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# FRIDAY 11/28

**WoMan Episode 1**  
by Roqaya Hamad  
Al Thani

## This Arabian Life

Arabic tradition is interpreted by modern minds in "Qatar Narratives: A Country Expressed by Its Own Voices." The exhibit features artists from the Arab Gulf Region who preserve the writings, teachings, images and history of their motherland in contemporary masterpieces. Ali Hassan and Manar Al Muftah incorporate characters from the Arabic alphabet in their paintings and multimedia works, respectively. Photographers Hessa Al Obaid and Anthony Terrot immortalize today's Arabic society — which might

not look all that different from the past — in their images of everyday life, depicting kids playing in the desert and families walking down the street. Female artists such as Roqaya Hamad Al Thani, Souad Al Salem and Wadha Al Sulaity use photography and painting to represent their changing, but still subdued, role in Arabic society. Al Thani does this deliciously with a gender-bending photograph of a woman dressed in traditional male garb — a take on a popular Shepard Fairey piece. The artists offer a view into a world much discussed in these times but, unfortunately, rarely understood. Get a better perspective

from 10:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesdays through Saturdays. Through December 13. Deborah Colton Gallery, Summer Street Location, 2500 Summer. For information, call 713-869-5151 or visit [www.deborahcoltongallery.com](http://www.deborahcoltongallery.com). Free.

— DUSTI RHODES

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## "Qatar Narratives: A Country Expressed by Its Own Voices"

Contemporary Arabic artists draw on the traditions of their homeland

By **Dusti Rhodes** Thursday, Nov 27 2008

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### Qatari Artists display work at prestigious gallery in Houston

HOUSTON, USA - 24TH OCTOBER 2008

A multi-media exhibition of Qatari artists opened with a reception in Houston, Texas, on 23rd October 2008.

Entitled "Qatar Narratives: A Country Expressed by its Own Voices," the exhibition will run through December 13th in the Deborah Colton Gallery and is sponsored by RasGas Company Limited (RasGas).

Among the Qatari artists featured are Hessa Al Obaid, an amateur photographer and RasGas employee, who attended the reception. Other artists include Salman Almalik, Wadha Al Sulaiti, Roqaya Hamad Al Thani, Souad Al Salem, Anthony Terrot, Manar Al Muftah, Khalifa Al Obaidly and Ali Hassan. The exhibition also features work by American Angelbert Metoyer, who draws his inspiration from the Q'uran.

With Qatar's landscape undergoing a period of rapid transformation, the art work featured at the exhibition represents Qatar's culture and heritage, such as the old souk, and portrays how these traditional elements are being retained in an era of modernity.

Attending the reception were a delegation from Qatar, representatives from Houston's counselor corps, business leaders, members of the art community and friends.

"This exhibition showcases the wonderful creativity of Qatari artists and art is a wonderful medium by which we can understand each other," said Deborah Colton, gallery owner.

"Our goal is to interweave this work of diverse media, from master artists to talented contemporary students, to allow visitors to see, hear and smell what Qatar is all about," said Malfalda Budib, exhibition curator. "It is not a simple culture this art captures our souls in many ways."

A carpet of spices, building on a 19th century traditional carpet pattern, welcomed visitors to the gallery and Qatari music played in the background.

"The more I get to know Qatar, the more I see its importance and the natural links with the U.S. and Texas in particular," noted former U.S. Ambassador to Qatar Chase Untermeyer. "There are already so many connections in energy and education, that it is appropriate to bring Qatari art to Houston and further expand our interconnections."

"We have two homes, in Texas and in Qatar," said Diana Untermeyer, "When we went to Qatar, we took American art with us, so it is very exciting to have Qatari artists exhibiting here in Houston. Most of life speaks to us through the brain, but art speaks to us through the heart, forging the strongest kind of ties."

Sherman Yeager, chairman of the 2008 Consular Forum, a co-sponsor of the event, called the art "a creative life force that touches our senses."