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## Art season back in full swing: 14 exhibitions to see this September in the UAE

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Nigerian-American artist **Anthony Akinbola** presents textile paintings that examine the cultural and historical significance of the durag, a cloth cap typically used for African hair. Using the ready-made product as a symbol and a starting point, the artist examines its cultural associations, but also removes it from its quotidian use in order to see it as an object. On view at Carbon 12, the show draws its title from the artist's own sentiments following the turbulence of the past year.

Akinbola's textured canvases comprise durag fabric stretched and configured in various ways, at times interlocking various colours across a wooden panel. Depending on his configurations, the durags can appear as dripped paint. Other times, his compositions are quilt-like.

In part, his use of ready-mades also considers consumerism and commodification, particularly of African-American culture and the durag's role in shaping a certain image of blackness in the US.



### **The Arts Club summer exhibitions**

The Arts Club Dubai is currently presenting two shows as part of its summer programme: **Geometric Bodies** and Radical Threads.

The first is displayed on the club's first-floor landing and showcases pieces tied together by their experimentation with form, such as Shaikha Al Mazrou's material-bending sculptures and Rana Begum's geometric works made from reflectors. Other artists taking part in the show include **Amba-Sayal Bennett**, Dana Awartani, Maryam Hoseini, Fahd Burki and Kamrooz Aram.