



**Hussein Al-Mohasen: Āyah**

Vernissage: February 6<sup>th</sup>, 10am-10pm

Exhibition Dates: February 6<sup>th</sup> – March 13<sup>th</sup>, 2016

XVA GALLERY, Al Fahidi Historical Neighborhood, Bur Dubai

This February the Al Fahidi Neighbours are collaborating to showcase the gem that is The Al Fahidi Historic Neighbourhood to all who are interested in the Heritage, Art and Culture of the UAE. Originally one of the main residential areas of Dubai's bustling creek community with many a tale to tell, "The Neighbourhood" has been beautifully restored and now houses small museums, cafes, art galleries, artisan's studios and heritage shops. Its proximity to the Creek and Souks make a visit a most rewarding experience. During the Al Fahidi Festival (ALFF) XVA Gallery will be exhibiting a solo exhibition by Saudi Arabian artist Hussein Al-Mohasen, known for his colourful graffiti style works that use visual art and poetry as a means of communicating to everybody as one.

**Artist Statement:**

A piece of visual art plays a big role in our lives, for example looking at the cover of a magazine and its title may inspire one to start constructing images in their mind, and continue with living the experience; reaching a point where there is a new and pressing need to visually communicate. I believe that visual art is an important medium to make people see and perceive the truth. In this series of 'Āyah', Āyah is the evidence of the truth that I am looking for.

With my latest work, I am trying to reach that which is beyond reality. To allow the viewers to experience a visual journey, which makes them see reality in a hopeful and peaceful manner; even if reality, sometimes, is not as desirable as we want.

I have expressed my thoughts and feelings of peace and the love of humanity in a different color perspective to that of seeing things. Color is very important in my work, where the different connotations associated with certain colours beautify what I am trying to convey through art. The medium of graffiti can be greatly inspiring. Seeing the impact it leaves on people from all around the world, a huge message with only a few words being sprayed onto the wall. I find the physicality of creating this type of art is highly liberating, as well as the spectrum of colours I set into my palette.

Hussein Al-Mohasen, 2016

**About the XVA Gallery:**

Established in 2003, XVA is one of the leading galleries in the Middle East that specializes in contemporary art from the Arab world, Iran and the Subcontinent. Exhibitions focus on works by the regions foremost artists as well as those emerging onto the scene. The gallery's artists express their different cultural identities and perspectives while challenging the viewer to drop prejudices and borders. XVA Gallery exhibits both locally and internationally; collaborating with galleries and participating in international art fairs, such as Art Basel Hong Kong, SH Contemporary, Singapore Art Fair and Abu Dhabi Art in 2014, in order to further expose Middle Eastern contemporary art.

XVA Gallery and XVA Art Hotel are located in Dubai's heritage district, now called Al Fahidi Historical Neighborhood. XVA founded and organized the Bastakiya Art Fair from 2007- 2010 as part of its commitment to raising the profile of contemporary art practice in Dubai. For three years XVA was located in DIFC, and has now expanded its premises in Al Fahidi.

**XVA Gallery Contact:**

Eleanor Smith, XVA Gallery Manager

E: [ellie@xvagallery.com](mailto:ellie@xvagallery.com)

E: [xva@xvagallery.com](mailto:xva@xvagallery.com)

T: +9714 353 5383

M: +97150 153 3813