

Bait Al Shamsi Nights

9 December 2023–20 January 2024

Join us for this year's Bait Al Shamsi Nights, our annual community gathering at heritage house [Bait Obaid Al Shamsi](#) in Arts Square. From 9 December 2023 to 20 January 2024, explore visual arts such as block printing, drawing, painting and photography as well as sound art, creative writing and architecture.

Designed for all ages and abilities, the workshops and excursions are inspired by Sharjah Art Foundation exhibitions and/or SAF neighbourhood architecture and culture, with a focus on sustainability.

All sessions, offered in both English and Arabic, are led by professional artists and art practitioners. The activities are free, and materials are provided.

To find out more, please email learning@sharjahart.org , or call (06) 568 5050.

Sharjah Art Foundation is committed to making its programmes inclusive and accessible. Disability symbols are included with all session descriptions.

Key to symbols



Autism Spectrum
Disorder



Attention Deficit
Hyperactive Disorder



Physical Disability



Hearing Impairment



Visual Impairment



Intellectual Disability



Specific Learning
Disorder

Week 1

Experiment with Block Printing

With Majid Alosch

Ages 11–15

Date: Saturday, 9 December 2023

Timings: 5:00 pm–7:00 pm

Languages: English and Arabic



Learn the technique of block printing, which involves drawing a pattern and carving it on the surface of a wood block. Apply acrylic paint to the block, and experiment with printing designs on fabric.

Develop Skill in Bookbinding

With Taqwa Al Naqbi

Ages 15+

Date: Saturday, 9 December 2023

Timings: 5:00 pm–8:00 pm

Languages: English and Arabic



Acquire skills in bookbinding in this hands-on workshop. Find out how you can use different materials to craft a personalised book and cover.

Communal Journaling

With Rania Jishi

Ages 15+

Date: Saturday, 9 December 2023

Timings: 7:00 pm–9:00 pm

Languages: English and Arabic



Join Rania Jishi (founder of Naqd Critique) in her new venture, SERB, a monthly meetup for communal journalling across different media. Along with other creatives, learn about different methods of journalling and ways to develop journals into influential works that reflect Arab identity, mirror reality and archive history.

Explore Arab Folk Tales

Ages 6–10

Date: Saturday, 9 December 2023

Timings: 7:00 pm–9:00 pm

Language: Arabic



Immerse yourself in Arab cultures and traditions as you listen to folk stories from different eras. Discuss with other participants how you feel about the stories and what you have learned.

Week 2

Investigate Palestinian History through Archives

With Lynne Abdulhadi

Ages 11–15

Date: Saturday, 16 December 2023

Timings: 5:00pm–7:00pm

Languages: English and Arabic



Find out what archives and historical artefacts are and why they are essential for preserving history. You will view images of archival documents, history books and objects from Palestine, which are all resources for studying and understanding the long history of the country. Select one of the archival documents as inspiration, and create a zine reflecting what you have learned.

Paint the Sea

With Iman Shaggag

Ages 15+

Date: Saturday, 16 December 2023

Timings: 5:00 pm–7:00 pm

Languages: English and Arabic



Find inspiration in the skyline of Sharjah's Corniche for this painting workshop. Create a painting that features the natural landscape and objects surrounding you.

Discover Al Boorj Avenue and Sharjah's Urban Evolution

With Omar Darwish

Ages 17+

Date: Sunday, 17 December 2023

Timings: 5:00 pm–7:00 pm

Language: English



Take an in-depth architectural walk through the 1970s development project of Al Boorj Avenue (Bank Street) by Spanish Firm TYP SA. Explore the construction and architectural significance of the structures, consulting historical maps, urban master plans and aerial photographs, and consider the impact of the development on Sharjah's urban context. This session may be of particular interest to university students studying architecture and design.

Critical messaging: Make a Riso Poster

With Azim Al Ghussein

Ages:15+

Date: Saturday, 16 December 2023

Timings: 6:00 pm–9:00 pm

Languages: English and Arabic



Join Artist Azim Al Ghussein to find out how to create critical posters and print them using the Riso machine.

Week 3

Colour Sculptures of Sharjah's Traditional Architecture

With Basem Al Sayer

Ages 6–10

Date: Saturday, 23 December 2023
Timings: 5:00 pm–7:00 pm
Languages: English and Arabic



Tour Bait Obaid Al Shamsi to find out about the traditional architecture of Sharjah's past, especially the decorative elements (e.g. doors, ornamental patterns, *barajeeel* [wind towers]). Then, inspired by the architectural details, transform white gypsum sculptures into colourful artworks.

Draw the Architecture of Bait Obaid Al Shamsi

With Donna Ashraf
Ages 11–15

Date: Saturday, 23 December 2023
Timings: 5:00 pm–7:00 pm
Languages: English and Arabic



Connect with the architecture of Bait Obaid Al Shamsi by drawing your surroundings and capturing the texture of the walls and stairway as well as the traditional architectural elements and style of the building. Use pencil to sketch and oil pastels to add colour and details to your drawings.

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Here We Are: Write Yourself into Place

With Bhoomika Ghagada
Ages 15+

Date: Saturday, 23 December 2023
Timings: 5:00 pm–9:00 pm
Language: English



Every setting for a story becomes a story about a place. You cannot write fiction without a setting, but what does fiction look like when it aims to characterise or claim places for particular purposes? As you work with prompts and readings, tap into the enormous power of fiction to disrupt. Unlearn preconceived ideas, highlight less visible settings and explore personal challenges.

Write and Share a Story

Ages 11–15

Date: Saturday, 23 December 2023
Timings: 7:00 pm–9:00 pm
Language: English



Inspired by a story or experience, compose a one-page narrative and read it aloud to other workshop participants. A selection of books will be available to help you come up with ideas.

Week 4

Make Small-Scale Abstract Paintings

With Bahareh Kherzi
Ages 11–15

Date: Saturday, 30 December 2023
Timings: 5:00 pm–7:00 pm
Language: English



Non-figurative or abstract paintings emphasise shapes, colours and gestural marks to convey emotions, ideas and concepts. Inspired by Gavin Jantjes' abstract art, his most recent work, create small-scale non-figurative paintings that reflect your own feeling and ideas.

Sketch Traditional Architecture

With Nora Zeid
Ages 15+

Date: Saturday, 30 December 2023
Timings: 5:00 pm–7:00 pm
Language: English



Go back in time to the world of traditional architecture. Practise your sketching skills in the courtyard of Bait Obaid Al Shamsi, and create drawings inspired by local heritage.

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Week 5

Decorate Carts Together

With Lama Al Rommo
Ages 11–15

Date: Saturday, 6 January 2024
Timings: 5:00 pm–7:00 pm
Languages: English and Arabic



Reflecting the shared experience of place, time and movement conveyed in some of Lubaina Himid's artworks, collaborate with other participants to decorate carts. Consider the relationship between interior and exterior spaces as you add flowers and other plants, ornamental patterns, and texts about hopes and dreams, fish and animals to the carts.

Let's Read Together

Ages 6–10

Date: Saturday, 6 January 2024

Timings: 7:00 pm–9:00 pm

Language: English



Discover new worlds as you listen to short stories. Browse through a selection of books, and decide which stories you want to hear.

Sounds of Sharjah

With Hasan Hujairi

Ages 15+

Date: Saturday, 6 January 2024

Timings: 5:00 pm–9:00 pm

Languages: English and Arabic



After a brief historical introduction to field recording as a creative practice, join us for a walk in the heritage area of Sharjah to capture sounds from your surroundings and turn them into sound collages.

Communal Journalling

With Rania Jishi

Ages 15+

Date: Saturday, 6 January 2024

Timings: 7:00 pm–9:00 pm

Languages: English and Arabic



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Week 6

Create Art with Natural Pigments

With Hala Abora

Ages 11–15

Date: Saturday, 13 January 2024

Timings: 5:00 pm–7:00 pm

Languages: English and Arabic



Explore different ways to extract pigments from natural materials by viewing paintings such as those by Henok Melkamzer, which were traditionally created using natural pigments. Then make some pigments from plants and fruits, and test the colours in your own drawings.

Walk around Al Mureijah, Sketch as You Go

With Azza Aboualam

Ages 15+

Date: Saturday, 13 January 2024

Timings: 5:00 pm–7:00 pm

Language: English



As you stroll around the heritage area surrounding Al Mureijah Art Spaces, focus on motifs, facades and the interaction of existing historical buildings with the contemporary urban fabric. Sketch the environment around you while learning about various aspects of Sharjah's culture and history.

Illustrate Folk Tales

With Wafa Ibrahim

Ages 15+

Date: Saturday, 13 January 2024

Timings: 5:00 pm–7:00 pm

Languages: English and Arabic



Listen to readings of traditional folk tales, and then draw scenes and characters from the stories.

Week 7

Paint with Patterns

With Bahareh Kherzi

Ages 11–15

Date: Saturday, 20 January 2024

Timings: 5:00 pm–7:00 pm

Languages: English and Arabic



Henok Melkamzer's art is rich in symbols and imagery. After viewing some of the artist's work, create paintings filled with dense, multicoloured patterns of symbols, words and numbers.

Nabulsi Soap Making

With Rouba Shaath

Family Workshop

Date: Saturday, 20 January 2024

Timings: 5:00pm-7:00pm

Languages: English and Arabic



Learn about Palestinian Nabulsi soap making, rooted in the ancient traditions of Nablus. Find out about the ingredients, including olive oil, essences and herbs, and tools such as moulds. Take home the Nabulsi soap you make.

Sculpt with Clay

With Toma Gabor

Ages 15+

Date: Saturday, 20 January 2024

Timings: 5:00 pm–9:00 pm

Language: English



Delve into the principles and methods for creating clay sculpture. Learn basic moulding and carving techniques, and produce your own clay artworks.

