



ithra
by aramco

Issue 011

Love

Artist:
Ola Hejazi

Ithraeyat Magazine

February 2021



Welcome to **Ithraeyat**, a monthly cultural magazine produced by The King Abdulaziz Center for World Culture (Ithra). Created to **inspire minds** and **enrich hearts**, this Saudi inspired platform with an expansive international outlook will capture the art scene and the culture of art by bringing together a mosaic of stories collected from across the Kingdom, the region and beyond.

Behind the scenes

Ithraeyat is the plural of Ithra (enrichment). Magazine has its origins in the Arabic word makhzan, a storehouse. And therefore, Ithraeyat Magazine is a storehouse of unique, enriching stories.

Table of Contents:

Portrait: Ola Hejazi — ‘theme-special’ featured Saudi artist.	7
Special Feature: ‘Love in the Time of Zaman’ an interview with renowned Saudi artist Zaman Jassim by Nora Al-Taha.	9
Guest Columnist: Amin and Najla, a love story by Princess Diala Arslan Talhouk.	13
Special Feature: Tales of love from the Middle East by Nora Al-Taha.	15
Spotlight: Love your cultural heritage by Somaya Badr, CEO of The Art of Heritage.	17
Spotlight: Love Poems and Proverbs from the Middle East by Nora Al-Taha.	19
Arabic Treasures: Layla and Tawba by Ahmad Dialdin.	21
Ithra Curiosities: The Heart	23
Add to your bucket list: Love Landmarks across Saudi Arabia by Ahmad Dialdin.	24
From the Shelves: Books from the Middle East to fall in love with.	25
Bridges: Cross-Cultural Conversations Devoted Love: The Story of a King and his Faithful Hawk by Dr. Ulrike Al-Khamis, Interim Director and CEO at the Aga Khan Museum.	27
From the Vault: The Art of love	29
From the Archives: Love of Life	33
The Art of Digital	38
From the World Wide Web: Art stories to browse through.	41




Love

"My lover asks me: 'What is the difference between me and the sky?' The difference, my love, Is that when you laugh, I forget about the sky.' — Nizar Qabbani (1923-1998), the legendary poet of 'love'

We all have, or should have, that one person that makes our heart smile and forget everyone and everything else around us. There are so many forms of love, the love of a partner, a parent, a sibling, a child, a pet, a book, a piece of music, a dish, a color, a memory— the list of beloved things and persons are truly limitless. In the month of February, that is widely celebrated as the month of love, we pay homage to this powerful and universal theme of **Love**. There are

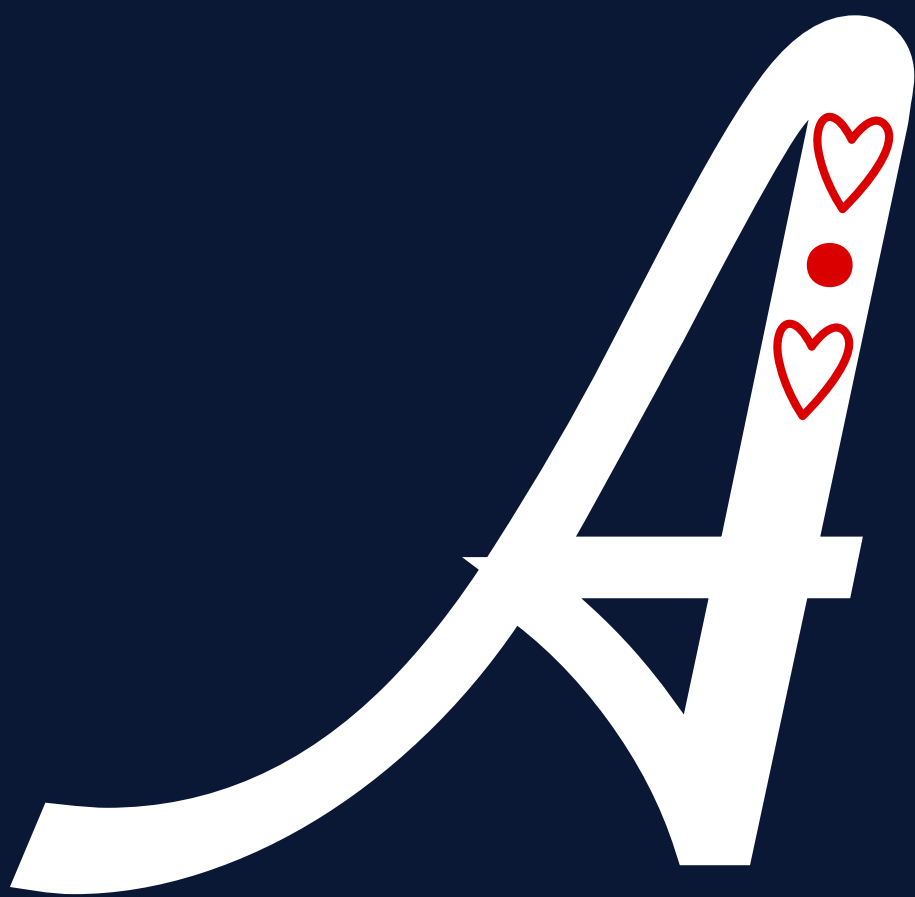
so many ways to say love in Arabic, like the gentle 'Ahwak,' which is more than just love, it is related to sadness, the soul and the air we breathe. In this issue we explore the genre of romantic poetry known as Al Ghazal or Al Ghazel, and feel the anguish and the passion expressed by this region's greatest poets and poetesses. In Arabic, Shaer (poet) translates to the feeler – or the one who feels. Poems of lost love in the desert are also known as



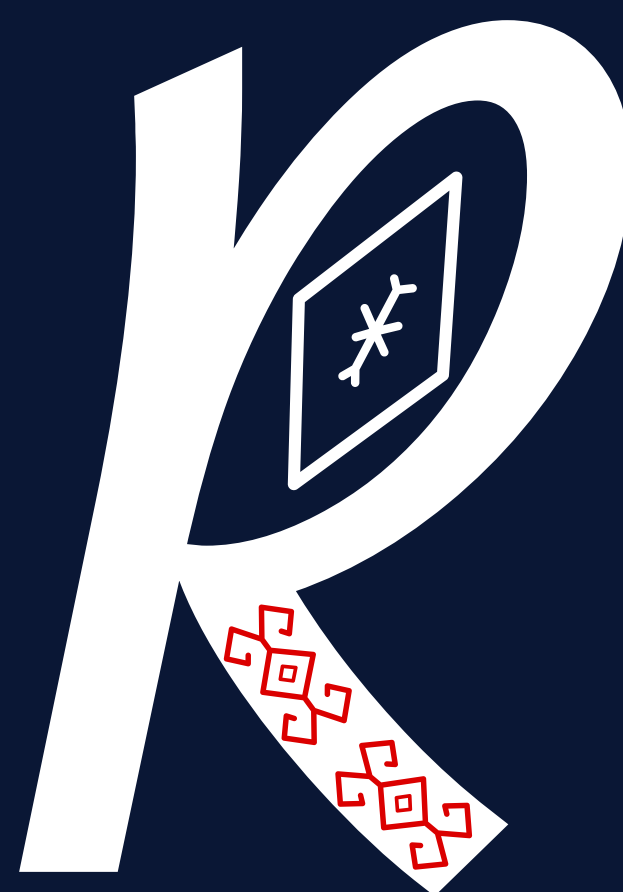
Al Ghazal Al Udhri or Udhrite Ghazal, after the tribe of Banu Udhrah who were known for their chaste and self-effacing love for the unattainable woman. This special genre emerged in the Umayyad period (7th to 8th centuries CE) and includes the timeless real-life love stories of Majnoun Layla, Qays and his Lubna, Jamil and his Buthayna and Kuthaiyr, the lover of Azza, and many more. But

not all are tragic love stories. There are the flirtations of the mischievous 7th-century Umar ibn Abi Rabiḥ who, posing as a hopeless lover, would wait for female pilgrims coming to Makkah, and then pursue them with his poetry. On the cover is the delicate art piece by Saudi artist **Ola Hejazi**, titled ‘Then I breathed again...a rose,’ capturing the loving moment between a sentimental soul and a rose.





Meet our ‘theme-special’ featured Saudi artist, **Ola Hejazi**, whose dynamic art captures stories of people, of love, and of life in unique vibrant kaleidoscope colors and styles.





◆ Portrait:

Ola Hejazi — The Art of Love and the Love of Art

“Art is not what you see but what you make others see.”

Is one of Ola Hejazi’s favorite quotes by Edgar Degas, the renowned French Impressionist artist (1834-1917).

Over the years the renowned Saudi artist Ola Hejazi has been leaving a sentimental mark on the art scene, through her dynamic heart-felt pieces. “My paintings are part of my art journal life,” she told Ithraeyat in an interview. “They are my secret diary. My memory. Oscar Wilde once said: ‘Memory is the diary that we all carry about us.’” From vibrant stories of people and their relationships to each

other, and their relationships with a place, Ms. Hejazi’s art pieces are as diverse as her style. She uses the Arabic alphabet, different print ink and formats. Many of her pieces are influenced by a lifetime of frequent relocation and attempts in reconstructing memories that were abruptly left behind. Her art is a documentation of objects and memories that brings fleeting memories of the past. “You can see a lot just by



observation,” she said. “The more you look at the painting, the more detail you discover. I am more like my paintings, where you can’t know me from the first sight.” In the delicate cover art of a girl holding a flower, there is more than one possible interpretation of the art piece. “It could mean that the fragrance always stays in the hand that gives and receives the rose. Or, take a deep breath to smell the rose, and start a new life,” she said. With over eight solo exhibitions and numerous international engagements in exhibitions and symposiums across Saudi Arabia, UAE, Europe and beyond, the award-winning artist has loved art from a young age, where her teachers saw her a budding artist. Ola now holds a Bachelor’s degree in

Arabic Language, and a Diploma in Educational Psychology, as well as a degree in Experimental Techniques for Etching Images. “I am reborn with every painting I make,” she said. When asked to define love, a theme revisited in several of her artworks, she said, “Love is just love, it can never be explained.” The COVID-19 pandemic has changed the world, and “as an artist, my thoughts also changed,” she said. “During this period, I try to paint for joy. Also it’s important to review my old paintings in order to develop and renew myself artistically.” “I believe that art is the breath of life, the sound of the soul, and it’s my sound to the world.” As for her personal motto: “Be real, be unique, be honest, be humble, be yourself and never give up.”



‘Love Secrets’ collection. Using various materials, Saudi artist **Zaman Jassim** focuses his light on the secrets of love without mentioning a single secret. “If a secret is mentioned, it loses its meaning and worth.”

Special Feature:

Love in the Time of Zaman

“I do not imagine that happiness, comfort and peace will come to a person without love. Love does not only include two lovers, but the more our surroundings are filled with love, the happier we will be.”

With over 30 years as an artist, **Zaman Jassim** fully embodies love in his art and his life. When asked what love means to him, Zaman reflected on the omnipotence of love. “I wrote on one of my paintings, ‘Love is Life/Life is Love.’ If you reverse these two words, you will get a more beautiful and deeper meaning.” Zaman inspires us to see the beauty in life and to implement love into our lives as much as possible. Having grown up in an artistic family and surrounded by Tarout Island’s beautiful surroundings, expressing himself through art came naturally. “I did not choose art,” Zaman says, “it chose me.” In Zaman’s art world, love trickles through his work—

giving us a chance to embrace and include love and light into our lives. He believes the medium must be filled with feelings and understanding of the common language of others; that love is a necessity and a way of life in understanding each other. With love being one of the most romantic topics in life, it carries a sense of belonging and purpose in every soul. As our world advances in technology, education and resources, the younger generation is rewriting their own definition of love. Zaman offers his advice on how to work with love: “Love what you do until you do what you love,” he says. “Every successful thing is based on love and passion. This is the ladder to



Love on the 'Saj'. A unique take by Saudi artist **Zaman Jassim** on the close relationship between the art of cooking and love, whereby the Saj is like clay, imprinted with vows of love. The love that goes into making a beloved dish can turn into a nightmare if cooked for too long or under too hot a temperature, burning it and ruining it, like a love loved too much.

success. What you do with love will be more profound and accessible to others and the result will definitely reflect on you with joy.” “We are currently living in a thriving period in all fields,” Zaman reflects on the state of art in Saudi today compared to when he began his career. “The conscious artist must put his mark and flourish as an artist because this stage will make the difference to the future of art transformation in Saudi. There is a broader openness not only in Saudi, but also in the world

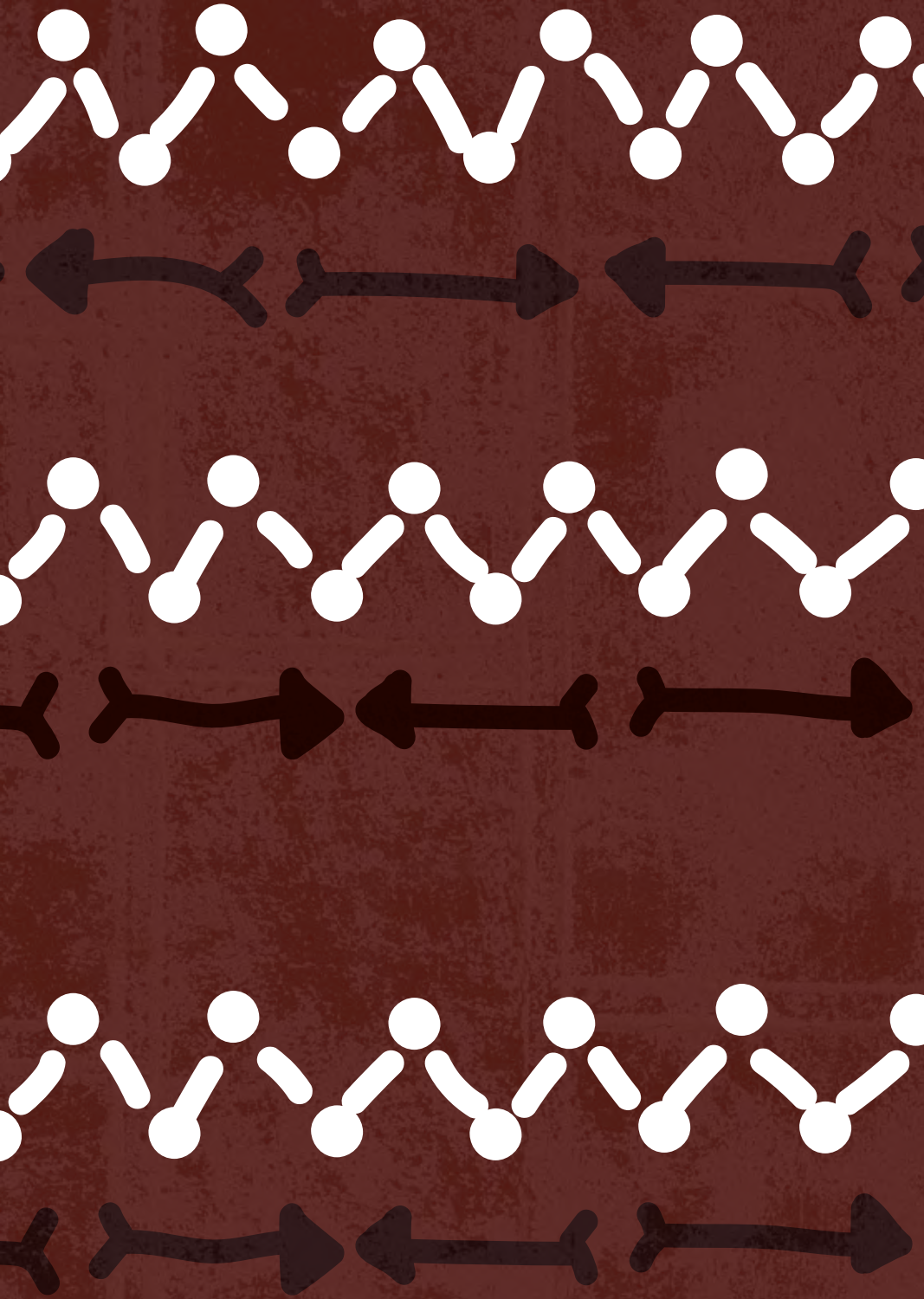
due to technology and the speed of communication, especially in social media and knowledge. Artists no longer have to wait to express their experience and feelings in a gallery or send it via mail. It takes just a click of a button to share it with the world.” As our world turned upside down and everyone stayed inside during the COVID-19 pandemic, many artists and creative souls found refuge in social media as a platform to express themselves artistically, share and interact.



Calligraphic
homage to Gustav
Klimt's 'The Kiss,'
by Saudi artist
Zaman Jassim.



The ‘Love Moon’ collection where single powerful words of love (Wid ‘fondness’ & Shaghaf ‘passion’) are expressed in the form of a crescent moon by Saudi artist **Zaman Jassim**.



The old lantern and its light under which Najla wrote her love letters to Amin. Courtesy: L'Emir Faysal Majid Arslan Museum.

Guest Columnist:

Amin and Najla, a love story by **Princess Diala** Arslan Talhouk

Every family has a love story they like to re-tell. Often it is an intense – sometimes immortal – story like that of Adon and Astarte, Qays and Layla, Romeo and Juliet, stories of unrequited love. In my family, it is the story of Prince Amin and Princess Najla, and it is one that renews my faith in love. I have heard it from a Turkish journalist who was investigating the love affair of Amin and Najla Arslan, whose tragic love is documented in Ottoman records,

dating sometime in the late 1800s. It began with the cousins falling madly in love. A love they will have to fight for but lose in face of spiteful family disputes. Najla's brothers, seeing how adamant she was about marrying Amin, conjured up a scheme and acted on it when Amin left Lebanon to take up his duties as consul to Belgium. They fetched one of his suits, a suit Najla knows well, riddled it with bullets and smeared bird blood on it. They took the suit



Rooms with stories and history, at the L'Emir Faysal Majid Arslan Museum.

to Najla, with the terrible news that Amin had been assassinated. He had been charged as a leader of an opposition to Ottoman rule, and before well-meaning negotiators secured him a pardon, he was killed. Sadly, Najla fell for the scheme. She cried tears as hot as Jacob's when his sons brought him his favorite son's bloody shirt, claiming that wolves attacked their brother, Joseph. Jacob lost his sight. Najla lost her wits. Word reached the Ottoman sultan that Princess Najla had gone mad. He ordered that she be brought to Istanbul to be in the care of his private physicians. Unaware of all that had happened, on his first vacation back to Lebanon, Amin learned of Najla's fate. Sorrow and bitterness choked him, and he

requested to be transferred as far away as possible from his beloved. The University of Sorbonne graduate was appointed to Argentine. He became a magnet for both locals and the Arab community with his cultural gatherings at home. He established "La Posta" newspaper and published valuable books. Women fell for him, but he remained faithful to his one and only love. He grew old, died, and was buried in Buenos Aires. And Najla? She got better but never regained her full self again. She lived the last days of her life quietly, mourning the love of her life, and remembering their love letters written under a gentle lantern-light, and hearts filled with innocent hope.



Special Feature:

Tales of love from the Middle East

Here we get lost in stories of a new bride that must save her life, a “Virgin Love” that never died and a slave-turned-hero who seeks the heart of a forbidden love.

◊ *Scheherazade and Shayrar* ◊



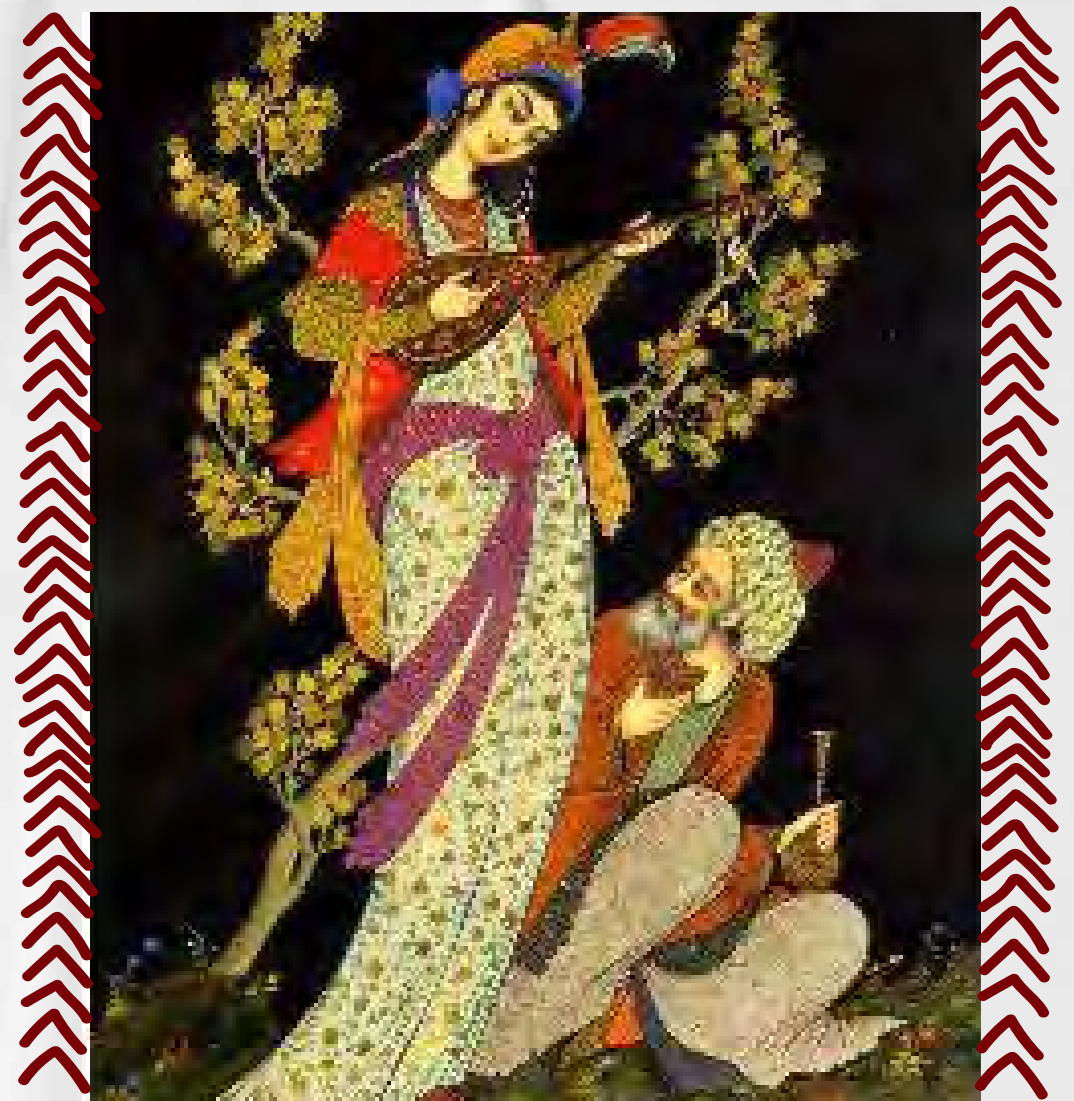
The tale of Scheherazade and the sultan, Shayrar, lasted 1,001 nights; it is a story of a man’s heartbreak that turns into a murderous serial streak and a tremendous blossoming love. When Shayrar’s first wife proves unfaithful to him, he resolves to marry a new virgin every day and kill her by dawn so she could never cause a scandal. When there were no more noble virgins for Shayrar to marry, the vizier offers his daughter, Scheherazade. Scheherazade is a brilliant beauty, and with her sister, Dunyazad, they plan to delay her death. Dunyazad asks Scheherazade to tell a story. As

the night passes and dawn comes, Scheherazade’s story captivates the sultan, but she never finishes. Shayrar is so eager to hear the rest of the tale, he delays her death, and she, cleverly, ends the story the next night and began another. Night after night, Scheherazade evades her death, and the sultan gradually admires her. After 1,001 nights and 1,000 stories, Scheherazade has no more stories to tell him. Their tale ends with the sultan in love with Scheherazade, making her his queen, and the Middle Eastern stories of One Thousand and One Nights enters the world.



◇ *Marwa and Shams “Al-Majnun” Al-Faransi* ◇

Shams “Al-Majnun” Al-Faransi ibn Fattuta ibn Rumi became famous for his poetry and adventurous life. His greatest adventure was his “Virgin Love” with Marwa bint Ahmad. On his trip to Spain, the couple met and instantly fell in love. They fled to Europe together, but their unfortunate fate tagged along. Al-Faransi wrote songs about her and poems about flying and taking Marwa with him, dreaming of soaring the air with their love. He asked for her hand in marriage, but was waylaid to Africa by the Caliph. Marwa gifted him a silver medallion with a poem by Mansour al-Hallaj and she carved his name on a piece of wood. Wherever he traveled, he had it with him. Eventually, Shams found himself prisoner to the Zaghawa warriors, a ruthless tribe in North Africa, while Marwa was introduced to



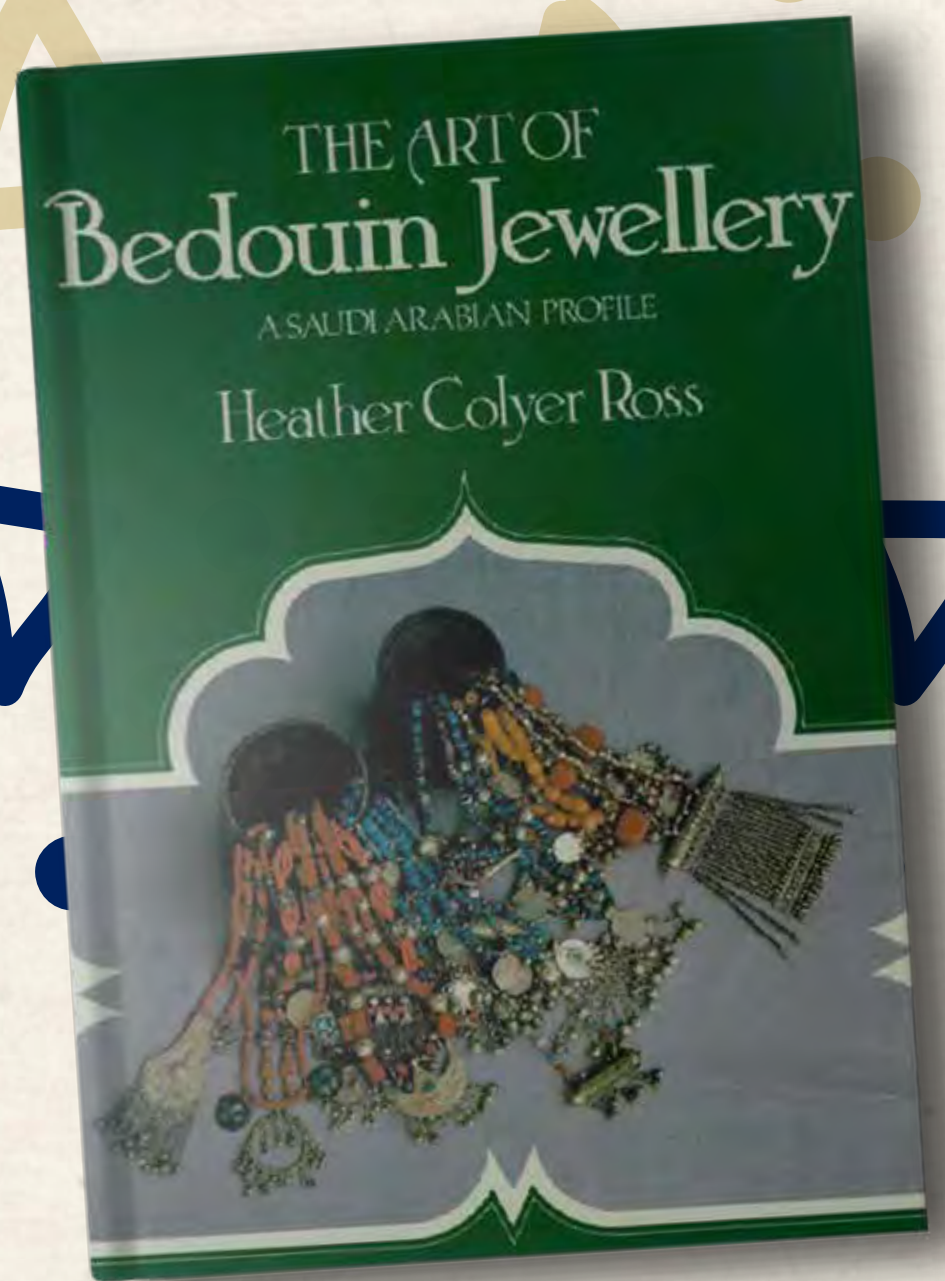
a more traditionally acceptable man. The couple never fulfilled their love, known in the Arabic culture as “Virgin Love.” In 1937, the medallion and woodcarving was found in his tomb—signifying the undying love between Marwa bint Ahmad and Shams “Al-Majnun” Al-Faransi.



◇ *Antarah ibn Shaddad*

Antarah was the son of Shaddad al-Absi, a warrior of Banu Abs, a Bedouin tribe. His mother, Zabeebah, was an Ethiopian princess taken captive and enslaved by al-Absi during a raid against Axum, an ancient kingdom in Northern Ethiopia. Antarah was born a slave himself and his father’s wife, Shammeah, treated him with hostility. When Antarah fell in love with his cousin, Ablah, a notable love story began for the slave-turned-warrior who sought to claim his love. **“Defend your tribe, O ‘Antar, and you are free.”** He grew up to be a respected warrior and talented poet. An invasion

against his own tribe gave him the chance to prove himself. As a mighty fighter, his father encouraged him to defend his tribe and promised him freedom in return. After he defeated the invaders, he earned his freedom and was permitted to marry Ablah. Was his motivation for his freedom alone or for his love for Ablah? As a true poet, it is fitting to believe his love carried him throughout the fight to win not only the battle, but also the heart of Ablah. For more about this tale, check out our article, “Add to your bucket list: The Love Rock,” from our inaugural **issue, Isolation.**



Spotlight:

Love your Cultural Heritage

The grass is always greener on the other side. As our Kingdom rapidly gained wealth during the 20th century, people increasingly imported dresses and jewelry, putting aside their own more traditional options. When Australian designer Heather Colyer Ross moved to Saudi Arabia with her husband in 1969, she found the grass (or sand) to be much more enticing on this side. Her instant love and admiration of Saudi's traditional culture and its rich heritage materialized into a stunning personal collection. She

travelled throughout the country, visiting souks and befriending local women, all the while collecting unique and diverse pieces of traditional costumes and jewelry. That was not all she collected, though. She spent years researching books, prints and oral histories to piece together the origins of each piece of her collection. This work culminated as her two books: *The Art of Arabian Costume* and *The Art of Bedouin Jewellery*. These books serve as not only a love letter to our local heritage but a form of cultural preservation as well.



Colyer Ross exhibited, lectured and wrote about her collection of Saudi costumes and jewelry for more than two decades before moving to Switzerland. By the 1980s, the passion for heritage and culture continued to grow, with advocates like Princess Haifa Al-Faisal and John Tophman (who was interested in traditional craft), and many others. We give our thanks to everyone who loved Saudi Arabia's cultural history and strived to preserve it.

Written by Special Contributor Somaya Badr, CEO of **Art of Heritage** and Art of Heritage Cultural Trust.

Spotlight

Love Poems & Proverbs from the Middle East

Words cannot fully describe the exquisite feelings of love, but that never stops a poet from trying. Arabs and Middle Easterners have been writing about the matters of the heart for centuries, looking for a way to effectively share and understand this strong emotion. As love comes in all shapes and sizes—be it gratitude, longing or impeccable admiration—here are a few moving **love poems** by beloved Middle Eastern poets:

◆ **Nizar Qabbani**

The day I met you
I tore up all my maps
all my prophecies
like an Arab stallion
I smelled the rain of you
Before it wet me
heard the pulse of your voice
before you spoke
undid your hair with my hands
before you had braided it

◆ **Fawziyya Abu Khalid** **Distances of Longing**

When you go away and I can't
follow you up with a letter,
it is because the distance
between you and me
is shorter than the sound of
Oh, because the words are
smaller than the distance of my
longing.

◆ **Al-Abbas Ibn Al-Ahnaf**

You departed from my sight
and entered my thoughts,
travelled from my eyes
to my heart.

◆ **Kahlil Gibran**

Between what is said and not
meant And what is meant and
not said Most of love is lost.

◆ **Rumi**

The minute I heard
my first love story,
I started looking for you,
not knowing
how blind that was.
Lovers don't finally meet
somewhere.
They're in each other
all along.

◆ **Hafez**

Even after all this time,
the sun never says to the earth
“You owe me.” Look what
happens with a love like that. It
lights up the whole sky.



Love Proverbs

When less is more, and the word **‘love’** holds immense vitality in the spectrum of emotions, proverbs offer a way to express the indescribable. With only a handful of words, proverbs offer simple but effective ways to express the emotions of love.

Far from the eyes, away from the heart.

A love out of sight is a love away from the heart.

Absence makes the heart grow fonder.

When you are away from those you love, you miss them and feel more affection for them, realizing what you have with them is special.

The heart wants what it wants.

The heart is a stubborn organ. No matter what the truth is, we believe what we believe and want what we want.

There is no difference between a wise man and a fool when they fall in love.

No matter how much knowledge a wise man possesses or how little a fool has, both are in love’s great exposure when they fall in love—no logic or wisdom could save them from what they feel.

Hearts close together.

Two people are closely connected to each other in their hearts; they think of one another and connect on a deeper level.



Layla and Tawba art piece by **Bilal Bassal**.

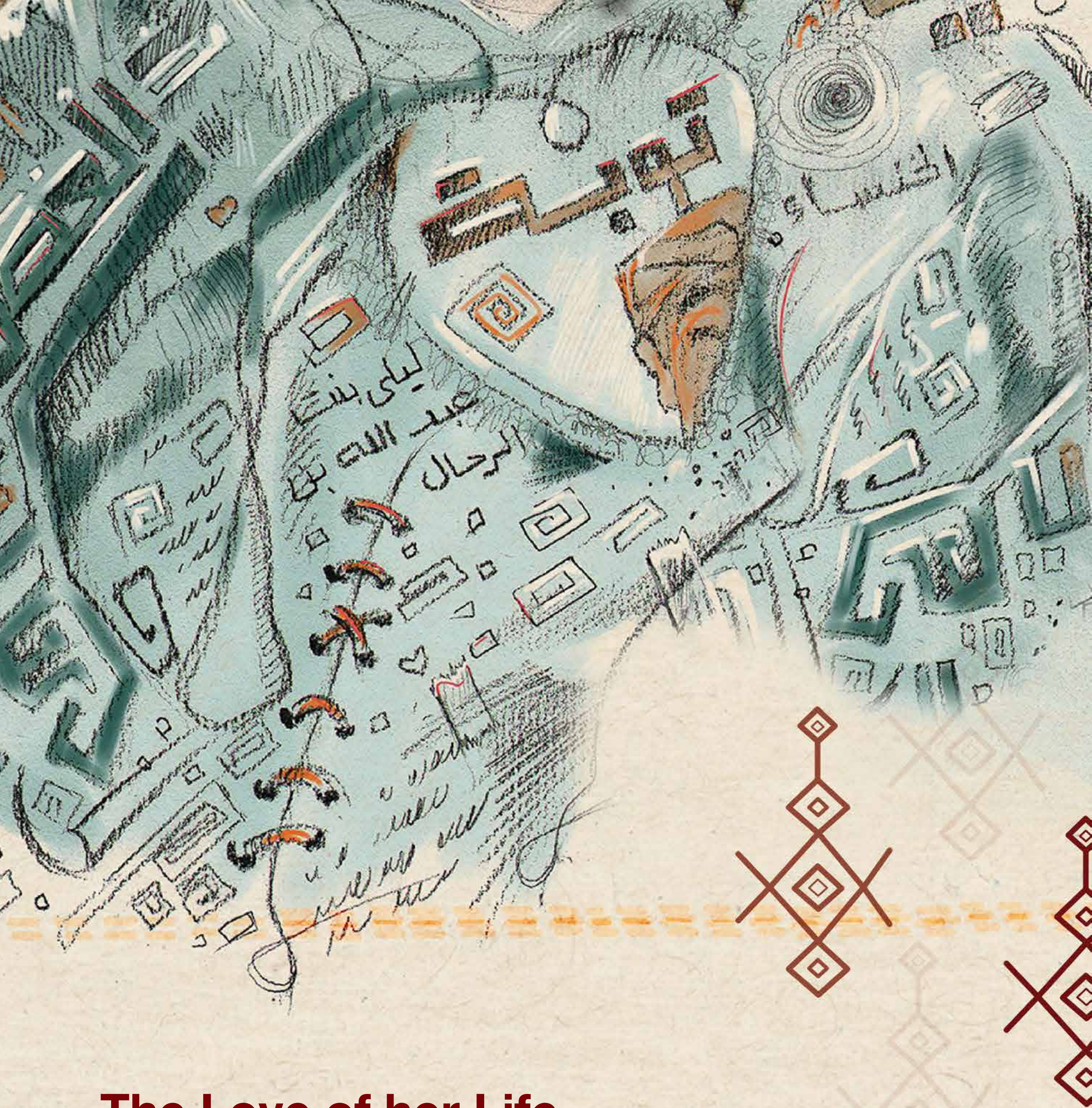
Arabic Treasures:

Layla and Tawba

Death reached him when he became perfect and those who would compete with him will fail. He was like a lion protecting his den, cubs and lioness...

Love is not a one-way street, nor are love poems solely a man's domain. It can look that way though, as it was more common for an Arab female poetess

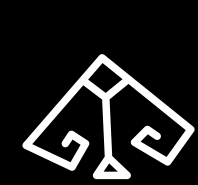
to craft elegies while the men praised leaders and romanced the persons of their affection passionately and often tragically. Enter Layla Al-Akheeliyah, a 7th century CE Arab Muslim poet born in the central part of the Arabian Peninsula, ready to leave a different kind of legacy. A legacy of beauty, strength, wit, and defying tradition by declaring her love of a man to the public.



The Love of her Life

Coming home after a raid with his fellow warriors, Tawba ibn Humayyir caught sight of Layla as she welcomed them back, and fell head over heels in love. Being a poet at heart, he couldn't help but proclaim his undying love for Layla in verse to anyone within earshot. This proved too embarrassing for Layla's family, who refused their union and immediately married her off to another man. That did not stop the two poets from meeting secretly time and time again. Her husband, jealous and furious

of what was happening, complained to the sultan who granted him permission to kill Tawba if they ever caught him near her again. They set up a trap to capture and kill Tawba at the usual spot where he met Layla. Seeing what was about to happen, Layla went out ahead on the path Tawba usually came from and unveiled herself to warn him. Given that she had never met him without her veil, he felt that something was wrong and fled the other way...



Ithra Curiosities:

***‘The heart, once found, is its own guide,’
— poet Abu Al-‘Atahiyya (747-828).***


In this powerful piece (water-based pigments on paper), part of the Ithra art collection, the artist Hassan Massoudy (born Iraq, 1944, lives and works in Paris), isolates the word al-qalb (the heart), and brings it to life on paper. Similarly like the poet quoted — known for being one of the first poets to write in Arabic and abandon the old forms, meters and subjects of classical desert

poetry in favor of everyday urban life — Massoudy also leaves behind the rigid rules of classical calligraphy to create his own signature style that combines traditional and modern elements. What makes this piece even more interesting is the choice of a bold and unconventional dark color to represent the heart, perhaps reflecting how a heart can be darkened with dark feelings.

Add to your bucket list:

Love Landmarks across Saudi Arabia


Our land may be a vast desert, but just as you can find oases of greenery and respite scattered throughout, so can you find testaments to love, spanning decades and centuries. Here, we will take you on a journey throughout Saudi Arabia to find a few of love's timeless imprints upon the land.



The Aja and Salma Mountains in Hail, where the origin of their names stems from the tragic pre-Islamic love story of Aja and Salma.



Love of two mountains, Al-Wahbah Crater, Taif

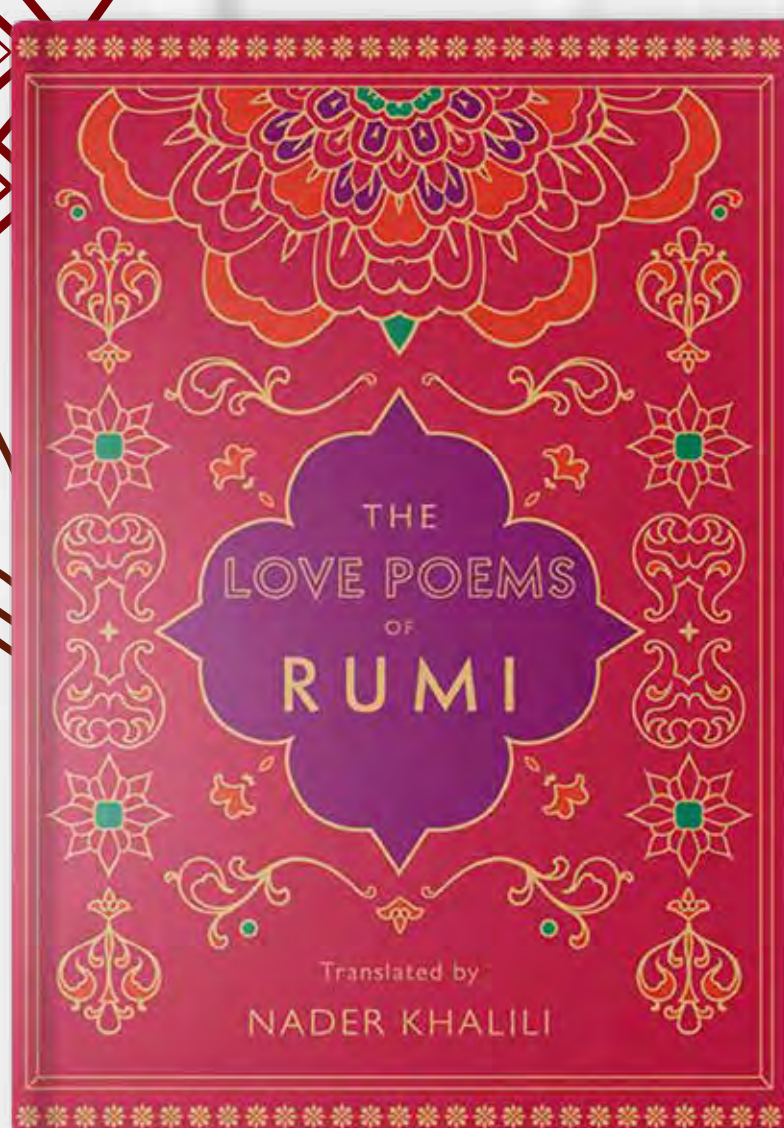


About 250 kilometers northeast of Taif, Al-Wahbah Crater is a 250 m deep and 2-3 km in diameter crater with a distinctive white salt deposit center and vegetation near the rim. Once mistakenly thought to be a meteorite crater, it's now widely considered to be the site of former volcanic activity. The legend though is a far more intriguing tale about one mountain falling in love with another...

From the Shelves:

Books from the Middle East to fall in love with.

Love—a four-letter word with immense power and the most enigmatic feeling of all. Love is fickle yet potent, whether it is for a special someone, family and friends or for a specific passion. Great writers wrote about eternal loves, and their fictional stories move us to this day, be it William Shakespeare's tragic love story, Romeo and Juliet, or our adored Middle Eastern equivalent, The Story of Layla and Majnun. **Enjoy the different forms of love in these four books.**



The Love Poems of Rumi

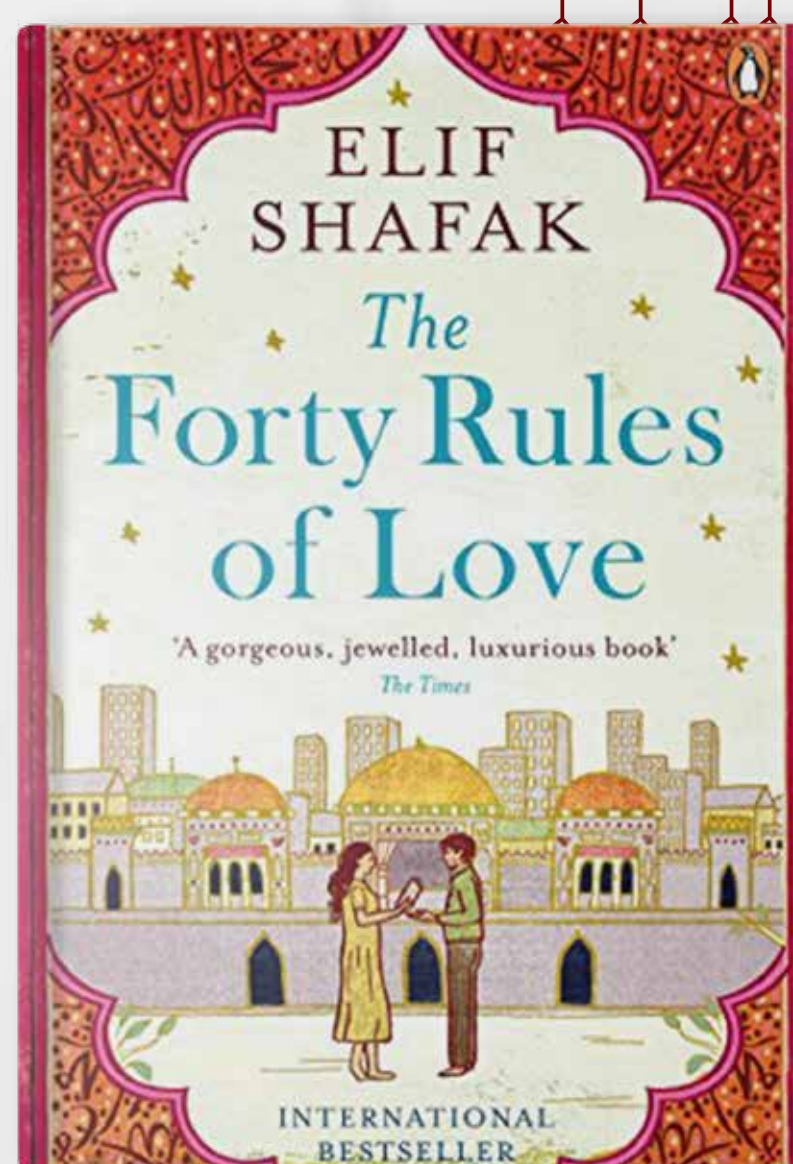
Translated by Nader Khalili

In 128 pages, the devoted Iranian-American translator of Rumi, the Persian poet, gifts the world one of the most treasured written works—The Love Poems of Rumi. The book transcends readers into a serene place, where love lies within each page.

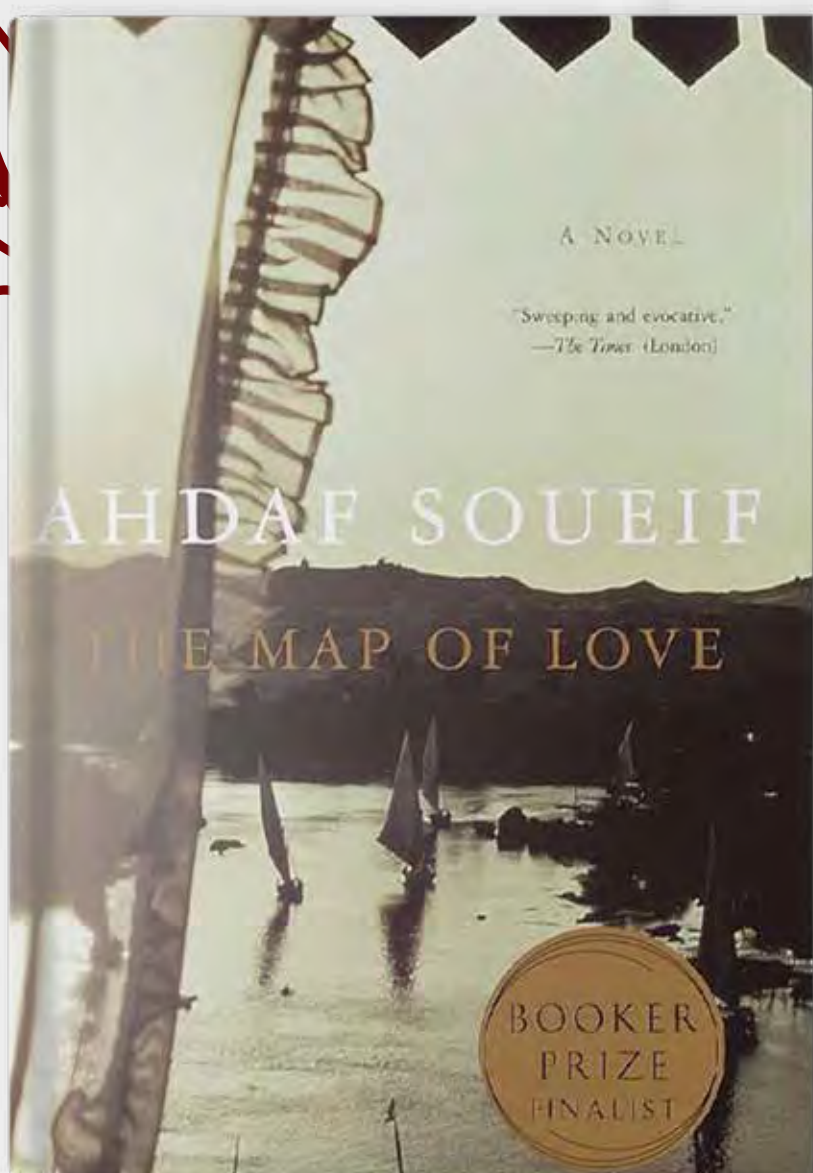
The Forty Rules of Love

Elif Shafak

Ella Rubenstein, an unhappily-married literary agent reads Sweet Blasphemy, a novel by Aziz Zahara. The story is about Rumi and his confidant Shams, and Rumi's transformation through forty love rules. As Ella reads on, she feels Zahara is acting as Shams was to Rumi—teaching her how to set herself free and to follow her own heart.

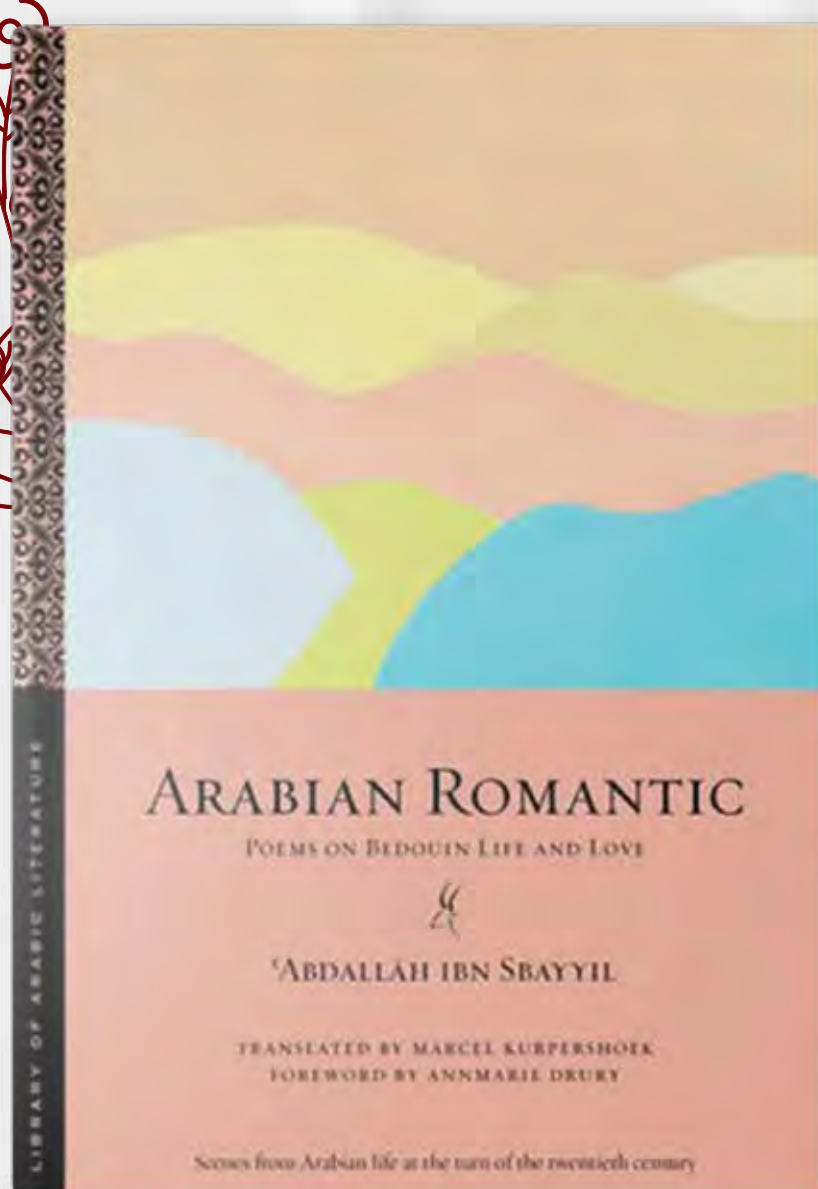


◆ The Map of Love ◆



Ahdaf Soueif

A cross-cultural love story. Isabel Parkman and an Egyptian-American conductor parallel her great-grandparent's story of Anna Winterbourne and Sharif al-Baroudi, creating a map full of life and love. Published in 1999, *The Map of Love* stands the test of time as an extraordinary, romantic tale.



Abdallāh ibn Sbāyīl

Translated by Marcel Kurpershoek

Arabian Romantic captures what it was like to live in central Arabia before the imposition of austere norms by the Wahhabi authorities in the early 20th century: tales of robbery and hot pursuit; perilous desert crossings; scenes of exhaustion and chaos when water is raised from deep wells under harsh conditions; the distress of wounded and worn-out animals on the brink of perdition; once proud warriors who are at the mercy of their enemy on the field of battle. Such images lend poignancy to the suffering of the poet's love-stricken heart, while also painting a vivid portrait of typical Bedouin life.

◆ Arabian Romantic ◆

Poems on Bedouin Life and Love



Bridges: Cross-Cultural Conversations

Devoted Love: The Story of a King and his Faithful Hawk

The relationship between princes and their hunting birds has always been an intimately close one. To this day, falcons and hawks may be considered part of the extended family in many royal families, cared for with the greatest affection and love. The birds in turn have a special bond with their owners on whom their lives depend, a fact that is poignantly explored in this miniature painting. Its story goes like this: once upon a time, a king and his beloved hawk went hunting. In pursuit of a deer,

the two get separated from the royal entourage and find themselves lost in a wasteland, with no water anywhere to quench the king's increasing thirst. Eventually, the king spots water trickling from a hill nearby and readies his cup to collect the falling drops. But his hawk immediately flaps its wings and tips the cup over. The king, irritated by this move, tries again, but the hawk flaps even more agitatedly and causes the cup to break. At this point, the king - maddened with thirst - hurls the hawk on

the ground and kills it. A moment later, one of the king's attendants arrives and immediately offers up water to relieve the king's thirst. The king, however, longs for the pure liquid trickling from the hill and asks his retainer to climb up to the top to fill a cup at the source. The retainer obeys and comes back with terrible news: right next to the spring, a dead dragon is decomposing, adding poisonous liquids to the spring water dripping down the hill. Now the king remorsefully realizes that his bird had loved him so much that it tried to save his life — and through that his kingdom —

and instead, lost its life due to the lack of self-restraint and wise reflection on the part of his master.

Written by Special Guest Contributor:

Dr. Ulrike Al-Khamis, Interim Director and CEO at the **Aga Khan Museum**, Toronto. In each issue, we feature a special treasure from the Aga Khan Museum, one that tells a story, captures a moment and inspires conversation.

A hawk loses his life over trying to warn his owner about a danger caused by a dead dragon

From a manuscript of *Anvar-i Suhayli* (The Lights of Canopus), by Husayn b. 'Ali al-Wa'iz al-Kashifi Copied by Na'im Muhammad al-Husayni al-Tabrizi
Paintings attributed to Sadiqi Beg
Iran, dated 13 Safar 1002 AH / November 8, 1593

Opaque watercolour, ink, and gold on paper Page: H. 30.3 cm × W. 20.6 cm. AKM289.fol233v





From the Vault:

The Art of Love

What is love? It is perhaps one of the most difficult questions to answer. There are so many forms, so many levels, and many layers and degrees. Here we reflect over the different forms of love, including the love of a pet, like a lovely white cat, artistically captured in this special collection of art from **Barjeel Art Foundation**.

“Lovers,” **Mona Saudi**. 1963, Oil on panel, 89 x 56 cm.
Image courtesy of Barjeel Art Foundation, Sharjah.



“The White Cat,”
Mahmoud Said. 1948,
 Oil on panel, 26 x 32
 cm. Image courtesy of
 Barjeel Art Foundation,
 Sharjah.

“The Parting,”
Thuraya Al Baqsami
 1991. Etching, 35 x 40 cm.
 Image courtesy of Barjeel Art
 Foundation, Sharjah.

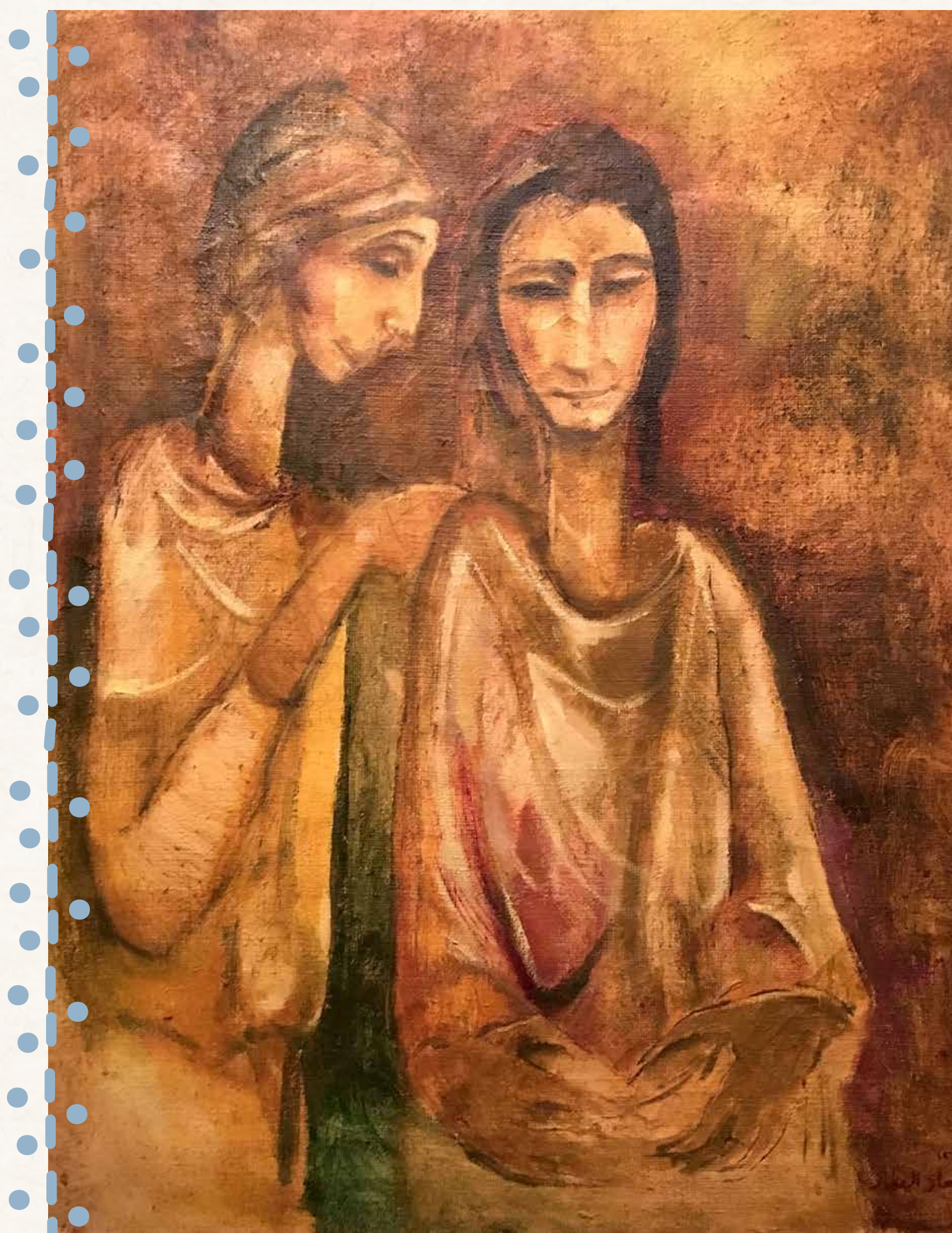


“Romantic Smoking Jar,” **Ali Al Abdan** 2010, Oil on canvas,
 80 x 115 cm. Image courtesy of Barjeel Art Foundation, Sharjah.



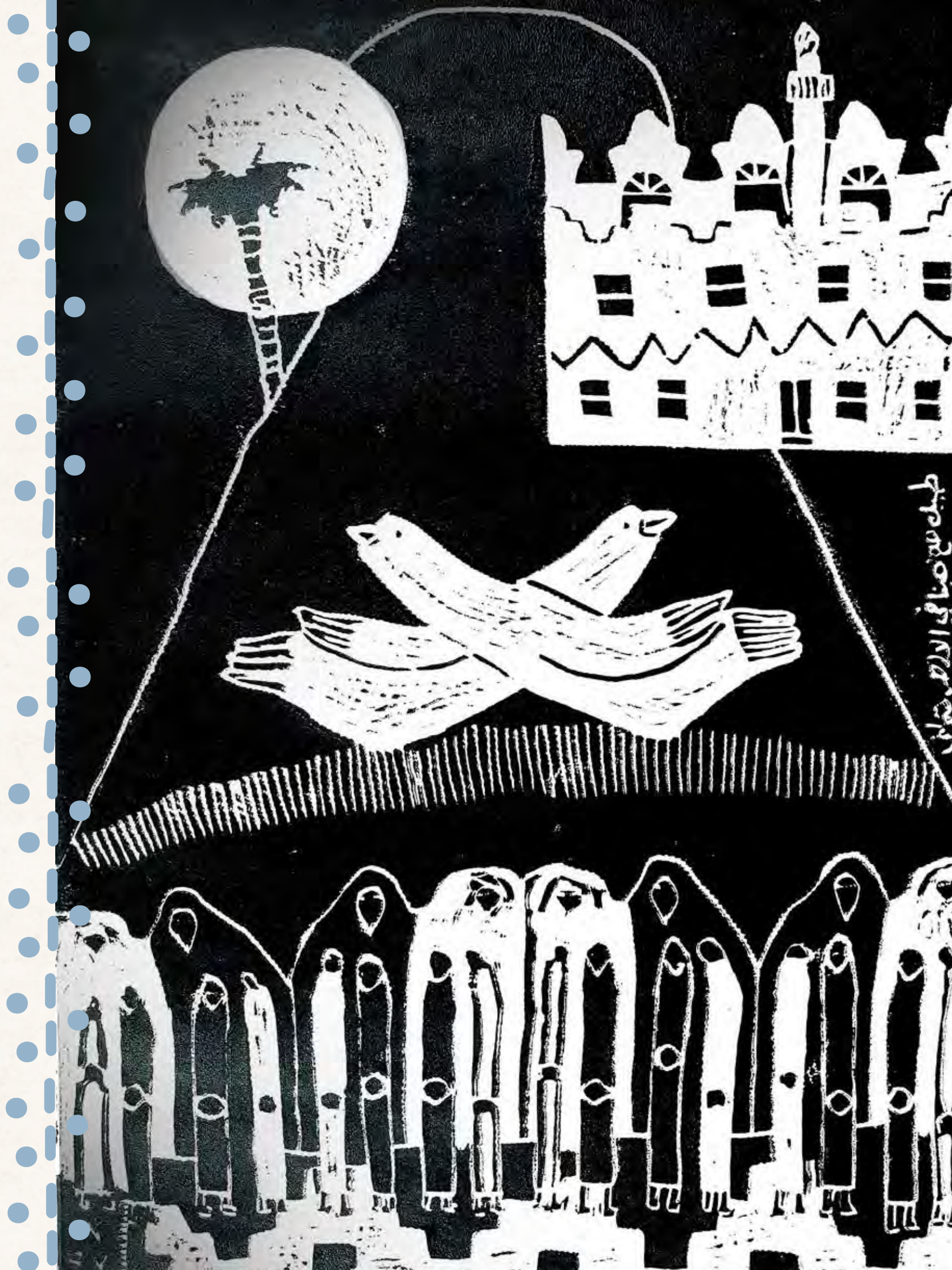


Untitled, **Ali Al Tajer**
2008, Mixed media
on wood, 98 x 79 cm.
Image courtesy of
Barjeel Art Foundation,
Sharjah.

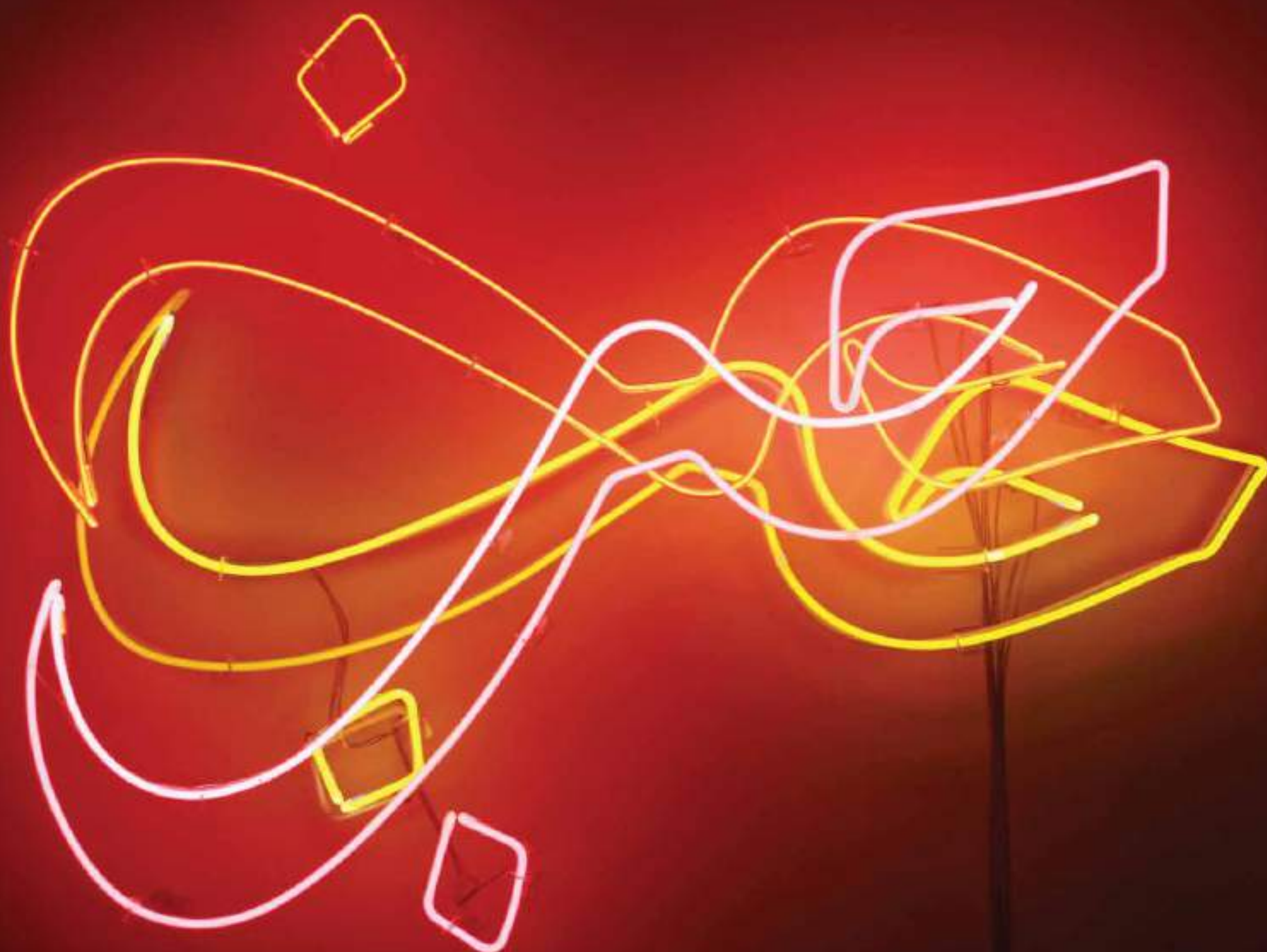


“Sisters,” **Suad Al Attar**
1964, Oil on jute canvas,
100 x 79 cm. Image
courtesy of Barjeel Art
Foundation, Sharjah.

“Love and Kindness,”
Nasser Al Yousif 1997,
 Linocut print, 46 x 64 cm.
 Image courtesy of Barjeel
 Art Foundation, Sharjah.



“Two Lovers,” **Zoulikha Bouabdellah** 2010, Neon light, 161 x
 156 x 5 cm. Image courtesy of Barjeel Art Foundation, Sharjah.



From the Archives:

Love of life



Love of reading with your favorite pet.

Rarities from the Aramco Archives.

Life is moments, and those moments are best captured by photographs that have the power to preserve those moments of pure joy and love. Here, we see the innocent love between children and animals, such as a baby meeting a baby goat, spending time with your pet cat

or bird, and a school bus of students greeting a cute dog. Those moments spent with family, inside the home, and outside, are priceless moments that form the foundation of love. As these images show, our relationships remain the same, filled with love and memories.



1950s | Eastern Province.
A loving moment between two babies.



1957 | Dhahran, March
Students meet the loving dog

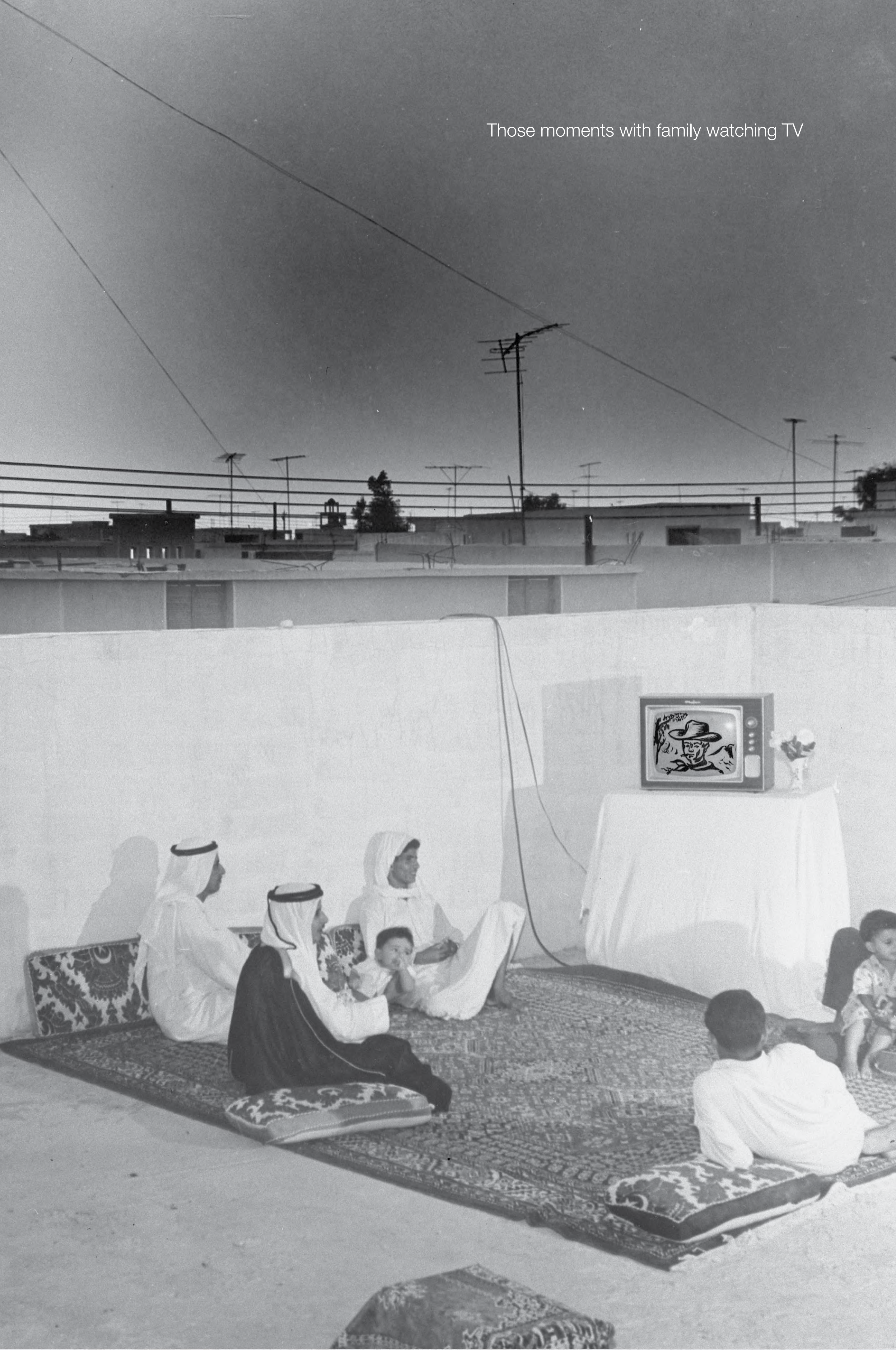


Love and laughter with our birds.



Love between mothers and their children

Those moments with family watching TV





Cleaning a car together is more fun.



Young love.



” مَنْ دَخَلَ قَلْبِي فَهُوَ آمِنٌ ”

Digital Art

‘The essence of the heart feeds on love in all its forms, the unconditional love, divine love, love of things, love of people, love of beauty and taste, so always in the presence of love we are revived and feel safe.’

By Lina Amer, a Saudi digital artist.

Self Love — A moment for you.

What love letter would you write to yourself?

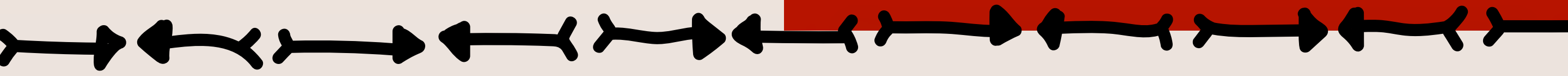
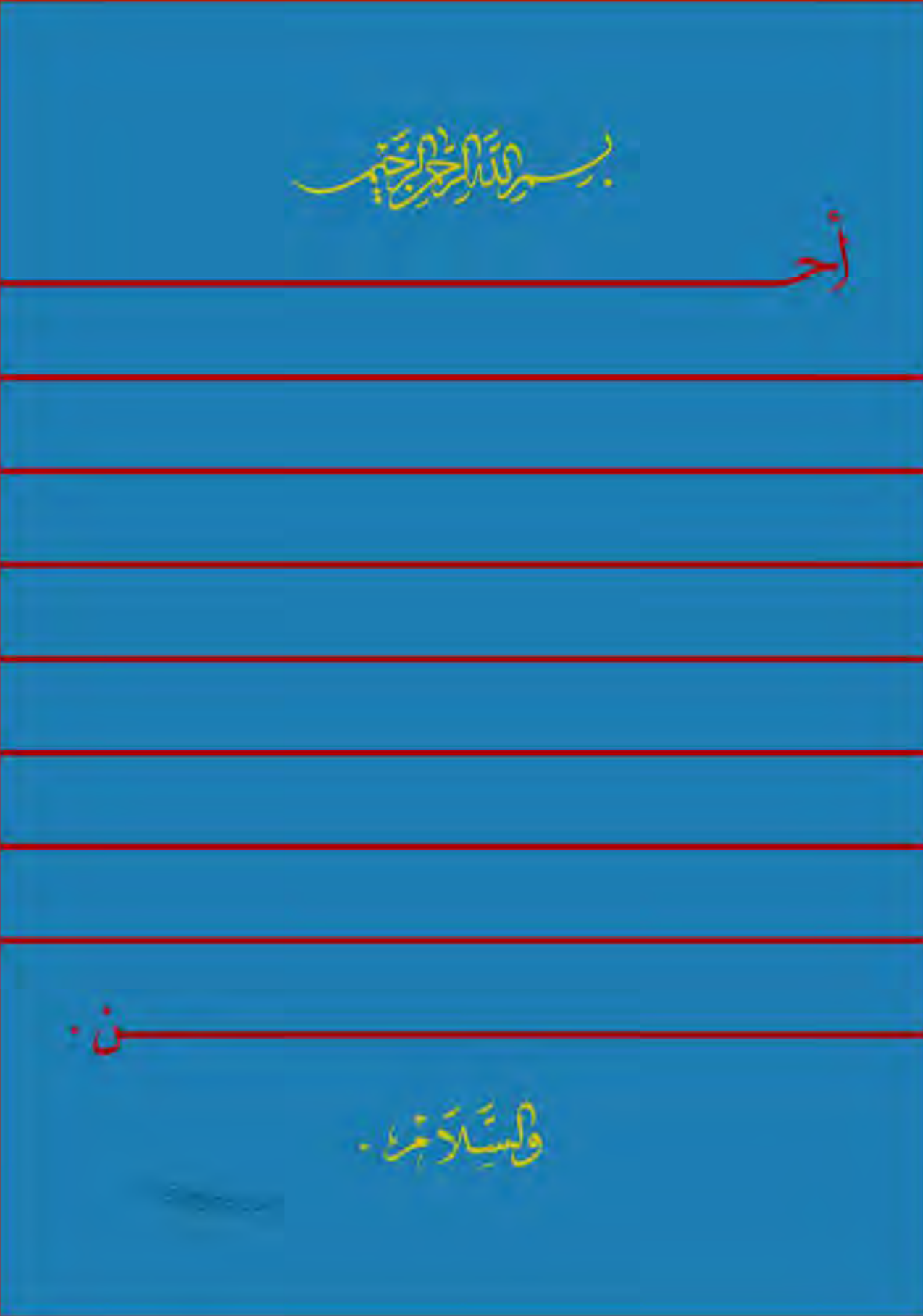
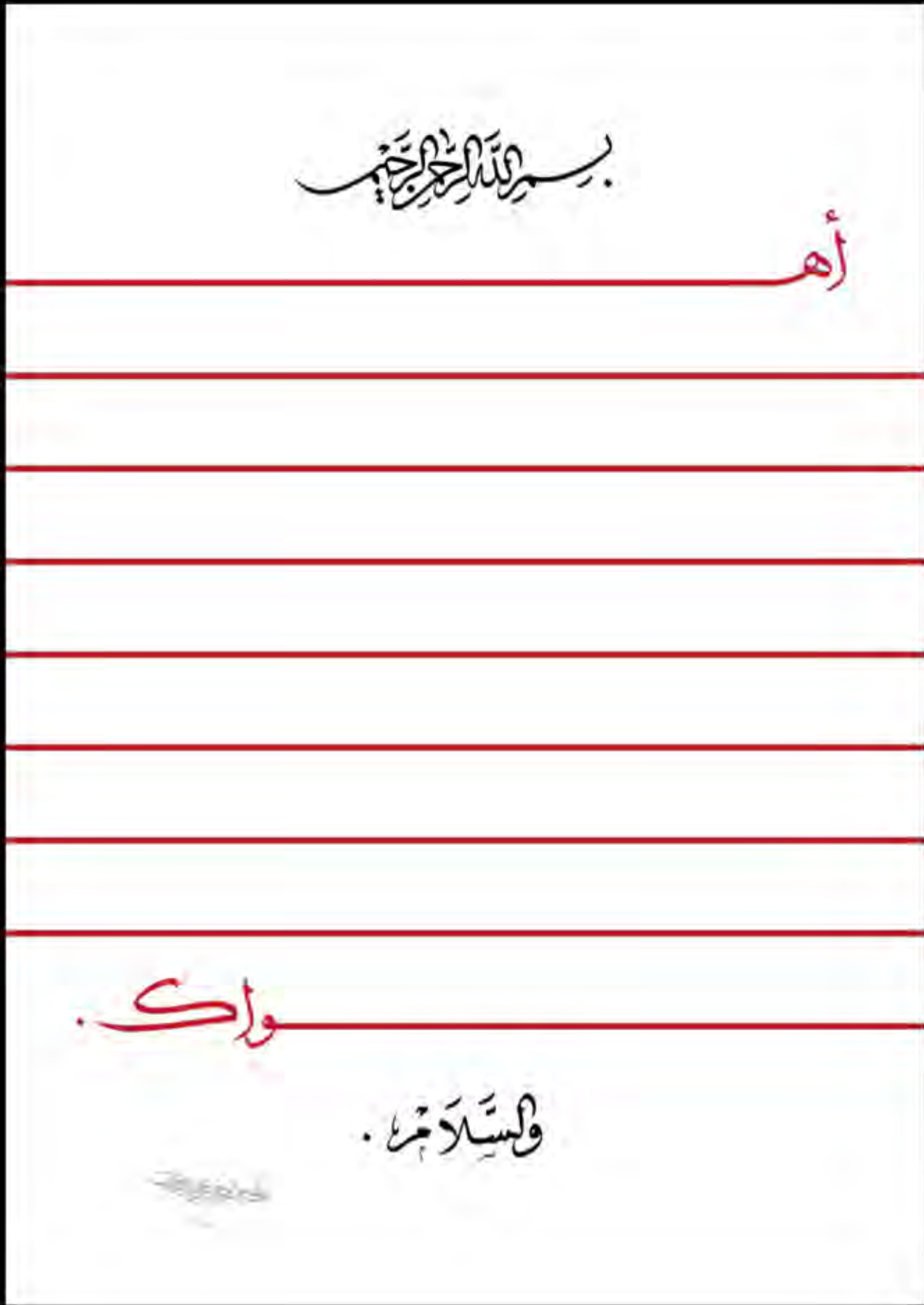
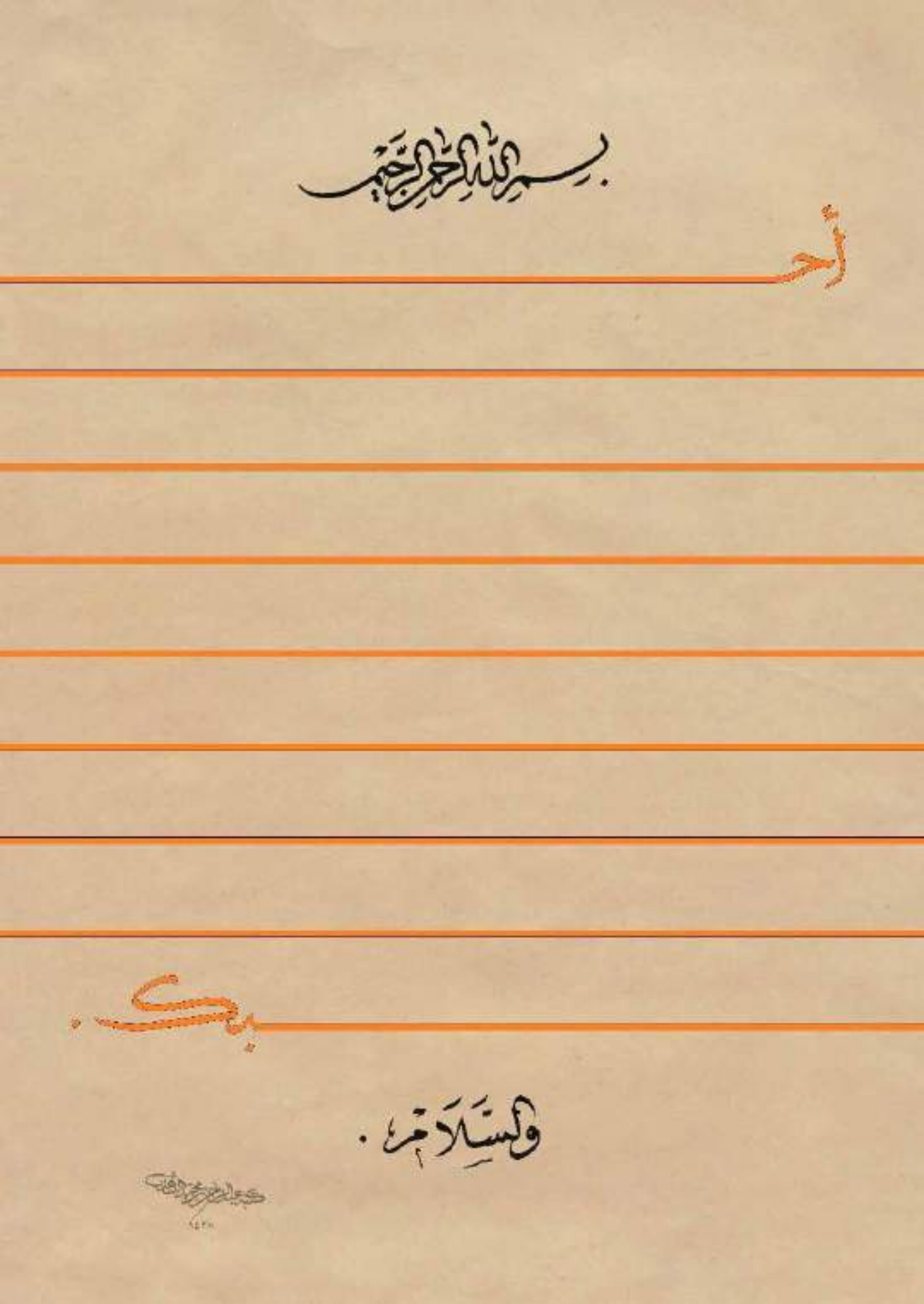
What is the first word you would use?

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

أَح

بِك

وَلَسْتَ لَدَائِمًا .



‘Between the lines’ by **Abdelrahman El-Shahed** 2017. Ink on paper. (Each letter is a single term of love).
Courtesy the artist and **Hafez Gallery**.



'Only when have reached the mountain top shall you begin to climb,' — author and poet Khalil Gibran (1883-1931).
Art piece by Hassan Massoudy (born Iraq, 1944, lives and works in Paris). Water-based pigments on paper. 95x75cm. Part of Ithra's art collection.

From the World Wide Web:

Art stories to browse through

- ◀ Discover the love issue from Sekka Magazine
- ◀ Muhanna Durra, pioneer of Jordanian artistic movement, dies at 83
- ◀ Cultural Ideas Marathon sets pace for Saudi Arabia
- ◀ Facing Deficit, Met Considers Selling Art to Help Pay the Bills
- ◀ Lasting Impressions: Baya Mahieddine exhibition
- ◀ Pioneering Tunisian filmmaker Moufida Tlatli dies aged 73

We look forward to sharing our ‘makhzan’ of stories with you every month.

To subscribe and contact the editorial team, please email:
ithraeyat@ithra.com

Editorial team:

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