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Four Female Emirati Artists Who Stood Out at Frieze Abu Dhabi

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As the inaugural Frieze Abu Dhabi comes to a close, we spotlight four Emirati women whose work reflects the breadth of the country's contemporary art scene.

The inaugural Frieze Abu Dhabi brought an impressive international line-up to Manarat Al Saadiyat from November 19 to 22, with Emirati artists playing an important role in the fair's programme.

Among them were four women whose practices offer distinct perspectives on contemporary art in the UAE. Working across painting, sculpture and mixed media, their presentations explored everything from personal memory and cultural identity to geometry and the possibilities of industrial materials.

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For Emirati artist Sarah Almehairi, geometry offers an opportunity for experimentation. Represented by Carbon 12, she presented works from her Off Centred series at Frieze Abu Dhabi, continuing her investigation into the relationship between surface, structure and space.

Her practice moves between painting and sculpture, using grids, lines and carefully considered compositions as a foundation for exploring abstraction. Through subtle shifts in proportion and material, Almehairi introduces unpredictability into seemingly ordered forms. Her work reflects a growing interest in the possibilities of translating two-dimensional compositions into physical objects.