



Keep Going, 2026 by Rami Farook. Courtesy of the artist and ATHR Gallery

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ATHR Gallery presents *In Shaa Allah 5air* at Art Dubai's Special Edition 2026

Dubai, UAE | May 7, 2026 ATHR Gallery returns to Art Dubai with Dubai-based interdisciplinary artist and curator Rami Farook's *In Shaa Allah 5air*. The solo presentation features 20 new works created over the past nine months, spanning the period immediately before and after the recent 40-day attacks on the Gulf.

Working primarily in soft pastel on canvas and paper, alongside acrylic, oil, graphite, charcoal and spray paint, Farook continues his exploration of self and society through portraiture and landscape. The works trace a period shaped by adaptation, vigilance, uncertainty, restraint and manifestation, carrying an atmosphere where "hope for the best, prepare for the worst" becomes an underlying rhythm.

The title *In Shaa Allah 5air*, first articulated in December 2025 as Farook's phrase for the year ahead, holds layered meanings of faith, surrender, resilience, caution and humility in the face of the unknown. The works move between immediacy and deliberation: some are instinctive and emotionally charged, while others are slower, more measured and constructed. Across all of them, the act of making becomes a space for reflection, processing, detachment and meditation.

Themes of transition, connection, responsibility, faith, family, environment, unity and balance intersect with reflections on anxiety, patience, acceptance and trust. Threads of surrealism and dark humor run throughout the presentation, functioning as gestures of processing, escape and release.

The exhibition unfolds with a quiet and considered pace, guided by an ethos of care: to remain useful, honorable and compassionate. The booth scenography extends this dialogue through walls dressed in sand from the Gulf, introducing a material presence that anchors the works within their geographic and cultural context while subtly acknowledging recent events. Additional elements, including a steel bench with military green canvas cushioning and non-native plants grown and nurtured locally, further reflect ideas of belonging, protection and adaptation.

In Shaa Allah 5air moves between what is felt and what is understood, tracing the self in relation to others and the shifting conditions we share. It holds uncertainty without avoidance and belief without certainty.

Booth C1 | Art Dubai | Madinat Jumeirah | May 14–17, 2026

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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 Artist

Rami Farook (b. 1981, Dubai) is an interdisciplinary artist, curator and producer. Self-taught, Rami's journey in art began in 2007 as a collector, gallerist and patron, with a purpose to be useful, honorable and compassionate. His deep engagement with the conditions of artistic possibilities and responsibilities directly informs his work. Rami thrives on conceptualization, intervention and experimentation, often executing his projects with emotional intensity and impulsivity.

Rami has participated in select exhibitions including most recently 'A Night of a Lifetime' at SAMoCa (2026, Saudi Arabia Museum of Contemporary Art), the solo show *A Muslim Man*, ATHR Gallery, Jeddah [2025]; *No Trespassing*, Ishara Art Foundation, Dubai [2025]; Solo: Reset/ Finale/ Untitled, ATHR, Jeddah [2023]; a solo show in Art Dubai, *16 years later*, ATHR [2023]; he curated Young Saudi Artist 2023, *On Purpose*, for ATHR foundation in Diriyah; had a solo show curated by Ruba Al Sweel; *Items Discontinued*, Maisan 15, Dubai [2020]; a solo show, *Peace and Productivity*, Season, Seattle, [2017]; a group show curated by Reem Fadda, for Sharjah Biennial's 2nd Act, at Sursock Museum, Beirut, [2017]; *An Arab Artist's 1st Solo In America*, at Satellite Art Show during Art Basel Miami (2016); a producer, patron and artist at the Kochi Biennale [2012 & 2014]; and curated, *Grey Borders / Grey Frontiers* for Edge of Arabia during the Berlin Biennale [2010].

Rami's work was recently acquired by the Guggenheim Abu Dhabi and can be found in the Obayashi Private Collection and The Barajeel Foundation among others.