



COLLABORATION  
BALQEES FAKHRO  
@ **COSMOSCOW**

**8 - 10**

MOSCOW - SEPTEMBER 2017

## COLLABORATION

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Balqees' strokes accent a distillation of art that highlights the stride in growth and progression of the artists of her genre.

Emotion sans tool of object, convey through powerful strokes in abstraction the power to experiment, elevate and transverse through boundaries.

Collaboration of ideas, tradition...experience of the past, hope of the future is the distinctive assimilation of the collection presented by the artist at Cosmoscw.



## KANIKA SUBBERWAL

### FOUNDER AND MANAGING DIRECTOR, ART SELECT

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Balqees Fakhro is a painter of over forty years standing. Working with acrylics, mainly large works, which over time have become more abstracted and singular in colour.

Like many artists in Bahrain she has harnessed her international experiences to her roots in Bahrain and Iraq, crafted abstract works with subjects that inspire in their audience intimate memories of belonging and place.

As a writer and critic, Balqees has played an important role in inspiring and educating other Bahraini artists - she held the position of Professor of Fine Arts at the University of Bahrain and she was the first woman member of the Bahrain Fine Arts Society. Her work forms a significant part of many important and key collections across the globe.

Bahrain is home to many painters, sculptors and short-film makers. It is Art Select's mission to promote the work of the artists of Bahrain, on a global level.

Art Bahrain Across Borders - the Kingdom of Bahrain's International Art Fair - brings the visual arts of Bahrain under one roof and connects established and emerging artists to collectors, galleries, international critics and writers. A significant chapter has been the international artist programme - that grew from the fair and takes artists to major arts markets around the world. Art Bahrain Across Borders, in its third edition now, with the fair set for March 14th - 18th 2018 is managed by Artsselect.

It is encouraging to be one of the only participants from the Gulf, associated with Cosmoscw in its fifth edition. Featuring a solo exhibition of one of our senior most abstract artists, we hope this will be the first of a long standing artistic exchange across borders.



## DAVID HAWKINS

### HEAD OF OUTREACH AND GALLERY LIAISON

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In the Middle East, Balqees Fakhro has built up her reputation as Bahrain's leading abstract painter. Artists from the island kingdom are finally receiving international appreciation and it is really, only, in the last few years, that Bahraini artists have come to receive an equal share of the spotlight shone on Gulf artists.

Balqees first studied in San Francisco, but her abstraction owes as much to her study of Bahraini and Iraqi civilisation. Abstraction is not just a modern phenomenon for her. The colours and forms come out of an ancient civilisation. Though Bahrain has not pushed its contemporary culture as much as its neighbours till recently, it has the longest history in the region as a cultural centre.

At 765 square kms Bahrain is the third smallest country in Asia, yet in the nineteenth century, it was the main trading hub of the Middle East, trade and the pearl industry drove the economy, and just as the Japanese eclipsed the Kingdom in the pearl market in the early 1930s so fortune favoured the Kingdom with the development of the first oil economy as the first oil well in the Middle East was developed there in 1932.

Balqees Fakhro is not a lone female artist in Bahrain. There are as many leading women artists as men: Mariam Fakhro, Maryam Nass, Lulwa Al Khalifa, Ghada Khunji, Faika Al Hassan, Nabeela Al Khayer and Suheyla Al Safar. Kanika Subberwal, Founder of Art Select, who is presenting Balqees Fakhro, attributes this to Bahrain's liberalism - Bahrain had the first female Ambassador to the US and the first female Ambassador from the Middle East to preside at the General Assembly of the United Nations. Balqees Fakhro is an artist and critic.



## ART SELECT PROFILE

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Art Select is a unique initiative launched on the strength of a private passion of founder and owner Kanika Subberwal. It is today a successful international business model based on establishing alliances internationally with established and recognized entities, sharing the same values and together showcasing contemporary art and the culture, representing it in its best form.

Hosting high calibre exhibitions together with providing a platform for emerging artists has given Art Select a definite edge in making art more accessible, thereby strengthening its association with clients from various cities including Dubai, London and Bahrain. The art exhibited ranges from the masters to emerging talent from the Middle East as well as India.

It is the endeavour of the Art Select team to position itself as a valuable resource for a substantial range of quality art, to advise, consult, assist clients in understanding art as an investment, and the significance of building private and corporate collections.



BIOGRAPHY

**BALQEES FAKHRO**

#### DEGREE

Graduate of University of San Francisco, USA (Lone Mountain College)  
Bachelor's Degree in Fine Arts and Art History, 1975

#### RECENT EXHIBITIONS

- 2009 Held a Solo Exhibition at the Courtyard Exhibition in Bahrain
- 2008 Participated in Bahraini Contemporary Artists Exhibition on the sidelines of the World Economic Forum in Davos
- 2007 Participated in a UNESCO Exhibition in Paris
- Participated in a Four Artist Joint Exhibition at the Bahrain Formative Arts Society
- 2005 Participated in the Modern Art Exhibition organized by the Royal College of Surgeons of Ireland in Dublin
- Participated in an exhibition in Paris organized by the Bahraini Embassy in Paris on the occasion of Bahrain's National Day
- 2004 Participated in a Dual Exhibition with Sh. Rashid AL-Khalifa at the Hamburg State House in Berlin, Germany
- Held a Solo Exhibition at the annual Doha Cultural Festival
- Held a Solo Exhibition during the Conference of Culture of Bahraini Women, in Sharjah, U.A.E., organized by the Supreme Council for Women of Bahrain
- 2002 Held her first solo exhibition at AL-Riwaq Gallery in Bahrain
- 1976 Participated in all national exhibitions of the Ministry of Information in Bahrain from 1976 to the present.

#### RECENT AWARDS & ACCREDITATIONS

- 2013 Merit Award at the annual Formative Arts Exhibition of the Ministry of Information in Bahrain (1976, 1997, 2001, 2007, 2011, and 2013)
- 2012 Awarded the Suaad Al Sabah Prize at gathering Gulf Formative Art gathering in Kuwait
- 2007 Honored at the First Gulf Cultural Festival of G.C.C. countries in Sharjah, U.A.E. in the field of Formative Arts
- Merit Award for membership in the Judge's Committee for the 2nd Youth Salon in Doha, Qatar.

#### ACQUISITIONS

- Bahrain National Museum
- Modern Art Museum of Jordan
- Arabic Modern Art Museum in Doha, Qatar
- The Kinda Foundation of Saudi Arabia, which exhibited her works at the World Arab Institute in Paris
- Hamburg State House in Berlin, Germany
- Dubai Financial Center, U.A.E.
- Abu Dhabi Investment House
- Sheikh Ibrahim Center for Culture, Bahrain
- Four Season Hotel Bahrain four murals in Manama Hall

**UNTITLED, 2015**  
**ACRYLIC ON CANVAS**  
**120 X 130 CM**







UNTITLED, 2009  
ACRYLIC ON CANVAS  
130 X 120 CM



UNTITLED, 2014  
ACRYLIC ON CANVAS  
120 X 140 CM



UNTITLED, 2009  
ACRYLIC ON CANVAS  
120 X 90 CM



UNTITLED, 2017  
ACRYLIC ON CANVAS  
100 X 100CM



UNTITLED, 2009  
ACRYLIC ON CANVAS  
53 X 134CM



UNTITLED, 2006  
ACRYLIC ON CANVAS  
80 X 60 CM



UNTITLED, 2012  
ACRYLIC ON CANVAS  
120 X 140 CM



UNTITLED, 2016  
ACRYLIC ON CANVAS  
200 X 200 CM



UNTITLED, 2013  
ACRYLIC ON CANVAS  
120 X 140CM



UNTITLED, 2015  
ACRYLIC ON CANVAS  
130 X 120 CM



UNTITLED, 2015  
ACRYLIC ON CANVAS  
130 X 120CM





UNTITLED, 2009  
ACRYLIC ON CANVAS  
160 X 90 CM



UNTITLED, 2009  
ACRYLIC ON CANVAS  
120 X 130 CM



UNTITLED, 2010  
ACRYLIC ON CANVAS  
80 X 80 CM



#### CONTACT INFORMATION

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