Sunday, May 22 | Day 1

9:00 – 9:30 AM  
**Registration**  
NYUAD Institute Conference Center  
Lecture Hall Foyer

9:30 – 9:45 AM  
**Welcome Remarks**
- **Salwa Mikdadi**, New York University AD
- **Nada Shabout**, Association for Modern & Contemporary Art
- **Sultan Al Qassemi**, Barjeel Art Foundation

9:45 – 11:00 AM  
**Panel I: Painting: Questions of the Liminal Space**

*Beyond Figuration: Exploring the space between the abstract and the figurative in Marwan’s painting*
- **Charlotte Bank**, University of Geneva

*Sam Francis: The Expansive Edge of 1960s Abstraction*
- **Elizabeth Buhe**, NYU

**Discussant:**  
**Anneka Lenssen**, UC Berkeley

Q&A

11:00 – 11:30 AM  
**Break & Refreshments**  
Atrium

11:30 AM – 1:00 PM  
**Panel II: Violence of Abstraction**

*Clandestine Aesthetics: Abstracted Photography in Wartime Algeria*
- **Tina Barouti**, Boston University

*Part Flesh, Part Data: Permutations of Black Square*
- **Sandra Skurvida**, FIT-SUNY

**Discussant:**  
**Saleem Al-Bahloly**, Forum Transregionale Studien

Q&A

1:00 – 2:00 PM  
**Lunch**  
The Torch Club D2

2:00 – 3:30 PM  
**PANEL III: Anonymous Modalities**
Understanding abstraction in artistic expressions in contemporary media of the Arabian Gulf

Maha Al-Saati, University of Dammam, Saudi Arabia

Speculation and Spectacle: Oil and Modernization in Kuwait

Michael Kubo, MIT

Discussant:

Jessica Gerschultz, University of Kansas

Q&A

3:20 – 4:00 PM

Break & Refreshments

Atrium

4:00 – 5:00 PM

Curatorial Tour: Diana al Hadid Exhibition

Maya Allison, NYUAD Chief Curator & Director

5:00 – 6:30 PM

Break & Refreshments

Atrium

6:30 – 8:00 PM

PUBLIC PROGRAM

NYUAD Conference Center (A6)

Middle Eastern Films Before Thy Gaze Returns to Thee—in Less than 1/24 of a Second

Jalal Toufic, Director of the School of Visual Arts at the Lebanese Academy of Fine Arts (ALBA)

Immediately followed by a public reception

Monday, May 23 | Day 2

9:00 – 9:30 AM

Registration

Institute Conference Center
Lecture Hall Foyer

9:30 – 11:00 AM

PANEL IV: Painting: Choosing Abstraction

Fahrelnissa Zeid Unbound: Inner Necessity and the Articulation of Abstraction with Representation

Adila Laidi-Hanieh, Independent Scholar

Abstraction in Saudi Art: one solution, various situations

Eiman Elgibreen, The Princess Nourah bint Abdulrahman University, Saudi Arabia

Discussant:

Nada Shabout, University of North Texas

Q&A

End of Day 2
Tuesday, May 24 | Day 3

Hosted by Barjeel Art Foundation

Al Qasba Theater, Sharjah

Welcome

9:30 AM
Sultan Al Qassemi, BAF
Nada Shabout, AMCA

10:00 – 11:30 AM
PANEL V: National Narration: Abstraction in Place

*Architecture-Art-Architecture: Constructing Baghdad’s Modernism*
Amin Alsaden, Harvard University

*Abstraction, ‘Iranian Modernism,’ and the Question of Global-Local Art*
Combiz Moussavi-Aghdam, Art University in Tehran

*Abstraction: Modernization Challenged, Representation Dismantled*
Ilhan Ozan, Research and Programs at SALT, Istanbul

Discussant:
Salwa Mikdadi, NYUAD

Q & A

11:30 – 11:50 AM
Break & Refreshments
Al Qasba Theater, Sharjah

11:50 – 1:00 PM
PANEL VI: Abstraction in Performance

*Dialogical Abstraction in Halim El-Dabh’s Expression of Zaar (1944)*
Delinda Collier, School of the Art Institute of Chicago

*Generative abstraction in the media artworks of Mounir Fatmi and Arthur Jafa*
Laura Marks, Simon Fraser University

Discussant:
Anneka Lenssen, UC Berkeley

Q & A

6:30-7:45 PM
Unconference: Abstraction Unframed
Sharjah Art Museum