



Lulua Alyahya, *Untitled*, 2025

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**ATHR Gallery Presents a Female Trio of Young Saudi Artists at Art Basel Paris 2025
Booth H14**

Paris, France | October 2, 2025 – ATHR Gallery is proud to return to Art Basel Paris with a three-artist presentation featuring Sarah Abu Abdallah, Hayfa Algwaiz and Lulua Alyahya at Booth H14. This next wave of Saudi artists brings together distinct practices that converge around the language of composition: how images, spaces and textures form visual arrangements that reflect the layered experiences of Saudi women today. The presentation at Art Basel Paris 2025 - at which it will proudly

represent the Kingdom as the only Saudi exhibitor - marks ATHR Gallery's return to the fair following its 2024 debut.

To Parisian and international audiences, the dialogue between these three artists offers a rare glimpse into the evolving landscape of Saudi contemporary art - studio-based, globally networked and deeply rooted in local nuance. Abu Abdallah, following her monumental commission *You Ask, We Answer* at the Sharjah Biennial 16, expands her bricolage approach into a large-format canvas that organizes fragments of daily life-phone images, clipped text, vernacular graphics-into a vivid and legible composition. At the opposite register, Alwaiz brings stillness through watercolor, drawing on her ATHR Foundation residencies at Bait Shouaib in Jeddah and POUCH in Paris to stage suspended interiors and exteriors where grids, façades and multiple vanishing points quietly disrupt the boundaries of space. From her solo exhibition *Nafs* at ATHR Gallery Jeddah to her current participation at the Kaunas Biennial in Lithuania, Alyahya contributes canvases that balance muted tones with surreal figuration: anonymous silhouettes, uncanny motifs and symbolic objects that meander through the paradoxes of gendered experience with deliberate ambiguity.

Presented together, these three artists form a visual dialogue that avoids uniformity while sharing a refined sense of composition. The booth flows between registers, unfolding as a conversation among young female voices advancing Saudi contemporary art with boldness and cultural specificity.

Art Basel Paris, Grand Palais Éphémère, Booth H14 | October 24-26

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About ATHR

Founded in 2009 in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, by Mohammed Hafiz and Hamza Serafi, ATHR Gallery has from its onset been a pioneering gallery with a focus toward elevating contemporary Middle Eastern art on a global scale. Serving as a cultural bridge between Saudi Arabia and the world, its artists have been the driving force of the gallery from the inception and have inspired the responsive mandate that evolves to accommodate the ever-changing local scene. ATHR Gallery prides itself on being adaptive – a testament to a legacy that has spanned over a decade and encompasses artists working across multiple disciplines and subject matters, from traditional media such as painting and sculpture to more

unconventional methods that echo the daring nature of the gallery. The topics they address also vary wildly, covering a spectrum of narratives that range from the interpersonal to the macro-cultural.

ATHR has expanded its presence in Saudi Arabia with two new locations following the success of its flagship space in Jeddah; ATHR Al-Ula is the first contemporary art gallery in the historical city, while its latest outpost, ATHR JAX in Riyadh, marks the gallery's move to the capital. Following the success of ATHR Gallery, ATHR has branched out to create the ATHR Foundation, with a focus on fostering the careers of emerging artists and the development of artistic spaces. ATHR has also diversified its ventures to include AKTHR: a cultural project delivery agency for Saudi Arabia and the Gulf region.

About the artists

Sarah Abu Abdallah

Sarah Abu Abdallah (b. 1990), Qatif, Saudi Arabia) is a multidisciplinary artist based in Riyadh whose work weaves together video, installation, poetry, imagery, and conversation to craft hopeful, alternative narratives. Originally trained as a painter, she later turned to the documentary possibilities of the camera and the expressive potential of video and performance. Her practice engages with gender, the female experience, and questions of value and visibility, while reflecting the evolving social and cultural landscape of contemporary Saudi Arabia. She holds an MFA in Digital Media Art from the Rhode Island School of Design (USA) and a BFA from the University of Sharjah (UAE).

Amongst her previous work is the solo show *For the First Time in a Long Time*, presented at Kunstverein Hamburg and Art Jameel, Dubai (2019). Her practice has also been featured in the Gwangju Biennale, Sharjah Biennial 11, Centre Pompidou, 55th Venice Biennale, Whitechapel Gallery, Serpentine Galleries, and Musée d'Art Moderne de Paris, among others.

She is the recipient of the 2016 Sharjah Art Foundation Production Grant (with Josh Bitelli) and was shortlisted for the 2017 Abraaj Group Art Prize.

Lulua Alyahya

Lulua Alyahya (b. 1998) holds a BFA from the Slade School of Fine Art (UK) and an MFA from Goldsmiths, University of London). Her paintings are sparsely composed, featuring dislocated subjects that present strange yet familiar accounts of culturally resonant archetypes. Figures often appear candid, idle, and steeped in irony, set against minimal, nondescript backgrounds.

Selected exhibitions include Nafs (solo), ATHR Gallery, Jeddah, KSA [2025]; Life After Life, Kaunas Biennial, Kaunas, Lithuania [2025]; We Saw an Endless Cycle, Hayy Jameel, Jeddah, KSA [2025]; Aftershock, Studio Chapple, London, UK [2024]; The 7th Wall, Alice Amati, London, UK [2024]; Sandbox, SET Woolwich, London, UK [2023]; Sludge (solo), Quench Gallery, Margate, UK [2022]; Pygostyle, The Residence Gallery, London, UK [2022]; Roundabout, ATHR Gallery, Jeddah, KSA [2021]; Spacetoons, ATHR Gallery, Jeddah, KSA [2021]; and Widening the Gaze, Slade Research Centre, London, UK [2018].

Hayfa Algwaiz

Hayfa Algwaiz (b. 1991) is an architect and painter based in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia. She's exhibited her work across the Middle East, Europe and the United States, with group exhibitions at ATHR Gallery (Riyadh, KSA), Hatch Gallery (Paris, FR), Thaer Select (Dubai, UAE), N.E.S.T Art Space (AlUla, KSA), Bait Shouaib (Jeddah, KSA), the Ministry of Culture (Riyadh, KSA), Misk Art Institute (Riyadh, KSA), Naila Gallery (Riyadh, KSA), Al Riwaq Art Space (Manama, BAH), CCA Galleries (San Francisco and Oakland, USA), and Autodesk Gallery (San Francisco, USA).

She's participated in artist residencies at POUISH (Paris, FR), Bait Shouaib with ATHR Foundation (Jeddah, KSA) and Dot Ateliers (Accra, GHAN). Her work has been recognized through awards and programs including the 2023 Misk Art Grant (Misk Art Institute) and the 8th edition of Young Saudi Artists (ATHR Foundation).



Haifa Algwaiz, *A Woman's Body*, 2025