

Qatar Narratives: A Country Expressed by its Own Voices

Threads and Voices Curator's Statement

Dialogue is a significant source of mankind utilized to intertwine people, but it is often neglected in modern societies. Contemporary art should serve as a mediator of human contact and to enhance the world's globalized society in order to find in others a complement to our existence. "Qatar Narratives" began its journey in a book that Mohanalaskhmi Phongsavan & Carol Henderson edited in Qatar. The authors believe that words "can help us understand ourselves and others;" this is the reason why we embrace and honor their project by interweaving this exhibition with all the contemporary manifestations of art in the state of Qatar. There is no better way for the Deborah Colton Gallery to continue its dialogue between two cultures and countries, knowing that its mission stands for creating positive change in the world through the arts.

The Arab world has been known for centuries through its oral tradition and heritage in classic calligraphy. Reciting the Sacred Qur'an is an act of introspection and a divine connection to the presence of Allah by which this exquisite culture transmits through the word, the images of its own history and beliefs. Along with "Qatar Narratives," we envision the possibility to display a contemporary group of artists in a diverse media based on their very intimate voices, reciting a Qatari poem that will continue to be written and heard by others:

Ali Hassan and Manar Al Muftah know it, and together they merge in a flowing energy where fragments of the language of this world are expressed on their own sentimental ways. Echoes interlaced in the search of one self like Roqaya Hamad Al Thani, Souad Al Salem and Wadha Al Sulaiti, women that are committed to preserve their voice of an existence by reflecting on their memories, their past and their present times.

Voices that come out of the sand. of the desert stars, the souks and every corner of this land that are (re)born again through the lens of Khalifa Al Obaidly, Anthony Terrot and Hessa Al Obaid. Salman Almalik, a man whose work is a book of silent messages where love, despair, sadness and joy are expressed like a personal metaphor. Echoing the stories narrated by all these prominent Qatar artists, Angelbert Metoyer recites his mystical connections to the Middle East world through his sacred horses, deep emotions and native language to the unknown.

"Qatar Narratives, A Country Expressed by its Own Voices" is a powerful storyteller of many lives; a dream turned into reality, a book of several spirits sharing their essence around the same desire: to recite what we are and create through art, a better human world.

Mafalda Budib
Curator