



Issue 017

Artist: Gibran Khalil Gibran

SKETCHES

Ithraeyat Magazine

June | July 2022



'The Wanderer,' **one of the last sketches** by the legendary **Gibran Khalil Gibran**. Drawn in 1931, the year the legendary figure passed away. Courtesy of the **Gibran National Committee**.

Welcome to **Ithraeyat**, a bimonthly cultural magazine produced by The King Abdulaziz Center for World Culture (Ithra). Created to **inspire hearts** and **enrich minds**, this Saudi inspired platform with an expansive international outlook captures 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:

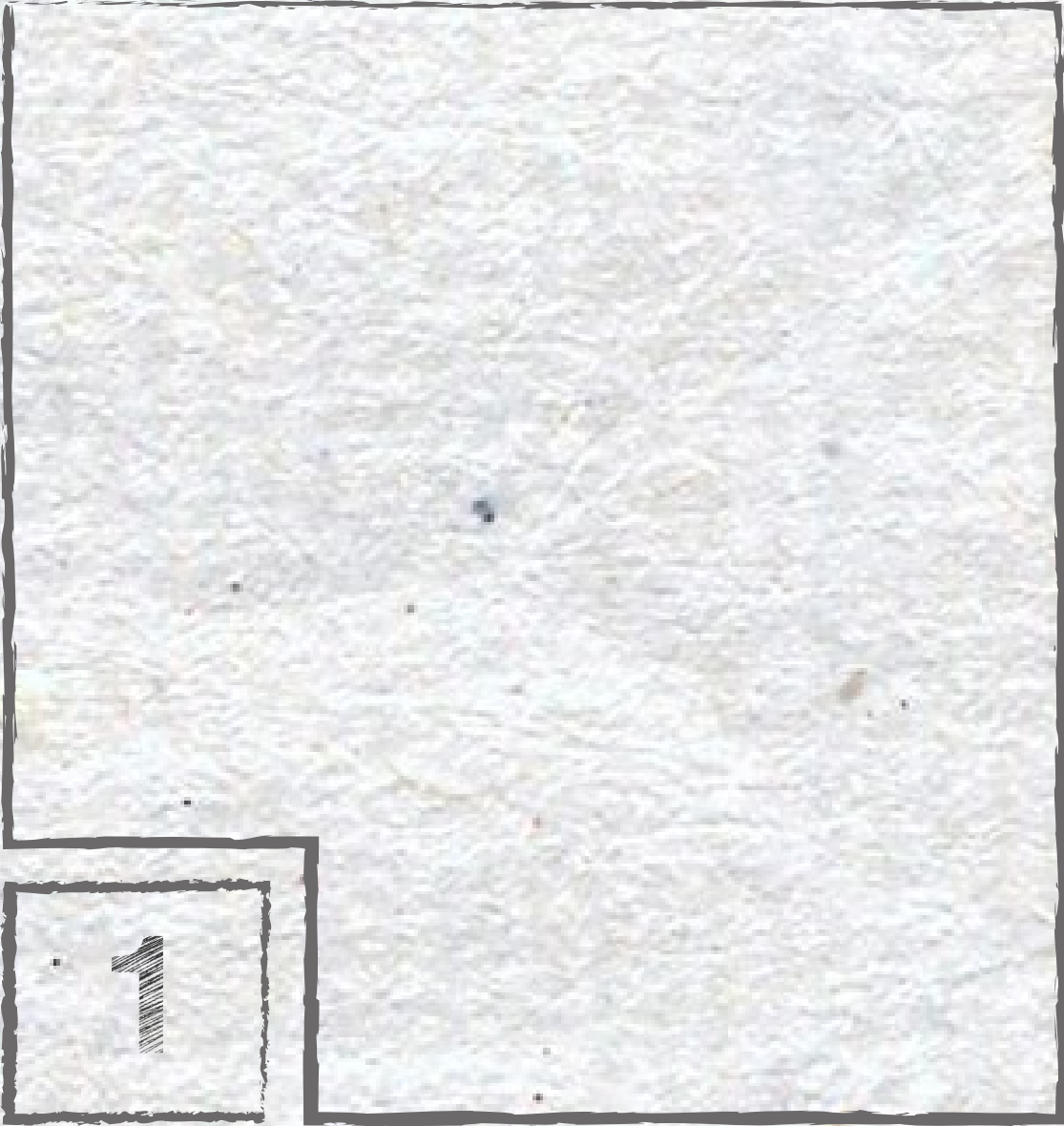
Ithraeyat is the plural of Ithra (enrichment). Magazine has its origins in the Arabic word makhzan, a storehouse.

And therefore, Ithraeyat Magazine is a storehouse of unique, enriching stories.

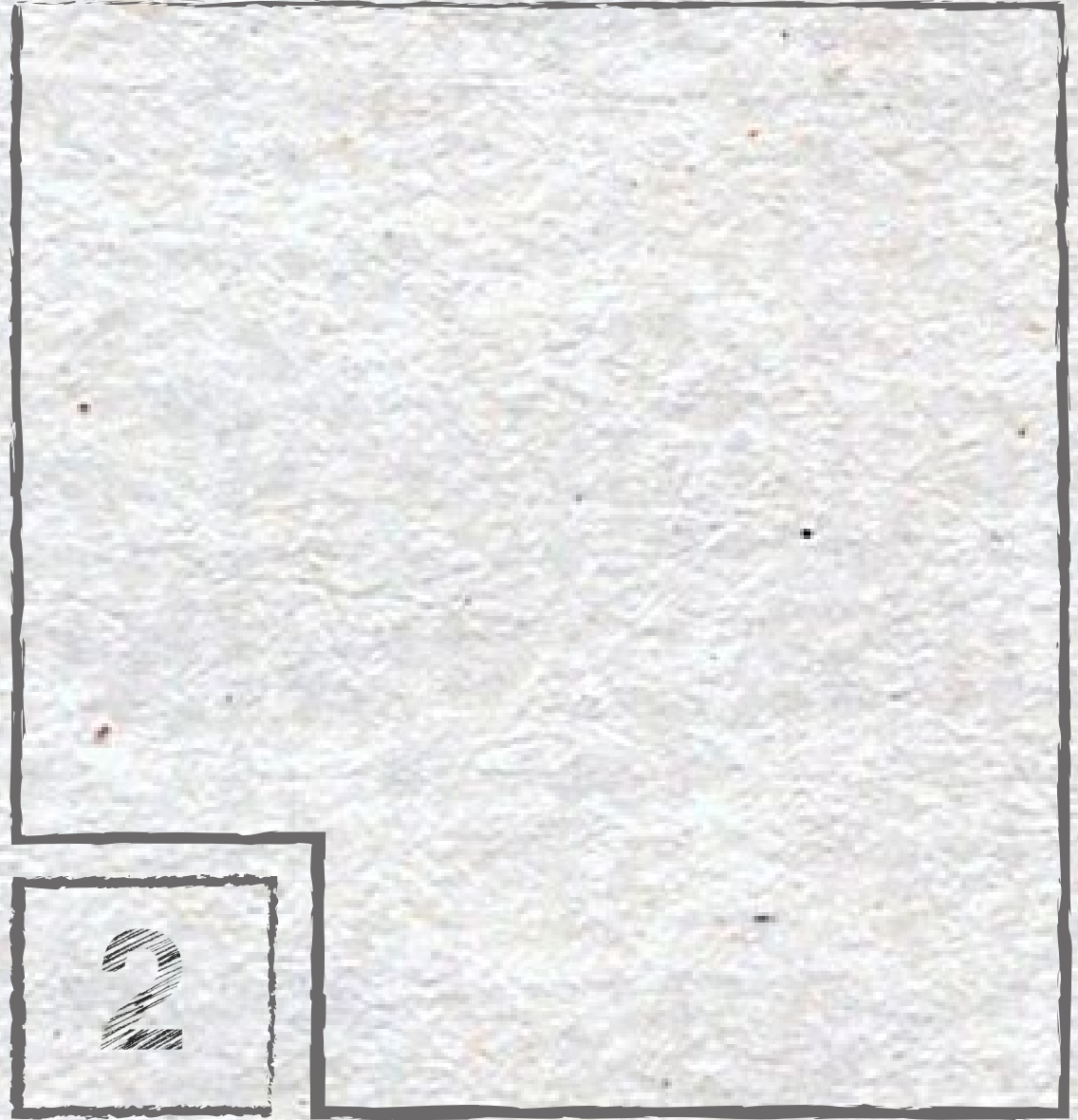
TABLE OF CONTENT

Handwritten scribbles and faint text in the lower-left quadrant.

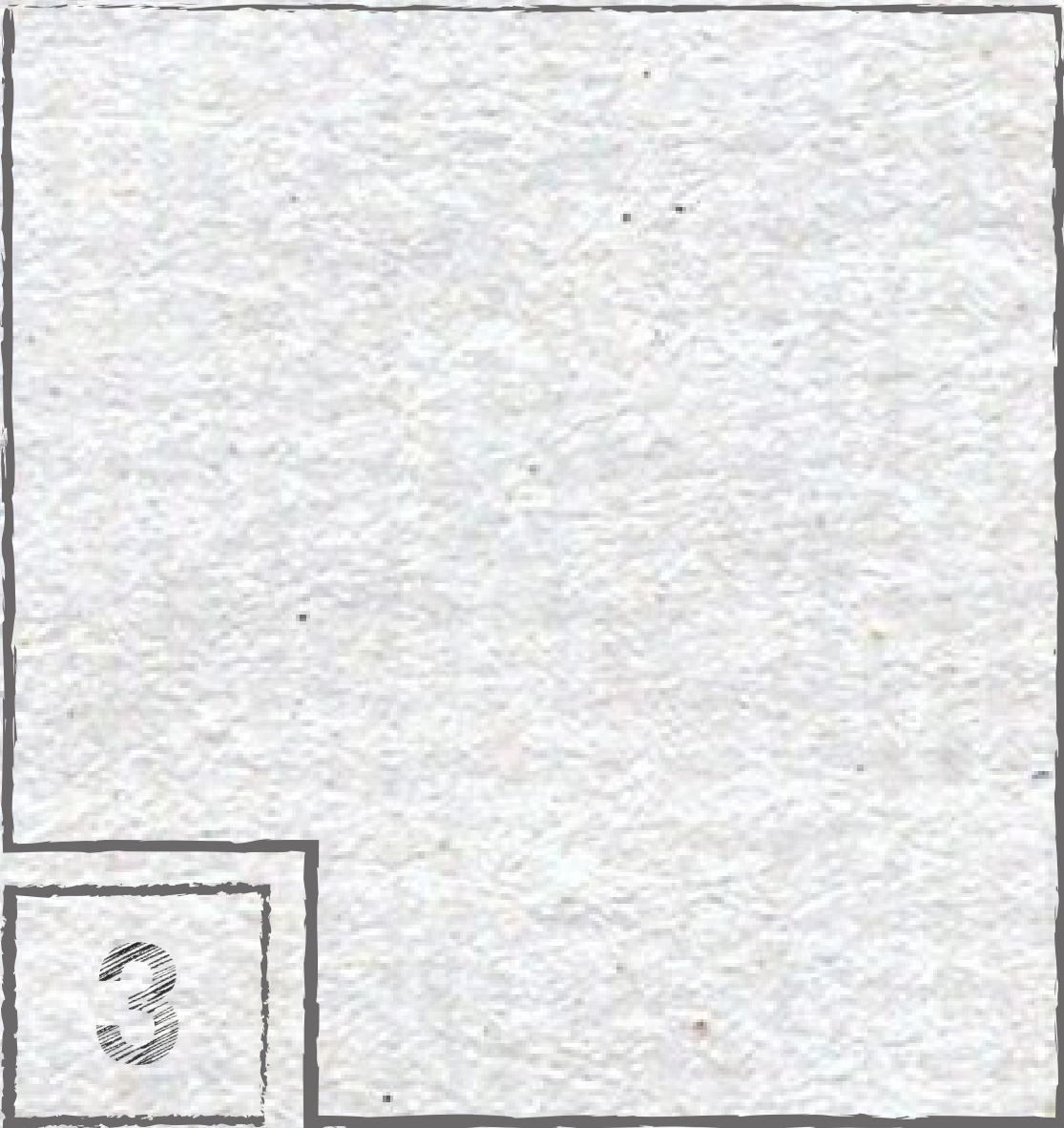
Large handwritten scribbles and faint text in the lower-right quadrant.



Letter from the Editor —
'The World of Sketches,' by Rym Al-Ghazal.



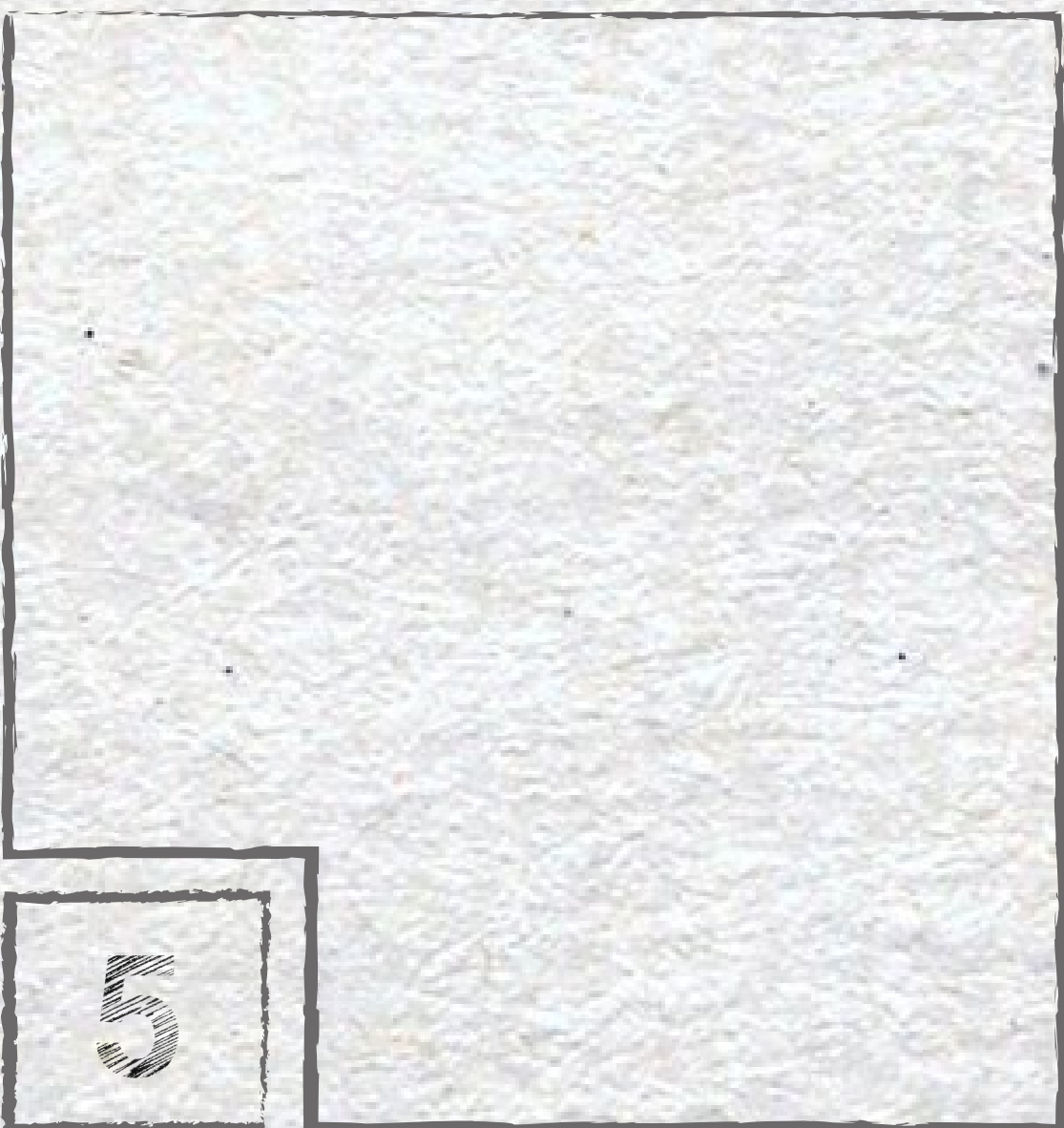
Cover Art:
Gibran Khalil Gibran — 'The Wanderer,' by Rym Al-Ghazal.



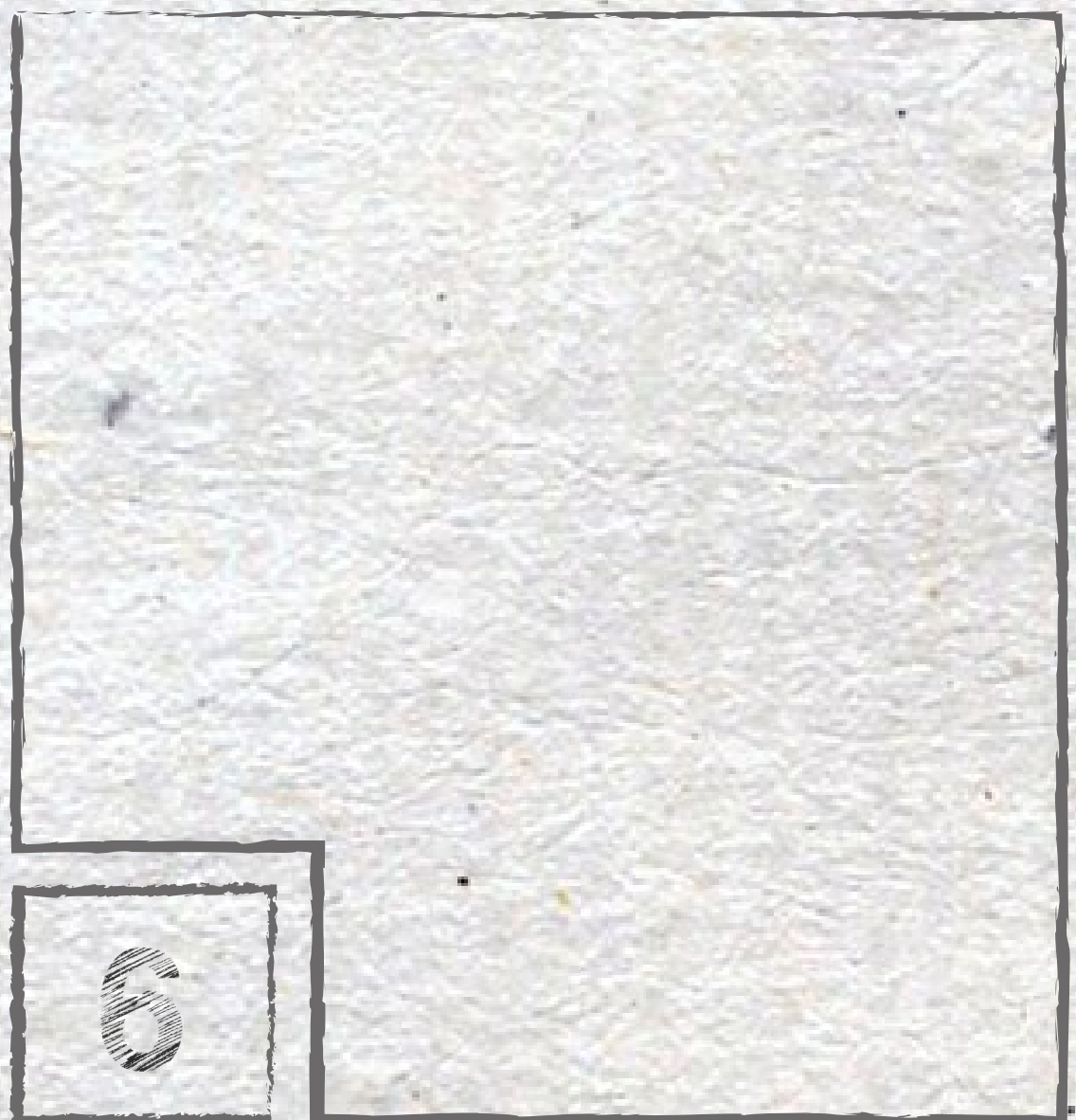
Portrait:
'Rare Sketches' drawn by The Arab Shakespeare, a reflection by Rym Al-Ghazal.



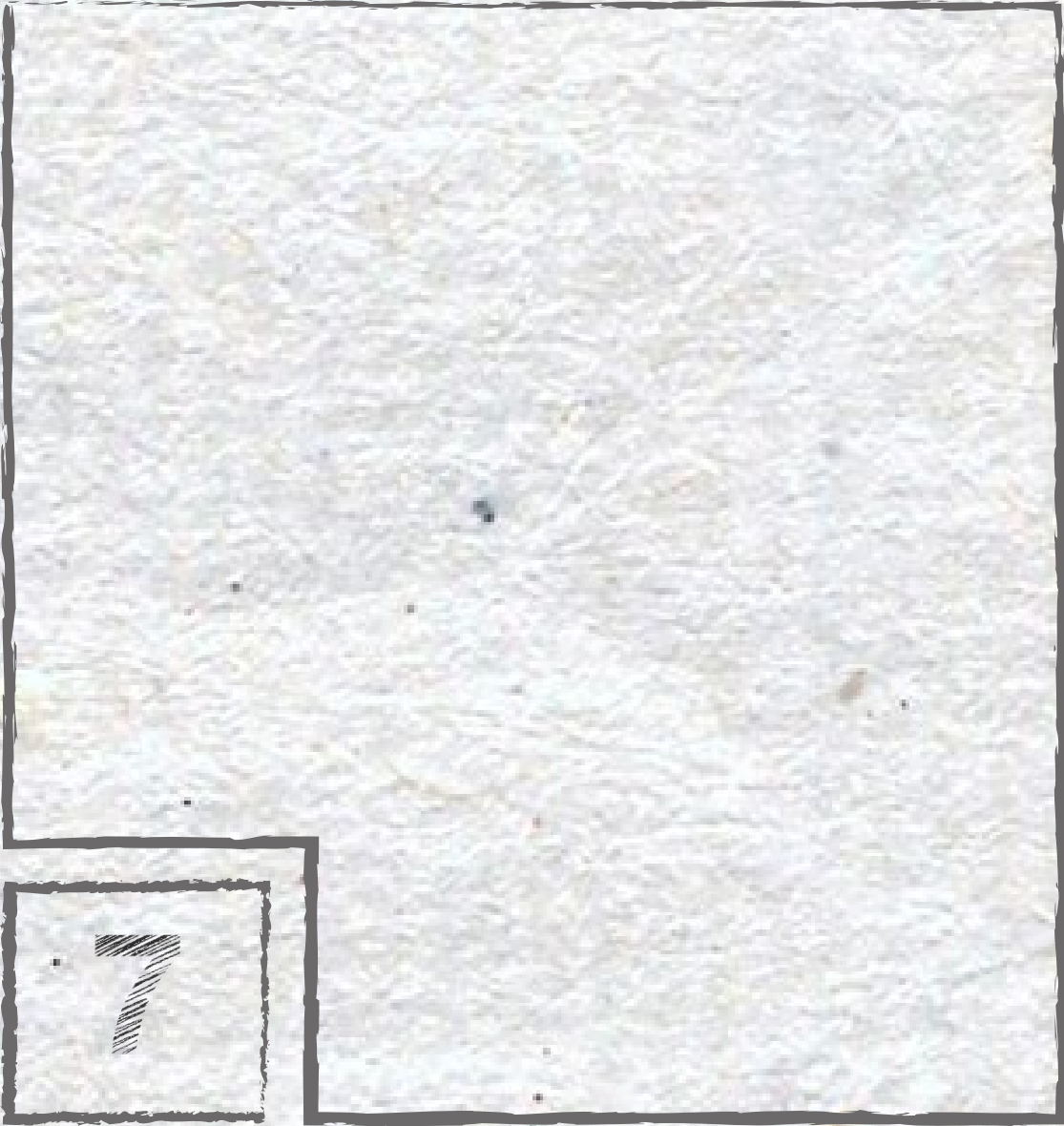
Special Guest Artist:
'When Technology Inspires Art,' an interview with HRH Princess Reem Al-Faisal by Aljohara Al-Athel.



Special Guest Artist:
'Life in Sketches,' an interview with the iconic Kameel Hawa by Manar Al-Mutairi.

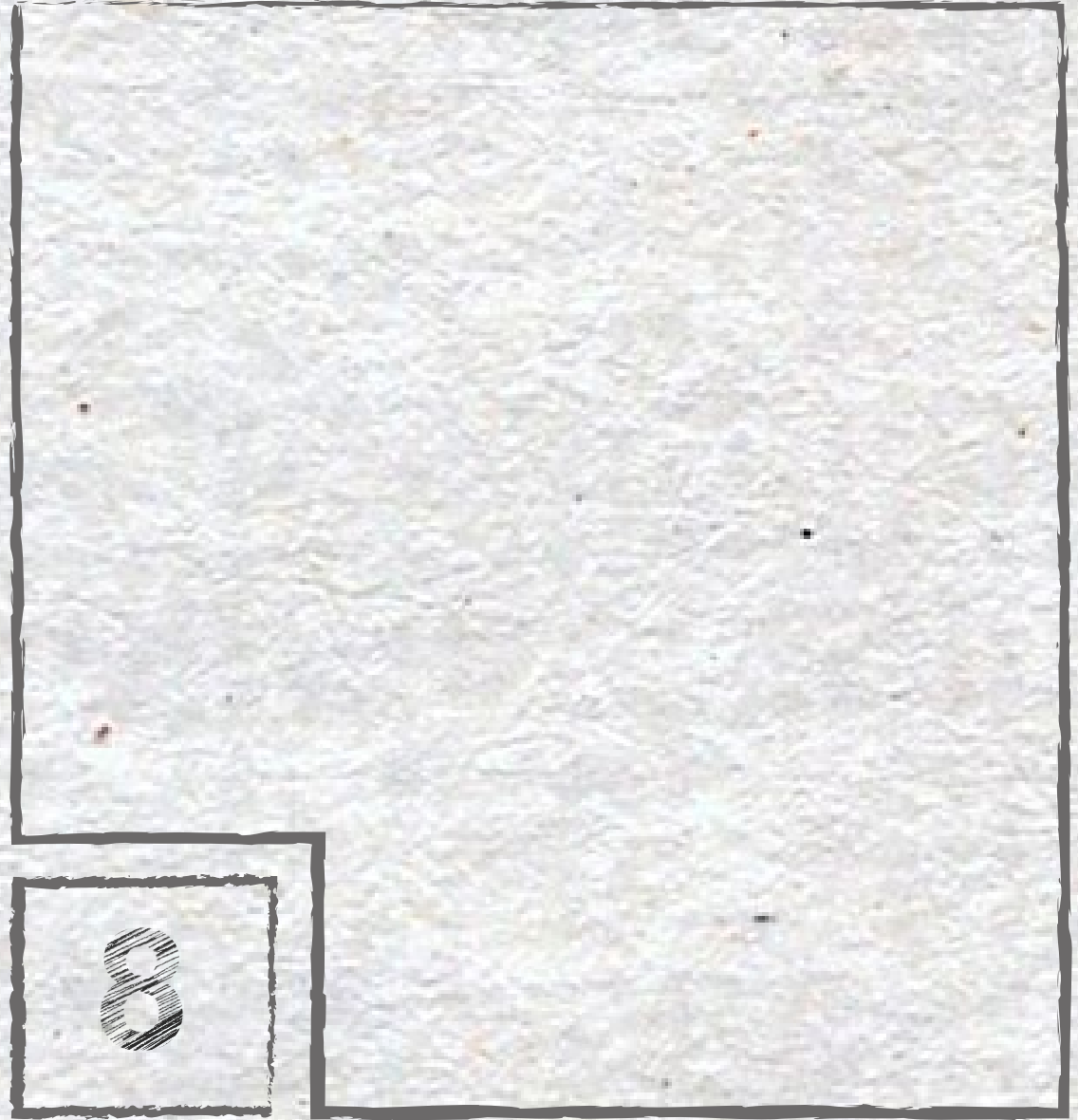


Spotlight:
Cartier Islamic Art Sketches by Rym Al-Ghazal.



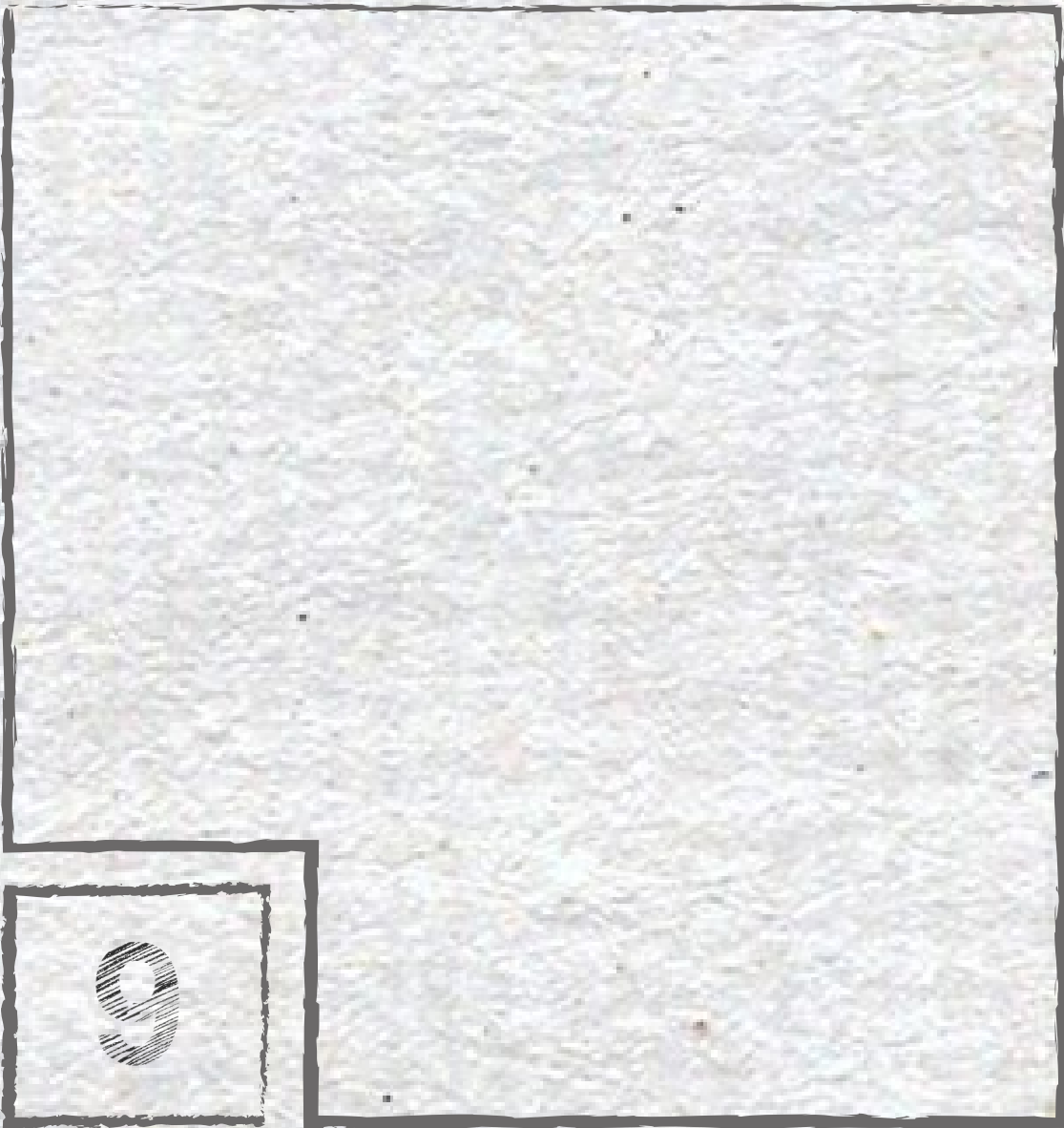
Special Feature:

'A Sketch comes to life,' an interview with Muhannad Shono by Hafsa Al-Khudairi.



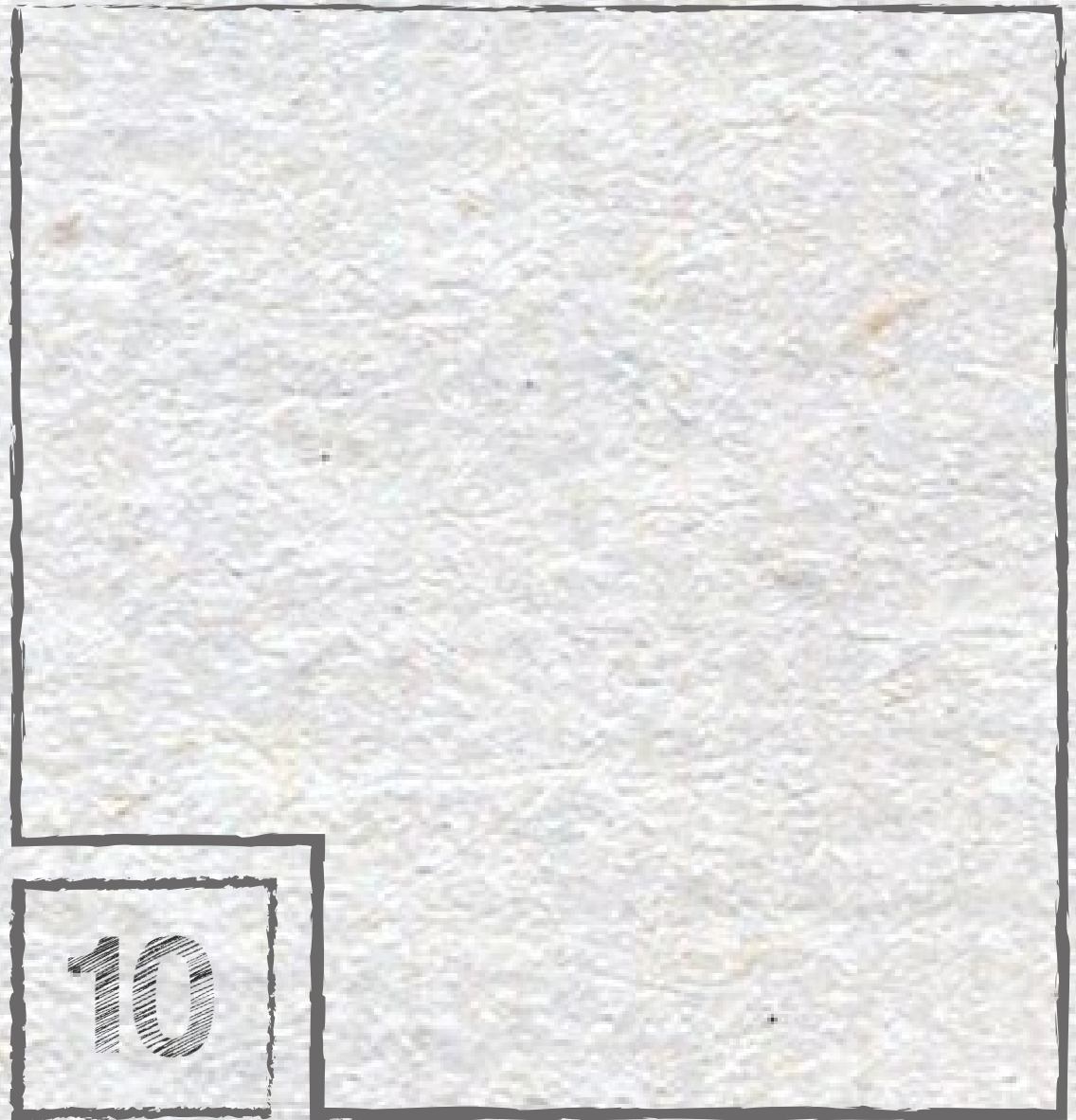
Special Guest Columnist:

'Traditional sketches,' by Somaya Badr, CEO of The Art of Heritage.



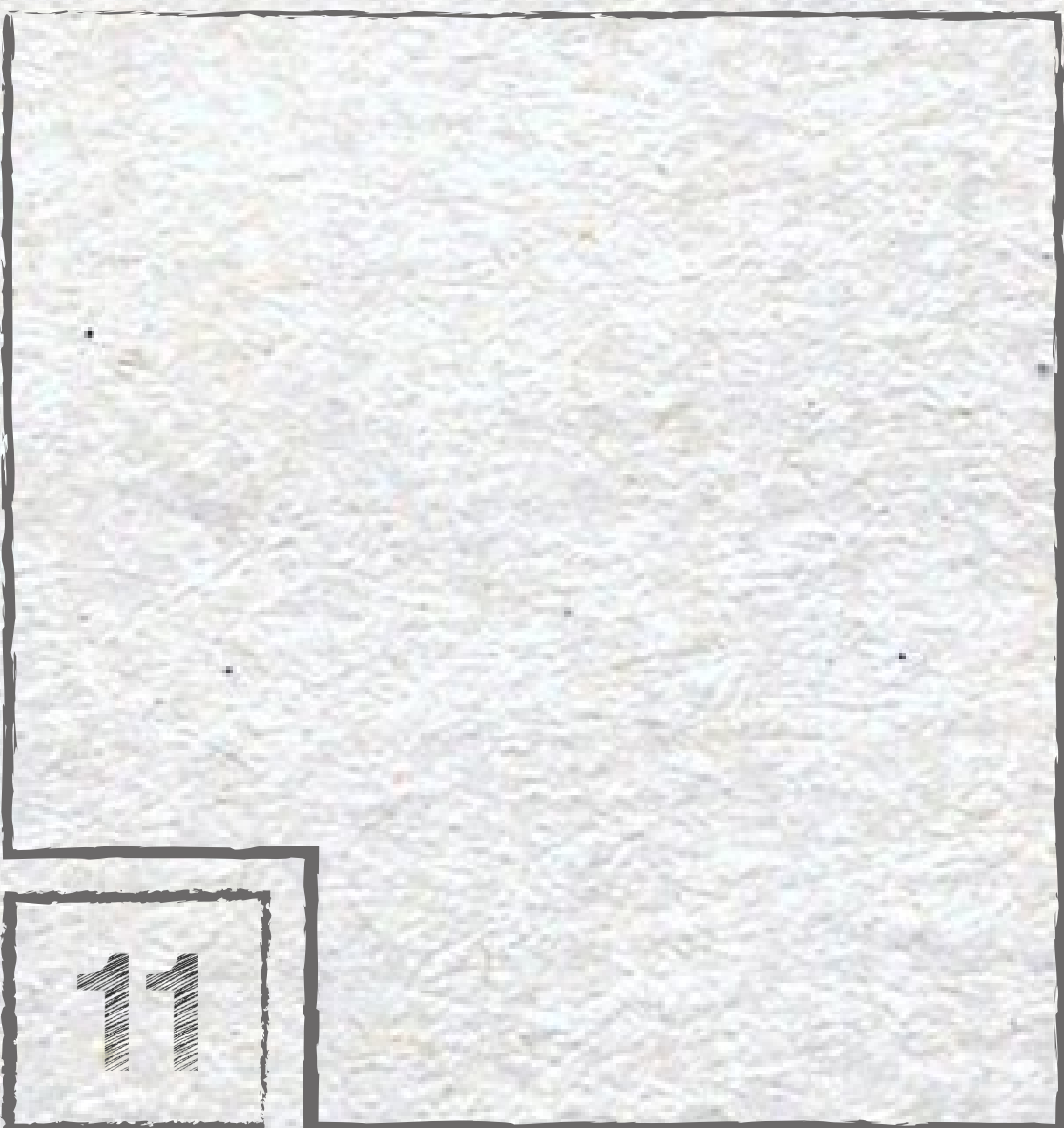
Special Guest Columnist:

Amakin -- Stories in Sketches, by curator Venetia Porter.



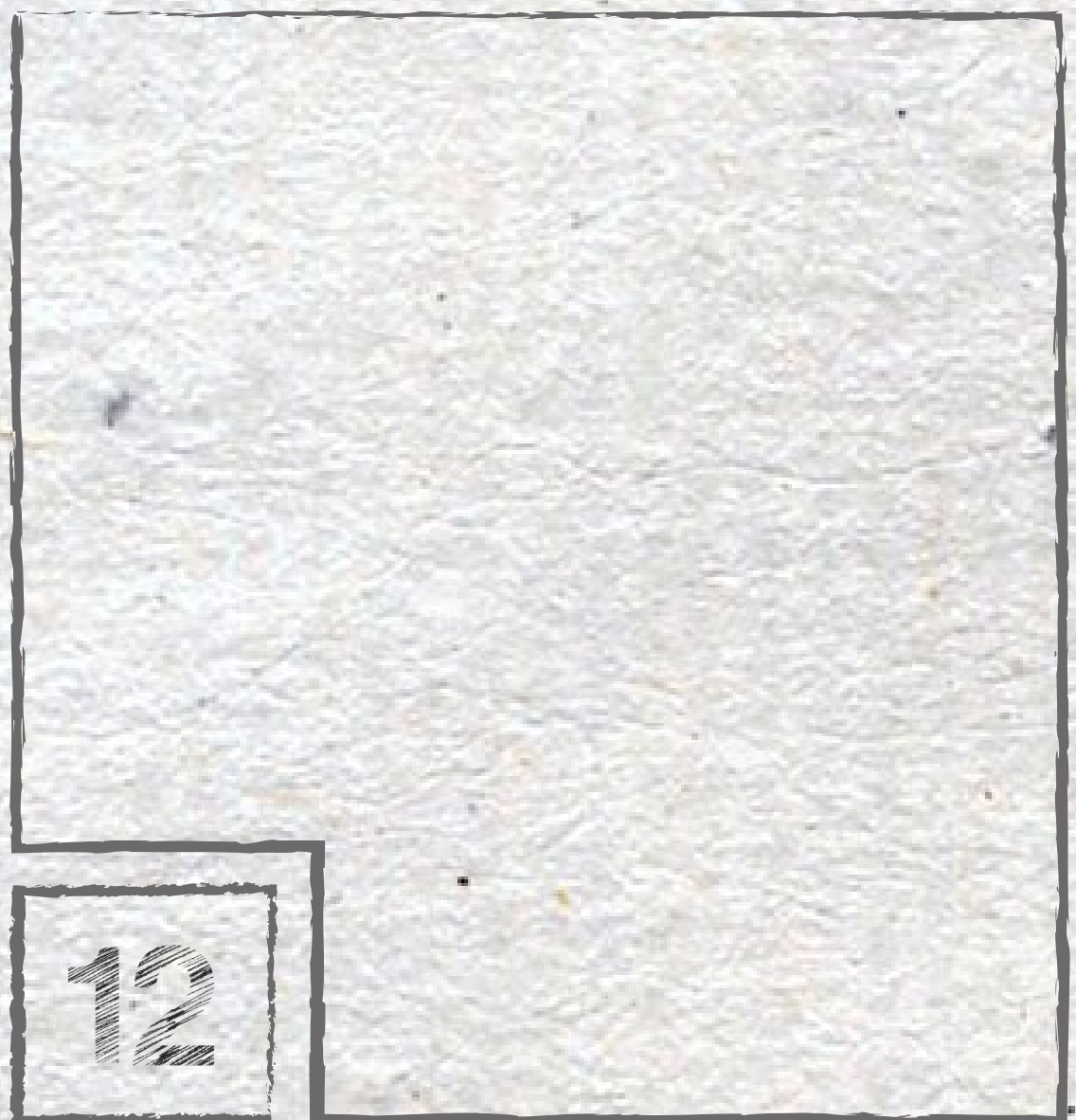
Spotlight:

'Colorful Cultural Sketches,' an interview with Yemeni artist Obaid Bahumayd.



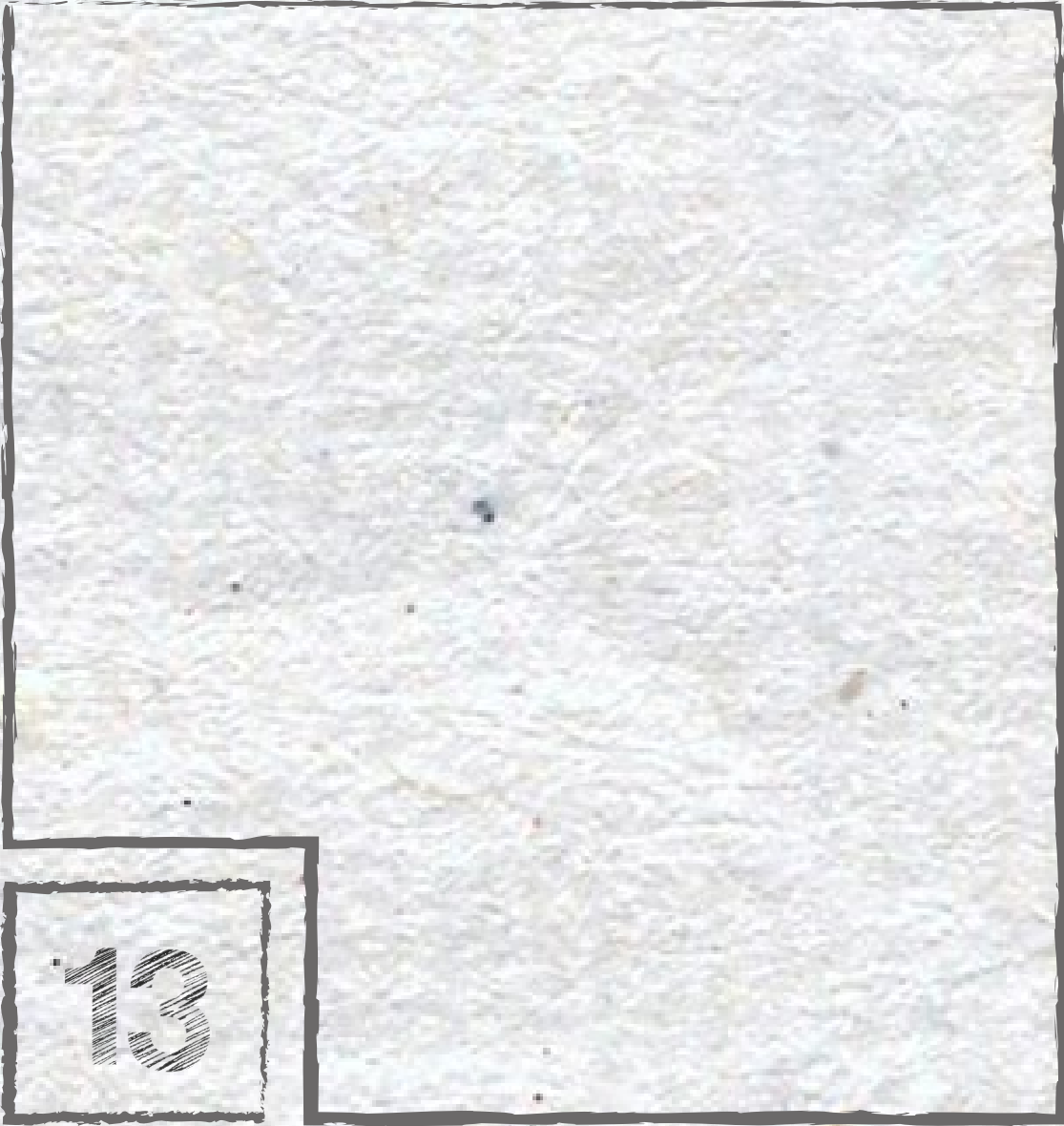
Spotlight:

'Sketching for Creative Endurance,' an interview with Saudi artist Talal Al-Zeid.



Spotlight:

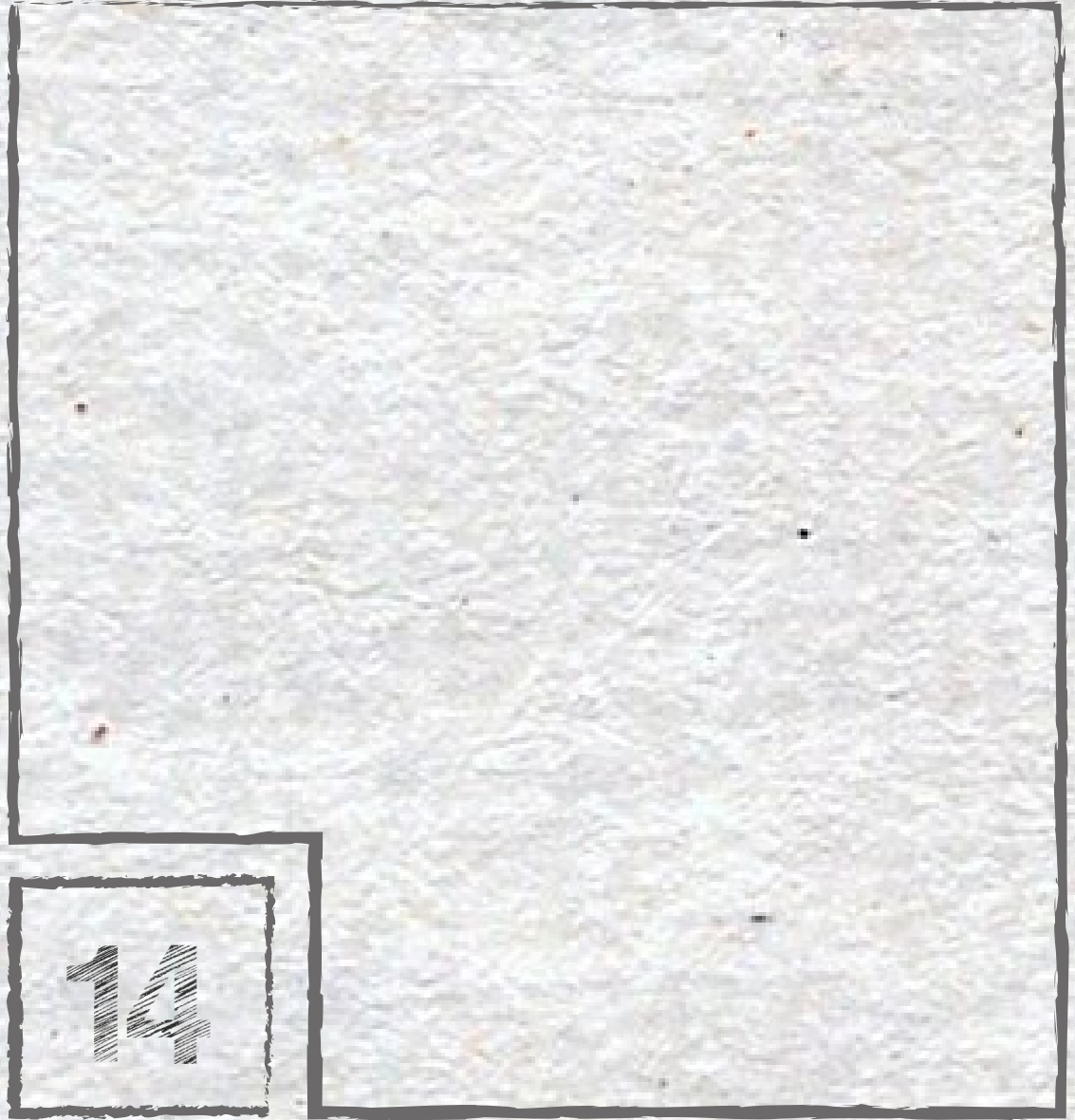
'The Joy of Sketching,' an interview with Saudi artist Nasser Al-Turki.



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Spotlight:

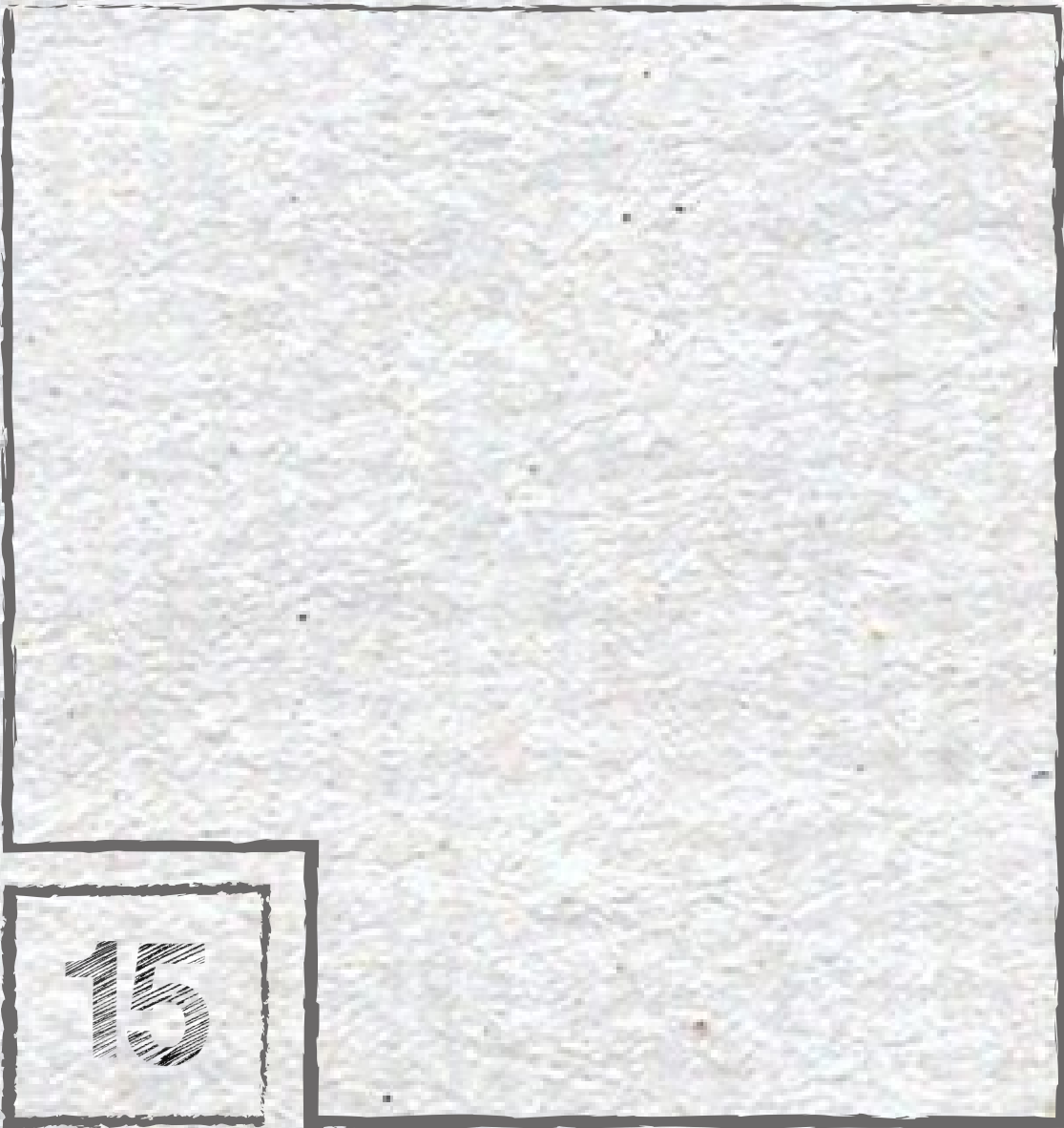
'Expressions in Sketches,' an interview with Kuwaiti artist Zahra Al-Mahdi.



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Special Guest Columnist:

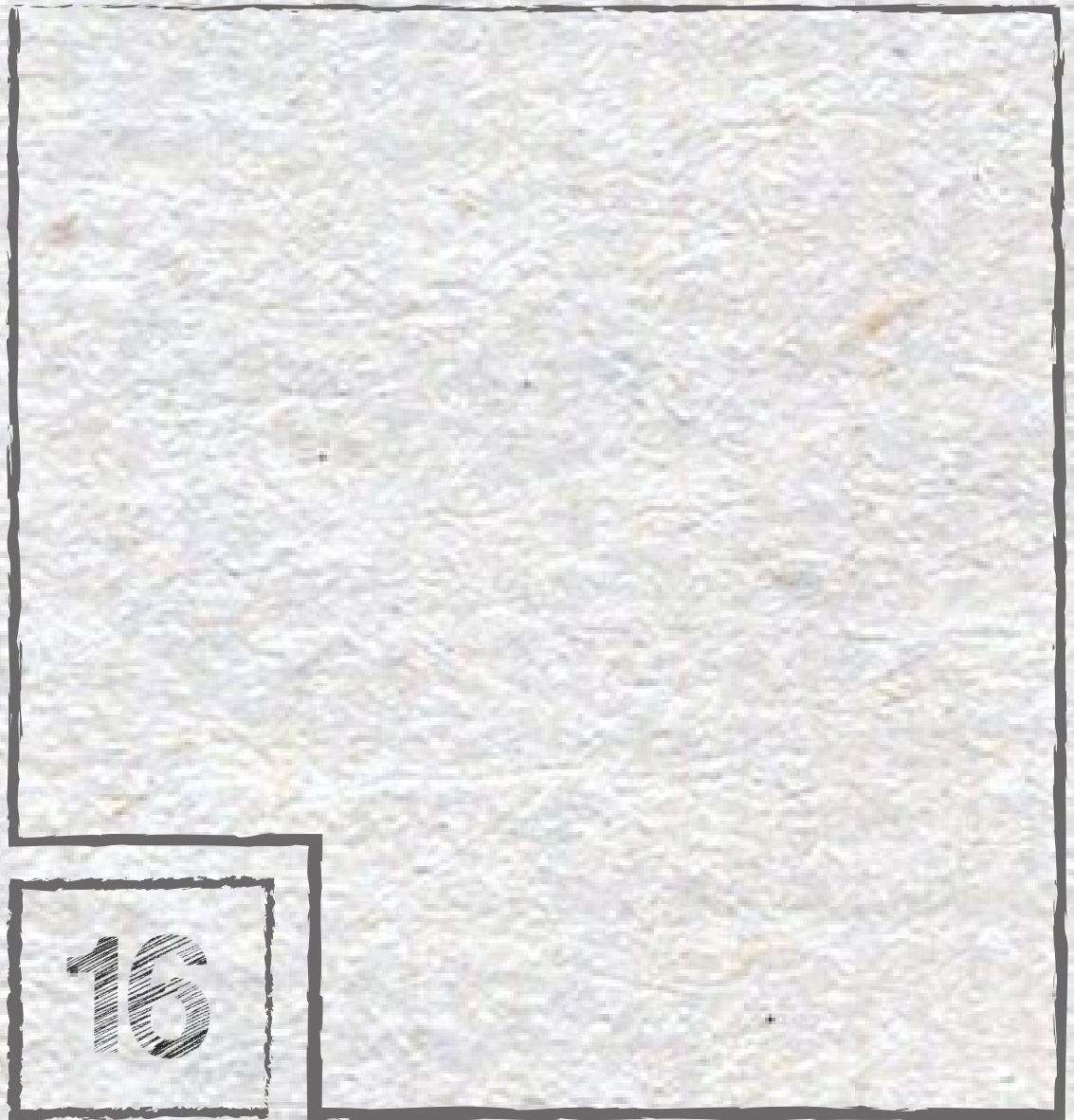
'Architecture of Sketches,' by Sarah Al-Mutlaq.



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Special Feature:

'The Art of Symbols in Ithraeyat,' by Dhay Al-Mindeel.



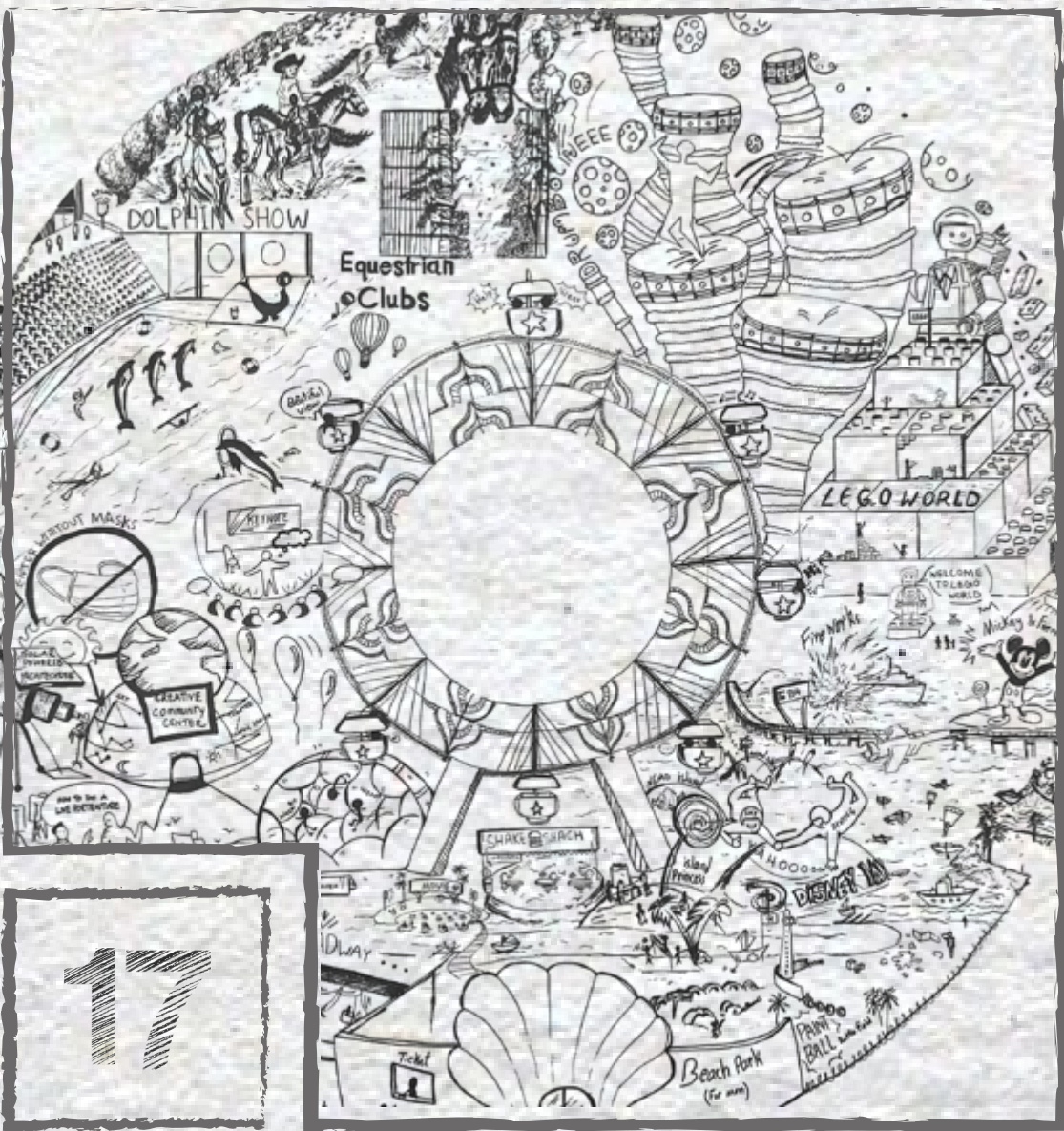
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Arabic Treasures:

'The Art of Manuscripts,' a special collection from



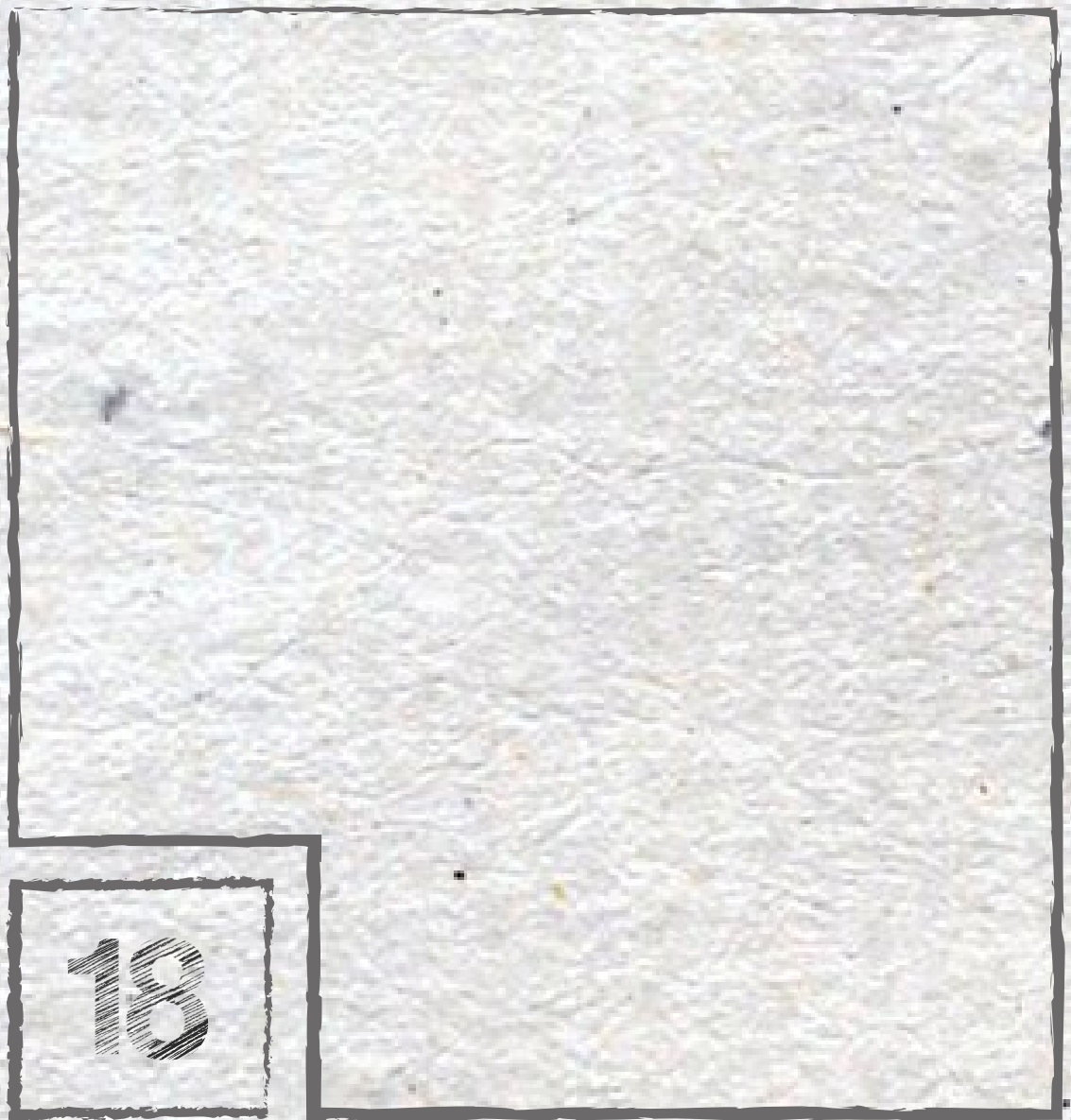
by Gaida Al-Mogren.



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Ithra Curiosities:

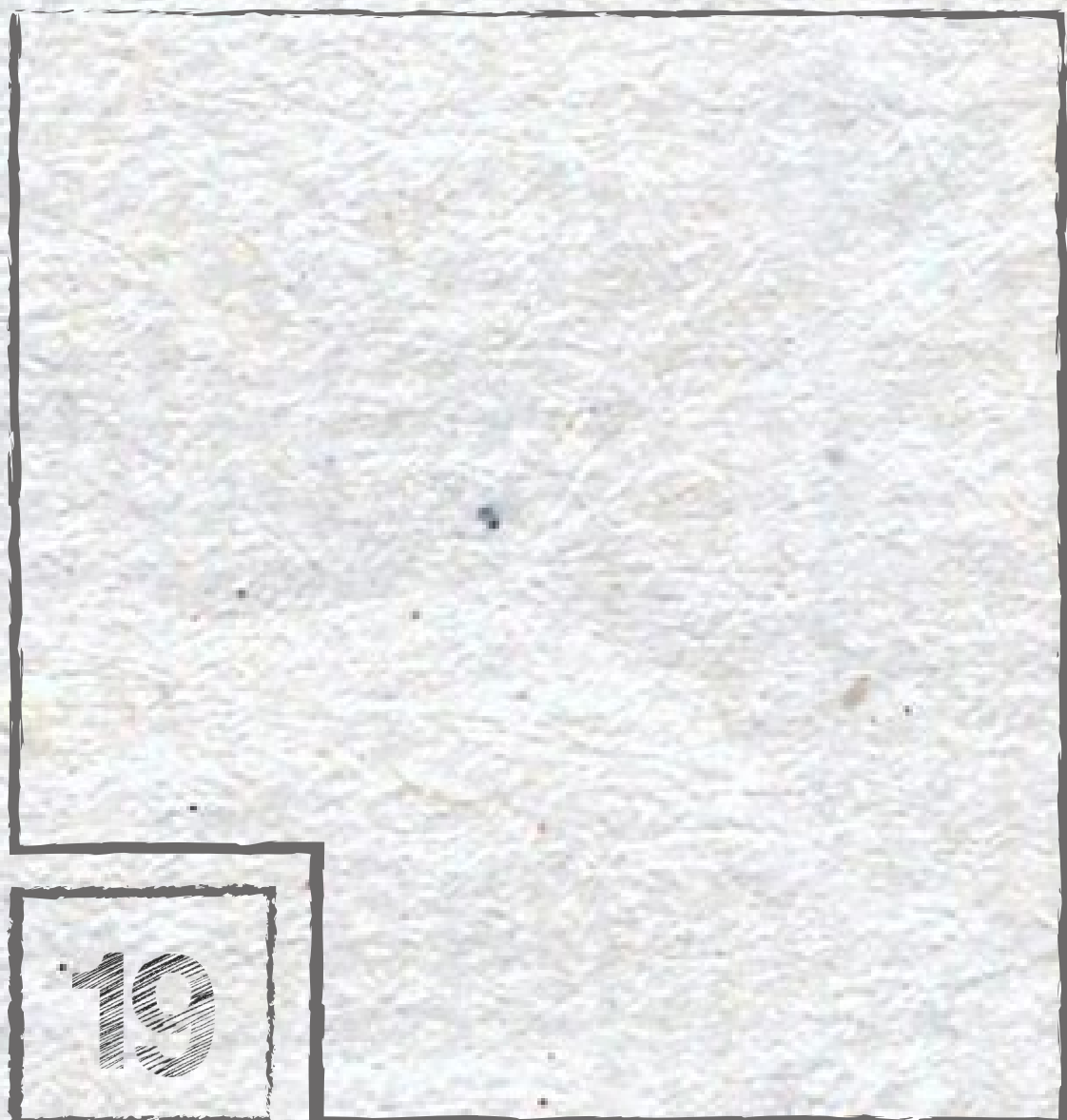
'The art of making an idea,' by Robert Frith.



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Bridges: Cross-Cultural Conversations:

'A Sketch of Sketches,' by Dr. Ulrike Al-Khamis, Director and CEO at the Aga Khan Museum.

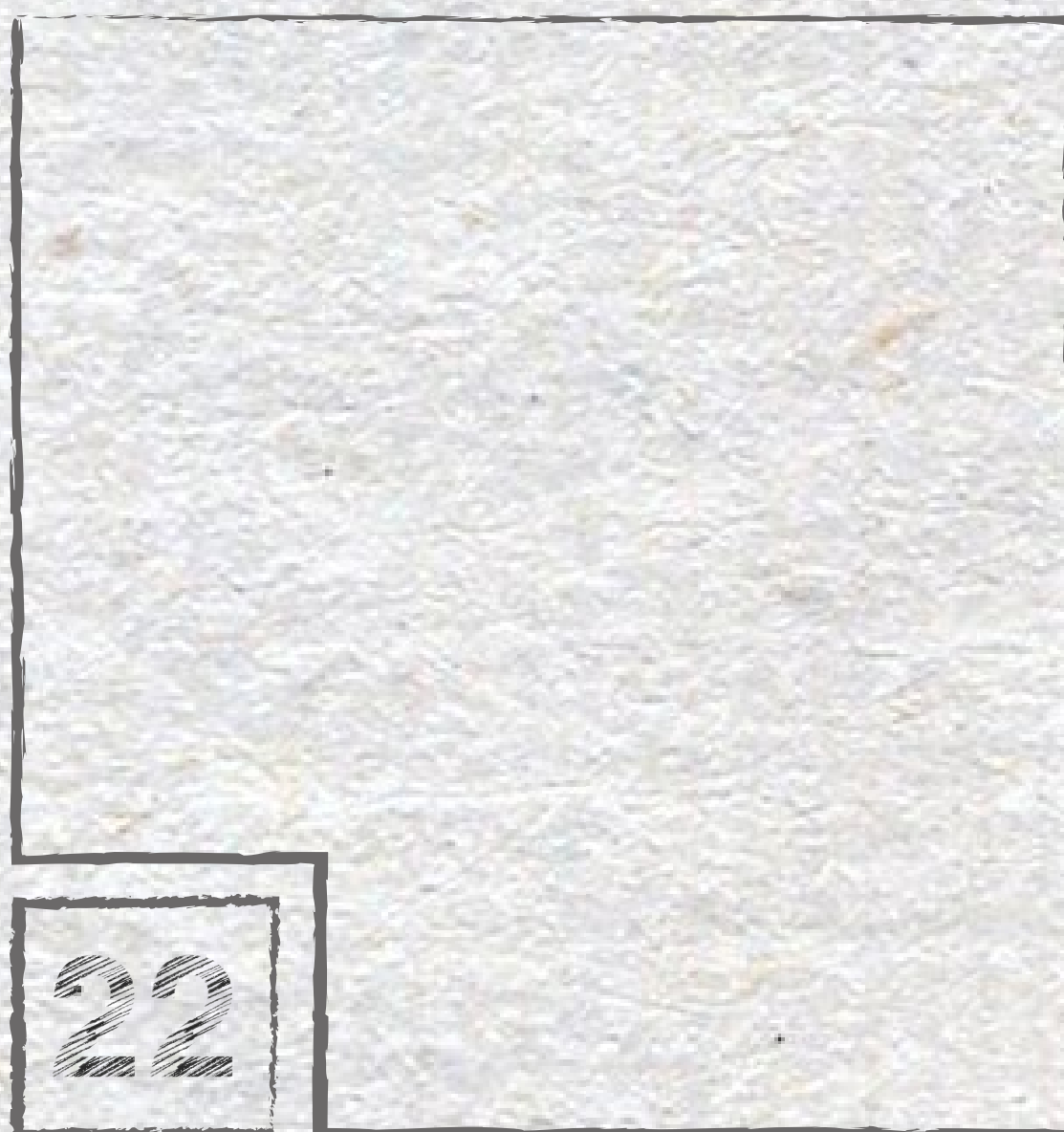
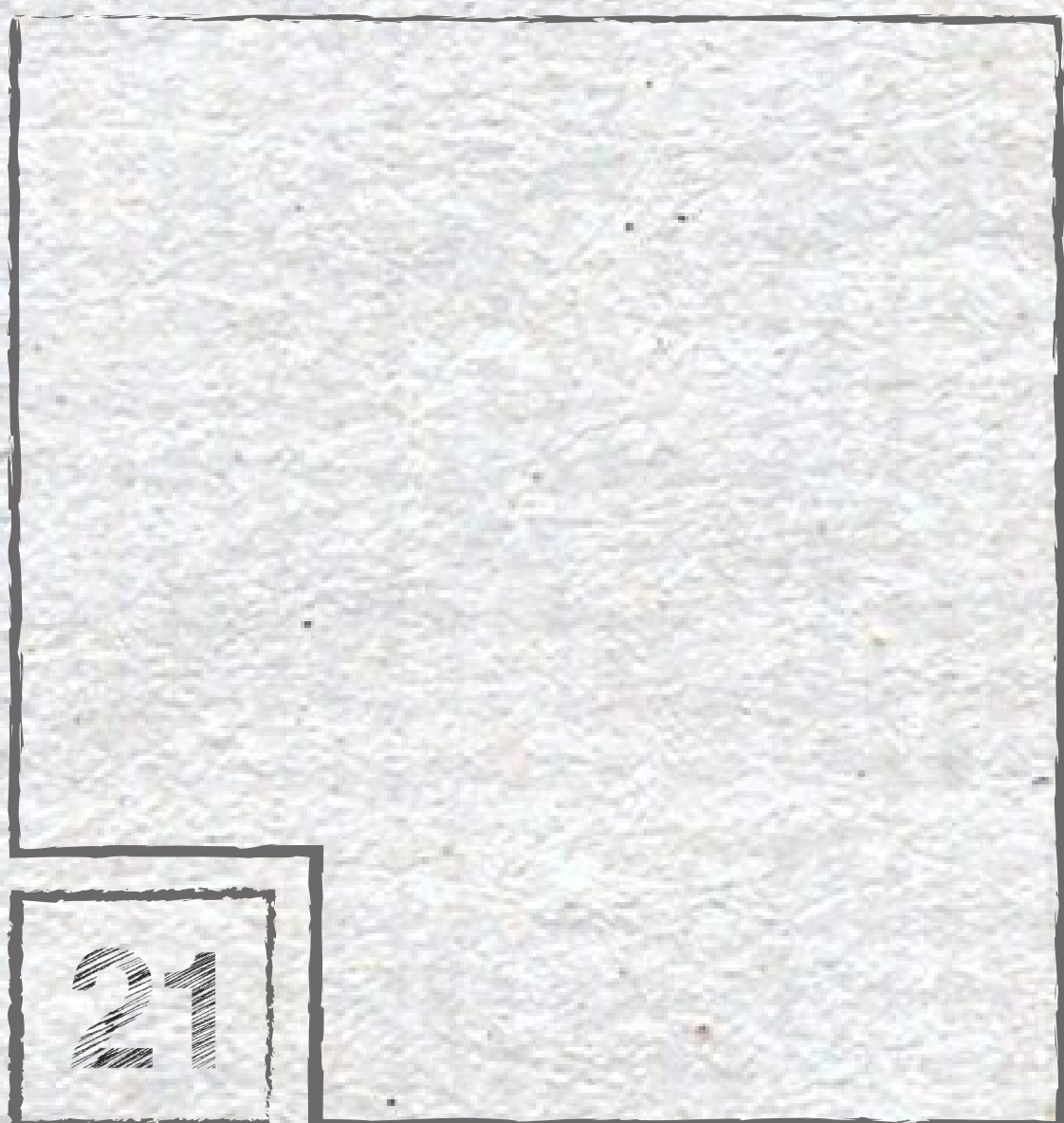


Bridges: Cross-Cultural Conversations

'Crafty Sketches,' from The Turquoise Mountain Foundation.

From the Vault:

'What Sketches tell us,' from the collection of the Barjeel Art Foundation, by Rym Al-Ghazal.



From the Archives:

Maps from the Ithra Archives.

Postcard Competition:

The Art of Identity — Share your creativity with us.

To read the full issue

CLICK HERE



Letter from the Editor

'The World of Sketches,'
By Rym Al-Ghazal



'Dancing' piece by the great Gibran Khalil Gibran from the archives of the **Gibran National Committee**. There are watercolor artworks, some complete, some incomplete, drawn by Gibran that closely resemble the style of this manuscript.

“Art is never finished, only abandoned....”

— Leonardo da Vinci

A sketch is defined as a ‘rough,’ unfinished drawing, the artwork before it evolves into something more ‘complete.’ But then again, is art ever really finished?

The artist creates and leaves their creation for us to reflect over, and if lucky, the artist revisits his or her creation, and adds new touches, new layers to the story of the piece.

In Ithraeyat’s 17th edition, we pay homage to **‘Sketches’** and the stories they capture or perhaps, don’t capture.

In this special edition, we have the profound —perhaps deep in contemplation — face of a ‘wanderer’ by **Gibran Khalil Gibran** (1883-1931) grace our cover. Dating to 1931, this piece perhaps reveals one of the most important core characteristics of Gibran. That in the year of his death, aged 48, he painted a ‘wandering’ face, embodying his life long journey as a wandering soul, a true wanderer of words, and worlds. Through this beautiful piece, together with other sketches

featured here by the man known to the world as ‘the Arab Shakespeare,’ we discover a different side to this multitalented and deep master of words.

Are they unfinished? Or did Gibran ever intend to finish them?

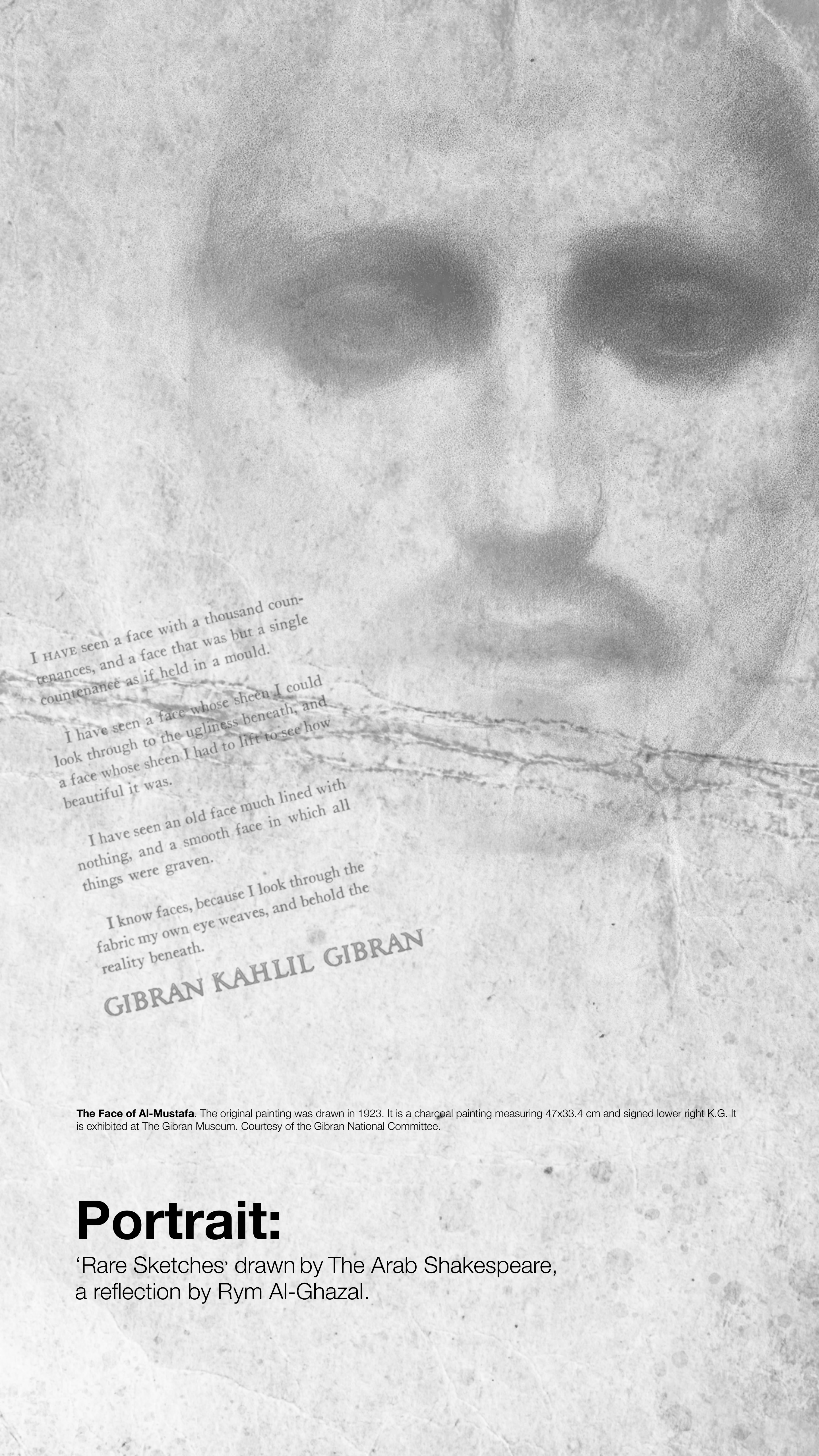
Sketches are said to reveal aspects of one’s thoughts and emotions at the time of their creations as they are raw and imperfect.

Taking a step back, what does one see when one views Gibran’s pieces?

Other wonderful sketches featured here by renowned figures include one by **Zaha Hadid**, the Iraqi British architect, as well as timeless ones from The **Cartier** Paris Archives, and exquisite manuscripts from The **King Faisal Center for Research and Islamic Studies**.

Each piece by each artist, past and present, captures a style, a moment and perhaps a fleeting idea with a lasting impression as it is finally captured on paper.

Enjoy our latest ‘Makhzan’ of enriching stories.



I HAVE seen a face with a thousand countenances, and a face that was but a single countenance as if held in a mould.

I have seen a face whose sheen I could look through to the ugliness beneath, and a face whose sheen I had to lift to see how beautiful it was.

I have seen an old face much lined with nothing, and a smooth face in which all things were graven.

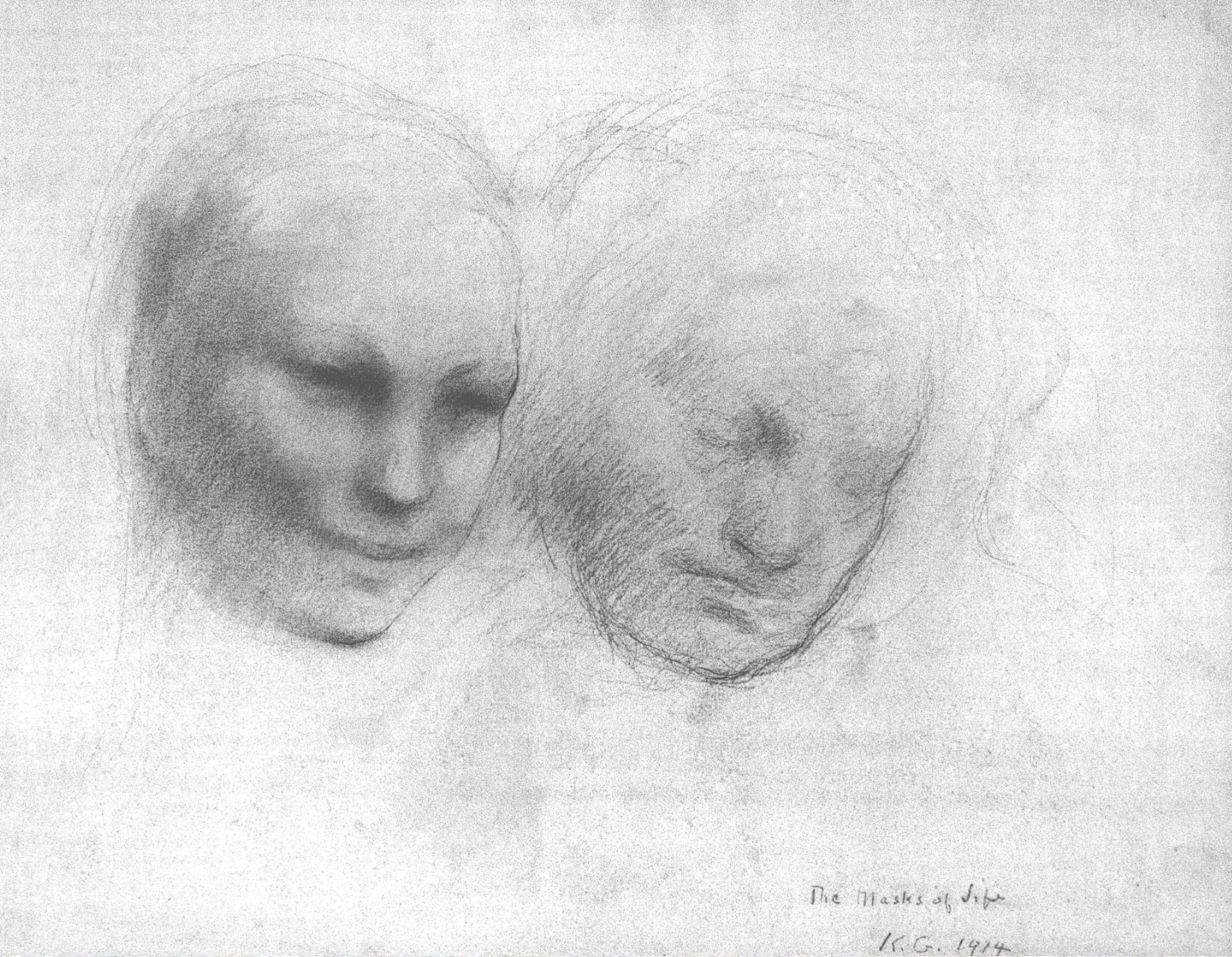
I know faces, because I look through the fabric my own eye weaves, and behold the reality beneath.

GIBRAN KAHLIL GIBRAN

The Face of Al-Mustafa. The original painting was drawn in 1923. It is a charcoal painting measuring 47x33.4 cm and signed lower right K.G. It is exhibited at The Gibran Museum. Courtesy of the Gibran National Committee.

Portrait:

'Rare Sketches' drawn by The Arab Shakespeare, a reflection by Rym Al-Ghazal.



'The Mask of Life,' by Gibran Khalil Gibran. 1914. Courtesy of the **Gibran National Committee**.

«The timeless in you is aware of life's timelessness.
And knows that yesterday is but today's memory and
tomorrow is today's dream.» - The Prophet book

And through words like these written by Gibran Khalil Gibran, he became timeless himself, forever known as the Arab Shakespeare.

Here, these rare images and pages, courtesy of The Gibran National Committee, capture the sketches, the scribbles and the written words of the great Gibran.

'**The Mask of Life**,' dated to 1914 —is it a sketch of an arrogant, confident youth looking towards the future, and the aged old self next to it, somber with tired, closed eyes? What do you see when you look at it?

What a privilege to see what thoughts came and went, scratched off by one of the world's most famous Arab poets, writers and philosophers. He is less known for his deep, intricate drawings, paintings and sketches, many of which honor women like his mother, and celebrate the beauty of the body as a spiritual being rather than that of a limited flesh with an expiry date.

To read and see more of **Gibran's Sketches**



Please enjoy discovering
these few pages as I have,
introducing a moment of
pause into your day.
Dating to around 1908,
they are Gibran's scribbles
on a notebook while he
was in France.



GIBRAN KAHLIL GIBRAN

Original Sketches



عاشقانه کلامت من در باره شما که در کتاب من است

و هم در کتاب من
و هم در کتاب من

عاشقانه کلامت من در باره شما که در کتاب من است

An arabesque manuscript written by Gibran Khalil Gibran. Gibran enjoyed different decorative styles of arabesque writings, one of them is reflected here that was then a popular typewriter style. 1908 This manuscript is part of the archive of the **Gibran National Committee**.

What Gibran sketched & wrote for his tomb

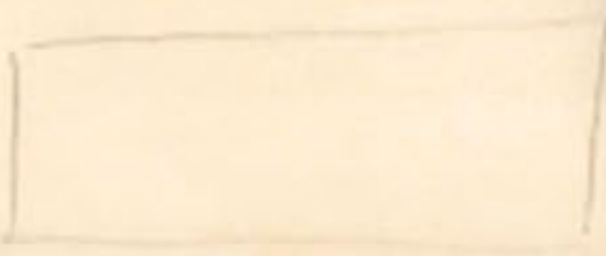
"I am alive like you, and I am standing beside you. Close your eyes, and look around, you will see me in front of you..."

This manuscript, hanging at Gibran's grave at his museum in Lebanon, is printed on cedar plank. 1908.
This manuscript by Gibran is part of the archives of the Gibran National Committee.

أنا حي مثلك، وأنا أقف بجانبك. أغلق عينيك، وانظر حولك، ستراهم أمامك...

Every Syrian is dreaming of a day
that this valley may again be a
paradise, a philosopher — and immortal
handsome.

at the Waldorf Astoria (Brevint)
Mrs. Proctor, Mrs. F. Bennett, City
Sydney, Tenn. Mrs. D. B. B. — the columns
Brevint



١ دعوني ابعث قبر قريني
 ٢ اترك هذا المكان وضم
 ٣ دعوني ابعث فؤاد خوادبي . دعوني اسكن عيون عيون
 ٤ اترك قبرا قوارت بهم
 اسامع انت حراخ خوادبي
 بدم حبیب عزیز سخن
 رفت حبیب و سخن امین



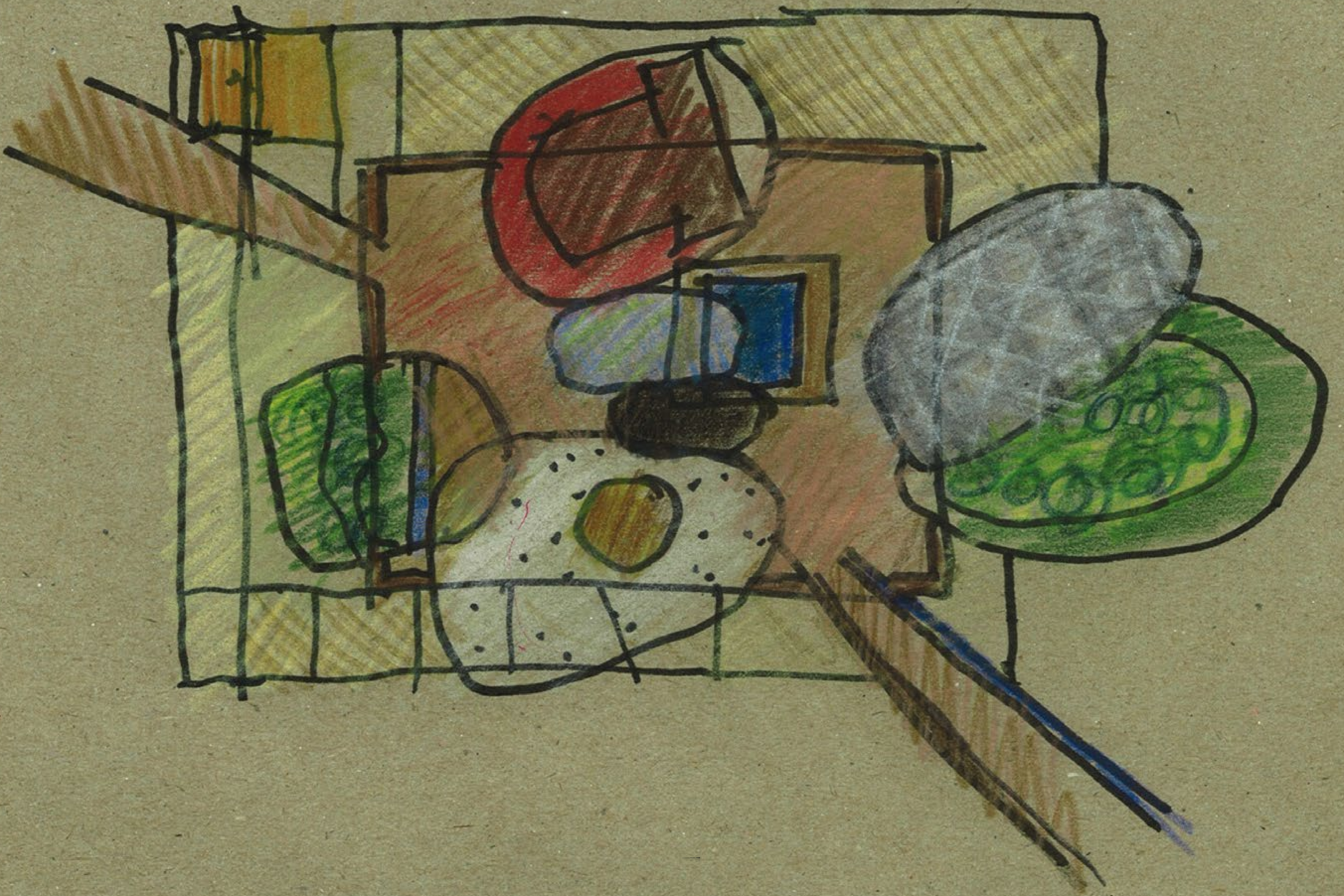
Poetic manuscript, and a sketch by Gibran. 1908.
 The manuscript is part of the archives of the **Gibran National Committee**.



To read and see more of
Gibran's Sketches

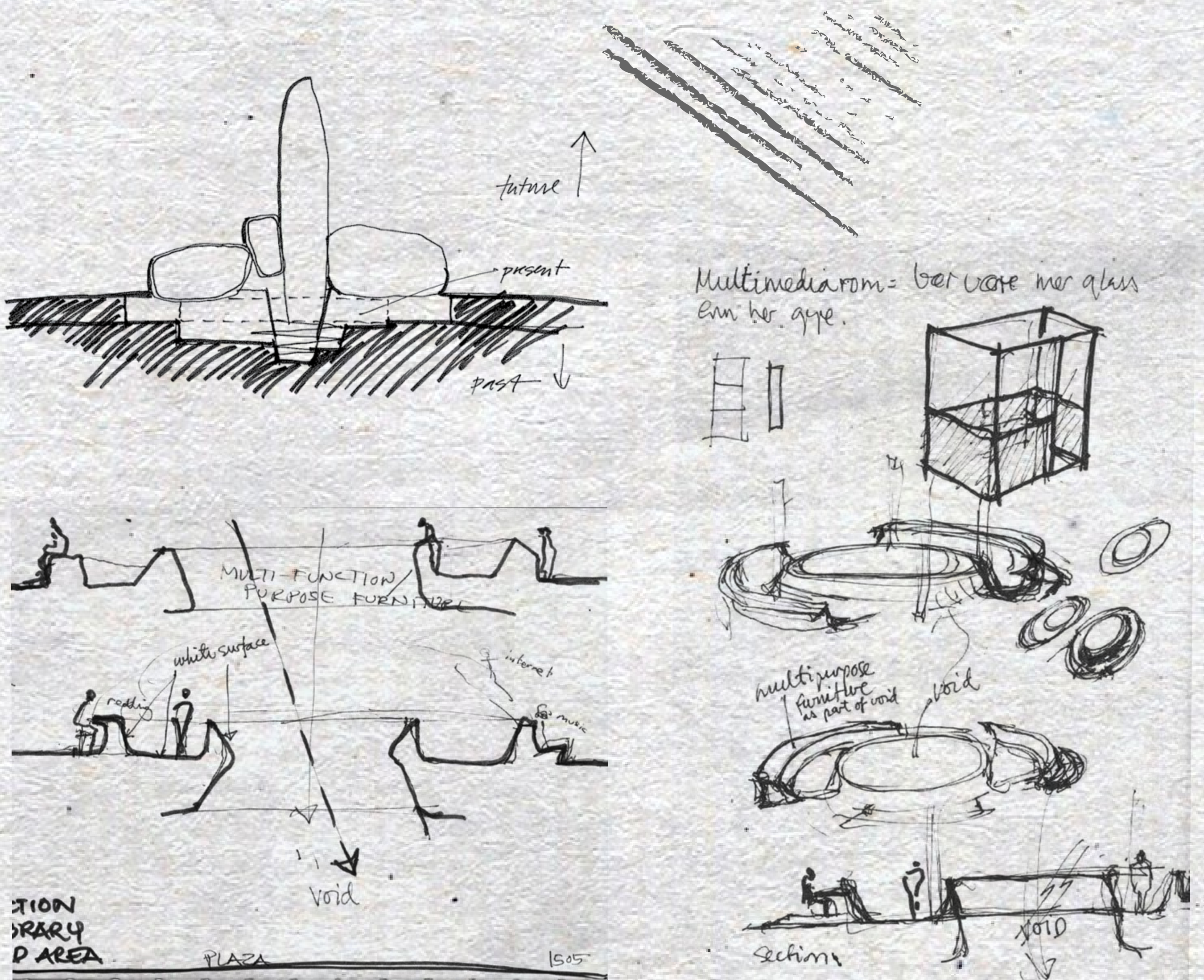
GIBRAN KAHLIL GIBRAN

Original Sketches

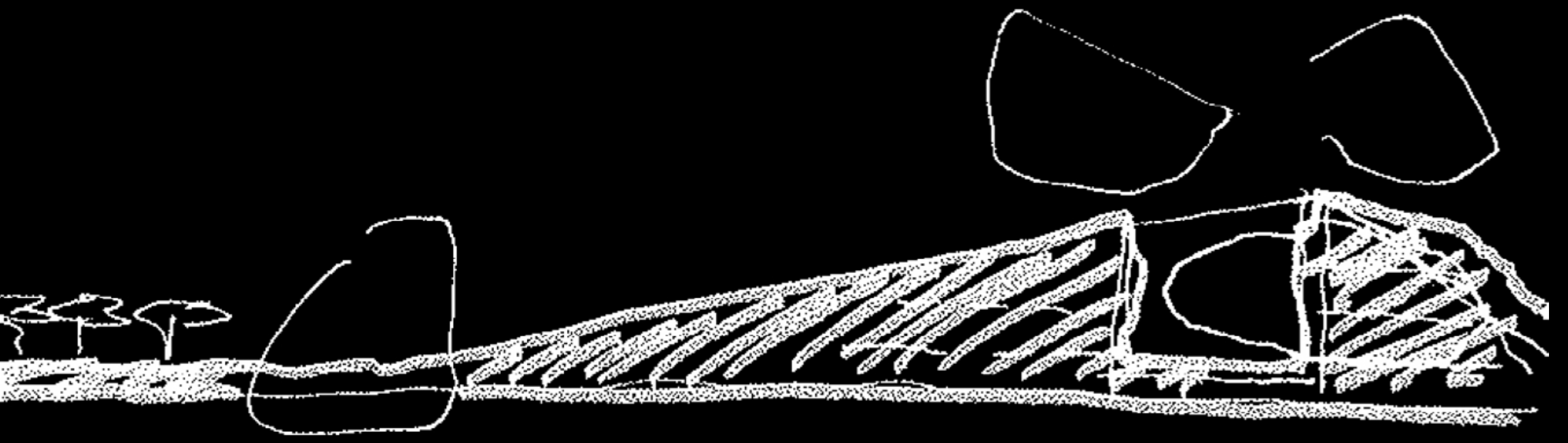
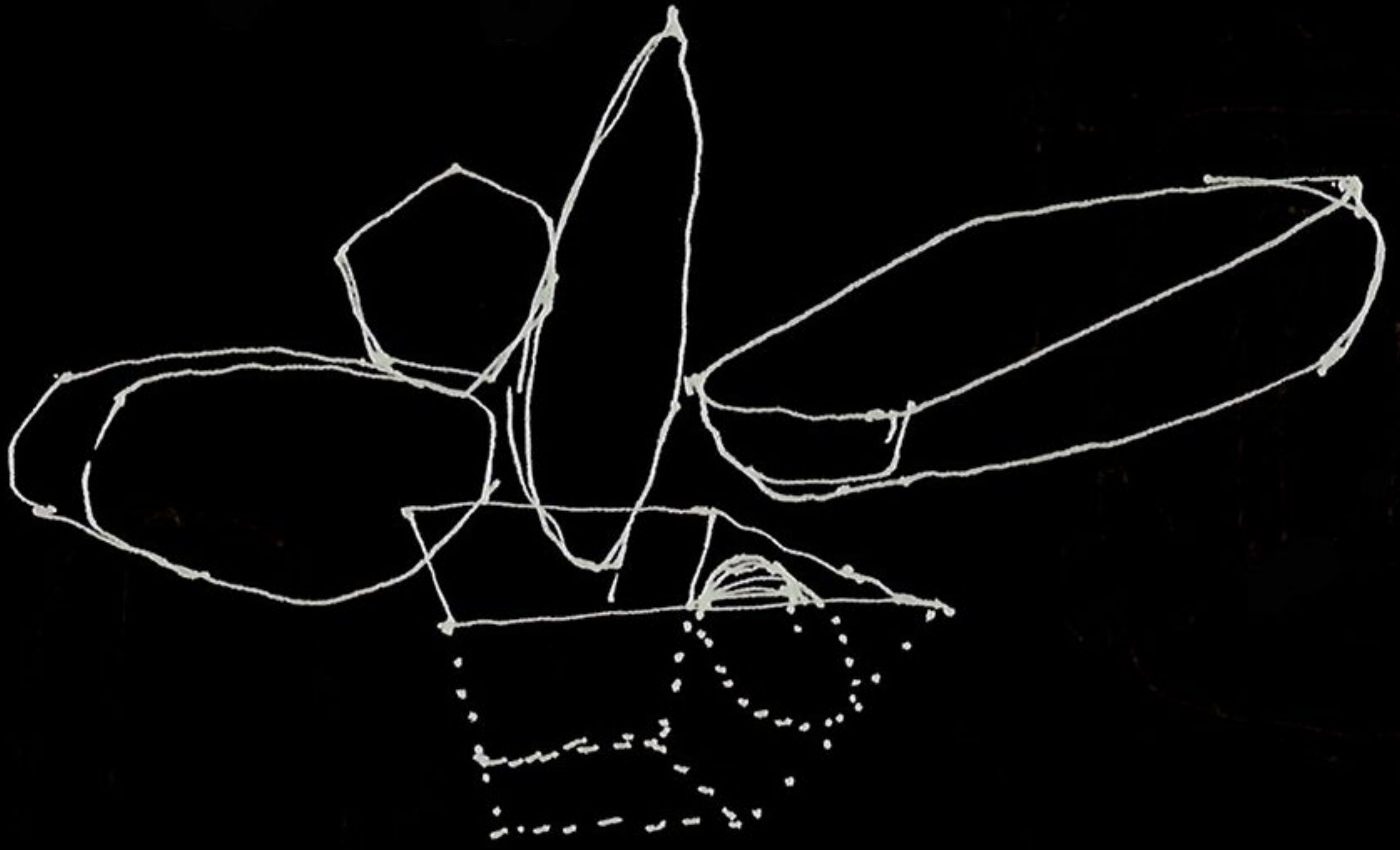
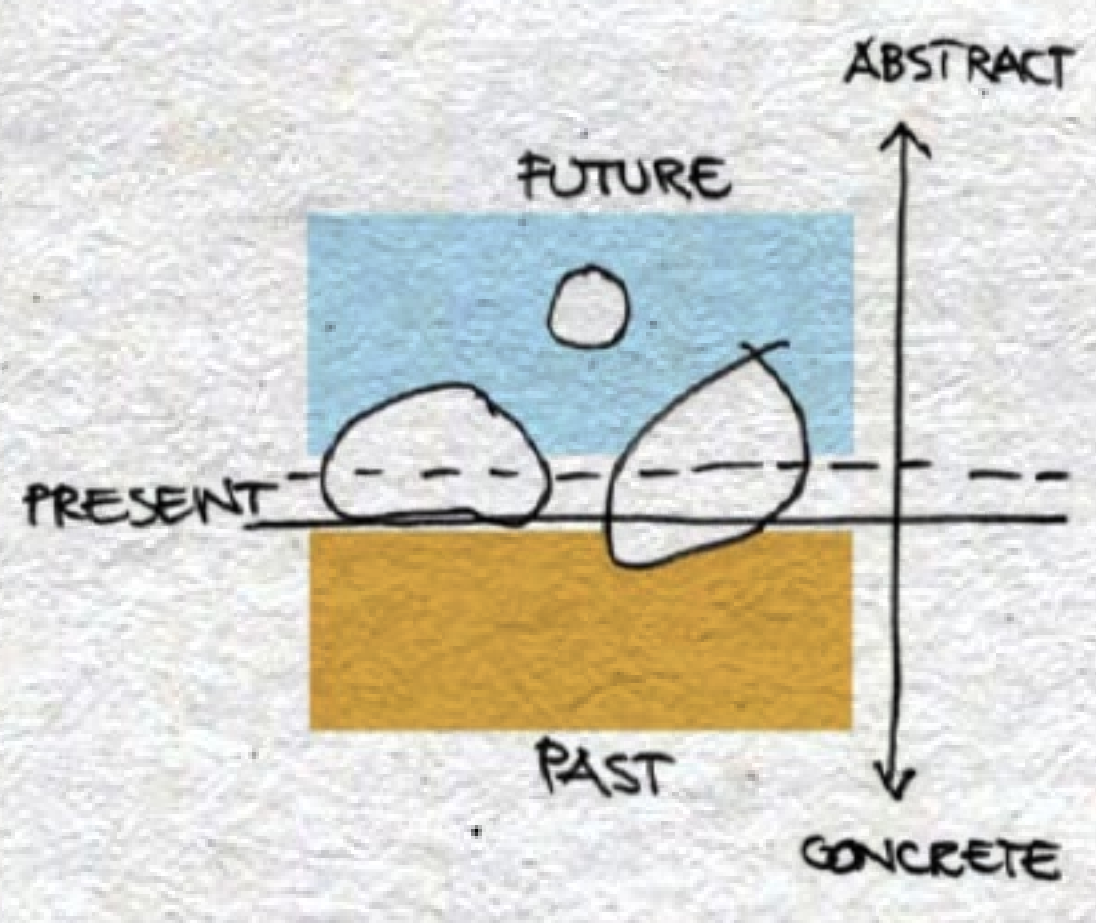


Early Sketches of Ithra

By Snøhetta - Norwegian architectural firm



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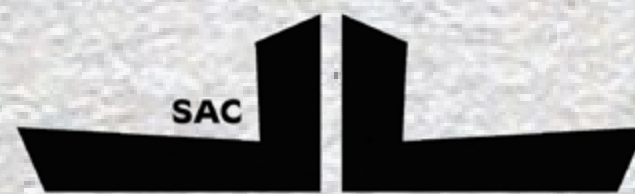
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Special thanks for contributing artists & art:



About Ithra

The King Abdulaziz Center for World Culture (Ithra) is one of Saudi Arabia's most influential cultural destinations, a destination for the curious, creatives, seekers of knowledge, and more.

Through a compelling series of programs, performances, exhibitions, events and initiatives, Ithra creates world-class experiences across its interactive public spaces that bring together culture, innovation and knowledge that are designed to appeal to everyone. Connecting creatives, challenging perspectives and transforming ideas, Ithra is graduating its own leaders in the cultural field.

Ithra is **Saudi Aramco's** flagship CSR initiative and the largest cultural contribution to the Kingdom. Ithra's components include the Idea Lab, Library, Cinema, Theater, Museum, Energy Exhibit, Great Hall, Children's Museum and Knowledge Tower. For more information, please visit:

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