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TRIO OF EXHIBITIONS: ANOMA, JULIA TOWNSEND AND SUZANNE KANATSIZ

(XVA GALLERY, DUBAI, UAE: 9 May – 9 June 2010) On 9 May 2010, a trio of exhibitions will open at XVA Gallery, Dubai. Three female artists will show their work: Dubai-based American artist Julia Townsend returns to XVA with her distinctive humorous caricature paintings. Making their debut exhibitions at XVA are Suzanne Kanatsiz and Anoma Wijewardene: Having moved recently to the UAE, Turkish-American Kanatsiz's meticulously executed conceptual works on paper incorporate classical arabic in their geometric form and design. Sri Lankan artist Anoma Wijewardene presents a group of vivid abstract paintings which are imbued with a deep understanding of Mother Nature, the unifying theme being that of climate change. Together these three artists present a varied and exciting trio of exhibitions at XVA Gallery.



Suzanne Kanatsiz: Alluvial Plains

The UAE is a land of austerity, strong forms and the calligraphic, visual language of Arabic. This landscape staged the trajectory of “Alluvial Plains”; a series of twelve individual works created in the last six months in Al Ain. Light, geologic time and the continual exchange of the built form with erosion and collapse inform the visual vocabulary used in these works. Intuitively-driven, repetitive marks build up forms with intense presence, calling the viewer to enter into a layered dialogue. “Alluvial Plains” is an epitome of the paradoxical language of inner and outer landscape, collective time and the individual gesture. Concentric rings and circles are prominent in the visual vocabulary combined with text, transparency and repetition. Classical Arabic enters the work through its exquisite form and geometry. The

text is chosen intuitively, and at times, verses are used from the Qur'an. As a formal element, the calligraphic text intends to engage one visually rather than literally. References to cycles, memory and the subconscious are suggested, seeking to elicit a deeply contemplative response. Essentially, a number of interpretations are possible within the conceptual foundation.



Anoma Wijewardene – **title and text to follow ...**



Julia Townsend: Things That Go In, Out, Back, Up, and Around

Primarily a painting exhibition, Julia Townsend's exhibition also includes mixed media sculpture, installations and a short animation with Rahul Malpure, developed from one of her own paintings. Julia Townsend describes her work saying:
'The show is about visual prepositions to connect shapes and figures, from post-pop cartoon imagery to pattern motifs (some from Islamic traditions) to abstract expressionism. Themes come from literature and contemporary events, as well as human interactions or frustrations. I pre-position the objects, the marks, thus posing the problem. Then, the task is to plug away until the right layers, relationships, and connections are established. At times, my work becomes a stream of consciousness. This is how I process and 'organize' the chaos and uncertainty of existence, and a world full of amazing details. My characters are often caught with a sense of awe and wonder.

XVA GALLERY

From 2003, XVA has pioneered contemporary Middle Eastern art in Dubai. It is now one of the foremost contemporary art galleries in the Middle East. In 2008 and 2009 XVA participated at the Shanghai and Hong Kong Contemporary Art Fairs, the Asia Contemporary Art Fair in New York and the Dubai International Design Forum. XVA artists have recently exhibited in the 2009 Venice Biennale, Art Abu Dhabi 2009 and the 'Unveiled: New Art From the Middle East' exhibition at the Saatchi Gallery, London. XVA Gallery founded the Bastakiya Art Fair in 2007, initiating an important platform to showcase the art of local galleries as well as attracting international curators. Held every March, BAF coincides with the events of Art Dubai and the Sharjah Biennale.

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