

Creativity UNLEASHED

Creative pursuits like painting and drawing allow people to enjoy freedom and express themselves in a safe way. Without creativity, we would be nowhere near where we are today, culturally or otherwise. We asked local artists to share with us their favourite piece of art. Take a look and get creative!



Annette Wendling-Willeke



Behnaz Larsen



Doerte Meichsner



Dominika Bozic



Elham Razani



Jacinthe Lamontagne-Lecomte



Jameela Al-Shraim



Mahesh Kumar



Marjolijn Stolk



Nigel Muter



Salim Abdulla



Shihar Hamza



Urvashi Gaekwad Chauhan



Verity Watkins



Willemina Mansell



I am : **Annette Wendling-Willeke**, Chair, International Artists Doha

Born and raised in Germany, an Interior Architect by trade, and an artist by heart, I have been living, working and painting in my own country Australia, Sri Lanka, and now in Qatar.

When I am a guest in a culture, I pull inspiration from it, but it comes at a cost, which is only apparent when I move on: the feeling of loss. Interplay between cultures leaves me with a longing, or, more intensely, a yearning, that permeates every aspect of my life. Reflection is my coping tool; I contemplate belonging, absence, and change. Change, a transformation from one state to another, is essentially the life journey we all embark on. Life's path unfolds in a cyclical pattern; from a beginning to an end, to a new beginning.

MY FAVOURITE PIECE OF ART ➔

"Where do we come from?" is one painting of a pair (the other one being "Where do we go") - dealing with this fundamental question. Just as a weathered wall tells a story, my philosophy of change and passing time is integral to the manner in which I create my artwork. I am interested in any process that might demonstrate time, movement, and energy. This includes painting, collage, and image transfer. The mediums I employ are gouache and acrylic paint, pure pigment, coloured pencil, and sometimes crayon. Layer upon layer, I cover, add, and take away, by means of painting, scraping, scratching, stenciling, spraying, and glazing.

"Where do we come from?"





I am : **Behnaz Larsen**

An Iranian-American currently residing in Doha. I am a member of Qatar Fine Art Society and International Artists Doha. A biologist by education but I am currently working as an artist.

The Biological Indicator



MY FAVOURITE PIECE OF ART ➔

The polar bear is an endangered species. His existence depends on the very fragile and shaky temperature margin of the North Pole. In my painting, it is him protecting the girl, the girl being two of the same, meaning humanity's equality. The bear is protecting, not by his fur, not by his bulk but by his presence. As long as he is around, earth as we know it, is still a place we can call home. With him gone, it might be too late for all of us. The bear's life is our clue. He is our biological indicator.



I am : **Dominika Bozic**

I come from Croatia and I've been living and painting in Qatar since 2011. Painting and creating have been my passions for more than 15 years. My paintings as well as my illustrations printed on cards, signed prints, bookmarks and mini calendars are in many homes around the world. One of my paintings is a part of Qatar Fine Arts Society collection. Recently, I have also been asked to do the cupcake boxes and wish cards illustration for a client in Doha.

The Essence



MY FAVOURITE PIECE OF ART ➔

The paintings in my "Essence Series" are inspired by my childhood drawings that my grandmother kept for each of her five grandchildren. Each piece is based on pencil or pen drawing of my family or friends how I saw them when I was only 5 years old. I created a new work on canvas and paint with acrylic. Aging and distressing were part of my process. I finished paintings with a lacquered coating.



I am : **Doerte Meichsner**

A designer and artist from Germany and I hold a degree in Communication Design. Currently, I am working as a community class instructor at VCUQ and is a Committee member of the International Artists Doha, whereby I organise art events for the group. I am also a member of the Qatar Fine Arts Society. My creative work is mostly abstract and it is a world of personal associations. I mainly work with acrylic and oil paints, but also work with printing, collage, image transfer, photography and mixed media.

The Essence- Transitions



MY FAVOURITE PIECE OF ART ➔

The essence work refers to my thoughts about movement and change. Movement is the soul and engine of life - everything changes and nothing remains without change. There is a constant movement within us, around us and a connection amongst all. The past and the present are inextricably linked. The essence of life encompasses never-ending experiences. The search for answers - and the right questions - in the past and present leads each of us to make discoveries in our own timeline.

Since I relocated to Qatar in 2011, Doha's contrast of traditional culture with its rapid development is of particular interest to me and has significantly influenced my work. I enjoy playing with these contrasts and contradictions by reinventing traditional elements in a modern context.



I am : **Shihar Hamza**

A self taught artist who grew up surrounded by the country side greens of kerala - India. I freely yet modestly admit that I am not so concerned with the literal translation of a particular thing, subject or landscape but instead enjoy capturing the atmosphere and charm that embrace me as I tease my brush and paint across the canvas or paper. My art is about experimenting with live shapes, its habitat and colours. I see art as an expression of feelings but more importantly as a domain for freedom.

Acrylic on canvas



MY FAVOURITE PIECE OF ART ➔

Water color on handmade paper.



I am : **Elham Razani**

An Iranian artist. I started my career as a fine artist and developed further skills in conceptual art. My work consists of abstract, figure, and fine art, where I have been able to mix all three together. I also teach drawing and painting from beginners to advanced. I have exhibited my work in Iran, Canada and Cyprus.

MY FAVOURITE PIECE OF ART ➔

The drawing is a portrait of a child, using the medium of color pencil on paper.

Captivated



I am : **Jacinthe Lamontagne-Lecomte**

Born in the French province of Quebec, Canada in 1962 and I have been living in Qatar for the last 10 years. I am a member of International Artists of Doha and the Fine Art Society of Doha. I really started my art obsession in Doha. Started with clay then switched to acrylic painting, clay again and now photo transfer along with Mix Media. Photo transfer passion began with the idea of sharing with the others all those beautiful faces I discovered while travelling. It all starts with a photography.

MY FAVOURITE PIECE OF ART ➔

Blooming flowers resemble a dream. It wants to spread the message of happiness. The nature, spring, and cherry blooming time symbolise joy, cheerfulness and peace.

The Magic of a Geisha





I am : **Jameela Al-Shraim**

I obtained my Bachelor degree in Art at Qatar University in 1988. I was an art teacher for nearly 22 years. I am a member of the Qatari Association of Plastic Arts and a member of the International Artists Doha (IAD). I participated in exhibitions such as IAD exhibition at Qatar Foundation 2013, Cultural Dialogue in Oman 2013, Human Rights International Day 2012, the Plastic Arts Gallery of the GCC's youth in KSA- Riyadh, Gallery of plastic art 2010, Gallery at Sheraton Doha Hotel 1998.

Challenge to victory



MY FAVOURITE PIECE OF ART →



I am : **Mahesh Kumar**

I'm a self-taught artist from south India and I'm graphic designer by profession. I started my art since childhood. I have created art in various forms throughout my life. I paint all subjects. I create works in watercolour, oil, acrylics, pastel and pencil. As a self-taught artist I do not attempt to follow the traditional "rule" of art, but rather choose to create with as few limitations as possible. I normally choose the colours based on how the subject makes me feel, as opposed to the real colours of the subject. I have won many awards in Qatar and in India. I was the winner of World Environment Day painting contest in 2012, 2013. I am a member of International Artist Doha and have done painting exhibitions in Qatar and in India.

Acrylic on canvas



MY FAVOURITE PIECE OF ART →

Serene twilight greets the early birds as they meet the street to face a beautiful day. Northern part of India.



I am : **Marjolijn Stolk**

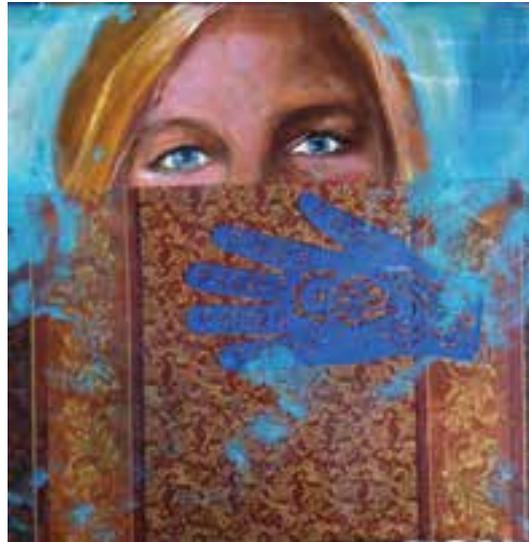
A Dutch Contemporary artist. My paintings mark themselves by sharp contrasts and vivid colours. In my figurative work the emotion of the subject is captured, however in abstract work, it is my own emotion which is being converted into an organic display of colour and form.

Since November 2009 I live in Doha, Qatar. Whilst living here I blend abstract and figurative style elements portraying the wealth and diversity of the Arabian Heritage using acrylic paint in combination with mixed media and collage. I studied art at the New Academy in The Netherlands and was a member of the art group BeeKk in Bilthoven. In Qatar, I participated in various workshops such as "the Msheireb "Echo memory Project [Sadaa Al Thikrayat], Qatar Fine Art Society and Al Asmakh International Art Symposium. I am the Co-founder of the "International Artists Doha" [IAD] and I was the Chair until December 2013. I am also a member of Qatar Fine Arts Society.

MY FAVOURITE PIECE OF ART ➔

The essence of life is deeply connected to the development of one's soul; free of boundaries and restrictions. The universal right of Freedom of Speech is a sign of a modern society.

Freedom of Speech



I am : **Nigel Muter**

I work as an art instructor at the College of the North Atlantic Qatar, Doha. I graduated from Central Saint Martins College of Arts and Design, London, studying Fine Art, painting and drawing. Born in London in 1965, I have lived and worked in a variety of places before moving to Doha in 2009. My employment history has been very diverse, although experience in the building trade has influenced the use of many non-paint elements into my works such as dyes, varnishes, glues, sand, stones, wood and industrial paints.

MY FAVOURITE PIECE OF ART ➔

The tree featured in the painting was in the middle of various building works taking place in the Al Saad area of Doha and was the only tree for a couple of blocks still left standing. As old apartment blocks were being torn down and new ones erected, the tree remained, although only just and with no body to water it. It struggled but managed to survive. In the picture, at street level all is darkness and confusion, at the top of the tree is freedom and enlightenment, making the body of the tree is the path between the two. I saw the plight of the tree as a metaphor for our existence in a constantly changing landscape.

Struggle In the Face of Adversity





I am : **Salim Abdulla**

An Artist cum photographer in Qatar. Beginning with water colours, and travelling through pastels , I have been currently involved in oil artworks. My strives and struggles have been rewarded in the form of awards in the past 15 years. I have exhibited my collection of works in Doha, Dubai, and Sharjah.

In the Souq Waqif



MY FAVOURITE PIECE OF ART ➔

The vibrant costumes of the Rajasthani dancers from my country, India caught my attention while they were performing in Doha during the Doha Cultural Capital in 2010. The brush strokes like effect and colours have inspired me to paint the same.



I am : **Verity Watkins**

An artist and art teacher from the UK. I have been living in Doha for just over 5 years with my husband and 3 daughters. I obtained my degree in Textile Design followed by a PGCE in Art and Design from the UK. I currently teach community art classes for children at VCU-Q. Through my own work, I now specialise in acrylic painting on canvas. I love to experiment with texture and colour and focuses on abstract landscape and animal portraits.

Elephants



MY FAVOURITE PIECE OF ART ➔

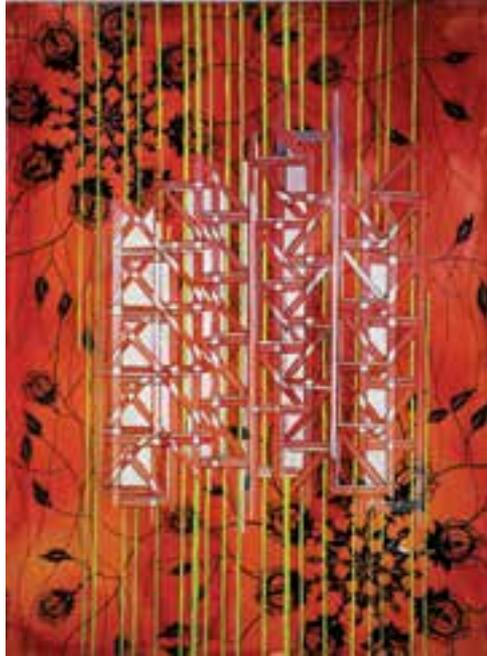
This is from my "unconditional series." It is mixed media and collage piece depicting the unconditional bond between mother and child.



I am : **Urvashi Gaekwad Chauhan**

I am from Mumbai, India. I completed my art education from the Maharaja Sayajirao University (MSU), Baroda, India. I received my BFA in 1996 and Diploma in Printmaking in 1997. I received the Gujarat Lalit Kala Academy Award in Painting in 1995. I was also an Art teacher with DMIS -Doha from 2006-2008. Since 2011, I've been working with the Qatar Tennis Federation on a project for the Qatar Olympic Museum by doing Hand Casts for their top players like Roger Federer, Rafael Nadal, David Ferrer, Na Li, Caroline Woznicki and many more. I am a committee member of the International Artists Doha where I manage various projects for the group.

The Detached Observer



MY FAVOURITE PIECE OF ART →

The essence of life is deeply connected to the development of one's soul; free of boundaries and restrictions. The universal right of Freedom of Speech is a sign of a modern society.



I am : **Willemina Mansell**

When I am painting, I allow myself to go within and observe what happens while I am applying the paint. My imagination helps to take this process further. It is as if the paintings paint themselves. The mystery of life through creation. Having lived in many countries from early childhood, my memories of different cultures have begun to merge. For the past 10 years we have lived in India, Oman and Qatar. My paintings are about the essence of moving between cultures and how we are influenced by nature, religion and local arts and crafts. The soul remains constant as we grow and transcend the differences. I use various media to express my feelings: watercolour, oil paint, acrylics and collage. In addition I do silk painting because of its magical flow and intense, and beautiful colours.

Blue Moon



MY FAVOURITE PIECE OF ART →

In Islamic culture the moon is very important and a true inspiration. The full moon in Qatar is quite a spectacle. When you walk on the beach at sunset, you first see the beautiful orange, red and yellow colours, and later pinks and purples against the light blue that will turn into the ink blue, star-filled night sky, with the moon looming large.