23,000-square-metre expansion promises even further development of not only Contemporary art spaces, but 15 vaunted cultural outlets to, "create weekend and evening economies to make it a destination," says Director Vilma Jurkute. Last night’s gallery vernissages exhibited newcomers such as SVENM and The Junction Theatre and will be followed later in the season by Leila Heller Gallery, Jean-Paul Najar Foundation, The Third Line and M.A.D. Gallery amongst many others. Particularly notable are the first-ever in Dubai development of a live-in artist studio residency, the Cultural Radio Project, to premier in May during the Venice Biennale, and the Homegrown Programme, which Programming Director Taron Bastien says will continue to commission site-specific installation-cum-relational artworks to activate the Alserkal environment.

There are also additions in the realm of gastronomy, with Jurkute explaining, "as our narrative changes, we will also become a home for culinary excellence, a concept non-existent in Dubai or this part of the world." Little tastes such as Wild & The Moon are already present with their natural, healthy options and will be followed by Inked and Good Vibes Market.

It is an aesthetically utilitarian environment, juxtaposed against a colourful and rich cultural interior that thrives on something new. With one final note from Jurkute, “We commit to [taking] a risk on the risk takers.”