

# MIA ART COLLECTION

A photograph of a person with a backpack walking through a destroyed urban area. The person is seen from behind, wearing a yellow long-sleeved shirt and dark pants. They are walking on a path of rubble and debris. The buildings on either side are heavily damaged, with twisted metal and charred remains. In the background, a brick wall is visible, and a plume of smoke or dust rises into the sky. The sky is filled with heavy, grey clouds, and the overall atmosphere is somber and desolate.

WHAT A WONDERFUL WORLD . . .

PHOTOGRAPHY EXHIBITION by MIA ART COLLECTION

November 2023  
Abu Dhabi, UAE

MIA  
ART COLLECTION



## **ALEJANDRA CASTRO RIOSECO**

**A word from the Director of the MIA ART COLLECTION**

MIA Art Collection - an international private and not-for-profit art collection that unites, visualizes and supports the role of women artists and their works, reaching across borders to over 33 countries and 900 works of art. The philanthropic nature of this collection is recognized in the art world for its work for over a decade.

MIA Art Collection focused on creating visibility and supporting women artists in a responsible, sustainable and global way. In 2020 MIA Art Collection launched the first Virtual Museum exclusively for women artists "MIA Anywhere" and engages in numerous support projects on a global scale including art exhibitions, scholarships, MIA Residence, to name a few.

Following in the footsteps of the successful MIA ART Collection exhibitions in Dubai, UAE titled "Fragility" in 2023, "Serendipity" in 2022 and "Sense of Women" in 2021, MIA ART Collection is proud to present its first Exhibition in Abu Dhabi, presenting carefully selected photography by exclusively women photographer artists from across the world, on a central theme of conflict, injustice and human displacements captured through the eyes of the female artists.

The exhibition is titled 'What a Wonderful World' and can be visited in Etihad Towers, Diba Gallery, between November 22nd and December 10th, dates carefully tailored to the renowned ART Abu Dhabi Exhibition. The Exhibition, endorsed by our numerous collaborators and supporters, will be a meeting place for special events including roundtable discussions, artist presentations, guided tours and workshops, organized by the MIA Art Collection team. The visitor will enjoy observing the feminine artists viewpoint on today's contemporary society and its realities, captivated by the different approaches and perspectives of these global women artists on matters of actuality.

# WHAT A WONDERFUL WORLD . . .

## A glance into the exhibition

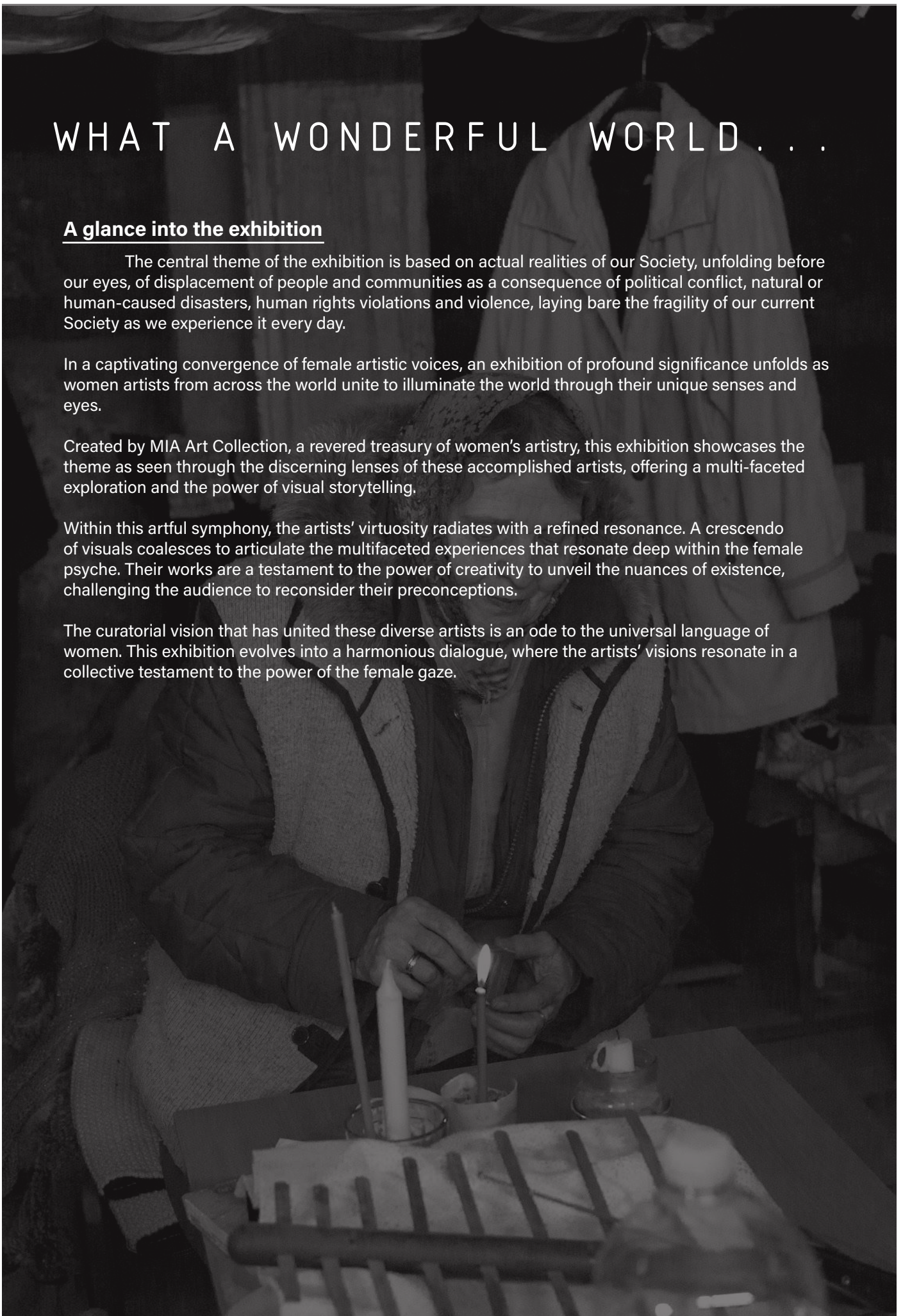
The central theme of the exhibition is based on actual realities of our Society, unfolding before our eyes, of displacement of people and communities as a consequence of political conflict, natural or human-caused disasters, human rights violations and violence, laying bare the fragility of our current Society as we experience it every day.

In a captivating convergence of female artistic voices, an exhibition of profound significance unfolds as women artists from across the world unite to illuminate the world through their unique senses and eyes.


Created by MIA Art Collection, a revered treasury of women's artistry, this exhibition showcases the theme as seen through the discerning lenses of these accomplished artists, offering a multi-faceted exploration and the power of visual storytelling.

Within this artful symphony, the artists' virtuosity radiates with a refined resonance. A crescendo of visuals coalesces to articulate the multifaceted experiences that resonate deep within the female psyche. Their works are a testament to the power of creativity to unveil the nuances of existence, challenging the audience to reconsider their preconceptions.

The curatorial vision that has united these diverse artists is an ode to the universal language of women. This exhibition evolves into a harmonious dialogue, where the artists' visions resonate in a collective testament to the power of the female gaze.







## The Exhibition

Amidst the exhibition's immersive landscapes, one discovers aesthetics and a profound socio-cultural commentary. Forced human displacement emerges as a potent force, a prism through which the artists explore the experiences of women barred from their homelands, forcing them to live abroad and away from their known habitat. These artists assert themselves as champions of human empathy and advocates for the displaced, articulating their narratives with compassion and insight.

This exhibition transcends visual delight; it is a chorus of the feminine viewpoint into delicate and intense expressions. It beckons art critics and enthusiasts to immerse themselves in its artistic intricacies, decoding a multi-layered narrative that will surely resonate with generations, honoring the powerful, unspoken stories that women artists bring to light.

Previous applauded MIA Art Collection exhibitions systematically attracted a high number of visitors ranging between 2,500 and 3,500 persons, from public and private sector, art lovers, students, government organizations, collectors and critics. The Exhibition takes place during Abu Dhabi Art and will expect similar number of visitors. MIA Art Collection has long-standing collaboration with press agencies and publications, ensuring visibility and coverage across borders in the region and to the world.

## **Curatorial Statement**

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"What a Wonderful World" shows the observer the world and conflicts as seen through the eyes of 14 women artists from different parts of the world, each reflecting their concerns with issues of importance such as natural or forced displacement, due to political causes or natural disasters, the stressful experiences suffered by women, the destruction of their homes and cities and how all this is transformed through the lens of the woman photographer.

The Exhibition allows the viewer to experience the difference between what the world sees, compared to what the women plasmates through the images she creates, of a single reality.

The experience served in the Exhibition, going beyond applied photographic techniques, is seeking the creation of a unified viewpoint by fourteen women from eight different countries across the globe.

As a result MIA Art Collection created this scenery of converging yet distinctive histories and realities, cultures, beliefs, religions, that despite obvious nearby differences, from a distance seems almost alike.

"What a Wonderful World" unites the work of women who have lived and carried the weight of their lens and what it has obliged them to see.

MIA Art Collection has collected these artworks and carefully curated this Exhibition, a consistent extension of its vision of a world of equality and human rights, striving for a better world for all.

Alejandra Castro Rioseco.  
MIA Art Collection

In collaboration With

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Diba  
art gallery

AVENUE  
AT ETIHAD TOWERS

A high-contrast black and white photograph. In the center, a person's silhouette is seen from behind, looking out of a window. The window is arched and has a rough, possibly stone or brick, frame. The light from the window is very bright, creating a stark contrast with the dark interior. The person's hands are resting on the windowsill. The overall mood is contemplative and artistic.

# THE ARTISTS



## The Artists

### Carolina Paz Zúñiga (Chile)

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Carolina Paz Zúñiga (Santiago de Chile, 1976) photographer author, documentary, visual artist, graduated in Journalism in 1999, University of Chile, Graduate in Information Sciences. She has a master's degree in Marketing at the Complutense University of Madrid, the city where she has lived for 20 years.

She is professionally dedicated to photography, her passion since she studied journalism and learned the analogue development process. In Madrid she has her studio that can be visited by appointment to review her photographic collections. She develops authorial artistic projects, with which she tries to explore the human being, making a portrait from within, of the realities that concern and inspire her.

In 2015 she was selected by the PHOTOESPAÑA Visual Arts Festival with a sociological project about the inhabitants of Marrakech. Her intention when working with the camera is to observe her surroundings and narrate issues with realism to provide another vision. Her artistic work, author photography, has been part of collective and individual exhibitions that have been published in different magazines around the world.



## The Artists

### Shirin Neshat (Iran)

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Shirin is an internationally acclaimed Iranian visual artist known primarily for her work in film, video and photography.

Her artwork centers on the contrasts between Islam and the West, femininity and masculinity, public and private life, antiquity and modernity, and bridging the spaces between these subjects.

After receiving a BA from the University of California at Berkeley in 1983, Neshat moved to New York, where she soon began working at the Storefront for Art and Architecture, an interdisciplinary alternative space in Manhattan.

She has won many international awards, and her works are included in the collections of the Tate Gallery in London, the Museum of Modern Art in New York, the Tel Aviv Museum of Art, and the Walker Art Center in Minneapolis.



## The Artists

### Rania Matar (Lebanon)



She was born and raised in Lebanon and moved to the U.S. in 1984. As a Lebanese-born American woman and mother, Matar's cultural background, cross-cultural experience, and personal narrative inform her photography.

She has dedicated her work to exploring issues of personal and collective identity, through photographs of female adolescence and womanhood. She works both in the United States, where she lives, and the Middle East where she is from, in an effort to focus on notions of identity and individuality all within the context of the underlying universality of these experiences.

Rania Matar's work has been widely published and exhibited in museums worldwide, including the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, the Carnegie Museum of Art, National Museum of Women in the Arts, and more. A mid-career retrospective of her work was recently on view at the Cleveland Museum of Art, and at the Amon Carter Museum of American Art, in a solo exhibition: *In Her Image: Photographs by Rania Matar*. She has received several grants and awards, and her work is in the permanent collections of several museums, institutions and private collections worldwide.



## The Artists

### Yuliia Chumak (Ukraine)

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My name is Yulia Chumak, born on May 12, 1987. I graduated from V.N. Karazin University in 2009 and I am a lawyer by profession. But my real passion is photography.

Since 2010, I have been studying the art of photography and taking artistic portraits of women.

Over time, I worked as a teacher at photo schools in Kharkiv: 2011-2013 - Kharkiv Photo School Art of Digital Photography; 2014-2018 - Ashta Photo School; 2019-2022 - Newstarscompany Photo School.

Documentary photography is a new direction for me.

In 2022, my photos were published for the first time as part of the local project *"Two Thousand Yard View"* with the support of Germany.



## The Artists

### Alyona Fedorchenko (Ukraine)

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Alyona Fedorchenko has been photographing for more than 14 years in fashion, portrait, reportage, and conceptual photography.

Before the war began, Alyona lived and worked in Kharkiv, which lies on the eastern border of Ukraine and Russia. It has suffered dramatically but has not lost its fighting spirit.

She was graduated from the University of Economics. Initially, she studied photography independently, but then she studied and received knowledge from well-known professional photographers and mentors in fashion and reportage. Currently, she is studying at the Ukrainian photography school MYPH.



## The Artists

### Yuliia Korienkova (Ukraine)

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Yuliia's career as an artist spans many years, starting from her childhood and youth in Ukraine, where she held several exhibitions and attended art school. She has spent many years in the United Arab Emirates, where she showcased her work in shows in Abu Dhabi and Dubai and received a Golden Visa for her talent and contribution to art. Her portfolio includes a solo exhibition titled "Robosapien" in Abu Dhabi, participation in World Art Dubai, a group exhibition at Louvre in Paris in the same year, and the opening of her gallery, Robotic Art Gallery, in Vienna, Austria, participated in a group exhibition in Monaco, Monte Carlo. She is part of the international project "Artbook Playboy Mexico" with artists Richard Orlinski, Super Buddha, Gilda Garza, and others. She contributed to the World Women Fund for the project "Art Can Heal" to empower 1 million women by 2030. Yuliia has collaborated with international artists and represented Ukraine as a UAE resident at the EXPO 2020 in the Ukrainian pavilion.

Yuliia is the Director Of New Projects in MIA Art Collection. For several years, Yuliia worked in her art on technology, enriching her canvases with 3D printing, holograms, and recycled electronics. Lately, she has been addressing her art, environmental and social struggles.



## The Artists

### Annalee Davis (Barbados)

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Annalee Davis' hybrid practice is as a visual artist, cultural activist, and writer. Her work sits at the intersection of biography and history, focussing on post-plantation economies by engaging with a particular landscape of Barbados. Her studio, located on a working dairy farm that operated historically as a 17th-century sugarcane plantation, offers a critical context for her work. Drawing, walking, making (bush) teas, and growing living apothecaries, Annalee's practice suggests future strategies for repair and thriving while investigating the role of botanicals and living plots as ancestral sites of refusal, counter-knowledge, community, and healing.

Her studio, located on a working dairy farm, operated historically as a 17thC sugarcane plantation, offering a critical context for her practice by engaging with the residue of the plantation. She has been making and showing her work regionally and internationally since the early nineties.

From 2016-2018, she was Caribbean Arts Manager with the British Council, developing programming in Cuba, Jamaica, and Trinidad and Tobago, and part-time tutor at Barbados Community College (2005-2018). She received a BFA from the Maryland Institute, College of Art (1986) and an MFA from Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey (1989).



## The Artists

### Rania Tabbara (Lebanon)

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Can art contribute to improving the world? Can it help change mentalities? Can we continue to make art in an age of political transformation? Rania Tabbara definitely believes so.

A graduate of Ecole des Beaux-Arts and Sotheby's Institute of Art, an art and design advocate, Rania has been at the forefront of Lebanon's creative scene for two decades, she was a founding member of Ashkal Alwan, the nonprofit association that promotes artists and creates art events in Lebanon and across the globe. She was also a founding member of the Beirut-based design collective Artisbow, which launched some of Lebanon's most influential designers.

She also founded and ran Art in Motion, a nonprofit association aiming to move art to public places, in order to make art accessible to everyone and to reach wide audiences from diverse socio-economic backgrounds.





## The Artists

### Magdalena Correa (Chile)



Magdalena Correa, born in 1968 in Santiago de Chile, is an artist living in Madrid who mainly works in photography and video installation.

Graduating from the Catholic University of Chile, Santiago de Chile, with a BA in fine art, she obtained a PHD in Photography from the Technical University of Catalonia, Barcelona, Spain. In 2019 she obtained a Master in Direction of Photography in Cinema, ECAM, Madrid, Spain.

She has specialized in photographic and video research projects about isolated and extreme territories, where man lives. Research areas: "La Rinconada" (2013) about the tallest gold mine in the world at 5.600 meters high in Ananea District (Perú); "Luxury has a new Address" (2014) about the wealth and ostentation of Kuwaití society; "Wayúu" (2015) about the Wayúu ethnicity located in Alta Guajira desert (Colombia); among other projects. Her work has been shown at Museum of Contemporary Art, Santiago, Chile; Telefónica Foundation, Buenos Aires, Argentina; Telefónica Foundation, Santiago, Chile; Museum Da Casa Brasileira, Sao Paulo, Brazil; Cervantes Institute, Paris, France, Museum of the Americas, Washington, D.C., etc.



## The Artists

### Anna D'Castro (Portugal)

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Ana D' Castro is a Portuguese visual artist and architect. Born in 1984 in Portugal, since an early age, Ana lived and worked in different parts of the world including Brazil, Singapore, France, Switzerland and U.A.E. With a master's degree in Architecture, her works are strongly influenced by a mathematical base set in the foundation of proportion, scale, volume and color. From paintings to art installations, Ana's work is often abstract and relies on the principle of deconstructing an element to its bare essence. Nurtured and educated to appreciate nature from an early age, it is her biggest inspiration. She intensely absorbs everyday moments like the sunrises, sunsets, visualizes the manipulation of colors, textures and translates it into her artworks.

Ana believes that conceptual inception of her work lies in the core principle of sensorial experiences and therefore everything she conceptualizes aims to create a rich and engaging experience for the end user. Throughout Ana's works there is an obsessive search for the use of color and its direct association with environment psychology. Her work also explores how movement and rhythm are introduced in a space through geometry, and site-specific design installations that create multiple uses for an ordinary room.



## The Artists

### Fatimah Hossaini (Afghanistan)



Fatimah Hossaini, an Afghan artist, photographer, curator, and exhibitor, hails from Tehran, Iran. She brings a unique blend of artistic excellence and advocacy to her work, earning recognition both nationally and internationally. Fatimah holds a Bachelor of Arts in Photography from the University of Tehran, complementing her earlier academic achievement in industrial engineering. Her multifaceted career is underscored by a profound commitment to social causes, particularly as a refugee activist and a staunch advocate for the rights of Afghan women.

As the founder of the Mastooraat art organization and a recipient of the prestigious Hypatia International award, Fatimah Hossaini has established herself as a formidable presence in the global art scene. Her artistic journey is characterized by powerful storytelling that delves into the intricate themes of identity and femininity within the Afghan context. While her work exudes vibrant colors and impassioned expression, it is her mastery of staged photography that stands as a defining hallmark. Fatimah's artistry has found its place on the international stage, with her creations featured in group exhibitions and art festivals spanning the globe, from New York to South Korea, Austria to India, and beyond. Her work has also graced the pages of both local and transnational publications.



## The Artists

### Asareh Ebrahimpour (Iran)



Asareh is a highly skilled multi-cultural interdisciplinary artist and an experienced Art performer, originally from Tehran, Iran. based in Dubai, UAE, who holds a BA in Interior Design from AUSTN, UAE and Diploma in Creative Expressive Art therapy from Transformational Academy, USA, and Diploma of Movement therapy, Somatic healing from Embody Lab Academy and active member of the New Yorker dance company Loom Ensemble.

She has been performing and exhibiting as a selected Artist at Firetti Contemporary art gallery, World Art Dubai, United Nations, Expo 2020, Sima Dance Company, Indigo Open top museum, DIFC, Oxford Art Festival, and many more. she is the only one who is holding therapeutic expressive movement art workshops in GCC and many other countries.

Asareh works in various mediums but her primary focus is on pure improvisation & trusting senses, her performance challenges the conventions of traditional forms of visual art. the primary tool in this process is her body which guides her to draw. The fusing of Asareh's art and dance has allowed her to express herself in a singular manner in which the iterative exchange of these processes and divergent forms synthesize to allow her to express her inner vision to outer reality.



## The Artists

### Liubov Kolbina (Russia)

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Liubov Kolbina studied Art at the State Academy of Design and Fine Arts in Novosibirsk. The artist paints under her first name "Liubov", which means Love. Painting in the Abstract style, Liubov works mainly with oil paints on canvas. Her style of painting reflects the life experiences of the artist which begin in her native Russia to evolve and become enriched by a positive life in North America, Southern Europe and the Middle East.

From an early age, Liubov was inspired by a sense of mysticism guided by the supreme powers of the Universe. The artist's love of life, belief in the power of destiny, the sense of absolute and her perception of the Universe influence Liubov's work and her passion for art.



## The Artists

### Dulce Pinzón (México)



Dulce defines herself as "A free soul who uses art to inspire others to be." Visual artist, curator, manager, cultural entrepreneur, activist and mother. Dulce Pinzón is particularly interested in issues of social justice and activations that generate positive repercussions at the collective conscious level and legislation. She has worked in campaigns for the struggle for labor rights in New York together with former Attorney General Elliot Spitzer and from the United Nations in creating cultural products for the dissemination of information for the development and democratization of Spanish-speaking countries.

Currently, her main interest is focused on cultural, environmental, and gender issues through her personal, curatorial, and museographic projects. She studied Communication Sciences at the University of the Americas Puebla and photography at Indiana University in Pennsylvania. In 1995, she moved to New York, where she studied photography at the International Center of Photography, Film at New York University, Labor Law at Dowling College, Long Island, New York; Curatorial Seminars at the Tamayo Museum in Mexico City and Art manager studies at MAI and Machinery in Montreal, Canada.



## The Artists

### Maxi Cohen (United States of America)

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Maxi Cohen is an award-winning artist and filmmaker based in New York City. Her films, photographs, and multimedia installations have been exhibited internationally and are in the permanent collections of numerous museums, including the Museum of Modern Art, New York, The Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York, the Museum of Fine Arts, and the National Gallery of Canada, Ottawa.

Her films have influenced two generations of filmmakers, having played in movie theaters, film festivals and on televisions around the world. As a media activist, her film and television work has had significant influence in creating visible social change. Maxi has been supported by grants and awards from The National Endowment for the Arts, The Rockefeller Foundation, The Annenberg Foundation, New York State Council on the Arts, The Karan-Weiss Foundation, and most recently The Buckminster Fuller Institute for Design Science, among others.

For twenty-five years, Maxi has been traveling the world, filming and photographing bodies of water. From these documented images and film footage, she has created and exhibited multi-media works and installations. The latest evolution of Cohen's reverence for water is A Movement in Water™ an interactive traveling "museum" of water, intended to increase one's reverence for water, both within oneself and in nature.



## MIA COLLABORATORS

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### Mana Jalalian



*"Collecting works by Iranian female artists stem from the duality of our male-dominated culture and the vital role of women who courageously resist right in its center. Despite all the cultural, social, and religious restrictions imposed on women in my homeland, they have been the engines that moved our society forward, leading behind generations that strived to make a better world. Hence, I consider supporting talented Iranian female artists and helping them blazon their voices globally my responsibility and duty. With that said, it brings me nothing but joy and pride to see how brave Iranian female artists have evolved and taken this further by helping place the Iranian art scene on the world map, ultimately inspiring fellow emerging artists to be seen and heard, women and men alike.*

*For the past 15 years, I have been collecting numerous works by various Iranian modern and contemporary female artists of different generations, most of which shed light on the heroic endeavors of women inside and outside Iran; before and after the 1979 revolution to be specific. Influential artists like Farideh Lashai, Shirin Neshat, and Bita Fayyazi are remarkable examples of such."*

### Leila Heller



*"In the middle east, women have made great strides in the art world. A big reason for this is female representation in government and the Arts starting with Her Excellency Noura Al Kaabi, the Minister of Culture for the UAE. Her Excellency has empowered and inspired so many women and female artists to take the center stage in the field of arts and culture and has opened so many doors.*

*So many middle eastern female artists here that have been showcased at the Louvre, the Guggenheim, the Sharjah Arts Foundation, also have featured in the MIA ART Collection. They totally hold their ground and have made a huge impact on the culture of the region. I love supporting initiatives such as the MIA ART Collection, which encourage female artists and give them the recognition they deserve."*



## MIA CURATORIAL TEAM

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**Yuliia Korienkova**



Director of the exhibition

**Hana Sammak El Kurdi**



Curator

**Virtus Del Hoyo**



Curator

**Pepe Baena**



Curator

# MIA ART COLLECTION



WHAT A WONDERFUL WORLD...

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