

ABU DHABI ART 2024: ART WITHOUT BORDERS

Elen Levitt, an art advisor and collector, shares the highlights of the 16th edition of Abu Dhabi Art, held from 20 to 24 November at Manarat Al Saadiyat in Abu Dhabi.



⬆ From left to right
Zayn Qahtani
LAMENTATIONS
2023

COMMUNION
2023

WOUND
2023

Courtesy of Hunna Art



⬆
Jacques Majorelle (1886–1962)
THE BLANKET MARKET

Courtesy of Mathias Ary Jan

⬇
Zheng Lu
WATER IN DRIPPING-SURGING
2023



⬇ From left to right
Joud Fahmy
GRAVEYARD OF EMOTIONS 2
2024

BEHIND THE SHADOWS; EXPERIMENTING
2023

GRAVEYARD OF EMOTIONS 1
2024

Courtesy of Hunna Art





El Anatsui

ZULEZ

Scorched tropical hardwood and house paint

2023

Courtesy of Effe Gallery and Artist



Melis Buyruk

BLOOMING CARPET

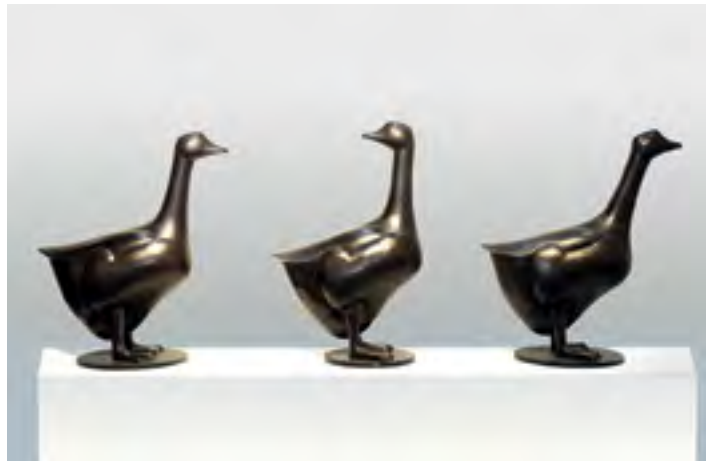
45.28 x 59.1 x 4.7 in. 110x150x12cm

Porcelain (Hand Built),

Wooden Panel

2024

Courtesy of Leila Heller Gallery



François-Xavier Lalanne

THE THREE GEESE OF SARLAT

Patinated bronze designed

98 cm

Courtesy of Mathias Ary Jan



Yunchul Kim

STRATA VI

2024





Zhuang Hong Yi
ENCHANTED LUNA
2023
Courtesy of Hofa

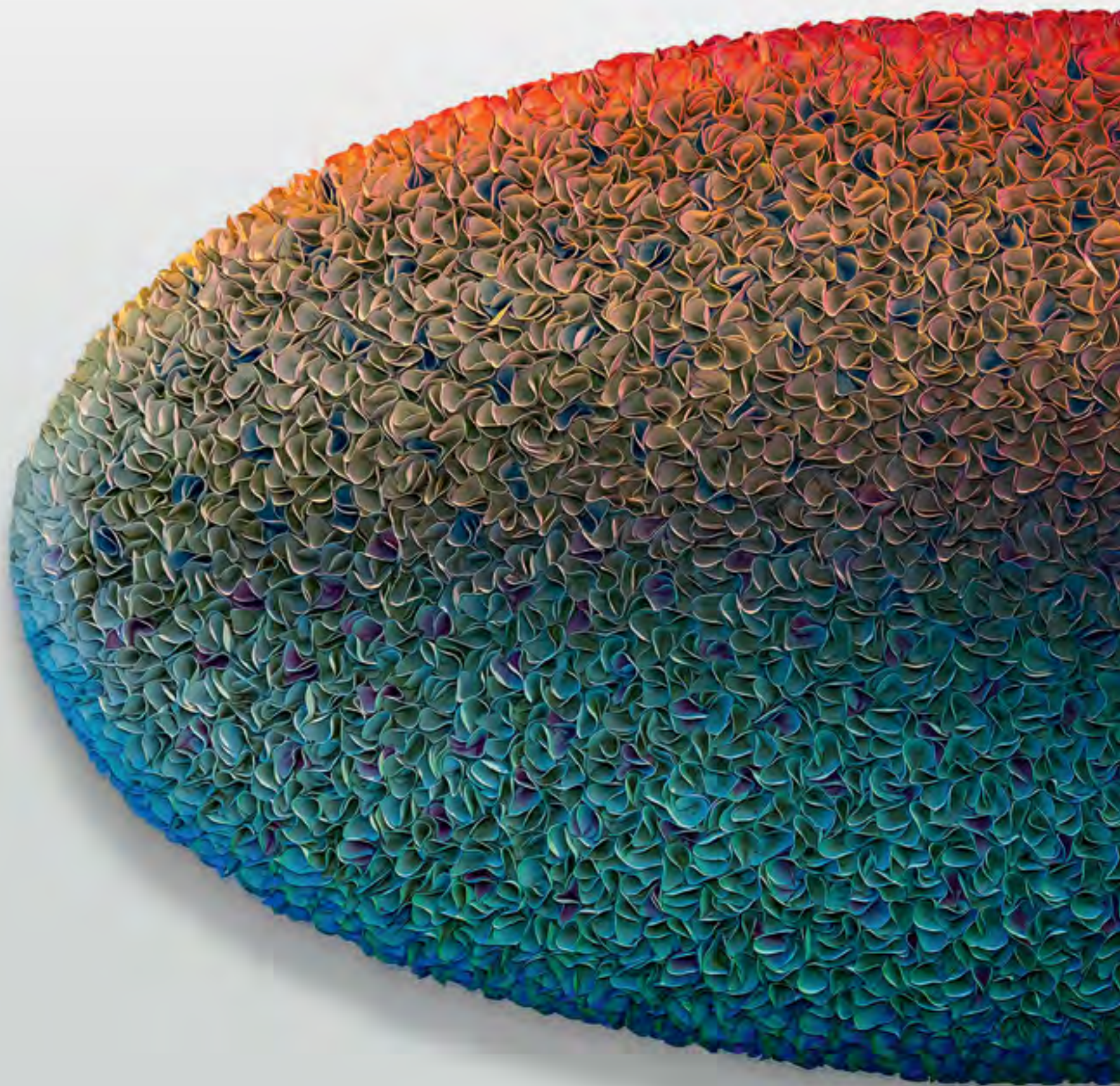
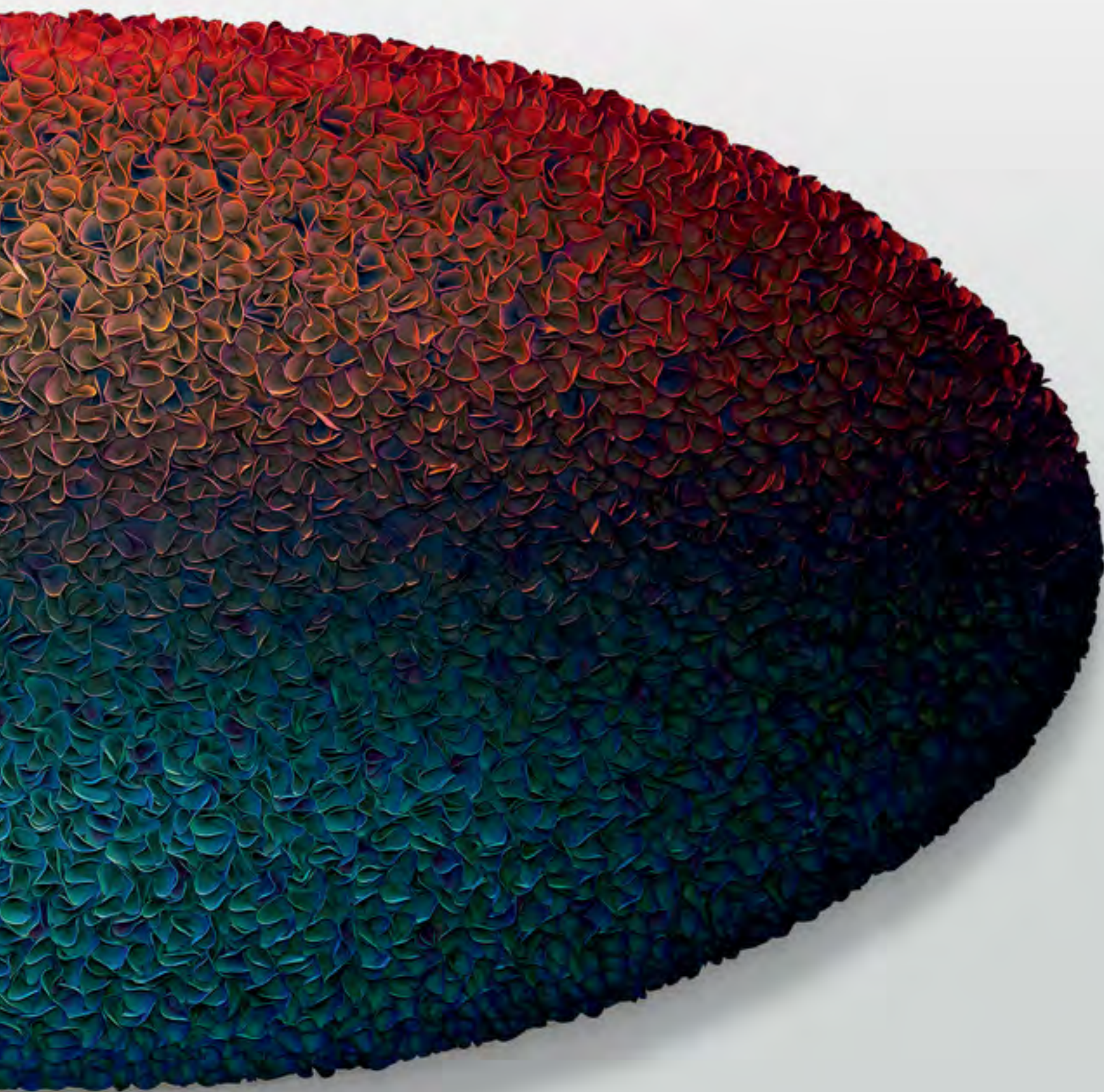


Image courtesy of Press Office





Ekrem Yalçındağ
IMPRESSIONS FROM THE STREETS
2023
Courtesy of Sevil Dolmacı Gallery



Image courtesy of Press Office

The

The fair brought together 102 galleries from 31 countries, with over 35,000 visitors attending, serving as a vital bridge between Arab heritage and the global art community. Special attention was given to the VIP programme, aimed at strengthening ties with prominent collectors from Russia, China, Italy, Turkey, and Germany. The fair showcased more than 500 artists and over 1,500 artworks, organised into seven thematic sections. New additions included Something Bold and Something New, featuring contemporary works from MENA artists, as well as Silk Road: Drifting Identities, highlighting galleries and artists from Central Asia and the Caucasus. The Collector's Salon was a highlight of the event, presenting manuscripts, rare antique books, and unique art objects, including a conceptual rug by Mona Hatoum valued at \$150,000. This variety offered visitors a unique opportunity to immerse themselves in the richness of art. The main exhibitions featured galleries from the Emirates and neighbouring countries, including Lebanon, Tunisia, Palestine, Saudi Arabia, Iran, and Kuwait. This allowed visitors to explore the visual culture of the Middle East and supported artists from conflict regions such as Gaza and Lebanon. Abu Dhabi Art also reflected a global perspective, with galleries from Hong Kong, South Korea, and the African continent participating. Works by masters

like El Anatsui and William Kentridge emphasised cultural diversity. Galleries from post-Soviet states, such as Pygmalion from Kazakhstan, showcased both classical and contemporary works, including pieces by Almagul Menlibayeva. At the main entrance, visitors were greeted by a striking matte sphere by Anish Kapoor, alongside works by radical artist Sislej Xhafa and Ukrainian artist Zhanna Kadyrova. The booth of pop/off/art, the only Russian gallery at the fair, featured Irina Nakhova's Ironing Boards installation, valued at \$85,000. The first edition of this work is part of the Moscow Museum of Modern Art's collection. A solo exhibition by Anna Boghiguiian, recipient of the Wolfgang Hahn Prize, underscored the fair's focus on accomplished international artists. The event's visual campaign was designed by multidisciplinary artist Mohammed Kazem, a key figure in the local art scene. 2024 also marked the inaugural Public Art Abu Dhabi Biennial, held alongside the fair, transforming the city into an open-air exhibition. Artworks were integrated into the urban landscape and will remain accessible until 30 April 2025. The anticipated 2025 openings of the Guggenheim Abu Dhabi and Zayed National Museum will further strengthen the UAE's role as a cultural hub in the MENA region, uniting history, art, economics, and innovation.



Sepand Danesh
Courtesy of Galerie La La Lande



William Kentridge
Courtesy of Goodman gallery

