



Title of Workshop: Contemporary Depictions of UAE Wildflowers

Duration: 2 day workshop

Timing: March 16-17

Venue: Second floor of house 15 in Al Bastakiya

Artist: Suzanne Kanatsiz

Flowers symbolize hope, creativity and love across the world. To honor the spring, a time of renewal and new beginnings, and the start of the Sikka Art Fair and Art Dubai, one of the most significant art events in the region, students will collectively make several giant, mural-size, flower drawings.

In the UAE, though it is an intensely arid and desert landscape, there is a rich diversity of indigenous wildflowers. Another wildflower, the tulip, originally came from Persia where it was found in the cooler, mountainous regions. The name of the tulip comes from the Middle Eastern tradition of a turban or wrapped headdress. Using flowers as a starting point, workshop participants will be instructed in drawing techniques of pastel and mixed media. Selecting photographic fragments to use as a reference, participants will use both Eastern and Western approaches to art making, freely playing with concept, context and technique to give the subject matter new meaning. The end result will be a collaborative effort among the artists using their individual vocabulary in drawing to then combine into stunning and lively visual art. The collective as well as the individual artistic process will be explored.

Commemorating the natural landscape, and rich environment of the United Arab Emirates, the huge artworks produced will flourish through the imagination and scale to make a commanding visual statement.

The finished artwork will be exhibited at a special reception hosted by the U.S. Consulate General during Art Dubai. Please click [here](#) for the registration form and send the completed form to [Khalil.abdulwahid@dubaiculture.ae](mailto:Khalil.abdulwahid@dubaiculture.ae).

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### Artist Biography

Suzanne Kanatsiz (MFA, San Jose State University), is one of two daughters born to an American mother and Turkish father. She has lived and traveled extensively in Europe and the Middle East, including a recent teaching appointment at Sabanci University in Istanbul. She has received numerous awards, exhibited her work both nationally and internationally, and has shown at prestigious venues such as the Allan Stone Gallery in New York, the Capp Street Project in San Francisco, and the Robert V. Fullerton Art Museum in Los Angeles. Currently, she is a professor in the sculpture area of the visual arts at Weber State University. She lives with her husband and son in Utah. She is represented by "A" Gallery in Salt Lake City.

<http://www.skanatsiz.com/index.html>

