

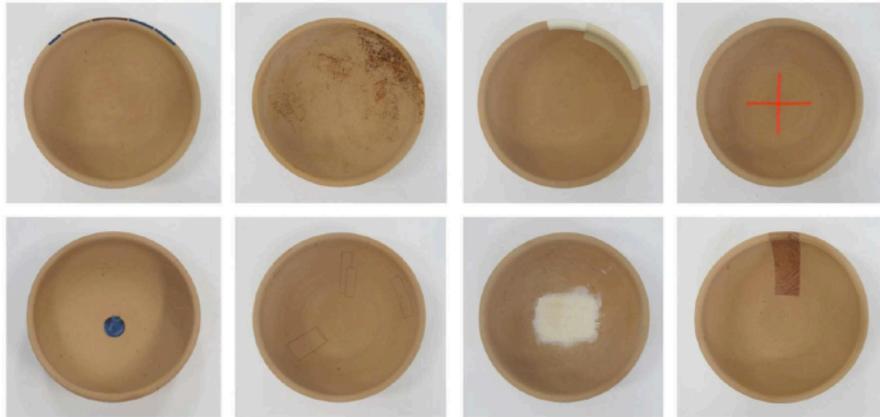
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## SARAH ALMEHAIRI, BETWEEN ABSTRACTION AND NARRATION

By Alessandra Migliorini

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Grids. Systems. Stories. Identity as research and balancing act. These are the themes at the centre of the work of Sarah Almehairi, young emerging artist from Abu Dhabi, presented in her first personal exhibition at the Carbon. 12 Gallery of Dubai. There is an apparent division in her body of work - on one hand, figurative pieces, on the other, abstract works. However, Almehairi maintains that there are no barriers or insurmountable confines between these two worlds of perceiving and representing. *Between*, as the exhibition is entitled, indicates this search for balance between these two modes of expression. Photos, maps and memories connected to her family give life to the works, whether they are narrative or geometrical, in which lines and layers are used to structure, order, hide and reveal. In her artistic practice, Almehairi, uses and explores various methods, from drawing to sculpture and her favourite themes are those of memory and language. "It is interesting to have multiple subjects and modes at play with each other," she says. "It's a balancing act, like identity. It is when narrative and abstract are intertwined that playfulness, attentiveness and exploration rise."