

To play the role of Jeff Buckley, Badgley studied the singer's life, his interviews and spoke to people who knew him



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**QT**

QATAR TRIBUNE  
Publication

Sunday  
May 5,  
2013

# Chill out



# Culture canvas

Different images of cultural intermingling were on display at the recently concluded International Artists Doha expo

COVER STORY  
PG 02

# Artists come together to share & learn



Members of the International Artists Doha at a get-together.

LEZIMA GOMES  
DOHA

**T**HE interplay between the Qatari culture on one hand, and the cultures of the countries of the expatriate residents here, as seen by artists, was the subject of an exhibition held at the Qatar Foundation Recreation Centre recently.

Aptly titled "Between cultures", the exhibition was organised by International Artists Doha (IAD), an organisation formed in the mid-2011 by two Dutch artists to help those of their ilk from different countries living in Doha to come together and share ideas, knowledge and creative experiences.

The IAD has since seen two Qatari artists joining hands with 20 others from

12 countries to foster opportunities by sharing experience, learning from one another, combining resources, collaborating with local art initiatives and showcasing their work through exhibitions contributing immensely to the growing art scene in Qatar.

Marjolijn Stolk IAD co-founder and chair who has been painting for nearly 20 years now and has been living in Doha for the past three-and-a-half years, said that the group which began with just 10 members has today many waiting to be accepted into it.

The IAD includes professional as well as self-taught artists living in Doha, she said adding the membership follows review of the works of the artists for which they have to be sent across. "We like our group artists to be different, we like variety in our group, some-

thing new each time a new technique so that others can also learn and be inspired," she said.

Talking about her work she said that the paintings she put up at the exhibition included those depicting mosques and domes of Qatar she adds "I know that the domes and mosques here are not colourful but my paintings are my own imagination they are in a way mythical. I love colour and I have infused my painting with colour."

Jameela Alshraim is one of the two Qatari artists in the group. Her effort in painting is directed towards trying to portray Her Highness Sheika Moza's vision for women.

Yet another member of the group, Urvashi Gaekwad is from India and has exhibited a self-portrait in the show. The portrait has elements of the Qatari

culture as the backdrop she said "The art scene in Qatar is on an upswing. It provides a platform for artists from several regions."

Annete Wendling, another member of the group, is an interior architect and designer by profession who has lived in a number of countries all over the world. She has been painting for 17 years now and thinks that her paintings bear the influence of her surroundings, the different cultures she experienced in her varied places of residence. "I have painted masks as I believe masks are used everywhere in some way or the other. I am fascinated with masks," said the German.

Speaking about the opportunities she has got through IAD, Wendling said "IAD gave me the opportunity to meet so many different people. When you inter-



Annete Wendling



Urvashi Gaekwad



Jameela Alshraim

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Paintings by Marjolijn Stolk.

act with people you get more insight into different things and also get new ideas. Besides, the IAD provides group members a platform to showcase their art work which was something impossible before.”

Dorte Meichsner from Germany holds a degree in communication design and has put on display an abstract painting. “My paintings are about a lot of personal feelings, they tell about me moving to Qatar, the entirely new atmosphere, experiences and culture.”

Shihar Hamza from India has been in Doha for five years. His paintings represent the title of the exhibition. Most of them in black and white, his paintings are an attempt to portray being between cultures, languages and history.

The exhibition also had a whole wall

of 30x30 paintings that were contributed by all participating artists. They were on a silent auction and the proceeds would be used to fund future IAD public events.

*(If you are interested in joining the IAD group you can send an email on [newmembers@marjolijnstolk.nl](mailto:newmembers@marjolijnstolk.nl))*

