

# CULTURE

## LIVING

her cross cultural  
ate her unplanned art



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Working between three distinctly different places — Germany, Egypt and northeast America — is Susan Hefuna, an artist of German-Egyptian extraction. The diverse locations in based are part of the inspiration for her exhibition 'Cairo Dreaming,' at the Third Line Gallery called 'Cairo Dreaming,' which features drawings and sculptures that are all linked to her dual heritage background split between three such diverse places. The drawings here were made in New York, which she cites as an inspiration for the work.

"All my drawings I do in New York as I find it very special, and I'm influenced by the culture here. But still I have my other influences. It is interesting to me to have these different cultural places; they are all inspirational to me too."

Of course in the name of the exhibition, but she does not feel connected to any particular city. "They do not even feel connected to any one of them. They are open to interpretation, but the pieces are about being connected, making the inside visible, which is a theme throughout all three types of work on display — large-scale drawings, the sculptures and the drawings."

Large-scale pieces are a first for Hefuna. She says she took a lot of careful attention so that no ink bled; my drawings are about concentration; my art drawing I don't have any image in my mind, I just know how it will look... I start with one dot, one line, and then it starts unfolding, and I just follow the dots, and I make the first layer, then make the second layer following the first layer underneath."

The drawings — at about 4.5m x 1.3m — are vast, but she'd like to go large with her sculptures. The pieces on display are intricate, delicate, finely detailed pieces that were also made without a plan, but they were made during construction. She'd like to make them bigger, even the size of a car, but acknowledges it will be hard.

The ones on show will impress enough. The exhibition runs until June 16 at The Third Line Gallery, Dubai.

[charlie@khaleejtimes.com](mailto:charlie@khaleejtimes.com)

# Full Metal Jacket

The symbols of power, wealth and war inspired artist Shahpour Pouyan to create three distinct series of work for his latest exhibition in Dubai

Charlie R Neyra



Power. Even the word itself is powerful. It stirs thoughts of dictators, overlords, control, influence and dominance. Its desirability has led to wars, both cold and actual, but also to great civilisations and the symbols of success that go with them.

Power has led artist Shahpour Pouyan to create a body of work inspired by its omnipresence, both in the past, present and imagined, leading to his current exhibition, 'Full Metal Jacket,' at the Lawrie Shabibi gallery in Al Quoz. The exhibition is split into three sections — the 'Towers' series of large, abstract paintings, the 'Hooves' series of hoof paintings, and the sculptures series, 'Projectiles.'

Iranian artist Pouyan says he was inspired by extensive travels throughout his homeland. He noted patriarchal symbolism in much of the architecture, which he says seemed to be "raping the landscape, emphasising the culture of an era that lives in the past."

The architecture he saw in Iran and elsewhere led to the 'Towers' series, which depicts how power, and the buildings that represent power, stand erect against nature, invading its space. He says, "I find architecture the most important visual expression of a civilisation."

'Hooves' is also about power, but the powerful symbol that is the hoof, connected to proof of wealth. Lastly, the 'Projectiles' series is a fusion of tradi-

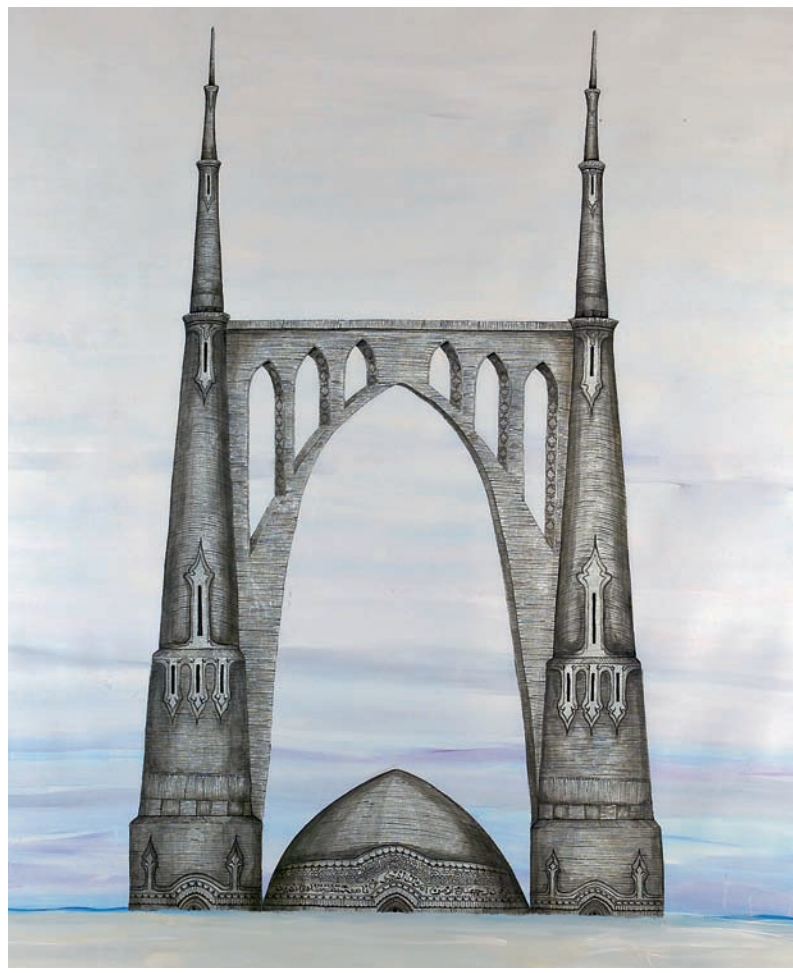


tional weaponry, such as armoury and helmets, to modern missiles and warheads, creating striking pieces that seem to evoke centuries of war, yet turn that into pieces of beauty.

Pouyan explains his fascination with war by saying how it's been such a part of his life: "We grew up in a war. Our whole childhood was filled with the panic of bombardment. Then in school, they used to teach us military courses. After that, military service. TV was showing manoeuvres all the time, documentaries of war, martyrs museum... I have the right to be obsessed with war wares."

The collection is on display at the Lawrie Shabibi gallery, Al Serkal Avenue, Unit 21, Al Quoz, Dubai, until June 8.

[charlie@khaleejtimes.com](mailto:charlie@khaleejtimes.com)



Salaheldeen blends colours in  
to depict existence

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**LIVING IT UP: Loai Salaheldeen (left) and his painting from the 'Life' series (above).**

[charlie@khaleejtimes.com](mailto:charlie@khaleejtimes.com)