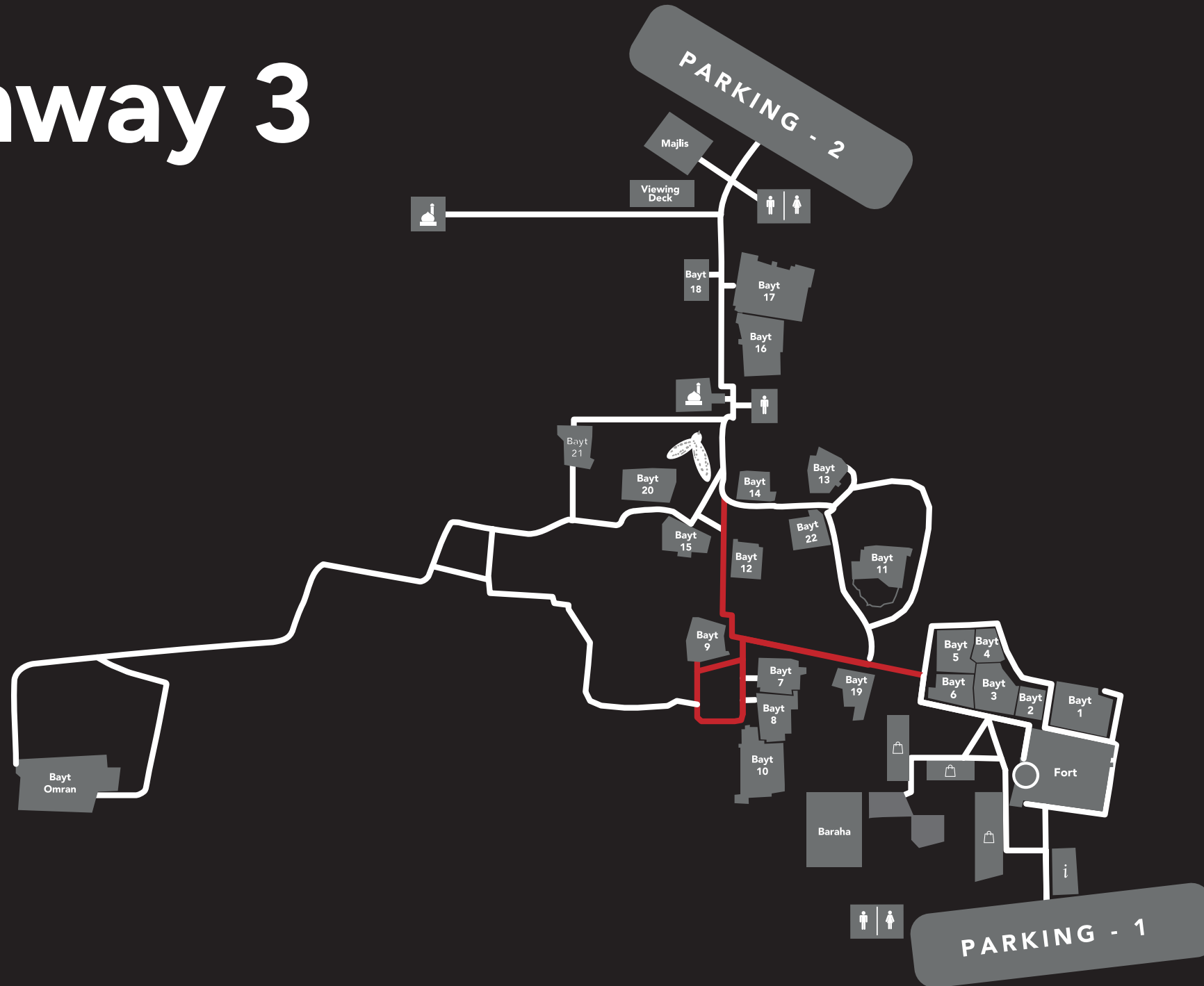


## Education for Light

In a remote hilly area near Chittagong University, Bangladesh, Muslim families live in small clusters far from urban services and formal schools. To ensure children are not deprived of Arabic education, someone within the community takes responsibility for teaching, sustaining learning where institutions are absent.



# Pathway 3



# Andrew Tarica

## Totem Poles

The First Nations totem poles in Vancouver's Stanley Park represent the Indigenous nations of Canada and their ancestral stories. Some of these poles date back to the 1880s, standing as enduring symbols of cultural continuity, history, and identity.



# Anja Bamberg

## Civilisations Liquid Core

This illuminated installation transforms recycled plastic bottle bottoms into shimmering hemispheres mounted on wooden panels. Varied in size, color, and transparency, the forms are lit to evoke water's essential states, from raindrops and rivers to the ancient falaj irrigation systems of the UAE. Light passing through the textured plastic highlights both water's fragility and abundance, while the recycled material underscores civilization's dependence on, and exploitation of, this vital resource.



# Anna Thackray

## Hawksbill Turtle

This life-size depiction of a Hawksbill turtle is constructed from objects collected on Saadiyat Island's beach. Green garden trellis, plastic bottles, and cotton thread are stitched together, with the head sculpted from a cola bottle and supported by chicken wire and self-drying clay. The work draws attention to marine life and environmental impact through reclaimed materials.



# Farbod Bavehie

## Festival of a Thousand Dafs

Set in the stepped village of Palangan, the "Thousand Dafs" ceremony depicts a powerful gathering where hundreds of participants play daf drums. The scene blends Kurdish tradition, spirituality, and the natural landscape into a unified cultural expression.



# Ayanava Sil

## Threads of Civilization

This photograph captures an emotional moment after prayer during Ramadan in Kolkata. Men dressed in vibrant traditional clothing embrace warmly, symbolizing peace, brotherhood, and the enduring beauty of human connection.



# Iwa Kruczkowska

## Garden

This painting is inspired by the quiet beauty of nature, inviting reflection and stillness through a contemplative visual language.



# Lynn Peiffer

## Stories in Terracotta

This photograph portrays Wayan, a pottery artist from Bali, surrounded by thousands of terracotta pots that fill his studio, shop, and home. The image reflects a lifetime of craftsmanship and devotion to material and form.



## Guardians of the Spirit

Within the ancient presence of a sacred tree, Balinese villagers sit with offerings, embodying a living connection between nature, spirituality, and tradition.



## Eka

This photograph captures a young Sumba woman in traditional attire, wearing a half-moon headdress, an intricately patterned ikat dress, a betelnut bag, and a mamuli necklace. Her posture and expression convey pride, while the details of her dress reflect the craftsmanship and cultural identity of the Sumbanese people.



# Mahsa Kheirkhah

## The Freedom Emblem

Size: 20x10x5cm

This sculptural work functions as a symbolic medal honoring women who lost their lives fighting for freedom, particularly in the Middle East. It embodies resilience, sacrifice, and the collective strength of women's struggles.



# Mohammed Hassan

## Swakin

This image portrays the remains of the National Bank of Egypt's historic branch in Suakin, standing at the edge of the sea like a silent sentinel of the city's financial past. Its eroded arches and European-inspired architecture tell of a time when Egyptian influence merged with Ottoman legacy, making Suakin a vital economic crossroads between Africa and the East. The broken arched windows allow beams of light to pass through, reviving echoes of trade, wealth, and negotiation. Now in ruins, the building mirrors the surrounding sea - its waves guarding the whispers of transactions and treasures once exchanged here.



# Mustafa Abdul Hadi

## Step by Step

This work documents Impression Lijiang, an outdoor cultural performance staged at 3,500 meters above sea level in Jade Dragon Snow Mountain Park, China. Featuring over 500 performers, the production presents the traditions and lifestyles of the Naxi, Yi, and Bai people in a vivid theatrical setting, blending landscape, movement, and cultural storytelling.



# Santiago Escobar-Jaramillo

## Yuche Treasure Colombia Tie



Leticia, Amazonas / Colombia, Tierra de Luz (Land of Light). This work centers on Sara Siquiva, a widow displaced by violence who rebuilt her life with her children in Leticia. Through collaborative photographic intervention using light, the work honors dignity, memory, and resilience.

## Ainküin Colombia Tierra De



Guajira / Colombia, Tierra de Luz (Land of Light) Using wooden light portals near the Colombia–Venezuela border, this intervention symbolically opened “doors” to the landscape.

## MINGA in Toribio Colombia



Cauca / Colombia, Tierra de Luz (Land of Light). Following a devastating attack in Toribio, this community-based mural project transformed a destroyed home into a site of collective healing. Through art, residents and artists reclaimed space, memory, and peace in contrast to violence.

# Tamir Shefer

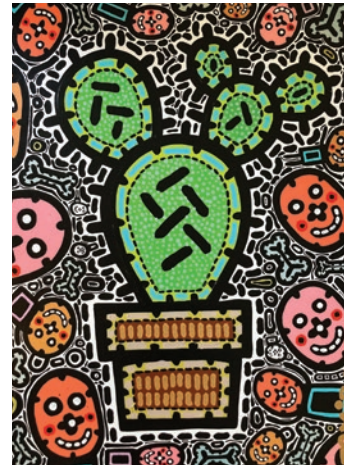
Talking



Couple



Cactus



# Tasneem Fatema

Can You See Me

"Can You See Me" features soft sculptures made from discarded single socks, symbolizing emotionally lost and overlooked children in society. Playful at first glance, each character carries a multilayered story, ranging from joy to the emotional neglect and unmet needs experienced in early life, particularly in the developing world. Though similar in form, each figure possesses a unique identity, inviting reflection on empathy, belonging, and displacement.



# Suraj Pai

Shilabalika

This sculpture reimagines a temple Shilabalika using industrial scrap materials. Inspired by carvings from Belur and Halebidu, it merges historical ornamentation with contemporary frugality, balancing reverence and reinvention.



# Wieslawa Nowicka

Sleepy Conversations-  
Lofoten

Created during an artistic residency in Norway, this painting forms part of a multidisciplinary project exploring the fragile relationship between humans and Nordic landscapes. Dreamlike in tone, it reflects on the loss of connection with nature and the visible impacts of climate change.

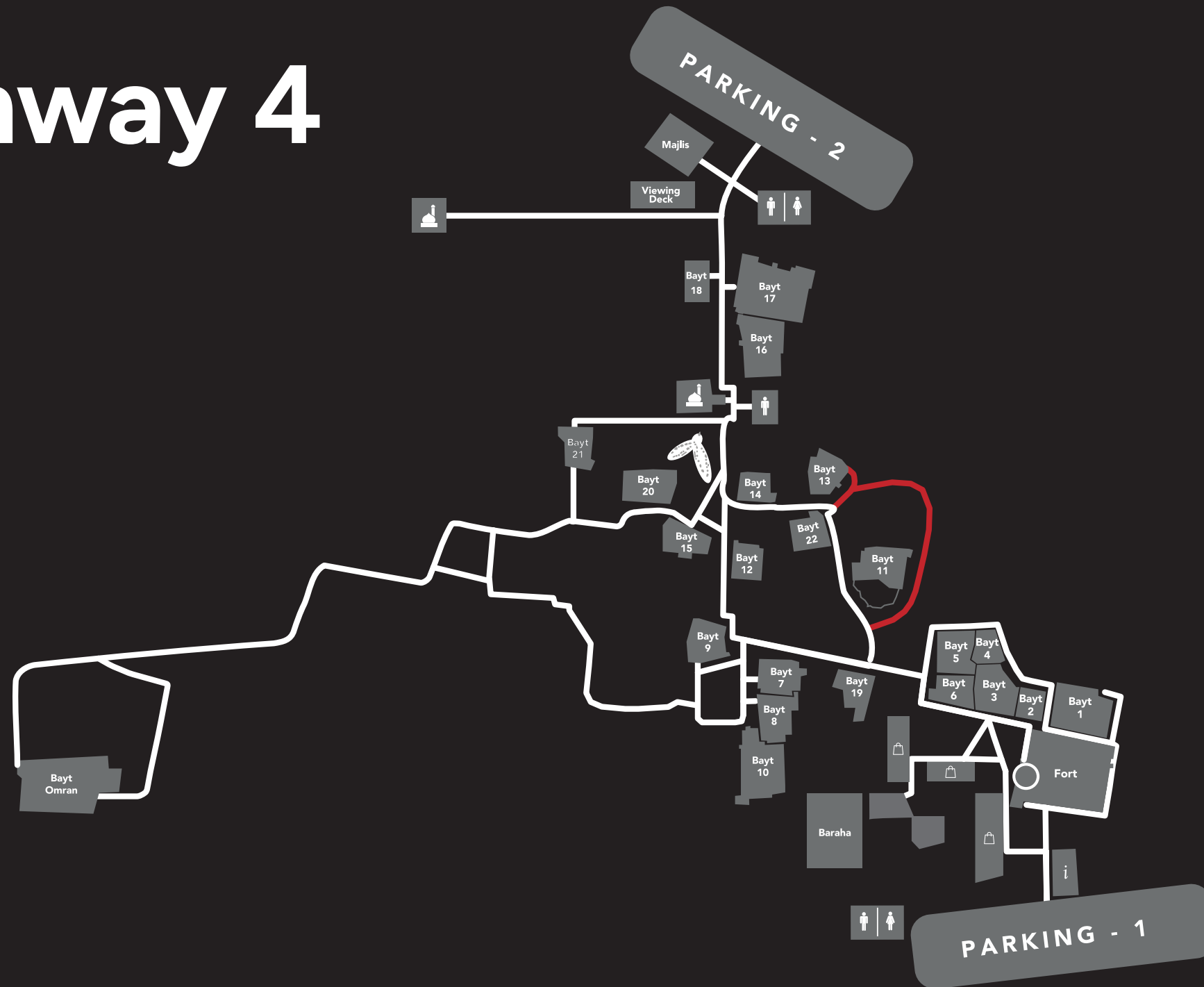


Sleepy Conversations-  
Bymarka

Also part of the Sleepy Conversations series, this work continues the exploration of Arctic and Nordic environments. Through color and atmosphere, it addresses environmental vulnerability and the shared responsibility humans bear in the face of climate change.

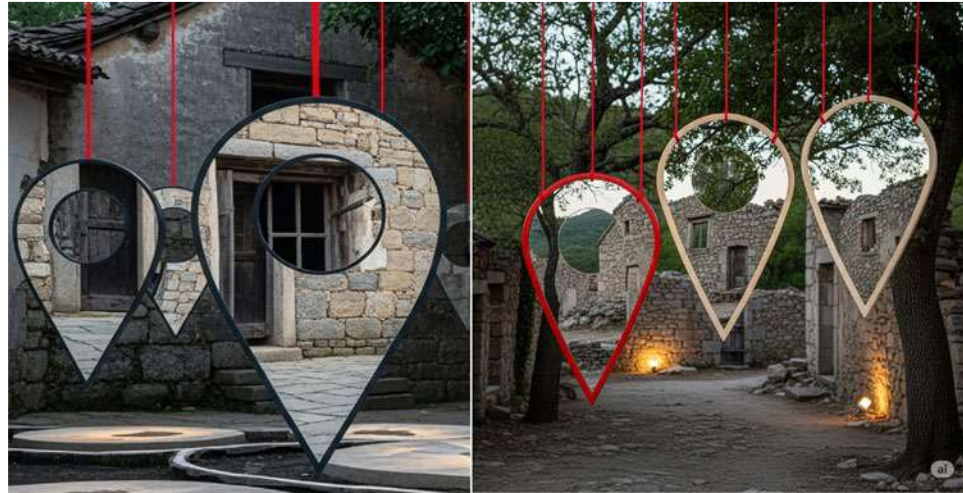


# Pathway 4



# Aslam Noor

Here We Are

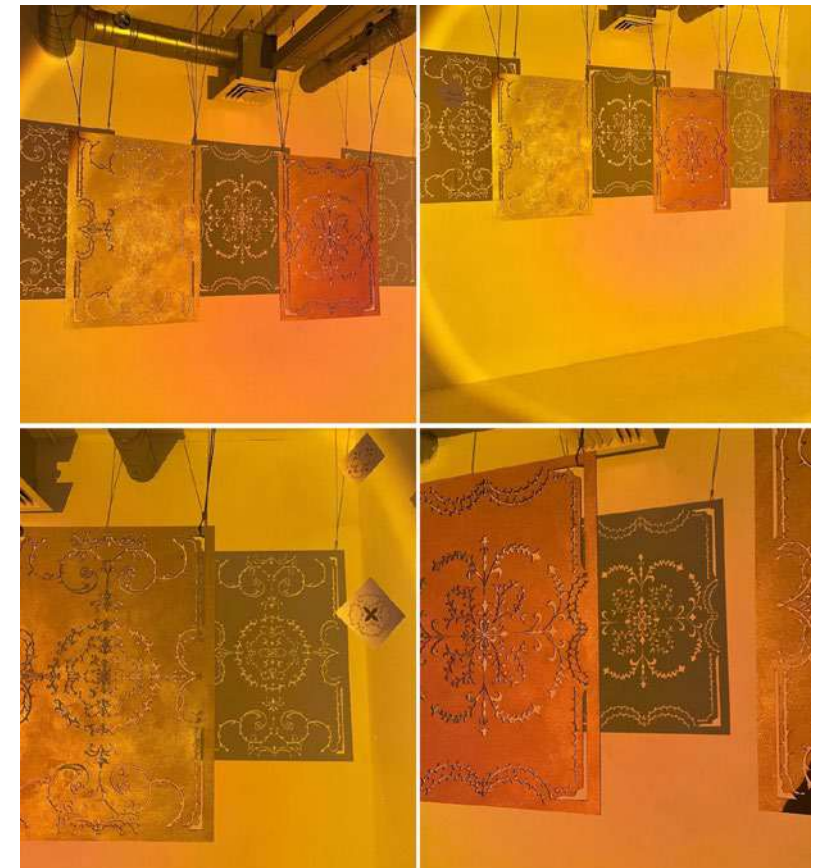


This installation features reflective Plexiglas laser-cut into the shape of location pins, suspended with LED-lit tubes. Positioned at strategic points throughout the art fair, the mirrored forms invite viewers to see themselves reflected within the work. This simple act of looking becomes a moment of self-recognition, reinforcing the message of "civilization within oneself." By engaging reflection both visually and conceptually, the piece encourages quiet introspection and personal awareness within a shared public space.

# Fatema Pardiwala

The Central Souk

The Central Souk represents the cultural richness of a traditional marketplace, with a particular focus on Arabian carpets. The composition also incorporates elements such as jewelry and household goods, reflecting the layered visual language of the souk. The artwork is constructed from laser-cut MDF boards and layered with gold ink, merging craft, materiality, and cultural symbolism.



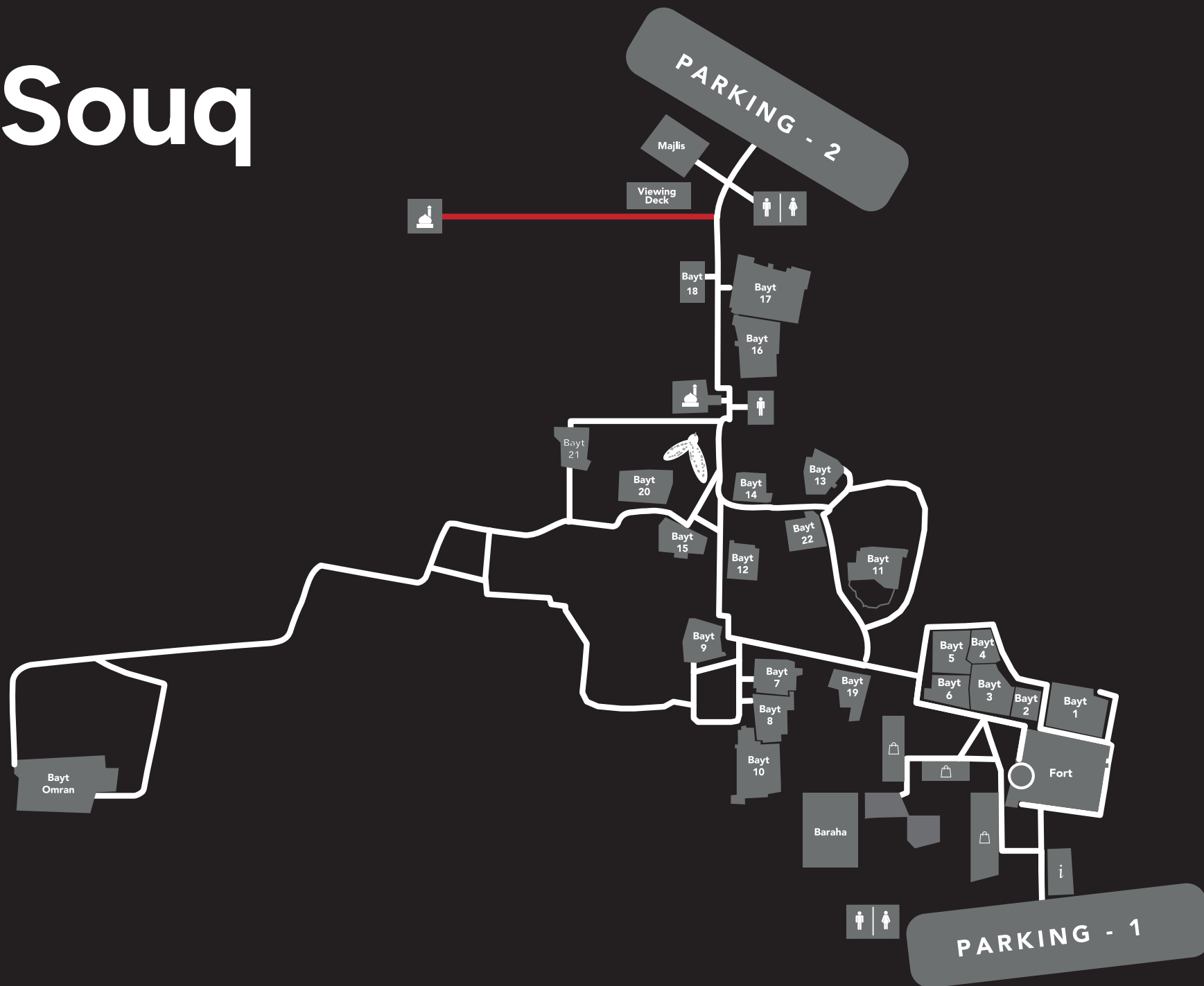
# Mahdieh Ezzati

## Woman in Civilizations

This artwork draws inspiration from ancient mother and fertility goddess idols found across the Middle East and other regions. Historically, these figures symbolized life, birth, protection, and the continuity of generations, serving as central pillars in many early cultures. Rather than presenting a literal representation, the artist employs an abstract visual language to evoke the symbolic energy and essence of these goddesses. Through form, space, and symbol, the work invites reflection on fertility, feminine power, and the enduring role of women in shaping civilizations, creating a bridge between ancient traditions and contemporary questions of identity and presence.



# The Souq



# Melika Arianasab

## Erased Voices

Erased Voices is a mixed-media artwork that explores the quiet yet haunting presence of what civilizations choose to forget. Built through layers of subdued tones, rough tactile surfaces, and partially buried forms, it evokes something once vivid that has been intentionally covered or lost - like an archaeological site whose surface no longer speaks, though traces remain. The work invites viewers to consider the emotional and historical weight of silenced memories, cultural omissions, and the erased voices of people, practices, or beliefs that no longer fit dominant narratives. A subtle tension runs through the piece: absence and presence, concealment and exposure, forgetting and remembering. By withholding full revelation, it mirrors how history leaves crucial things unsaid and asks us to listen closely to the spaces in between.



# Reza Ghasemi

## Nowruz

This photograph captures a Haft-Seen arrangement set in the heart of the historic Fin Garden of Kashan during Nowruz - a poetic fusion of Persian architecture, nature, and ancient cultural rituals.



# Sanjeev Kumar

## Threads of Civilization

Below photograph captures a weaver from Bhadohi, India, working behind warp threads on a handloom. The black-and-white frame emphasizes the physical intensity, traditional technique, and quiet dignity of craftsmanship passed through generations.

Right above photograph shows a young boy behind the threads of a handloom, suggesting his entrapment and role in the cycle of artisanal labor. It raises questions about heritage, identity, and the often-invisible backbone of traditional crafts.

Right below powerful monochrome image captures a weaver mid-action, his hands illuminated behind the vertical threads of a handloom. The photograph honors tactile labor, ancestral knowledge, and the unseen artistry embedded in India's textile traditions.



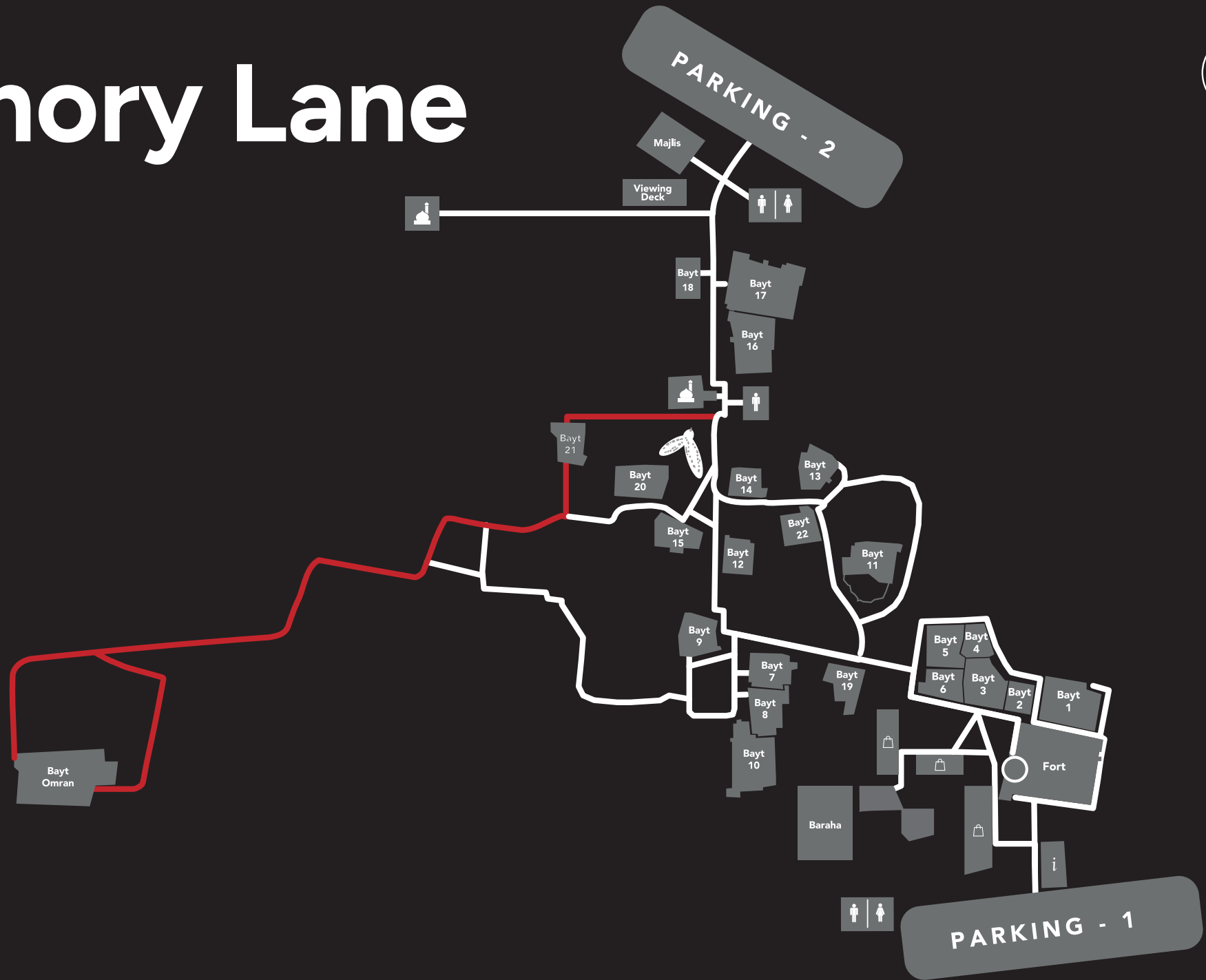
# Zainab Abo Hussain

## Echoes of Theriac: Dialogue of Civilizations

This work-in-progress will be executed on fabric, beginning with hand-preparing the textile and dyeing it with natural colors—an approach that reflects sustainability in traditional crafts and highlights “ancient wisdom” in today’s search for sustainable practice. Botanical printing will follow, drawing on references found in *De Materia Medica* by Dioscorides, translated into Arabic in the 9th century during the Islamic Golden Age. Characters and elements will then be drawn in a style inspired by the traditional illustrations of *Kitab al-Diryaq*, with modern visual adaptations that reflect the artist’s vision and the interplay between collective memory and individual experience. Embroidery will highlight motifs and details, adding a tactile layer that deepens the dialogue between heritage techniques and contemporary expression.



# Memory Lane



# Alena Grom

Alyona from the Series Stolen Spring



Diana from the Series Stolen Spring



Living in Bucha and working in Irpin, I have witnessed the ruins left by the Russian occupation. Inspired by Michael Nash's WWII images, my photo series focuses on women who have been victims of aggression. For survivors deprived of their homes, loved ones, and a normal life, spring passed almost unnoticed. Each photograph is a testament to resilience and hope.

# Alireza Attariani

Wedding Kordish Ceremony

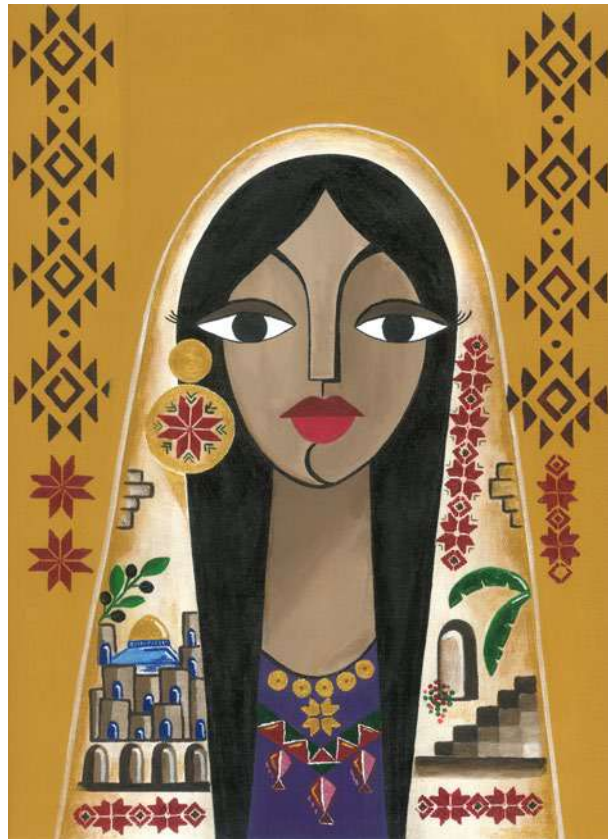
This photograph captures a wedding ceremony of the Kormanj nomads in Iran. With the arrival of autumn in October and November in northeastern Iran, the Kurds of Kalat Nader - after harvesting crops such as rice and beans - prepare for their children's weddings. Among the Kormanj Kurds of North Khorasan, the celebration includes distinctive customs and rituals shaped by history, geography, and belief. In the village of Sengdivar in the Laein region, about 50 families come together so fully that it becomes difficult to identify which household the wedding belongs to; what stands out is the collective spirit. The festivities unfold over roughly 72 hours, divided into an introduction, the main ceremony, and the closing. The Kurds are among the world's oldest civilizations and remain deeply faithful to their traditions.



# Asma Thabet

## The shawl of Civilisation

This painting presents a visual fusion of the Emirati burqa and Palestinian embroidery as a symbol of unity between the two heritages. The woman appears to carry two identities within her features, while olive and palm branches intertwine behind her, forming a scene that tells a story of belonging, memory, and longing.



## The Remaining

In this work, symbols from Palestinian and Emirati heritage come together in the form of a woman who reflects land and identity. The background features Al Sadu patterns, while her shawl reveals the Dome of the Rock, historic buildings, olive and palm branches, and Canaanite star embroidery as a symbol of energy and life.



## Embroidered Burqa

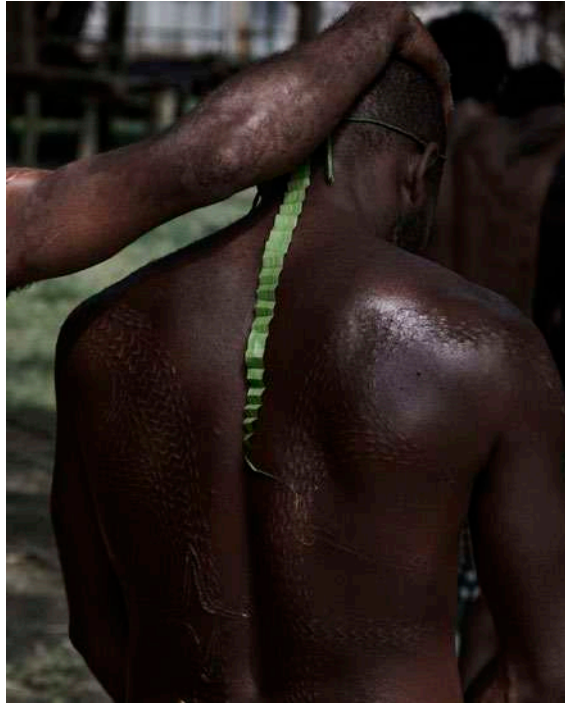
This painting portrays a Palestinian woman who has lost her sight as a result of aggression, yet her features speak of patience and resilience. In the background, an olive tree symbolizes deeply rooted endurance, as if declaring: we remain as long as the olive tree remains.



# Florian Spring

## Puc Puc (Crocodile)

This series centers on the crocodile, a key symbol of the latmul initiation ceremony in Kandinge, Papua New Guinea. It captures the ritual's closing stage, when elders and selected novices withdraw for weeks to the carved men's house while initiation takes place behind a restricted fence. The "Bansih" rite marks young men's transition into adulthood. Kandinge is among the last villages where these traditions remain actively practiced.



Daniel



# Jed Bacason

## Third Culture Kid

*Third Culture Kid* A child holds a crucifix in one hand and a hamburger in the other, her gaze favoring one. She embodies the identity struggle faced by children of migrant workers born and raised in foreign countries. At home, they are shaped by their parents' cultural heritage, while outside, they navigate the influence of Western culture in daily life. The work is inspired by Filipino painter Bjorn Calleja's 2022 piece *Land Id the Mongrel*.



# Pyaeephyo Thetpaing

## The Fishing Boys

In the dappled light of a forested pond, a group of boys work together to catch and share fish using traditional tools. Balanced on roots and submerged in water, their gestures reveal both rhythm and trust - a natural choreography of livelihood and childhood.

The Fishing Boys captures a moment of harmony between people and place, tradition and youth, echoing civilizations shaped not by monuments but by shared knowledge passed on through practice and play.



# Reem Al Khoori

## Digital Playground

Across generations, children shifted from playing outside all day to spending hours on electronics. This habit has taken over many children's creativity and childhood, turning screens into a kind of digital playground. Without limits or guidance, technology can gradually dominate their attention and routines, leaving them less interested in play and activities beyond devices.



# Reza Akram

## The Art of Ancient Defense

Angampora was an art of war used by ancient Sri Lankan kingdoms to defend the nation from external threats. Illangam, the art of weapon combat within Angampora, has been a core component of the discipline since ages past.



# Salim Al Sayegh

## Overburdened

A resin sculpture that conveys the burden of physical contortion and emotional exhaustion.



### Exhibition Curator



#### **Alfio Tommasini** - Festival Curator

Born in Locarno, Switzerland, Alfio Tommasini is a photographer, curator, and artistic director whose work explores people's relationship with place.

He has exhibited internationally, received multiple awards, and co-founded the Verzasca Foto Festival, where he leads artistic direction and curation.

## **Special Thanks**

### **Al Jazeera Al Hamra Heritage Village Bayt Owners**

Sheikha Rashed Al Majr Al Zaabi

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Hye Abdullah Qadeeb Al Zaabi

Mohammed Saif bin Dulum Al Zaabi

Rashed Al Haseeb Al Zaabi

Jasem bin Dulum Al Zaabi

Jassem Fairoz Al Zaabi

Mohammed bin Humaidan Al Zaabi

Sultan Al Mansoor Al Zaabi

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