

ArtBooth

PRESS RELEASE

Artbooth Gallery Presents “Fields of Memory”: A Solo Exhibition by Shalabia Ibrahim

Artbooth Gallery is pleased to announce Fields of Memory, a solo exhibition by the pioneering Egyptian born artist Shalabia Ibrahim. Curated by Randa Sadaka, the exhibition will run from May 14 until June 21, 2026, offering a rare and intimate journey into a visual language shaped by the intersections of Egyptian and Syrian modernities.

The Essence of the Exhibition

Fields of Memory unfolds as a vibrant tapestry of lived experience and imagination. Ibrahim’s work exists at a unique cultural crossroads; born in Monufia, Egypt, in 1944 and long based in Syria, her practice is deeply informed by the visual traditions of the Levant and the rural soul of the Nile.

The exhibition highlights Ibrahim’s mastery of color as a language. Her dense, saturated palettes do more than fill space, they structure the image and carry an immediate affective presence, acting as an emotional anchor for the viewer. Her aesthetic, rooted in folk and popular art, utilizes stylized figures and simplified forms to create compositions that are at once universally accessible and profoundly symbolic.

"Shalabia’s work allows the ordinary to exist within a shared visual memory," says curator Randa Sadaka. "Everyday gestures and familiar faces are elevated, becoming archetypes of continuity and renewal."

Key Themes

- **The Eternal Feminine:** The female figure is central to Ibrahim’s world, embodying earth, fertility, and the enduring connection to the land.
- **Folk Mythology:** Drawing from her rural Egyptian upbringing, the artist populates her poetic compositions with animals and symbols derived from village life and Nile folklore.
- **Instinctive Mark Making:** Working primarily in watercolor and pastel, Ibrahim’s "spontaneous" style is a testament to her self-taught origins and her ability to capture the essence of a narrative through minimal, yet expressive, lines.

About the artist

Shalabia Ibrahim (b. 1944, Monufia, Egypt) is a self-taught painter known for her spontaneous and lyrical depictions inspired by rural life and Nile folklore. Encouraged by Syrian painter Nazir Nabaa, she developed a practice centered on symbolic female figures representing fertility, motherhood, and renewal. Working primarily in watercolour and mixed media, Ibrahim has exhibited internationally across the Middle East and Europe since the 1970s. Her works are held in important collections including the Museum of Fine Arts in Damascus, the Jordan National Gallery of Fine Arts in Amman, Dubai Collection, Chakkour Collection.

Exhibition Details

Fields of Memory

A solo exhibition by Shalabia Ibrahim

Dates: May 14 – June 21, 2026

Venue: Artbooth Gallery, Abu Dhabi

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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.