



'BETWEEN THE LINES' EXHIBITION - XVA GALLERY CELEBRATES THE LAUNCH OF ITS NEW DIFC PREMISES

10 January 2011, Dubai, UAE – XVA Gallery today announces the date of its official opening, and releases details on its inaugural exhibition, *Between the Lines*. Set to take place on Tuesday 25 January, XVA Gallery's DIFC debut will be celebrated with an evening reception, starting at 6pm.

The launch will be marked by an arresting and thought-provoking exhibition, due to run until the 26th of February, which will incorporate Middle Eastern artists Simeen Farhat, Mahmoud Hamadani, Morteza Zahedi and Mohsen Ahmadvand as well as artist Al Braithwaite.

In subversive ways, the artists in *Between the Lines* articulate their thoughts and emotions about the contemporary human condition through witty and eloquent constructions.

The text in Simeen Farhat's sculptures and installations are revolutionary poems, appropriated from famous Farsi and Urdu poets including Rumi, Saadi, Ghalib and Faiz Ahmed Faiz, who wrote powerfully about freedom of thought and speech. Farhat translates these poets' strong emotions into bursts of visual energy.

While his previous work relies on chance and will, Mahmoud Hamadani's *haiku* visually narrates the simple elegant forms in ordered, architectural structures.

An illustrator of children's books and a visual artist, Morteza Zahedi builds evocative sculptures, playfully pairing toys with other miniatures.

The lineage of satirical cartoonists informs Mohsen Ahmadvand's line drawings which incorporate wrestling, old photographs, art by Alireza Espathbod and Ardeshir Mohasses, Iranian news, and bites from mass media.

European artist Al Braithwaite questions the present day perceptions the Middle East has of the West, and vice versa, in his neo-Orientalist construction "Museum No. 1: Hizbollah's Caviar", a hand-crafted limited edition book with clamshell box.

www.xvagallery.com

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