

# LEILA HELLER GALLERY.

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## Artspace

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Art Scene

### Can Dubai's Alserkal Avenue Point the Way Forward for the Gulf's Art Scene?

By Anna Wallace-Thompson  
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#### EXPANSION



A view of Alserkal Avenue currently

This November Alserkal will officially inaugurate its expansion, adding 76,200 square meters to effectively double its size. The additions include a 3,353-square-meter events center, new spaces for rent, and an outdoor courtyard known as the Yard that's designed to host artist performances, talks, and campus-style meetings.

Newcomers include New York's [Leila Heller Gallery](#), which will open a branch in Alserkal with a program of contemporary Western and Middle Eastern artists, and [Stephane Custot Gallery](#), which is opening with an exhibition of works by Marc Quinn; a community black-box theater, [the Junction](#),

will move in too. Others are joining the fold, such as existing community arts space **thejamjar**. Meanwhile, the neighborhood veteran **Third Line** is moving from its existing space across the street into a new one within the Avenue.

Alserkal mixes local and global artists—and new and older art—with a DIY entrepreneurial spirit. Its manifold programs and personalities point a way forward for Gulf art, dismantling clichés about the region's art scene while burrowing deep to form local roots.