

Art week in Dubai highlights Iran

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In Dubai there is a growing international hub for Iranian art. The city is now hosting Art Week, where a wide range of exhibits, as well as tributes to influential Iranian artists, can be seen.

With galleries, exhibits and now even a private museum showcasing works from Iran, Dubai truly is becoming the world's window into Iranian art.

Born in Tehran, Ramin Salsali is an art collector and founder of a private museum. Iranian artwork forms a large part of his

collection of over 300 pieces.

He said, "Today one of the major part of the Dubai art is Iranian art and without doubt they contribute a lot to the art scene and culture in Dubai. We have many galleries focusing themselves on the Iranian art and considering this fact we can consider Dubai as the focus on international art with a focus on Iranian art."

Artists from the 1960's and 70's have had a strong influence on Iran's new generation of artists.

Reza Derakshani is one of those influences. A specially commissioned solo exhibition of his work is now being held in Dubai to coincide with Art Week.

She said, "Reza Derakshani that you see in this exhibit has been adopted to the metropolitan in New York last week so this is a great achievement from art from Iran and for the Middle East. We had a very interesting emotional discussion with each other how we can create a solo exhibition together for Reza and this works that you see here are one and a half years of continuous contact between me and Reza. Reza has magnificent art and I did not interfere at all, this is his contemplation, his contemporary contemplation of his life."

One of Iran's most well known artists Fareidah Lasai recently passed away and a lot of people here in Dubai are paying tribute to her such as the museum here which specially commissioned this cinema to

showcase her favorite films of all time.

Tributes to the late artist have been set up all over the world. Here in Dubai, a dear friend of Fareidah has specially commissioned this piece, which depicts her love of Italy, films and the ex prime minister of Iran, Mohammad Mosaddegh.

Her final work, which Fareidah finished just before her death, is on display at Art Dubai.

Leila Taghinia-Milani Heller, owner of Leila Heller Gallery, said, "This work is her last work, inspired by the gross disaster of war. And this is a smaller version which is 47 plates. There is a bigger version which is 80 plates and what she has done is she has taken from this series all the animation and figures out and she has made these plates, done in London, itched in London. They are Italian and then she has reanimated them with video so as you can see these are the itchings and each of the video when the moon goes over the plates the figures come back in animation. "

While Dubai is increasingly hailed as the hub of Iranian art, some say more still needs to be done before it can become a fully international platform. But as you can see, it looks like the city is on the right track.

<http://english.cntv.cn/program/cultureexpress/20130324/101065.shtml>

