

**Made in the UAE**

**Group Exhibition | 12 June – 1 July 2026**



**Samo Shalaby**

*Genesis, 2025*

Acrylic on canvas

240 x 120 x 4 cm

94.5 x 47.2 x 1.6 in

JD Malat Gallery Dubai is pleased to announce the selected finalists of Made in the UAE, a curatorial initiative launched in October 2025 to spotlight and support artistic voices shaping the UAE's contemporary cultural landscape. Following an open call that attracted more than 300 submissions from artists residing across the Emirates, seven artists have been selected for the upcoming group exhibition opening on 11 June 2026 at JD Malat Gallery in Downtown Dubai.

The selected finalists, all residing in the UAE, are Ahmed Emad (UAE/Egypt), Anila Ashraf (Pakistan), Camelia Mohebi (UAE), Elizaveta Pugacheva (Russia), Samo Shalaby (Egypt/Palestine), Sasan Nasernia (Iran) and Yousif Albadi (Sudan).

Reflecting the multicultural fabric of the UAE's dynamic creative ecosystem, the finalists represent a range of distinct artistic perspectives and practices. Their works span painting, sculpture and mixed-media, exploring themes of identity, memory, materiality and cultural exchange, while offering a snapshot of the evolving contemporary art landscape shaping the region today.

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**JD MALAT GALLERY DUBAI**

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Downtown Dubai - Dubai - United Arab Emirates

The finalists were selected by a panel of leading figures from the region's art and cultural community, including Zina Khair, Patron and Co-Founder of the Khair Art Collection; Roxane Zand, Founder of Zand Fine Arts and former Sotheby's Deputy Chairman Middle East; Ali Mohammadioun, Collector-Curator and Founder & Architect of E Plus A Atelier; and Jean-David Malat, Art Dealer and Founder of JD Malat Gallery. Following the review process, the panel expanded the original selection to include seven artists, recognising the exceptional quality and breadth of submissions received.

"Made in the UAE was created as a way to engage more directly with the artistic energy emerging from across the Emirates," said Jean-David Malat, Founder of JD Malat Gallery. "The level of submissions we received was incredibly strong and demonstrated the depth of talent currently shaping the UAE's cultural landscape. What stood out was not only the quality of the work, but the diversity of perspectives and experiences represented. These artists reflect the international and layered identity that makes Dubai such a compelling creative city today."

**Sasan Nasernia (b. 1974, Tehran, Iran)** is a multidisciplinary artist living between Dubai and Vancouver whose practice reinterprets Persian and Arabic calligraphic traditions through abstraction, developing his distinctive "Crazy Kufic" visual language to explore the boundaries between text, form, and meaning.

**Anila Ashraf (b. 1978)** is a Dubai-based ceramic artist and founder of LaTakhaf Ceramics whose experimental wheel-thrown works blur the line between functional design and sculpture, celebrating transformation, material exploration, and the expressive potential of clay.

**Camelia Mohebi** is a multidisciplinary Emirati artist, designer, and art therapist whose richly layered practice spans painting, illustration, and multimedia, exploring healing, spirituality, and self-discovery through symbolic and immersive visual narratives.

**Samo Shalaby (b. 1999, Cairo, Egypt)** is an Egyptian-Palestinian multidisciplinary artist and Central Saint Martins graduate whose theatrical paintings and photographic works merge surrealism, fashion, and historical symbolism to examine identity, culture, and reinvention.

# JD MALAT GALLERY

**Yousif Albadi (b. 1989, Sharjah, UAE)** is a Sudanese multidisciplinary visual artist, photographer, and curator whose contemplative practice transforms architecture, landscape, and light into poetic reflections on memory, space, and the human condition.

**Ahmed Emad (b. 1993, Dubai, UAE)** is a multidisciplinary artist whose mixed-media practice combines engineering precision with expressive portraiture and material experimentation, investigating identity, transformation, and the emotional narratives embedded within form.

**Elizaveta Pugacheva (b. 1995)** is a Dubai-based interdisciplinary artist whose painting, graphic, and textile works draw on digital culture and personal migration experiences to explore identity, collective memory, and the evolving relationship between technology and belonging.

## EXHIBITION DETAILS:

**Dates:** 12 June - 1 July 2026

**Location:** JD MALAT GALLERY DUBAI

Act 2 Tower, Ground Floor

Sheikh Mohammed Bin Rashid Blvd 13A

Downtown, Dubai - United Arab Emirates

**Public Hours:** Monday - Sunday | 10:00AM - 10:00PM

For press inquiries, images, or to schedule an interview with the founder and curator Jean-David Malat in Dubai, kindly contact:

**JD Malat Gallery Dubai**

Press Office

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JD MALAT GALLERY DUBAI IN DOWNTOWN

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