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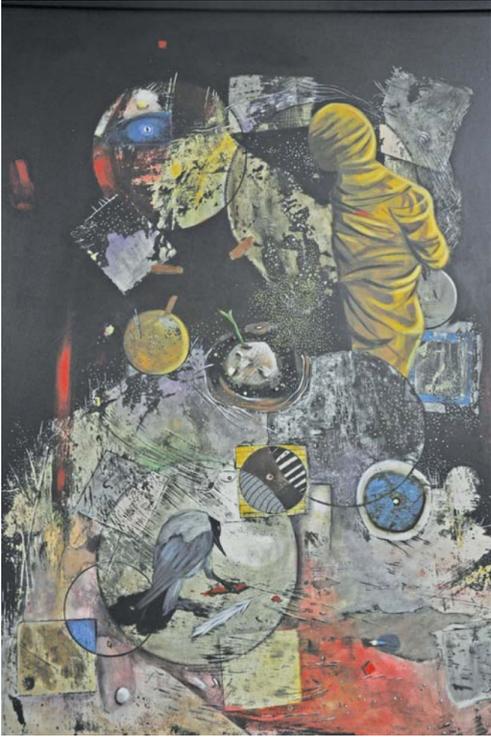
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*Trendz*



Adnan Al Raisi, Abdul Majeed Karooh and Tahira Fida

# Stamp of creativity

Three Omani artists come together to give you an intimate insight into their thoughts and the way they see the world and experience life, **David Solomon** writes

**C**REATIVE Spaces', an upcoming exhibition by three modern and contemporary artists of Oman -- Abdul Majeed Karooh, Adnan Al Raisi and Tahira Fida -- will open at the Bait Muzna Gallery on Tuesday (May 1) at 7pm. Her Highness Sayyida Virginia Al Said will be the Guest of Honour at the exhibition which will run until May 24.

In an upfront interview with the *Oman Tribune* all three artists share their thoughts about their works and their dreams for the future. Tahira Fida, whose works carry the stamp of her personality as well as her distinctive style, says that she come closer to realism in her present works and has moved away from the abstract.

"I want to connect in a more intimate manner with the real and present world. For my present collection of about 18-20 paintings, I have drawn my inspiration from real pictures and objects, particularly jewellery and architecture," says Tahira. "Naturally these paintings have my touch which comes from my emotions, my feelings and my perspective and my vision." She adds: "Viewers of my paintings are looking for something new, something fresh, something different."

In the past, Tahira's canvases had explored the intriguing world of communication and the means the human race had employed to communicate within communities or across countries and cultures. Her work is rich in symbols, characters and letters from different languages, especially the ancient ones such as Aramaic and Hieroglyphs. In communicating her message, Tahira uses letters to support the symbols.

Her more recent works have been inspired by Arabic poetry and English novels. She endeavours to interact with the authors' feelings and reproduce them in an aesthetic visual context.

Adnan Al Raisi's paintings have a powerful visual impact not just because of their size but because of their rich blend of colours and texture and a kind of intense, kinetic energy that flows from his works.

Adnan says, "Some of my paintings are about myself, mostly associated with my childhood memories. But a lot of my works focus on the wars that are being fought at different places around the world and the ravages and the devastation that follow in their wake."

He uses a set of 3-4 paintings to tell one sto-

ry and that is why his paintings are grouped in a series to form a composite whole. This is his third exhibition at the Bait Muzna. He has also held several exhibitions both at the Omani Society for Fine Arts and Culture Club, Qurum.

In the latter part of May, Adnan will participate in an exhibition in Kuwait. "Thereafter I go along with a group of seven artists to Italy in June where we will participate in workshops and exhibitions."

Adnan's work is inspired by the brush strokes of his father. His beginning in fine arts started with realistic landscapes of Oman, which is very much a part of his repertoire. He has gradually moved from realism to abstract since 1998.

For the past decade his artwork has progressed significantly using different types of mediums to reflect his philosophy on art. He concentrates on colour, technique and abstract subjects. His achievements have won him numerous awards and prizes within the Sultanate.

Born in 1975, Omani artist Abdul Majeed Karooh started painting from the age of eight. His inspiration comes from his childhood, filled with happy memories, as well as the

unique heritage and folklore of the Sultanate.

Doors make up the central theme and leit-motif of his current set of 20 paintings for 'Creative Spaces'.

For him they are more than just physical objects that either bar you or grant you access. They are metaphors for life itself. He says, "A door is a symbol of life. When a door opens, it is hard to say where it will take you. Some doors lead to happiness or sadness; hopes or fears."

On a more philosophical note Abdul Majeed says, "As you journey through life with all its ups and downs, sooner or later a door will open just for you."

His successful 'Omani Door' series are set in bright yet natural colours which are the memories of his ancestral home. His 'Omani Architectural' series was inspired by his father, a leading figure in the construction and real estate sector.

Abdul Majeed also focuses on the beauty of the capital's coastline and produces amazingly bright contemporary landscapes.

A member of the Omani Society for Fine Arts and the Youth Studio, Abdul Majeed has won three awards and has done exhibitions in Egypt, Dubai and New Delhi, India.

## Exploring new vistas

For Tania Hens and Sunita Rajvanshi, painting is more than a way of self-expression

**C**ELEBRATION of Colours', a four-day exhibition of paintings by artists Tania Hens and Sunita Rajvanshi, was inaugurated by HE Hamed Bin Hilal Al Ma'amari, Undersecretary for Cultural Affairs at the Ministry of Heritage and Culture, and Ronald Mollinger, a former ambassador of The Netherlands, in the lower lobby of the Inter-Continental Muscat on April 24 (Tuesday).

Both women are accomplished artists who have been using their creative energies not just to follow their dreams but also make some dreams of

the less privileged come true as well. Each of them is exhibiting 40 artworks in different styles and techniques.

Tania and Sunita are donating a percentage of the proceeds from the sale of their paintings to Petra - The Para Equestrian and Therapeutic Riding Activities. Since its inception a couple of years ago, Petra has been promoting therapeutic riding, a specialised training programme for people with disabilities.

Tania Hens, from the Netherlands has been drawing and painting since the age of three. After a career as a geologist, living in many different coun-

tries, she has taken up painting since 1999, being inspired by the people of Oman and their unique culture.

She loves exploring new ways of creating art and has exhibited her works in Oman, Dubai and Panama. She enjoys leading workshops, inspiring people to express themselves and experience the creative process.

Tania says while she's painting she likes to listen to contemporary music. "It helps me work better. Sometimes I also dance while I'm painting and all this adds to my creativity."

Sunita Rajvanshi, who hails from North India, says her passion for art

started in early childhood. Her relocation to Oman three years ago rekindled her passion and she now uses it to reach out to and help the less privileged across the world.

Sunita has already held two exhibitions in Muscat for charitable causes. "My paintings are based on both Omani and India themes." She has also worked as an AWG coordinator for three years and is teaching 'Mixed Media Techniques in Collage' in PDO Art Centre since 2009. She also runs a charitable organisation, Second Chance Charitable Society, in India.

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