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## In Conversation With Nadine Knotzer Of Carbon 12 Gallery

<http://plugmuse.com/c12.html>



Carbon 12 continuously introduces and promotes both established and emerging artists to the UAE contemporary art scene, supplementing its 5-7 annual exhibitions with diverse contextual activities including publications and talks that actively engage the public and educational institutions.

**You have seen, and in many ways led, the growth of Dubai's art scene. How do you see the future of Art in Dubai?**

We have a small, but precious art scene. Galleries show an incredible amount of stunning, important and challenging exhibitions, and the future will hold more of that.

**You've recently finished 10 years in the Art World, bringing artists of international acclaim to collectors and viewers in the UAE. How have collectors' preferences and tastes changed or evolved during this period?**

When we first opened Carbon 12, it was the only gallery showing non-Middle Eastern artists in the UAE. It was new, and not welcomed by everyone. I don't know about tastes, since we do not adapt to peoples' taste. Nevertheless, I can confidently say that peoples' knowledge about art is rapidly growing in the Middle East. Our viewers, collectors and followers love to learn, and have been very enthusiastic to get to know our program and our artists' practice.

It is perfectly fine to start collecting artists from your own region, or from the country that you feel a connection with. However, it's also very rewarding and beautiful to see the same people grow, and just a few years later, become mesmerised by artists from all around the world, along with developing a new interest in a diverse selection of media such as video art, installations, etc., simply because they spent time learning and studying an artist's practice, no matter their origin. Simply for the love of the work.

What's next for Carbon 12, 12 hours from now, 12 months from now, and 12 years from now.

Exhibiting and sharing CHANGE! I am excited.

**Artists from your roster, like Breuning or Butzer, have very strong identifiers in voice and themes. What do you look for in artists before making a decision on representing/exhibiting?**

Both Breuning and Butzer are part of the program since the opening of Carbon 12. Their works and voices are universal and we believe in their visual language, as well as in the fact that viewers identify with the work.

It's a gut feeling; you appreciate the work and admire the practice, and suddenly you become family, and try to provide a platform for their practice to be seen and shared in your community.

**With the trend of industries going digital, how can art galleries make the best of digital tools/platforms, while protecting the value of art?**

It's incredible what can be done online. We at Carbon 12 have always been active online, due to the fact that we are located in the UAE, and our collectors and followers are very often not based in the same region. We also have a very young following.

We have also been adding new tools and implementing ways to stay active during Covid-19, which is a learning curve. It's definitely interesting to see which tools and online practices can be implemented on a long run for both galleries and artists.

Having said that, NOTHING replaces the beauty and importance of experiencing art in person.