

The National

29 May 2025

Weekly UAE Museum and gallery guide

<https://www.thenationalnews.com/arts-culture/2025/05/29/uae-museum-guide-louvre-kings-and-queens-of-africa-naseej-garden-of-murmurs/>



Malik Thomas Jalil Kydd's first solo exhibition, *Garden of Murmurs*, at Carbon 12, presents a body of work that the Iraqi-British artist produced over the past several years. The series of large-scale works blend painting, drawing and textile art, exploring themes of introspection and the many definitions of love.

Silk has a starring role in the exhibition. Kydd uses raw silk panels that have been stitched together as his primary canvas. The silk has been dyed using natural materials such as sage. The gestural abstraction that charges the artworks has been spurred by various media, including oil, pastel, charcoal and natural dyes.

Depictions of the male figure, rendered a touch larger than life-size, a dimension Kydd refers to as "angel scale", is central to the exhibition. Through it, Kydd addresses concepts of material, identity and culture – while also coaxing a serenity from a background of destruction and death.