

1138

Earthquake in Aleppo, Syria, kills an estimated 230,000

1737

Earthquake kills 300,000 and destroys half of Calcutta, India

1962

Second Vatican Council (21st ecumenical) convened by Pope John XXIII



1986

Ronald Reagan and Mikhail Gorbachev open talks at a summit in Reykjavik, Iceland

# 'mishmash' of ancient and modern

...ive thing to the past es it is only repeat the the lesson. e past is a of human dually or in t or wrong. feeling of something I aim for

NAHYAN AL-NAHYAN

...with the present nt." mbassador, Man- s present at the ticularly admired ks based on the rd game Carrom

paired with a modern video game. "I first played Carrom with my cousins as a boy, and she has combined it with modern computer games, which is very creative," he said. He pointed out that her innovative work ties in well with the dynamic of the UAE.

"Next year we have EXPO 2020, with its theme 'Connecting Minds, Creating the Future.' It's very much about our roots and how we take them forward, how we develop mind and global cooperation," he said.

The exhibition included a short clip from Al-Nahyan's upcoming film "Athel," written by Al-Nahyan's sister, Sheikha Shamsa. It centres on a strange encounter in the desert between a pre-Islamic poet and a modern-day TV presenter. "Athel" is set for release later this year and stars Hala Shiha and Mansour Al-Fili.

"The idea behind it all is taken from the tradition of Arabic poetry – its wisdom and, sometimes, risks,"

Al-Nahyan explained. "And ending with a realization of one tribal law putting redemption and family before all." She added that there are some "light-hearted" moments in the film too.

Arabic poetry is an ongoing inspiration for Al-Nahyan's work, adding another layer of meaning to many of her pieces.

"The Arabic language is poetic, and Arabs and other cultures around the world have documented their lives through poetry," she said. "So, for example, when tackling the topic of what is considered treasure, we found different meanings in various verses. Like when (pre-Islamic poet) Zuhair Bin Abi Salma refers to glory as the only true treasure."

There is a much to absorb and reflect on in this exhibition which opens windows into many facets of Arab history and culture and poses universal questions about humanity and what constitutes real treasure.

There is humour in some of Sheikha Alyazia's work – particularly the depictions of old commercial airline advertisements from the 1950s and 60s with ancient figures superimposed in the frames. They certainly give the viewer pause for thought about how much our world has changed in the short time since air travel became widely available



Carrom Station by Sheikha Alyazia bint Nahyan Al Nahyan



UK, Mansour Abulhoul, Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan and



Sheikha Alyazia Bint Nahyan Al-Nahyan's work titled 'Mishmash Dirham'



The painting titled 'Mishmash Trails' that feature cave-like shapes cut in marble, with the treasure taking the form of imagined ancient eastern coins

LIFE

## Logic of independent movies to Dubai



...ferent cinema to people."

...public Kazim works closely with special events such as Dubai Shopping Festival's Market Out of the Box and Fashion



Butheina Kazim

Forward initiatives and has screened over 350 films across Dubai, Abu Dhabi and Sharjah.

In summer, the cinema space's robust line-up continues. "There's a mythical Dubai exodus that everyone speaks of as soon as summer hits," said Kazim. Some of Cinema Akil's August highlights include "Straight Out of Berlin," a series of eight films in collaboration with the

Goethe Institut, which explores the many faces and tunnels of the German capital city.

There was even a "Cat Weekend" on International Cat Day earlier this month, when films that celebrate all things feline were screened.

Kazim has been encouraged by the region's response to art cinema: "We've been blown away by the enthusiasm.

Films we never expected to succeed, such "Cold War" by Pawel Pawlikowski and "Capernaum" by Nadine Labaki, had a wonderful response. It's magical when that happens."

Kazim's next goal is to expand the Cinema Akil concept from Dubai to the region, giving cinephiles all over the Gulf a chance to enjoy independent films.



Audience watch a movie hosted by Cinema Akil