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Abu Dhabi Art announces guest curator for Beyond: Emerging Artists programme

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Abu Dhabi Art has announced multidisciplinary artist Abed Al Kadiri as guest curator for its annual Beyond: Emerging Artists programme.

Over the past year, Al Kadiri has selected and mentored three artists living in the UAE, who have produced a series of works that will be exhibited at Abu Dhabi Art in November.

Dyala Nusseibeh, director of Abu Dhabi Art, said the annual Beyond: Emerging Artists programme aims to propel artists who live in the UAE to an international level, "enabling them to create ambitious new work". Nusseibeh added: "Having Abed Al Kadiri curate this year's programme is extremely exciting, and we are all looking forward to seeing what emerges from this wonderful collaboration."

Al Kadiri expressed excitement to be curating this year's Abu Dhabi Art's Beyond: Emerging Artists. He said: "In this edition, I hope to spark deep conversation that weaves the works of the three artists together while approaching the exhibition with a new perspective by focusing on the practice of artist's book making."

Speaking to *The National*, he said the artists' books were a unique addition to this year's Beyond: Emerging Artists programme. "From the start of our conversations, we were discussing how each one of these projects could be conceived in the form of a book. Through this experience, I want them to develop works that show strong research, as well as a sensibility to aesthetics.

"I am very happy to be working with the passionate young artists I have selected for this edition, who are embracing this challenge head on."

Emirati artist Sarah Al Mehairi's art investigates her presence within the elements of environments in flux, deconstructing and rebuilding them through a prism of fact and fiction, while crafting a language to explore these interrelationships.

Discussing the programme, she said: "The support we have received so far from the Abu Dhabi Art team and our curator, Abed Al Kadiri, has helped us develop our practice even further, truly looking beyond.