

# ZAYN QAHTANI

Arusha Gallery | [info@arushagallery.com](mailto:info@arushagallery.com) | 0131 557 1412

## BIOGRAPHY

Zayn Qahtani (b.1997) is a painter, drawer and sculptor based between Bahrain and London. Her work is a dance between what is seen and what is felt, compiling a personal mythology along the way. Drawing on ancient cultures and nature's diverse ecosystems, Zayn forms visual stories which seem to exist in the twilight zone – too distorted to be real, too familiar to be a dream. Her figures seem to be suspended in a space of no-time, navigating a world which harkens to the post-human society of today. In this altered state, a sense of safety is offered, allowing the creatures within the walls of her works to explore life's more tender, nostalgic, and often painful feelings. Working on recycled materials, and hand making her own paints and tools from plants and minerals, Zayn allows the works to take on a life of their own, truly vibrating with the energy of the land itself.

## EDUCATION

**2019**  
BA Fashion Design  
The Royal University for Women, Bahrain

## EXHIBITIONS

**2023**  
Edinburgh Art Festival, Dreamer's Eye, Arusha Gallery, Edinburgh, UK  
Hawthorn and the Feast of Julian, Arusha Gallery, New York, USA

**2022**  
Chorus, Arusha Gallery, Edinburgh, UK  
Fundraiser TBA, Purslane Art, London, UK

**2021**  
She Curates x CloverMill Open Call Exhibition, Wilder Gallery, London, UK  
From the form of spirit to the spirit of form, ATHR Gallery, Jeddah, Saudi Arabia  
Honestly Speaking, Jewellery Arabia 2021, Bahrain  
BAWA/MONO 07, 08. 09, Gallery BAWA, Kuwait  
FRC10, Flat Rate Contemporary, USA (online)

**2020**  
Safer Spaces, The Art Space, Bahrain (online)

**2018**  
Lucid Dreams, Sonder, Bahrain (solo)  
2017 Co-Lab II: Words Still Blind, Malja, Bahrain

**2017**  
Co-Lab, Malja, Bahrain

## AWARDS & RESIDENCIES

**2021**  
YSA '21 Selected Artist + Honorary Grant, ATHR Gallery, Saudi Arabia

**PRESS &  
PUBLICATIONS**

She Curates, December 2021, 'Open Call', interviewed artist, by Mollie E Barnes  
Flat Rate Contemporary, October 2021, 'Contemporary Landscapes of FRC10',  
essay by Rachel Hausmann Schall  
Postscript Magazine, 'Hiatus' Issue 39, August 2021, featured artist  
Vogue Arabia, GCC Issue, February 2021, 'Set in Stone'  
Bahrain This Month, August 2020, 'Pictures Worth A Thousand Words'  
Jdeed Magazine, July 2020, 'Art Space Bahrain Hosts Safer Spaces'  
Jdeed Magazine, September 2019, 'Beauty Standards No More'  
Red Bull, August 2017, 'The Journey Behind Words Still Blind'