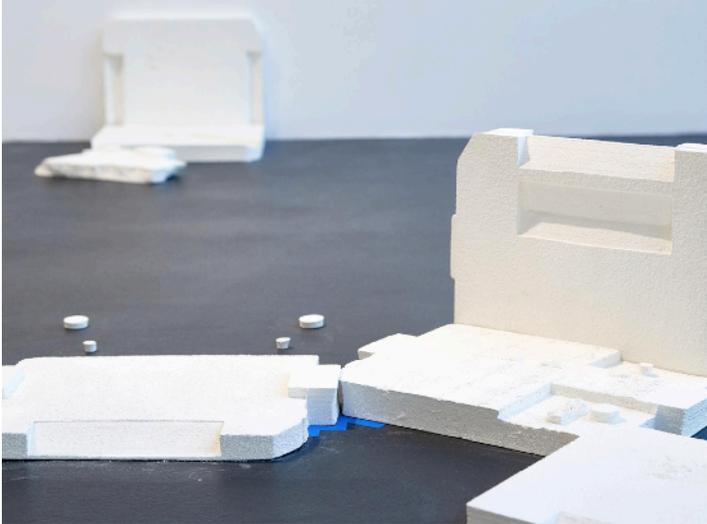


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## 11 artists in the UAE to watch in the coming year

By [Melissa Gronlund](#)

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Over the past few years, via programmes such as Seaf, Campus Art Dubai, Jameel's Youth Takeover, and new art and visual culture programmes at Zayed University and American University in Dubai, a new generation of artists have been emerging in the UAE: looking at subjects such as the formation of memories, emotions, folkloric tales, science-fiction, techno-progressivism and the value of painstaking, labor-intensive craft practices. If that seems like a broad list, it is: the amount of young artists across Dubai, Sharjah and Abu Dhabi is mushrooming, and any attempts to summarise the focus of their enquiries will happily fall short.

With that in mind, here are a few of the artists whom *The National* has its eye on.

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### **Sarah Al Mehairi**

Raised in Abu Dhabi, Sarah Al Mehairi graduated in 2019 from NYUAD, and had her first solo show at Carbon 12 even before she finished her fellowship at Seaf. Her formal, puzzle-like sculptures of different shades of wood appear like painterly abstractions, which she underscores by staining the wood in different colours to achieve a *troupe l'oeil* effect. For a series of plasterworks, *A Filled Form is Familiar*, now up at the Seaf show at Warehouse421, she cast a styrofoam box 40 times in plaster, changing one element of the composition each time, so that there is no original to the series.