

The Best Art Exhibitions To Visit This February

by Amelia Dhuga

<https://www.gqmiddleeast.com/article/the-best-art-exhibitions-to-visit-this-february>



Courtesy of Carbon 12

As the art season gathers pace across the Middle East and North Africa, February brings a cluster of exhibitions driven by careful, probing ideas. Language surfaces as a key concern, approached not as simple communication but as a framework that shapes memory, movement, and belonging. At Ishara Art Foundation, Urdu Worlds considers language as a material presence tied to displacement. Anahita Razmi's *The Task of the Mythologist* looks at how symbols slip and mutate as they circulate through culture, accumulating and shedding meaning along the way. In both cases, text and signs carry political weight, always at risk of distortion or loss.

Anahita Razmi: *The Task of the Mythologist* at Carbon 12, Dubai
Until March, 2026

Building on Roland Barthes' canonical book *Mythologies* (1957), Anahita Razmi examines how symbols accrue and lose power through context and circulation. The exhibition explores the unstable sign systems, treating emojis, talismanic garments, pop music merchandise, and spiritual motifs as contested carriers of meaning. Visitors encounter Islamic talismanic shirts recontextualised through language markers, alongside transformed Oasis T-shirts embedded with evil eye appliquéés. Across sculptural interventions and textile works, Razmi cleverly positions the gallery as a site of reframing, where cultural references are suspended and re-read.