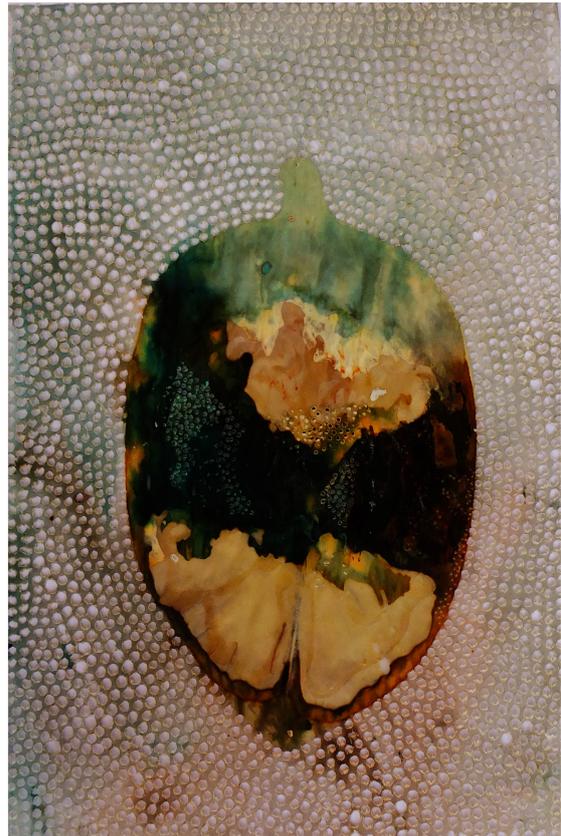


X V A
g a l l e r y

DUBAI



XVA GALLERY

Butterflies in My Stomach

Artists: Barbara Wildenboer, Debjani Bhardwaj, and Saba Masoumian

Vernissage May 31st 10am - 9pm

May 31st – September 1st, 2014

XVA GALLERY, Al Fahidi Historical Neighborhood

00971 4 353 5383

About the Exhibition:

The XVA Gallery is pleased to present a group exhibition of works by female artists: Debjani Bhardwaj, Barbara Wildenboer, and Saba Masoumian entitled ***Butterflies in My Stomach***. Unrelated bodies of work from each of the three artists create an open-ended narrative, a spontaneous dialogue. It is like casting a few different characters to determine the direction of a film. The interplay of the characters or in this case the art works will determine the plot of the story as they play off one another.

Although they are all aesthetically beautiful, each piece reveals an underlying message that creates in the viewer a feeling of uneasiness. From ecopsychology in Wildenboer's "Rorschach Series" to Bhardwaj's disjointed, cut paper narratives found in "Butterflies in My Stomach" from which the show takes its title, this exhibition is *not at all* what it seems.

About the Artists:

Debjani Bhardwaj

(born in Kolkata, India 1972)

Debjani Bhardwaj completed her Masters in Business Management in India. She started her career as a financial analyst in New Delhi and later moved to the field of art in the year 2000. She is a self-taught multidisciplinary artist and expresses herself through sculpture (clay, felt, paper), illustration and printmaking. Working with her hands fascinates her and she prefers tactile, labour intensive, process oriented methods of creating. Her works are mostly figurative and deal with people. She is a visual storyteller and loves stories with a certain element of surprise. Bhardwaj moved to Dubai in 2007 and has been exhibiting regularly in this city in various group shows since then. Her first solo exhibition was Spindle Shuttle Needle in Tashkeel House Bastakiya in 2011.

Bhardwaj has published two children's books "World Tales "a book of folk tales written by the students of Dubai International Academy (2009) and "A Magic Place" a book of short stories used by middle school children in India (2008). She lives in Muscat and works in both Muscat and Dubai

Saba Masoumian

(born in Tehran, Iran 1982)

Saba Masoumian studied graphic design at Azad University Tehran and studied scenography in Accademia delle Belle Arti in Bologna, Italy. She has had several solo exhibitions at the E-Azad Art Gallery in Tehran as well as the Eye Gallery, Dubai and group exhibits in New York at Canvas Gallery, Opera Gallery in Dubai, Janet Rady Fine Art in London and Rivers of A.I.R Gallery in Rovigo Italy.

Masoumian has been awarded The Belgrade Golden Pen in 2007 and in the same year was the runner-up for the Noma Concourse Japan.

Barbara Wildenboer

(born in Pretoria, South Africa 1973)

Barbara Wildenboer has participated in several group exhibitions both nationally and internationally, most recently the *Art of the Book* at the Seager Gray Gallery and *artMRKT* Contemporary and Modern Art Fair in San Francisco 2014. She had her 7th solo exhibition entitled *Disjecta Membra* at Amelia Johnson Contemporary in Hong Kong during April 2013. She is currently working on a body of work entitled *The*

Lotus Eaters, which opens at The Reservoir at the Oliewenhuis Art Museum in Bloemfontein in July 2014.

Windenboer has been awarded several international residencies such as the Unesco-Aschberg residency (Jordan, 2006), the Al Mahatta residency (Palestine, 2009) and the *Red De Residencias Artisticas Local* (Colombia, 2011) and the Rimbun Dahan artist residency (Penang, Malaysia, 2013). In 2011 she received the *Public Choice Prize*.

Wildenboer lives and works in Cape Town, South Africa. She obtained a Masters in Fine Art (with distinction) from the Michaelis School of Art at the University of Cape Town in 2007. Before that she completed a BA (Ed) with majors in English literature, Psychology and Pedagogics at the University of Pretoria in 1996 followed by a Bachelor of Visual Arts from UNISA.

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 London, SH Contemporary and Art Basel Hong Kong 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. In 2011 XVA Gallery moved to DIFC and returned to Al Fahidi Neighborhood in November 2013.

XVA Gallery Contact

Joanna Cavarzan, XVA GALLERY Art Communications

E: joanna@xvagallery.com

M: 0097150 5060458

Eleanor Smith, XVA Gallery Manager and Events Coordinator

E: ellie@xvagallery.com

M: 0097150 1533813

Facebook: XVA Gallery / XVA Art Hotel

Twitter: [@xvagallery](https://twitter.com/xvagallery) / [@xva_art_hotel](https://twitter.com/xva_art_hotel)