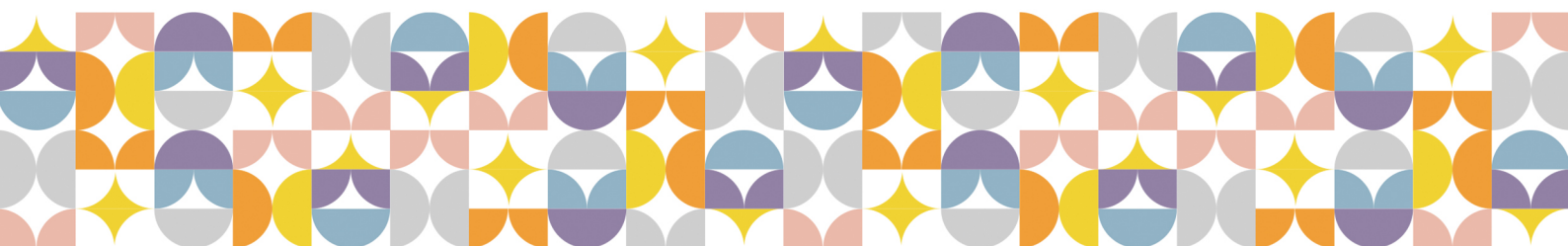


**THE ART CIRCLE AWARD 2023
SHORTLISTED ARTWORKS**





BREATH OF TOMORROW - 2023

Caroline HEMING

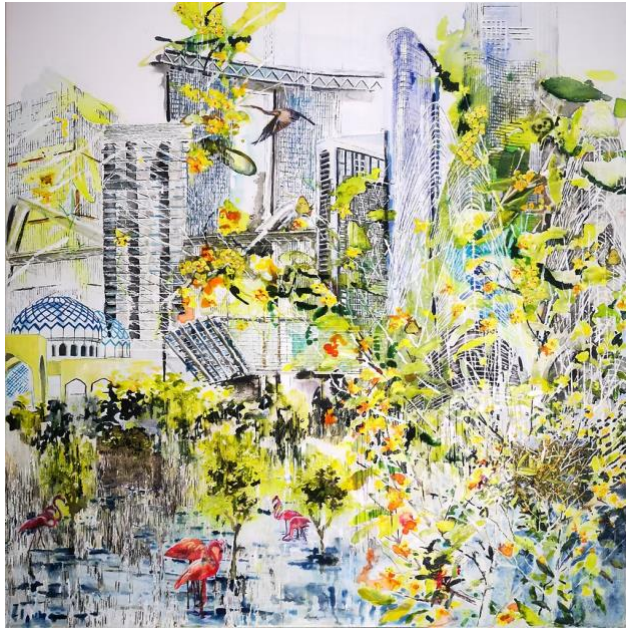
Oil on Canvas, Wood Panel, (Optional Lights), 46 x 60 cm

Drawing from Marco Polo's journey in Italo Calvino's "Invisible Cities" and the UAE's 2050 sustainability

goal, my Art Circle Award entry envisions an ocean-centered utopia. Here, thriving cities lead to healthy oceans — a harmonious exchange of life. As viewers, we embark on this journey through hexagonal windows, granting us a glimpse of this idyllic future. The hexagon, an emblem from Arabic art, symbolizes the unity of all life and the interwoven fabric of existence. The outer canvas painting portrays a fading sea anemone, marked by neglect and climate stress. In contrast, the inner wood panel paints a narrative of revival and healing, brought forth by urban sustainability and responsible choices. This transformation is illuminated by lights that embody hope and renewal, guiding us toward a brighter path. Through "Breath of Tomorrow," I paint a world where thriving cities and conscious citizens work in symbiotic harmony to resurrect oceans. This endeavor manifests as a shared journey — one where human actions breathe life into the seas, exemplifying a future where nature flourishes, and the echoes of our positive choices resonate across time.

Caroline HEMING

Many say to pick a style and stick with it. I say why? Why must I be defined by the way I use my brush, the subject matter I choose, or the way in which I decide to tell a story on canvas? I thrive when I'm toggling between realism, expressionism, and the abstract. Oh, I suppose there will come a day when I'll settle down in one direction, but in the meantime, I'm going to continue challenging myself to explore, experiment, and enjoy the creative journey without boundaries.



VICENNIA - 2023

Karine ROCHE

Oil, Ink, Fluid Acrylic on Canvas, 100 x 100 cm

It is a hybrid city, half vegetal half mineral. It has made the necessary changes to be in symbiosis with its environment. This urban representation is inspired by the city of Abu Dhabi and the blooming mangrove. The landscape reflects high-tech architectural developments as well as the desire not to forget an older heritage. The mangrove is endemic to the Arabian Gulf region. Its ability to absorb carbon from the atmosphere gives it an important role in the climate crisis.

Inspired by the Barjeel, the city is aerial. By studying the winds we can imagine air corridors like natural air conditioning. The city is developing vertically to avoid

urban sprawl. It is light in color, thus reducing the albedo index and the ground temperature. The frames of the houses are large metal rods which become organic and transform into branches of the mangrove trees. It is the blood network of the city body. It pulsates, vibrates and forms only one organism. The leaves and the glass of the buildings merge. This city-mangrove is a symbol of adaptation to extreme conditions, high heat and high salinity in order to reverse the current trend.

Karine ROCHE

Karine Roche is a visual artist. She works with different media: digital, ink, oil, resin, collage of paper and textile. Her paintings are landscape which transcribes a wandering in particular environments. They are invitations to travel in urban and/or plant territories. Born in France in 1977, She studied Fine art and landscape architecture in Paris and holds her diploma at ENSAAMA Olivier de Serres in 1999. Karine is based in UAE since 2009. She is member of Emirate Fine Arts Society. Her work was represented by Gallery Catherine et Andre Hug In Paris from 2003 to 2014. in Dubai she had several solo exhibition 2011 to 2018 with Art Sawa gallery in DIFC. She participated in “Colors dialog” and “Women in art” (Sharjah Art Museum), “Covid Conversation” (Tashkeel, Dubai). and was part of Fragility, Mia art Collection exhibition hosted in Dubai in 2023. She exhibited at the French Alliance and also with the French institute. Her paintings were presented in Art Paris. She participated in Campus Art Dubai 9.0. Blockchain edition during Art Dubai 2021. Her paintings are part of private and corporate collections, including Abu Dhabi Executive Office, Cultural Programs and Heritage Festivals Committee, the French city of Vitry-sur-Seine, the Colas Foundation, West Lake Museum in China. Her practice questions our relation to nature, memories, human development and questions on the practice of the painting itself related to colors, composition, rhythm and contrast.



A HEALTHY SKY - 2023

Munira MUKADAM

Mixed Media on Wall Frame, 64 x 95 cm

This 3D artwork's inspiration comes from the thought of all people living under one roof - 'a healthy sky'. It depicts various clouds representing the colors of our sky and ironically the color of our 'blue planet', forming a healthy well balanced roof over us. These different joining of clouds, in a way, also represent different people from different cities standing shoulder to shoulder to solve our planet's climate crisis, creating a more sustainable future for our children. This wall art was created using all sustainable and natural materials, such as, tissue, hand made paper mache balls and paint.

On a personal note, this artwork took a lot of time to make and was quite challenging, which I did not expect when I first imagined it. During the middle of this project, I actually considered giving up, but then realized I had to continue, as I knew the final piece would be beautiful and so worth it. Ironically, I realized we are in a similar predicament - it feels tough to achieve our climate goals right now, but if we show perseverance and dedication and continue to work together in finding solutions and keeping our promises, our future generations will look back and see what a beautiful piece of art this world truly is.

Munira MUKADAM

Munira Mukadam is a local based self taught artist that creates 3D sustainable 'green' art by bringing materials found in nature together (e.g leaves, flowers, paper, cotton etc). To create the perfect rustic mosaic of a unique, visually appealing 'touch and feel' look to wall art.



EARHT CANVAS - 2023

Sanniya ADNAN

Acrylic on Canvas, 60 x 70 cm

It all started with the seed when humans found themselves surrounded by natural resources and learned to use them for their needs. When from discovering the natural formula of oxygen, water and carbon dioxide he invented the formula of polyethylene and then the whole world littered with plastic. From wood cutting to heaps of garbage leaving many species homeless and endangered, intervened with the environment causing disruption with eco-friendly atmosphere, we left with the question what is happening with our planet? And the answer lies when we looked behind, we are now the residents where earth is taking revenge and spitting it out. Now shifting the planet to renewable transition energy is a huge task with the increased consumption and elevated level of carbon dioxide gas. To limit global warming to 1.5 degree C above pre industrial levels and other low carbon solutions, National Climate Change Plan of the United Arab Emirates 2017- 2050 under Green Agenda is one of the dedicated example in sustaining the environment by implementing various plans like consumption of solar energy, smart meters, Zero-faring, Green vehicles, Waste-to-energy, Greener manufacturing process, Eco- Tourism Promotion, Organic Farming, Green Funding Project and many more. Countries all over the world are following sustainable goals so by 2050 Earth is going to be calm, less noisy with less carbon and healthier environment.

Sanniya ADNAN

Coming from Pakistan, Country with a combination of cultural and Artistic essence with traditional leads. I was deeply inspired with the world of imagination from my childhood. I impersonate my father and his studio as a teacher and started to spend quality time there. I completed my studies from Karachi, did commercial works and exhibitions, took part in various Art Programs, Won awards and recognitions and then moved to Dubai. I am a Mixed Medium painter and always likes to explore different cultures and researched based Artworks. 9 years of well build commitment with B360 watch, Dubai in miniature Artwork, always well appreciated for my services for their exquisite collection. Awarded First place in painting category of illustrating in Noon Arts Award 2022 "Then & Now". Due to my strong sense of Iconism, I was Awarded for the "Best use of Iconology and Symbolism" from H.E.Eng.Ali Alsuwaidi in the ARTOZE Art Competition 2021, Celebrating 50 glorious years of UAE conducted by Ajman Free Zone Authority. I have been featured into many international Art books and magazines and Exhibited my work there as well.



UTOPIA - 2023

Soraya SIKANDER

Acrylic on Canvas, 61 x 61 cm

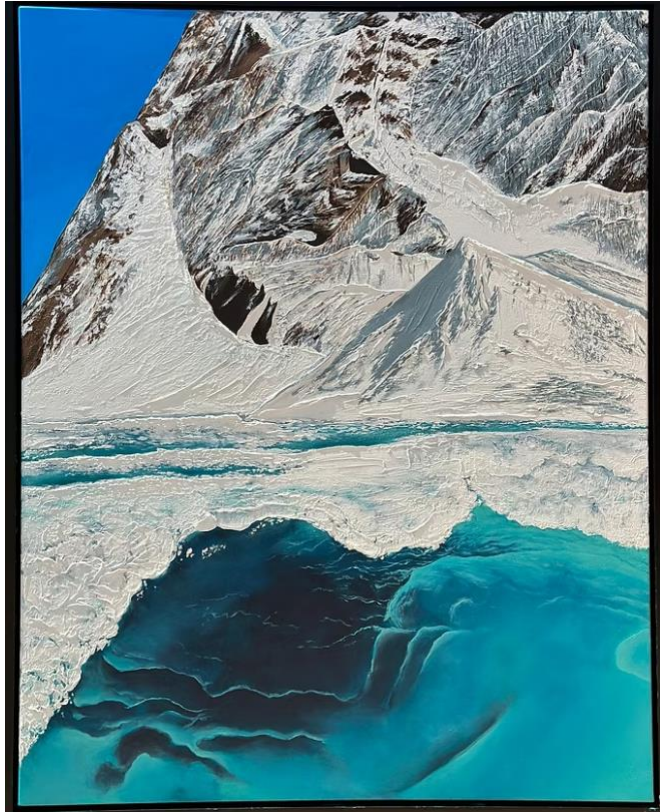
“Utopia is an exploration of the natural world in various forms. Imagining a new landscape free from the threats of climate change, this bold work interprets the natural world – as seen through the mind’s eye – suggesting a new world. My painting "Utopia" suggests a state of bliss rendered in miniature painting style.

This artwork draws from memories, travel and heritage. The intrinsic interconnectedness between the visible and the invisible has become an integral part of my world view. This powerful work captures the complexities of development. The growth of a flower involves larger elemental forces, chemistry and carbon. I arrive at landscape through ecology. It is the whole meaning that interests me not just surface appearance. I am equally interested in how landscapes evolve. The still and the everyday be it a sky, cloud, scattering, dynamism. By experimenting both with subject and meaning, my works continues to develop the relationship between landscape and form, color and light.

"Utopia" is a state of bliss characterized by free flowing birds, flying in gay abandon, suggesting a planet that has overcome climate change, where birds, butterflies and all of nature bloom.

Soraya SIKANDER

Soraya Sikander is a critically acclaimed, contemporary South Asian painter known for her landscapes and organic forms. The artist has been ranked as one of South Asia’s best-known painters making it big internationally, listed as ‘Artist to watch’. Soraya works in oil and acrylics on canvas and is internationally renowned for inventing her pioneering Calligraphy Landscapes. Recognition for her work has come through critical acclaim and nonstop sold-out exhibitions. Soraya Sikander trained in fine arts through the London Atelier of Representational Arts, and University College London’s Slade summer school. Soraya Sikander has held over twenty-four international group & solo exhibitions at premier galleries and museums worldwide. Soraya Sikander Paintings have featured in international auctions including Bonhams. She is also a TEDx art speaker. Soraya Sikander is currently completing a Masters Degree in Art Education.



THE MIGHTY MELT - 2023

Nasha Maryam Koya

Mixed Media on Canvas, 120 x 95 cm

Large scale glacier melt multimedia painting done on a 120*95cm framed canvas. The Invisible city in the Antarctic glaciers that keeps the visible cities afloat and thriving. My art 'The Mighty Melt' is an ode to the rhythm of nature and its perfect balance. Everything about Arctic resonates might! The glaciers and mountains above as well as the ice and water beneath. The might of the ice capped mountains can be seen and felt in the art as well as the depth of the precious liquid we call water. What is it that sustains us? Our planet? Our home? Eternally? It always comes back to water. The basic cell unit of existence of any living being. As astoundingly it sounds it is the truth. Water is what connects us with all the ecosystem. This year and every year sustainability should ring back to preserving water. For us and for our future

generations. The glacier high and mighty is a support to our earth, and yet its melt is gracious. It is giving in abundance even as it melts away into infinity. But we must heed caution. For the glaciers, ice and water is not just a beauty to behold for now, but also the parameter of existence for humankind and life to come.

Nasha Maryam Koya

I am Nasha Maryam Koya, an Indian Artist residing and based in UAE. For me history, life and nature are that which binds me. Being brought up in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia and having had travelled, lived and experienced the desert, the thoughts and culture of the peninsula as well as that of the different emirates of the UAE has molded the base inspiration for my complex artworks. For me the desert, the ocean and beautiful places inhabited by beautiful people, the warmth of soil and love, the coolness and simplicity of greenery is where my motivation stems up. Beyond beauty, the cognitive ideas, thoughts and introspection forms the root of my works. As an artist I enjoy providing thought space to my audience and finding more intellectual meaning in my art. I enjoy and find meditation in painting light floral arts too. An artist since childhood, I am embracing and navigating back to my passion in art post exclusive motherhood. I believe the best self love is finding time to do things you love! And that's the best way to believe in yourself and the impact and magic that you bring to the world.



YOU ARE UNSINKABLE - 2023

Valérie MANOUVRIER

Ink on Paper, 80 x 80 cm

“You Are Unsinkable” is an intricate piece by a Belgian artist based in Dubai. The artist meticulously applied three kilometers of ink from ballpoint pens onto paper to playfully delve into themes of immigration and population growth, exploring their impact on global inhabitation.

The accumulation and saturation of over five hundred lifebuoys generate a dynamic interplay between contrasts like freedom and control, movement and stillness, individualism and unity.

The movement of people across continents and regions spans thousands of years and involves considering environmental, social, and economic dimensions. Through the lifebuoy, also known as a life ring, which holds profound symbolic

significance, the artist portrays a utopian vision that encompasses resource management, climate change adaptation, the strengthening of social cohesion, global cooperation, international partnerships for sustainability initiatives, and cross-cultural understanding. This piece conveys a message of hope projected towards the viewer 50 years from now. Hope is symbolized in the form of a lifebuoy, representing an indomitable spirit that signifies one's resilient nature in the face of adversity: “You Are Unsinkable” regardless of the difficulties. The lifebuoy is personified, allowing the viewer to envision individuals and communities in motion. The work functions as a performative intervention between space and body. In essence, lifebuoys become akin to bodies. Some lifebuoys may appear distorted, adapting their form to foster social cohesion when juxtaposed with others. Additionally, certain lifebuoys are designed in a whimsical manner, reminiscent of the fun buoys found in beach resorts. This serves as another form of personification, emphasizing the uniqueness of each individual's personality. It also illustrates those who effortlessly go with the flow of life, peacefully floating on the water, juxtaposed with those in distress. “You Are Unsinkable” also acts as a metaphor of all the things we all grasp onto when we feel ourselves sinking. Throughout our lives, we face anxieties and fears of all kinds. Life takes on a perpetual bobbing motion, one moment we breathe, the next we sink. At the end of the day, we all cling to a life buoy, whatever it is, which helps us get our heads above water. Overall, this piece stands as a statement meant to initiate dialogue around current themes the world is challenged with, with the intention of moving forward in a positive direction, guided by a clear vision.

Valérie MANOUVRIER

Valérie Manouvrier, known by her artistic name Manou, is a contemporary artist who channels her expression through kilometers of ballpoint pen ink. Much like a painter with a brush, Manou wields her ballpoint pen to evoke emotions through kilometers of lines and vibrant colors. Manou has showcased her work in diverse cities such as Séoul and Dubai. Since 2012, she’s garnered global attention from collectors for her one-of-a-kind technique and bold, pop-inspired hues derived from primary colors.



A VAST EXPANSE - 2023

Natalya KONFORTI

Mixed Media on Aluminum, 40 x 48 cm

Long walks and hikes through nature are personally a time of deep reflection, conversation, and introspection. Much like the protagonists of 'Invisible Cities', the vastness and complexity of the human experience is often on my mind in these moments. The unique rocky formations of the middle east stand as a poignant metaphor, their intricate layers and breathtaking colors reflecting complex inner worlds. Formed under immense pressure, they exude an aura of boldness and permanence. Yet, their visible

formations serve as testament to their constant metamorphosis, a reminder that their solid facade is an illusion during our brief lifespans.

Our connection to the lands we inhabit and our coexistence on intersecting, yet distinct timelines highlight how our surroundings – whether geographical, political, cultural, historical, or sociological – mold us. Simultaneously, we in turn, shape our environment, bending and eroding it to our will, leaving a lasting imprint despite our brief presence.

In confronting photographic precision with abstraction, vivid impressionistic tones with monochromatic stillness; this artwork investigates the invisible edges between reality and memory, between past and present. It underscores the imperative to work towards a future where nature and humanity co-exist in a sustainable partnership.

Natalya KONFORTI

Natalya Konforti is an artist and cultural program facilitator with a degree in Fashion Design from ESMOD International. A decade in the garment industry cultivated her attunement to color palettes, a fascination with patterns, as well as a deep appreciation for textile craftsmanship. Her process- driven, introspective practice is grounded in what we leave behind, channeling themes of memory, community, and sustainability. Through a variety of mixed mediums including photography, paint and textile, her work pays homage to a meaningful technique, material, or location.

Natalya has gained recognition amongst peers of the creative industry for her non-profit community initiatives, and is a contributor to cultural entities such as Jameel Art Centre, Dubai Design Week and Alserkal Avenue. She is an alumnus of Tashkeel's First Solo Residency programme and Campus Art Dubai 10.0. Natalya has participated in exhibitions at RAK Fine Arts Festival, Alserkal Avenue, Sikka, DIFC Art Nights and Tashkeel; her work has been featured in numerous publications including The National, Khaleej Times, Friday Magazine and Arab News. Natalya lives in Dubai and works out of her studio in Tashkeel's historical Al Fahidi branch.



FLUID RESISTENCE 19 - 2022

Kasia DZIKOWSKA

Mixed Media on Paper, 100 x 70 cm

Fluid Resistance is an art project that investigates the presence of energy that creates visible disturbances when an object is moved through a space. The starting point and a reference is the rapid movement of limbs through viscous water, an action that requires an increased amount of energy and is strenuous to perform. Performing movement in water in a way that aims to imitate an effort out in the air, draws similarity to performing an unwanted but necessary act that strains one's willpower to pursue further. Little shapes of air, trapped as bubbles, are a visual reminder of the struggle that, moments earlier, occupied the space.

In a symbolic way, artwork in this project represents undercover resistance against the duress that, although accepted by logic, is rejected by our subconscious. It also celebrates the unrecognized undertakings, that are performed by women and gives them a place to shine.

Kasia DZIKOWSKA

Kasia Dzikowska is an Abu Dhabi-based artist. Born in Poland, she earned her MFA in fine arts at the Kazimierz Pulaski University of Technology and Humanities in Radom, Poland in 2007. In 2013, Kasia moved to the Middle East, where she currently resides and teaches Art Foundation courses at Zayed University. Her work has been exhibited internationally, including in the UAE, USA, Europe and the UK.

Kasia is a conceptual artist that works in a wide range of media, including painting, mixed media, digital graphics and installation. She explores strong use of repetition and rhythms through habitual documenting, often connected to socio-gender commentary through elevation of the significance of mundane activities.



GOLDEN EVENING - 2020

Solimar MILLER

Mixed Media on Board, 82 x 70 cm

“The Golden Evening” is a vision that transports viewers to 2050, where Earth has undergone a significant transformation. This artwork depicts a restored and vibrant planet, awash with golden sunlight refracting light and a tonality of colors from different angles and perspectives. The warmth of the sun’s glow transforms the belief that humans can make life better for all living organisms when the “will of man” is alive and well. This can be achieved for the betterment of each life sharing the planet. The native trees and those that inhabited the land for hundreds and thousands of years are more abundant. The Sidr, the Date Palms, the Ghaf, the Samar, the Mulberry, and the Pomegranate trees

represented are thriving in the soil that has been restored and is supremely rich with billions of healthy microorganisms. One of the imperative insects that were endangered and are now thriving in 2050 is the Wild honeybee, *Apis Florea*, also called the Arabian honeybee, and the Asian dwarf honeybee. They live in an age that reflects the powerful testament to the resilience of nature and the potential for humanity to reverse the devastating effects of environmental degradation.

An essential element in addition to the indigenous, thriving trees and plant life in my work is to draw attention to a respective amount of animals that are endangered and at a very high risk of extinction living in the United Arab Emirates, the Arabian Peninsula, and the Gulf region. I envision that in twenty-seven years, the Saker Falcon, the Green Turtles, the Arabian Tahr, the Great Knot, the Arabian Oryx, and the Steppe Eagle will have increased in population and be thriving, as well as all the other land-dwelling and seafaring animals and organisms flourishing in a safe and clean environment. They now have the freedom to move freely on the vast, plentiful terrains of the great continents of the world, grazing from fresh shrubs, berries, fruit, and leaves without worry. The animals can live without the fear and threat of being killed by electrocution by flying into electrical wires, dying from drinking poisoned water from petrochemical runoffs, pesticides, and many others, and losing fresh water and habitat.

I utilized multiple mediums when creating my “Golden Evening” artwork, from photography to my observational drawings of the trees, insects, and various mammals and reptiles. Using environmentally safe water-based mediums is imperative when considering the effects on the environment as well. I engage in hand painting and hand silkscreen printing to enrich and enhance the layers of lives of animals and insects depicted who are blessed to live in a world with cleaner air and water.

"The Golden Evening" portrays a world where the scars of past environmental devastation have been healed. A lush landscape with a vibrant variety of tree species inhabiting the country I call home, the United Arab Emirates, stretching out as far as the eye can see. The older-growth trees, with their branches reaching towards the sky, provide shelter and shade for a myriad of organic organisms, some seen and some unseen, under the soil and above, and protect the rare animals that were close to extinction only decades earlier. The once-barren lands have been transformed into fertile grounds, blooming with colorful flora and thriving ecosystems.

Solimar MILLER

Solimar Miller (b.1969, Puerto Rico) is a multidisciplinary artist and designer based in Dubai. Her reverence and concern for the environment have led to works influenced by ecological elements that are changing in the current landscape. An integral part of her practice is documenting the unique characteristics of indigenous and naturally thriving tree species through photography, observational drawings, and paintings. Solimar implements a series of processes in producing hand-silkscreened artworks on a variety of materials based on the environment of the United Arab Emirates, where she has been living for many years.

Solimar debuted her first solo exhibition at XVA Art Gallery, Al Fahidi Historic District, in the winter- spring of 2023 and has a collection of artwork exhibited in the Garden Room at The Capital Club in DIFC in the autumn of 2023. Her recent exhibitions include the Tashkeel Gallery at Alserkal Avenue, Sikka Art and Design Festival, Festival of Arts Gallery, as well as the Middle East Institute Art Gallery, Washington D.C. Her artwork has been featured in the Washington Post, Canvas Magazine, Saviour Faire Magazine, Art Daily, the National, and Arab News. She wrote the article 'Desert Flora' for Canvas Magazine in the Summer of 2022. Solimar received a 'Special Mention' from the guest curator, Dina Brodsky, for Create Magazine and was a finalist in the summer of 2022. She has been commissioned by and has artwork displayed at the Four Seasons Resort and Hotel, La Gente at Eden House, and at a luxury building lobby, Residence 22, in Dubai.

Solimar received a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree in Textile Surface Design from the Fashion Institute of Technology and studied Illustration at Parsons School of Design in New York. She has been nominated for The Salama bint Hamdan Emerging Artists Fellowship 2022 and 2023. Solimar is a member of the Tashkeel Studio in Dubai and the Arbor Day Foundation.