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From Saudi Modernism to Palestinian Embroidery: The Arab Art Highlights at London's Frieze Fairs 2026

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In 1968, Mounirah Mosly was among the first women to exhibit publicly in Saudi Arabia. Around the same time, Moroccan painter Mohamed Melehi was developing the bold wave forms that would become his signature, while Hassan Sharif would later challenge established ideas of what art could be in the UAE. Decades on, their work is part of a wider presence of Arab artists at Frieze London and Frieze Masters, returning to The Regent's Park from 14 to 18 October 2026. As Eva Langret, Director of Frieze EMEA, observes, "Established names and the next generation show in dialogue, testing new ground together and shaping what comes next." Alongside these pioneering figures, a younger generation is finding its own ways of working with painting, sculpture and textiles, both at the fairs and across London during Frieze Week.

Sarah Almehairi and Nour Malas – Carbon 12

At Dubai gallery Carbon 12, Emirati artist Sarah Almehairi works with grids, lines and architectural structures, cutting, folding and reconfiguring them to explore the relationship between a surface and the space around it. In her *Off Centric & Off Centered* series, the gaps within a composition become as important as its solid forms. Syrian-Canadian painter Nour Malas draws on dreams and familial relationships, particularly the bond between three generations of women in her family. Her paintings move between imagined spaces, personal recollections and spiritual associations.