



## The XVA Galleries Celebrate Art Month this March

*'To The Moon' at XVA Annex, Bastakiya, 15<sup>th</sup> March – 30th April 2012*

*'Toy Story' at XVA Gallery, DIFC 19<sup>th</sup> March – 30th April 2012*

**February 2012, Dubai, UAE** – The XVA is pleased to announce its celebration of Art Month this March in both their iconic DIFC and Bastakiya locations. The DIFC gallery will introduce a solo exhibition from established artist Morteza Zahedi, entitled 'Toy Story', whilst the Annex Bastakiya will present works by a group of emerging local artists; 'To the Moon', curated by local Emirati artist Maitha Demithan from 15<sup>th</sup> March.

### Toy Story

The XVA Gallery in Dubai's DIFC welcomes celebrated Iranian artist Morteza Zahedi with a solo exhibition entitled 'Toy Story'. The show comprising a large number of new pieces created in a variety of mediums - works on paper, bronzes, neon installations and found objects. Morteza's works are often described as playful and vivacious, bright and witty, whilst commenting on life and politics. Morteza has exhibited all over the world including Dubai, Japan and Tehran, with his work displayed in many high profile collections.

Through Morteza Zahedi's work, toys change shape and function when they are used as tools of expression. An illustrator of children's books and visual artist, he builds evocative pieces pairing playful objects in conceptual surroundings.

### To The Moon

Ahead of the launch of Morteza's Zahedi's work, the XVA Annex Bastakiya pays homage to emerging local talent with an exhibition entitled: 'To the Moon', curated by Emirati artist Maitha Demithan.

The exhibition showcases the work of thirteen artists: Ania Sikora, Sara Naim, Omar Al Arti, Steffan Messam, Joshua Watts, Wafa Hasher, Janet Bellotto, Debjani Bhardwaj, Nivi Saha, Colleen Quigley, Cristiana de Marchi, Desislava Stoykova, Atul Panase and Shamma Al Amri who had all been invited by the gallery to submit their work, and have been selected to exhibit by Maitha Bin Demithan.

It is envisaged that the gallery's charming site at Al Bastakiya and collaboration with the artist and curator Maitha Bin Demithan will provide new opportunities for contemporary, conceptual and experimental works, which will have explored the meaning and the effect of the moon on humanity.

***Toy Story, Morteza Zahedi***  
***March 19<sup>th</sup>- April 30th***  
***XVA Gallery, DIFC, Dubai***



***To The Moon, curated by Maitha Bin Demithan***  
***March 15th - April 30th***  
***XVA Annex Bastakiya, Dubai***

### **About XVA**

Established in 2003, XVA is one of the leading galleries in the Middle East specialising in contemporary art from the Arab world and Iran. Its rigorous exhibition programme includes works by emerging, mid-career and established artists who are responding to their local environments in thoughtful and provocative ways. XVA offers art consultancy services, providing expert consultancy and full project management for companies and individual requirements in art.

### **XVA Contact:**

Dima Hamati, XVA gallery assistant  
XVA Building 7, DIFC Gate Village  
E: [dima@xvagallery.com](mailto:dima@xvagallery.com)  
E: [xva@xvagallery.com](mailto:xva@xvagallery.com)  
T: +971 4 358 5117

### **TOH PR Contact:**

Sophie Toh | Sophie Snow  
E: [firstname@tohpr.com](mailto:firstname@tohpr.com)  
T: 04 354 9212  
W: [www.tohpr.com](http://www.tohpr.com)