

LEILA HELLER GALLERY.

# daily **Calivada**

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Images courtesy Alserkal Avenue, Dubai.



## ALSERKAL SUPERSIZE

Dubai's cultural district expands with an additional 23,000 square metres of F+B outlets, galleries and other cultural spaces.

In the span of just over a year, Al-Quoz's Alserkal Avenue has transformed from three rows of warehouses to an expansive community of industrial facades, housing what Alserkal Founder and Patron of the Arts, Abdelmonem Alserkal, describes as "creative visionaries, the fabric of the UAE and region."

With Ayyam Gallery as one of the first spaces to dot between the car repair shops, followed by Green Art Gallery, Carbon 12, Gallery Isabelle van den Eynde and Lawrie Shabibi, the

## ALSERKAL SUPERSIZE

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Images courtesy Alserkal Avenue, Dubai.

23,000-square-metre expansion promises even further development of not only Contemporary art spaces, but 15 varied 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 Najjar 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 Tairone 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 tasters 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." ■