

ArtBooth

ABU DHABI

“MEMORYSCAPE”

PRESENTS :

GILBERT HALABY
HANIBAL SROUJI
HUSSEIN BAALBAKI
RICHARD HEARNS
SARAH ALAGROOBI
SORAYA ABU NABA'A

Artbooth Gallery invites you to

“MEMORYSCAPE”

FEATURED ARTISTS

GILBERT HALABY

HANIBAL SROUJI

HUSSEIN BAALBAKI

RICHARD HEARNS

SARAH ALAGROOBI

SORAYA ABU NABA'A

MARCH 12, 2026

ARTBOOTH GALLERY





CONTENT

8 MEMORYSCAPE

11 ARTISTS

- 11 Gilbert Halaby
- 19 Hanibal Srouji
- 27 Hussein Baalbaki
- 35 Richard Hearn
- 45 Sarah Alagroobi
- 53 Soraya Abu Naba'a

60 ARTBOOTH GALLERY

62 CONTACT US

“MEMORYSCAPE”

ABOUT THE EXHIBITION

Artbooth Gallery is pleased to present Memoryscape, an exhibition bringing together six remarkable contemporary artists of Arab descent: Gilbert Halaby, Hanibal Srouji, Hussein Baalbaki, Richard Hearn, Sarah Alagroobi, and Soraya Abu Naba'a. The exhibition will be on view from March 12 to April 26, 2026, offering a contemplative journey through landscapes of both place and memory.

At the heart of Memoryscape lies a shared inquiry into how our surroundings shape, hold, and recall our histories. For these artists, the landscape is more than scenery, it is an archive of experience, a repository of emotion, and a mirror of identity. Through abstraction, gestural mark making, layered textures, and multidisciplinary approaches, each artist transforms memory into visual language.

Gilbert Halaby's paintings read like an autobiographical map. His canvases, constructed from bold geometries and vibrant color blocks, echo the fields, homes, and light of his

Levantine childhood. His canvases, shaped by color blocks and flat planes, evoke poppy filled valleys and sunlit homes, balancing abstraction with the narrative weight of memory. The interplay of light, shadow, and color in Halaby's work creates a visual language that is both intimate and universal.

Hanibal Srouji, known for his textured surfaces and poetic compositions, balances abstraction with traces of the familiar. His signature blow torch technique creates delicate marks that evoke both the scars of history and the quiet lyricism of nature. His vertical lines, at once musical and confining, reference human resilience and vulnerability, while his contemplative landscapes suggest the passage of time and the persistence of memory, particularly in the context of Beirut's troubled past.

Hussein Baalbaki's work offers an immersive encounter with memory as a physical presence. Thick layers of medium, often carved and shaped rather than brushed,

create a tactile landscape of time and introspection. His canvases speak in whispers, revealing the silent echoes of human experience and inviting viewers to navigate thresholds between presence and absence. Baalbaki's art is at once intimate and monumental, a meditation on how memory sediments itself into the textures of our lives.

Richard Hearn brings a dual heritage to his explorations of landscape, bridging the ancient terrains of Ireland with the urban and cultural memories of Beirut. His gestural abstractions and figurative works merge spontaneity with precision, marking the space between restraint and freedom. In Hearn's hands, landscapes are living entities prismatic, rhythmic, and imbued with the energy of both earth and memory.

Sarah Alagroobi's multidisciplinary practice examines identity and place within postcolonial and transnational contexts. Her work extends abstraction into spaces of cultural reflection, using fragmentation as a site of reconstruction and hybridity as a form of resilience. Through painting and installation, Alagroobi

navigates the terrains of memory and identity, creating works that resonate with both personal and collective histories.

Soraya Abu Naba'a's work is informed by her lived experience across the Caribbean, the Middle East, Europe, and the United States. She approaches identity as something shaped through movement, material, and sensory memory. Her visual language integrates abstraction, traditional craft, digital aesthetics, and ecological consciousness. Accumulated line work gives shape to petals, textiles unfold as terrains, and craft functions as both archive and continuity, making memory tangible through form and texture.

Together, these six artists invite audiences to reflect on the landscapes that inhabit us, both those we have lived in and those we carry within. Memoryscape is an exploration of memory as terrain, a dialogue between place and self, and an invitation to engage with art that resonates beyond the visual, into the emotional and historical.

GILBERT HALABY

B. 1979

Gilbert Halaby, born in 1979, who grew up in Lebanon and studied in Beirut, has drawn and painted since he was a child. Captivated by the beauty of the natural landscape in Mount Lebanon, he would spend long hours playing in the woods amid the olive and pine trees signal natural forms which, to this day, influence and play a profound role in his art. His aesthetic eye first drew him to the artistry of fashion. After studying archaeology at the Lebanese University in Beirut, he went to Rome and was instantly captivated, calling that first encounter un coup de foudre.

In 2003, he moved to the Eternal City and opened a jewellery and handbag store near the Pantheon. In 2010, the Maison Halaby brand launched its first women's collection; in 2016, Halaby opened his accessories boutique of specially made leather handbags at Via di Monserrato 21. As much a cultural salon as a boutique, where the artist keeps a library of contemporary and historical authors and philosophers and entertains his friends, it has become a global cult destination. But with art as his first love (and clearly a talent his clients appreciated: the paintings and watercolours he hung on the boutique's walls were swiftly bought up, and more requested), much of his time is now spent painting at his studio, a few steps away from the Maison on Via di Monserrato 123.

Entirely self-taught as a painter, Halaby's style has been honed over the past six years, in which he has dedicated himself daily to painting in his studio. Gilbert Halaby debuted in March 2023 with his solo exhibition titled "Domus Berytus", which took place at Beit Beirut Museum in the Lebanese capital. His second Solo took place in his adoptive city, Rome, under the title of: "Une Comédie Romaine" - at Maja Arte Contemporanea (June 2023). His third solo - "Will You Wait For Me Under That Pine Tree?" - opened in January 2024 in Abu Dhabi at ArtBooth. His Fourth Solo - "Apogee Of Light" - Opened in March 2024 in Palm Beach at Maja Arte Contemporanea's first gallery popup. In October 2024 - he opened another solo exhibition "The First Harvest" at the IAMY museum of Hydra, Greece.

Halaby's works are featured in prestigious private collections and are part of the permanent collections of the Malvina Menegaz Foundation in Castelbasso, Italy; the Kinda Foundation in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia; and the Lebanese Presidential Contemporary Collection.

Gilbert Halaby

September Hues, 2025

Oil on Canvas

100 X 100 cm







Gilbert Halaby
Autumn, 2025
Oil on Canvas
60 X 50 cm

Gilbert Halaby
Spring, 2025
Oil on Canvas
60 X 50 cm



HANIBAL SROUJI

B. 1957

Hanibal Srouji is a leading Lebanese contemporary artist whose work bridges the personal and the collective, memory and abstraction, trauma and healing. Born in Beirut in 1957 and raised partly in Saïda (Sidon), Srouji experienced the onset of the Lebanese Civil War firsthand. In his late teens, he served as a Red Cross volunteer in Southern Lebanon before leaving the country in 1976, an early experience that profoundly shaped his artistic vision and thematic concerns.

Srouji pursued formal art education in North America and Europe. He earned a Bachelor and Master of Fine Arts (MFA) in Painting from Concordia University, Montreal (1982, 1987) and completed a Diplôme National Supérieur d'Expression Plastique at the École des Beaux-Arts in Nîmes, France.

His work is deeply informed by memory, displacement, and the imprint of conflict. Srouji is widely recognized for his innovative use of techniques, most notably burning and perforating canvases with a blowtorch which create physical traces that evoke walls scarred by war and the psychological marks of absence and loss. These gestural marks, whether reminiscent of bullet holes or vertical grids, resonate as metaphors for confinement, liberation, and the rhythm of lived experience.

Across decades of practice, Srouji's art has evolved from lyrical abstraction toward a nuanced visual language that blends subtle color harmonies, fire, neon, and diverse materials to articulate memory, hope, and "healing." His Healing Bands series and later Terre/Mer (Land/Sea) works exemplify this blend of form and emotion, suggesting both the scars of the past and the dynamism of renewal.

Srouji has exhibited widely internationally, with solo and group shows in cities including Beirut, Paris, Basel, New York, Singapore, Tokyo, Belfast, and at major art fairs such as Art Dubai and Abu Dhabi Art. His works are held in prominent public and private collections worldwide, including in Canada, France, Switzerland, the UAE, and the USA.

In addition to his artistic practice, Srouji has had a distinguished career in art education. Since 2010 he has taught at the Lebanese American University (LAU) in Beirut, where he has served as Associate Professor of Practice and Chair of the Department of Art & Design.

Hanibal Srouji's work continues to be a vital voice in contemporary art one that confronts histories of conflict while affirming the enduring power of visual expression to transform and transcend.



Hanibal Srouji

From the other side, 2023

Fire & acrylic on canvas

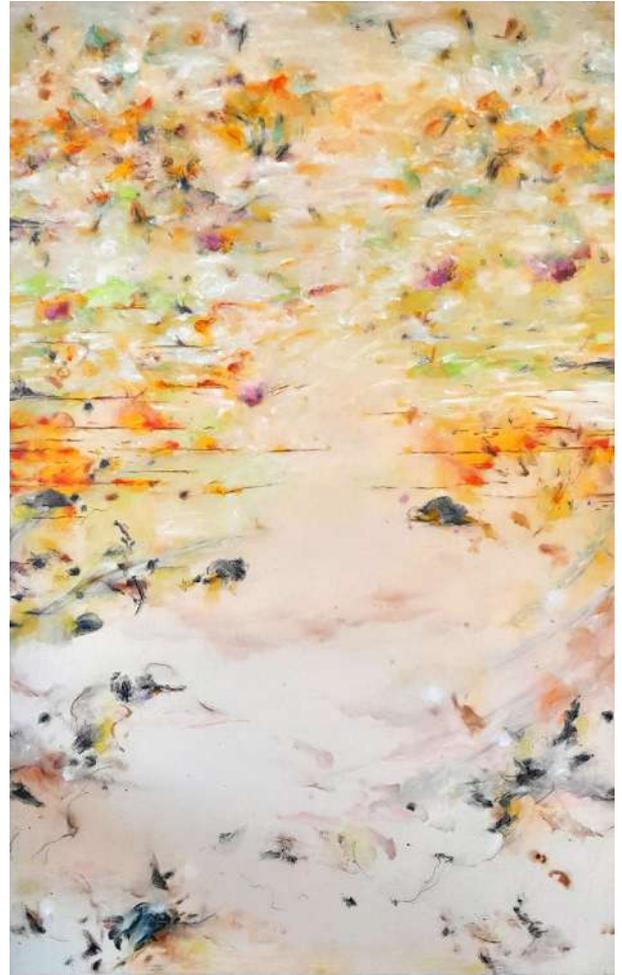
232 X 142 cm

Hanibal Srouji

Terre, Shifting Grounds, 2023

Fire & acrylic on canvas

232 X 142 cm





HUSSEIN BAALBAKI

B. 1974

Hussein Baalbaki (born 1974 in Beirut, Lebanon) is a contemporary painter known for his innovative approaches to abstract expressionism, marked by richly textured surfaces and a nuanced, soft palette that evokes depth, memory, and emotion. Hussein Baalbaki grew up in Beirut during a period of social and political upheaval in Lebanon. He pursued his formal art education at the Lebanese University's Institute of Fine Arts, graduating in 2002.

Baalbaki's work is characterized by dense, layered application of paint, often described as creating a tactile surface that contrasts with gentle color harmonies. He explains this approach as a means of introducing "a sensitive illustration of the entity of the work...derived from internal nature," drawing parallels to natural forms such as cave walls. He began exhibiting in Lebanon in 1999 and has since shown his work regularly in solo and group exhibitions across the Middle East and beyond. Early international exposure included participation in the Tehran Biennials of 2003 and 2005, where his work was honored with a special prize.

His solo exhibitions include Accumulation of Time (2008) at Agial Art Gallery in Beirut, Four Season's Songs (2012), and Garden of the Soul (2013) at Dar el Funoon Gallery in Kuwait. Baalbaki's works have also entered the international art market and been included in live and online auctions at world-renowned auction houses. His paintings such as Hidden Inside and The Red Orchard have been offered at Christie's in Dubai and other international sales, introducing his work to a broader collector base and confirming his presence on the global auction stage.

Hussein Baalbaki occupies a distinctive place among Lebanese contemporary artists, bridging local artistic traditions with broader currents in post war and abstract painting. His work continues to be exhibited and collected internationally, appreciated for its contemplative depth and textural intensity.



Hussein Baalbaki

Seaside, 2025

Mixed Media, oil on canvas

33 X 50 cm

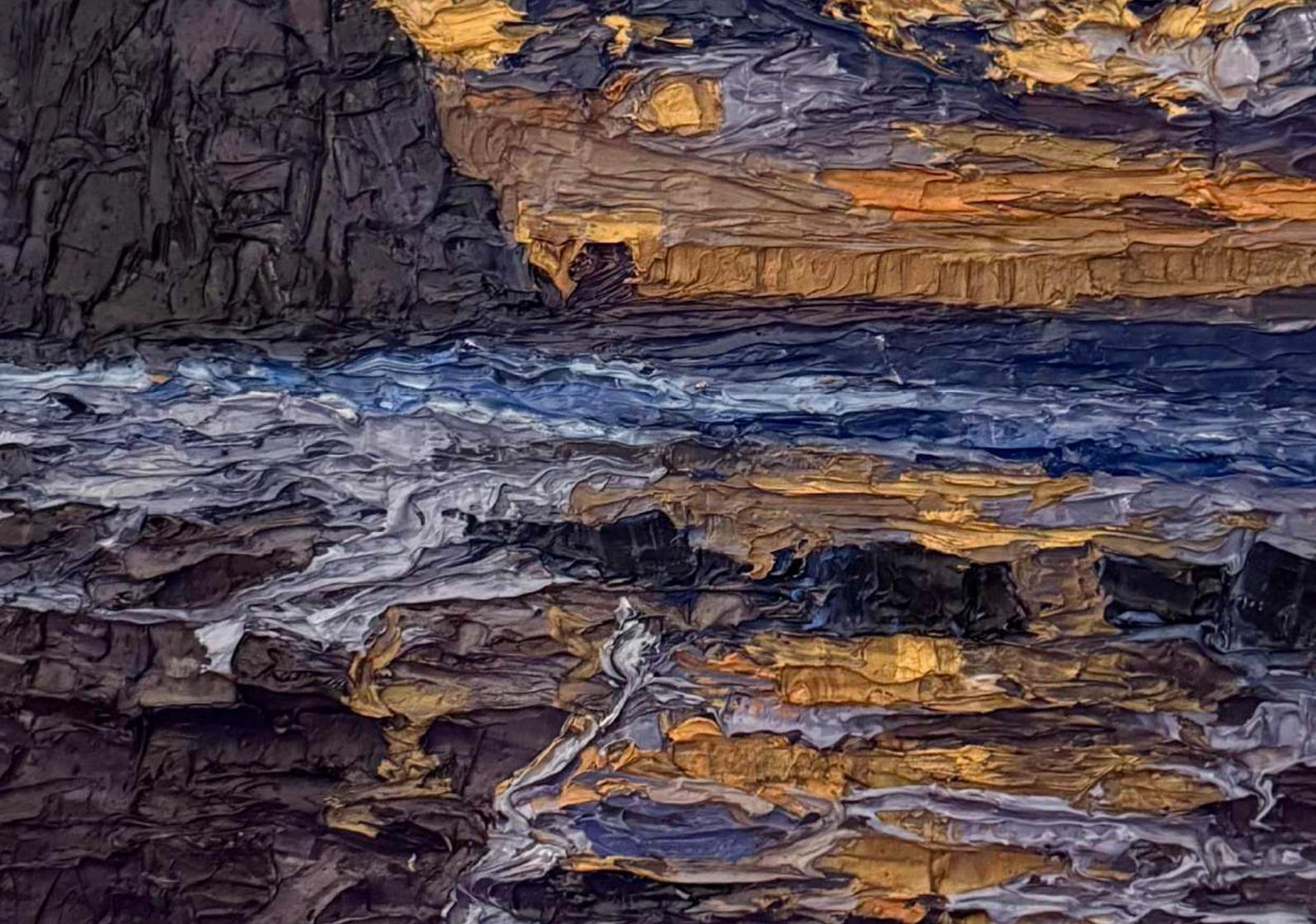
Hussein Baalbaki

Still Waiting, 2025

Mixed Media, oil on canvas

33 X 50 cm







Hussein Baalbaki

Still Remember, 2025

Mixed Media, oil on canvas

43 X 60 cm

Hussein Baalbaki

Paris at sunset, 2025

Mixed Media, oil on canvas

43 X 60 cm



RICHARD HEARNS

B. 1980

Richard Hearn is an Irish painter working in the Burren, County Clare. He is known for both his figurative still life paintings and large-scale gestural abstractions, where composition, materiality, and mark-making take centre stage.

His practice is rooted in physicality, driven by a need to connect and leave an impression of life energy. A background in representational painting informs his abstract work, which balances discipline with spontaneity. Charcoal lines carve space, enclose shapes, and create movement, while subtle framing devices and carefully structured compositions guide the viewer's eye.

Born in Beirut in 1980 and adopted into Ireland, Hearn carries a dual heritage that shapes his artistic identity. His work exists between cultures and histories, forming a unique visual language influenced by the landscape in which he now creates. The Burren's raw, ancient presence acts as both setting and source, its rhythms echoing in the flow of his gestures.

Hearn's paintings evoke a sense of wonder and possibility, offering a visceral experience that connects the viewer to something larger. His intention is to create works that enrich lives visually, emotionally, and creatively, engaging with the fundamental act of creation itself.

In his most recent body of paintings, which began with *Nexus*, a commissioned work for Dublin City University, Hearn has been exploring the concept of thresholds through imaginary landscapes. These works engage with the fluidity of contemporary painting practice, embracing improvisation, layering, and revision as essential elements of their making. *Pentimento*, the presence of prior marks and decisions, is central to the process, revealing the evolution of thought and movement on the canvas. Employing prismatic colour and dynamic compositions, these paintings evoke realms felt beyond the everyday, inviting the viewer into a space of possibility and transformation.

Richard Hearn

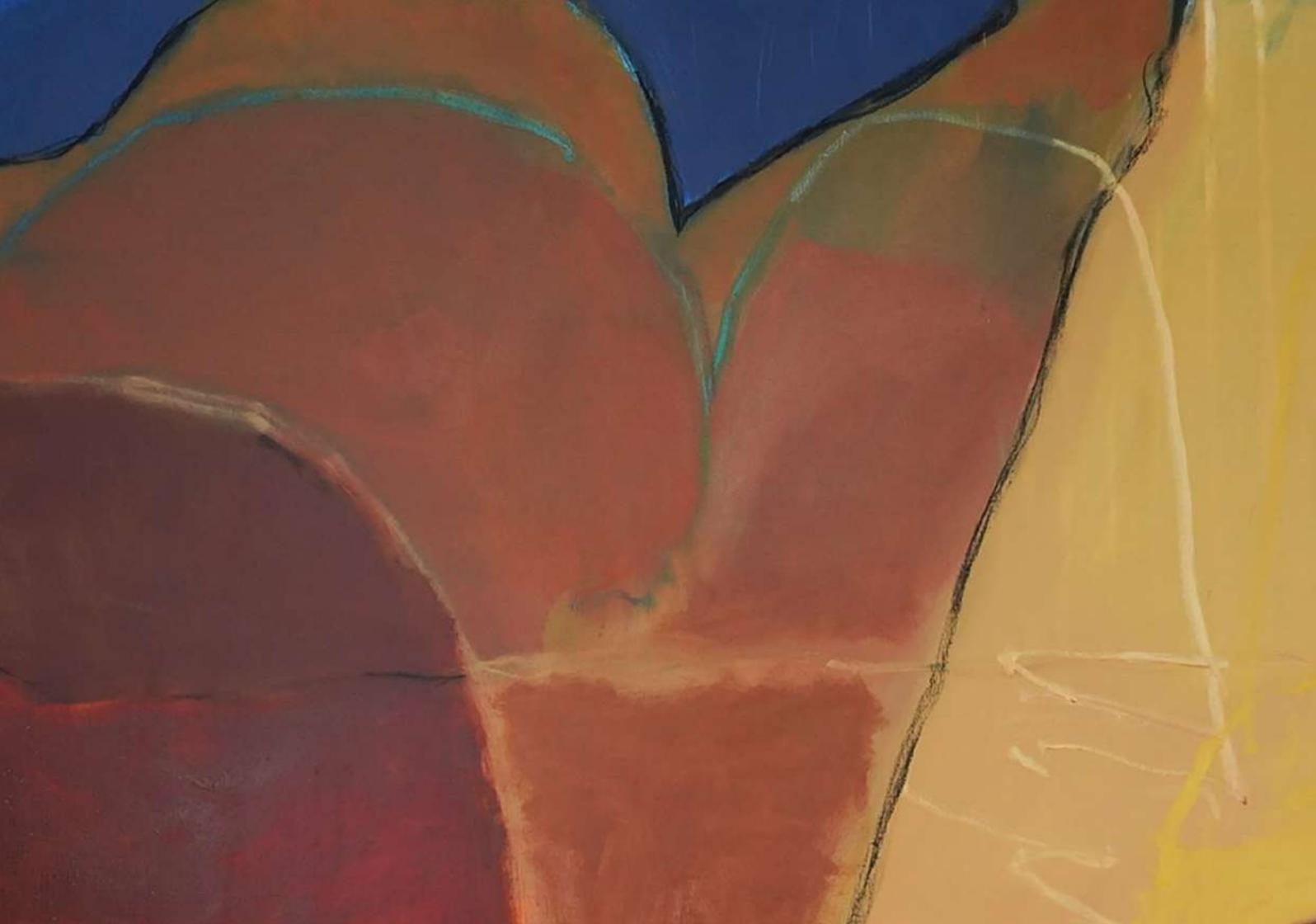
Sat against the rocks,

2024 - 2025

Oil on Linen

178 X 132 cm







Richard Hearn

Held, 2025 - 2026

Oil on Linen

100 X 100 cm

Richard Hearn
Bedrock, 2025 - 2026
Oil on Linen
100 X 100 cm



SARAH ALAGROOBI

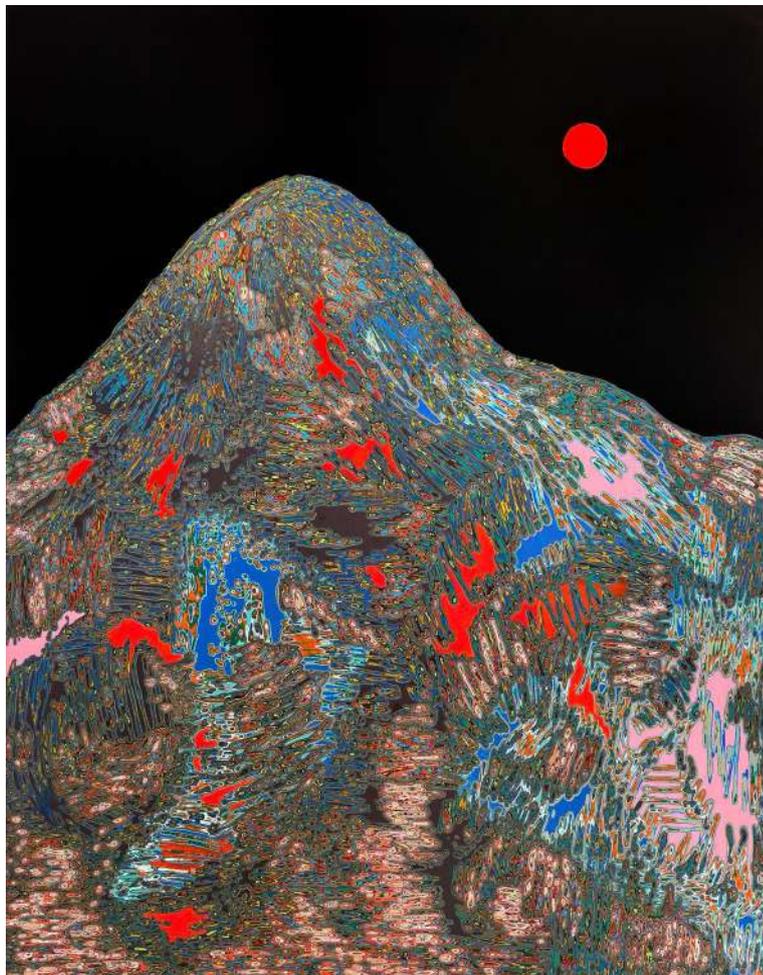
Sarah Alagroobi is a multidisciplinary artist, researcher, and educator whose practice operates at the intersection of painting, material experimentation, and critical inquiry. She holds an MA in Painting from the Royal College of Art, London, where her research driven approach was shaped by rigorous engagement with post-colonial theory and cross-cultural narratives. Working across Arab and Western contexts, Alagroobi investigates how histories, geographies, and systems of representation inform contemporary notions of identity and belonging.

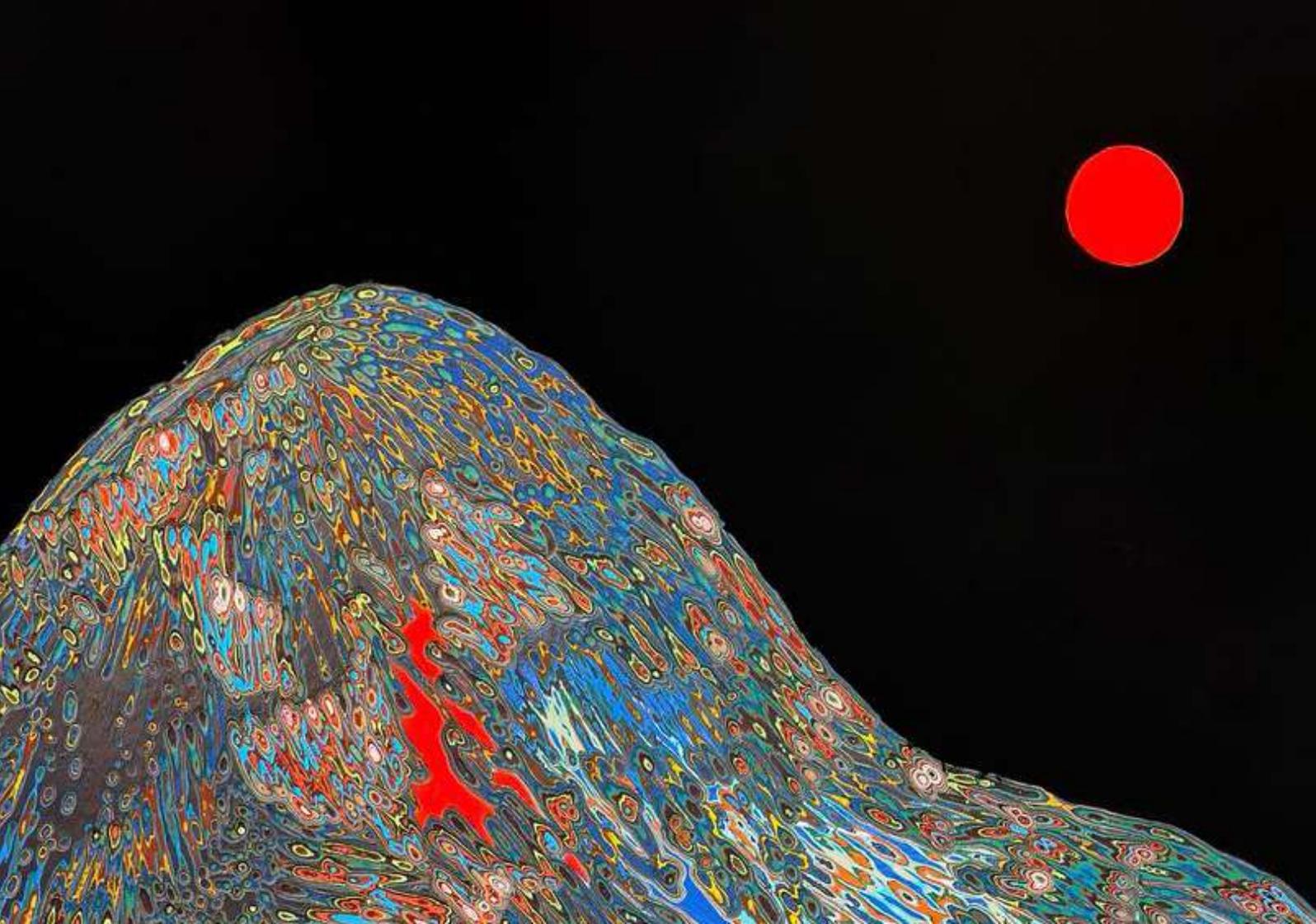
Rooted in both personal and collective experience, her work reflects on the politics of place, borders, and memory, often distilling complex socio-cultural questions into gestures of restrained clarity and material sensitivity. Through an agile simplicity of form and expression, Alagroobi foregrounds the quiet tensions between presence and absence, familiarity and displacement, inviting viewers to reconsider how cultural narratives are constructed and perceived.

Alongside her studio practice, Alagroobi maintains an active role as an educator and researcher, extending her artistic inquiry into pedagogical and discursive spaces. Her work has garnered attention from leading international design and art publications, including ESTRO, i-D, and Close- Up, recognizing her contribution to contemporary visual culture.

Alagroobi has exhibited widely across the Middle East and Europe, with presentations at institutions and platforms such as Somerset House, London; Salone del Mobile, Milan; the Venice Biennale; Dutch Design Week; Versus Art Project, Istanbul; ME Collectors Room, Berlin; Warehouse421; Art Jameel; Art Dubai; Abu Dhabi Art; and Serkal Avenue. Her growing international presence situates her practice within ongoing global conversations around cultural exchange, authorship, and the evolving language of contemporary art.

Sarah Alagroobi
The Blue Benath us, 2025
Acrylic on wood panel
150 X 120 cm







Sarah Alagroobi

The Red Between Us, 2025

Acrylic on wood panel

150 X 120 cm

SORAYA ABU NABA'A

B. 1985

Born on August 23, 1985, in Melbourne, Florida, to Arab parents, she moved to the Dominican Republic at the age of two. At eighteen, she relocated to Paris, where she studied French language and civilization at La Sorbonne for a year. She then pursued a Bachelor of Arts at the Paris American Academy, completing her degree after three years. The following year, she attended a sculpture course at the Accademia di Arti in Florence, Italy, and in the summer of 2014, she took part in an intensive painting program at Columbia University in New York City. In 2016, she moved with her family to London to study at the Royal College of Art, earning a Master's degree in Painting in 2018. She currently lives and works in Miami.

Her life across continents and cultures deeply informs her practice. As a multidisciplinary artist, she engages with a wide range of media, including painting, drawing, sculpture, textile installations, and performance, treating each as a distinct visual language. These mediums serve as conceptual vessels through which she explores themes of womanhood, motherhood, identity, and their intrinsic ties to nature, materiality, and ancestral craft.

Her work reflects a philosophical inquiry into embodied experience exploring how memory, lineage, and the handmade intersect to reveal the poetic and political potential of form. With over eighty exhibitions to date, her art is held in private collections around the world, including the World Bank, the Sandra and Tony Tamer Collection, Carmen Busquets and the Museo de Arte Moderno in Santo Domingo. Her work is also present in cities such as Miami, New York, Istanbul, Amman, London, Hong Kong, Geneva, Toronto, among others.

She has collaborated with institutions such as the Miami Children's Museum, the Latin American Fashion Summit, and the Goleadoras Foundation, integrating her textile practice with community narratives to produce ephemeral, site specific surreal textile environments. She has participated on multiple occasions in the Eduardo León Jimenes Competition and was selected to realize a large scale work for this prestigious biennial exhibition (2026). Her work has been recognized through numerous awards, including the Biennial of Visual Arts in Santo Domingo (2025) and a Miami Individual Artist Grant. Additionally, during Miami Art Week (2025), her work was exhibited through a collaboration between Save Art Space x Fountainhead in Miami Beach.

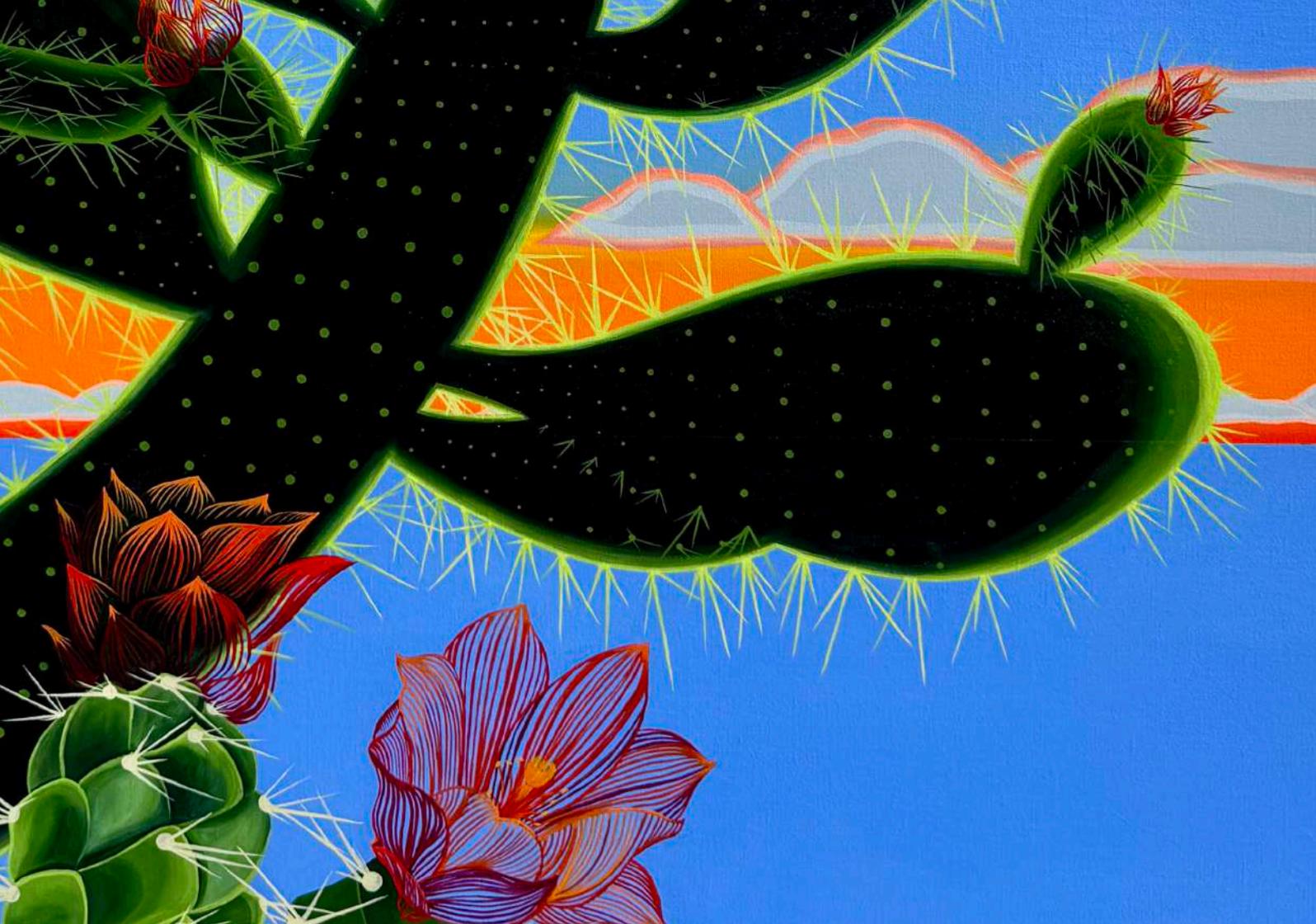
Soraya Abu Naba'a

Seascapes of the Homeland, 2025

Acrylic on canvas

91 x 91 cm







Soraya Abu Naba'a

Daydreams, 2025

Acrylic on canvas

91 x 91 cm

ARTBOOTH

ABOUT THE GALLERY

Emerging from over a decade of experience in the art field, Roger El Khoury founded Artbooth Gallery in 2019 with the aim of creating a cross-cultural bridge between artists, audiences, and collectors globally. We consider ourselves to be beyond borders since it is the original concept of Artbooth Gallery where we used to host pop-up exhibitions across the world.

Artbooth opened its first physical gallery space in Abu Dhabi, known as the cultural hub of UAE and pursues its mission through a diverse range of thematic exhibitions. Over the years the gallery has curated numerous solo and collective shows, showcasing artworks spanning various mediums and the gallery actively participates in Art Fairs in order to support both young and well established artists.

Embracing the power of creativity and artistic talent, Artbooth launches its presence in the bustling heart of Seoul, South Korea acclaimed as the rising art hub of Asia. Pioneering as the inaugural Middle Eastern Art Gallery in Asia, Artbooth aspires not only to cultivate a vibrant artistic community but also to spearhead global cultural exchange, aiming to establish itself as a cornerstone in the realm of arts and culture.

ArtBooth

"Found in Translation"

A solo exhibition by Steven Naifeh
November 8 - December 8

WELCOME TO
ArtBooth



ArtBooth

ноябрь 8 - декабрь 8

CONTACT US

Services include fine art sales consultancy, second market art sales, archiving collections and curating exhibitions.



+971 52 338 4009
+971 2 442 0243



info@artboothgallery.com



www.artboothgallery.com



Centro capital center by Rotana,
Ground floor, Al Khaleej Al Arabi Street
Abu Dhabi - United Arab Emirates

연락처

서비스는 미술 작품 판매 컨설팅, 중고 시장 미술 판매, 컬렉션 아카이빙 및 전시물 전시로 이루어져 있습니다.



+82-2-561-1230



artboothseoul@artboothgallery.com



21, Samseong-ro 100-gil, Gangnam-gu,
Seoul, Republic of Korea
서울 강남구 삼성로 100길 21

ArtBooth

ABU DHABI | SEOUL

☎ +971 24 420 243

✉ info@artboothgallery.com

🌐 artboothgallery.com

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