

ArtBooth

Artbooth Gallery Announces *Encoded in Petals*

A Solo Exhibition by Soraya Abu Naba'a

January 15 – February 15, 2026

Artbooth Gallery, Abu Dhabi

Artbooth Gallery presents *Encoded in Petals*, a solo exhibition by Soraya Abu Naba'a that brings together painting, textile installation, drawing, sculpture, and spatial intervention. Developed over several years, the exhibition reflects a sustained engagement with nature, memory, women's labor, and the transmission of ancestral knowledge. Flowers appear not as ornament, but as vessels through which histories of care, resilience, and embodied intelligence are carried forward.

Informed by Abu Naba'a's lived experience across the Caribbean, the Middle East, Europe, and the United States, the exhibition approaches identity as something shaped through movement, material, and sensory memory. Her visual language draws from abstraction, traditional craft, digital aesthetics, and ecological awareness. Color, texture, and form operate as systems of communication. Accumulated linework gives shape to petals, textiles unfold as terrains, and craft functions as both archive and continuity.

Throughout the exhibition, flowers serve as both motif and conceptual framework. Drawing on floriography, the historical language of flowers, Abu Naba'a engages botanical forms as carriers of emotion, ancestral knowledge, and ecological awareness. Living and working in Florida, where the effects of climate change are increasingly present, she turns to regional flora as metaphors for adaptation, vulnerability, and persistence, themes that resonate across geographies.

Landscape is approached not as backdrop, but as witness. Petals, stems, and veins are abstracted into linear structures and chromatic fields that recall rivers, topographies, and systems of exchange. Informed by principles of deep ecology, the work emphasizes interdependence, suggesting that every pattern, color, and material choice holds significance. Flowers emerge not as passive objects of beauty, but as sources of knowledge, offering insight through form, cycle, and fragility.

An Artist Shaped by Movement and Lineage

Born in 1985 in Melbourne, Florida, to Arab parents, Soraya Abu Naba'a moved to the Dominican Republic at the age of two and grew up within a layered cultural environment shaped by Arab, Caribbean, and diasporic histories. At eighteen, she relocated to Paris, where she studied French language and civilization at La Sorbonne before earning a Bachelor of Arts from the Paris American Academy. Her education continued at the Accademia di Arti in Florence, followed by an intensive painting program at Columbia University in New York. In 2016, she moved to London to complete a Master's degree in Painting at the Royal College of Art, graduating in 2018. She currently lives and works in Miami.

This transcontinental trajectory is foundational to her practice. Raised in a family of Arab descent whose ancestors arrived in Hispaniola in the early twentieth century as textile merchants and later became dealers of Haitian and Dominican art, Abu Naba'a was immersed from an early age in material culture, chromatic systems, and visual synthesis. These formative experiences continue to inform her sustained attention to process, materiality, and narrative.

While she employs distinct methodologies across painting, sculpture, installation, performance, and drawing, her practice remains conceptually unified by an understanding of nature as a pedagogical framework and by the principle of interdependence among living systems.

Exhibition Structure and Contemporary Resonance

The exhibition unfolds as an immersive, color-driven journey structured around the four seasons: Spring, Summer, Fall, and Winter. Textile installations function as spatial thresholds, dividing the gallery into chromatic zones aligned with seasonal rhythms and emotional registers.

Spanning four years of sustained inquiry, *Encoded in Petals* engages contemporary questions that resonate globally and regionally: how to reframe our relationship with nature amid ecological uncertainty; what forms of knowledge are carried through craft and lived experience; and how traditions of making can respond to a rapidly accelerated present. The exhibition foregrounds attentiveness, reciprocity, and continuity. Beauty is understood not as surface, but as knowledge and presence, shaping perception, care, and endurance.

Exhibition Details

Encoded in Petals

A solo exhibition by Soraya Abu Naba'a

Dates: January 15 – February 15, 2026

Opening Reception: January 15, 2026, 7:00–9:00 PM, in the presence of the artist

Venue: Artbooth Gallery, Abu Dhabi

For press inquiries, images, or further information

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About Artbooth Gallery

Founded in 2019 by Roger El Khoury, Artbooth Gallery is dedicated to fostering cross-cultural artistic dialogue through a dynamic exhibition program. With spaces in Abu Dhabi and Seoul, the gallery supports both emerging and established artists, presenting innovative and critically engaged contemporary art from around the world.