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After two decades of groundwork, the Gulf region steps into the spotlight

by Melissa Gronlund

<https://www.artbasel.com/stories/art-basel-qatar-gulf-region-ecosystem-expansion>



View of Nour Malas's work presented by Carbon 12 at Art Basel Miami Beach 2025.

The Gulf art market is witnessing an influx of attention. The headlines are worth repeating: the inaugural editions of Art Basel Qatar and Frieze Abu Dhabi each launch this year and, as of last year, Sotheby's is holding regular sales in Riyadh and Abu Dhabi. European galleries including Colnaghi, Zidoun-Bossuyt, and Taymour Grahne Projects have all established branches in the Gulf, while new local galleries have sprung up in Dubai and Abu Dhabi among other places.

'This is what we've been waiting for,' says Kourosh Nouri, who opened the gallery [Carbon 12](#) in Dubai 17 years ago. 'The time and effort we and others have put in to showcase the artists from this region, and to build relationships with collectors, is at last paying off as the region emerges onto the world stage.'