

1679

Britain's King Charles II ratifies Habeas Corpus Act allowing prisoners right to be imprisoned to be examined by a court

1970

French Revolution: The Civil Constitution of the Clergy is adopted, putting the Catholic Church in France under the control of the state

1804

Former United States Secretary of the Treasury Alexander Hamilton dies after being shot in a pistol duel by Vice President Aaron Burr



1957

US Surgeon General Leroy Burney connects smoking with lung cancer

g for the arts amid conflict in Yemen

During those four years, Al Hadrami discovered different artistic mediums. "It was a different experience that helped me turn professional," she says. She soon decided to focus on painting, making use of the constructive criticism she received from her teachers as she learnt as much as she could about the various theories and schools of modern art. "I now practise expressive painting," she says.

It can take her anywhere from several hours to three days to produce a painting, and over the past few years Al Hadrami has taken part in more than 30 art exhibitions across Hadramout, as well as a show in Malaysia. She's a founding member of Hadramout Talents, an independent non-governmental organisation that has brought together about 100 artists - both men and women - from the area. Alongside several other artists, Al Hadrami is working to revive modern art in a city that's all but forgotten about creative pursuits during a time of war.

Al Hadrami spends her time lobbying

Abeer Mohammed Al Hadrami has taken part in more than 30 art exhibitions across Hadramout in Yemen, as well as a show in Malaysia. She's a founding member of Hadramout Talents, an independent non-governmental organisation that has brought together about 100 artists - both men and women - from the area. Alongside several other artists, Al Hadrami is working to revive modern art in a city that's all but forgotten about creative pursuits during a time of war



Abeer Al Hadrami holds her favourite painting in her collection

local artists to help her raise awareness of the importance of modern art in their conservative society, whether that's producing paintings, sketches or even graffiti. The artists spend their savings at art galleries. "In the past, it was hard to convince the rich to fund galleries," Al Hadrami says. "We worked hard on displaying our work to them."

Changing Yemen's attitude towards art

However, after several campaigns to raise funds and awareness, Al Hadrami says she feels local perceptions of modern art are beginning to shift. "There is

a great understanding and appreciation of our artworks now," she says. "As you can see, graffiti is covering street buildings and walls. The young artists imposed themselves on the society here."

Public officials have even stepped in to help her; Al Hadrami received funds from the governor of Hadramout, which meant she could take part in a show at an international art gallery in Cairo. Still, Al Hadrami says such achievements are only another step in a much longer journey.

While promoting art in her hometown, she also works in an administrative role with an international aid

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ABEER MOHAMMED AL HADRAMI

organisation, while her parents give her pocket money, too. She's also sold a few of her beloved paintings. "I sold a collection of my paintings in Malaysia for \$2,000. I saved the money to buy a car," she says. She also sold a painting for 1,000 Saudi Arabian riyals to a local art pundit. "By selling their work, artists can buy materials and pay to participate in international exhibitions, as well as helping to arrange exhibitions -locally," she says.

Otherwise, it can be difficult for budding talents, she says, lamenting that

international galleries usually only invite renowned artists from Yemen to exhibit. "We are struggling to build our names," she says. Al Hadrami relies heavily on social media - predominantly Twitter and Facebook - as a platform to get her work seen, she adds.

The ongoing conflict in Yemen also makes her career path in the art world far from clear. In early 2015, when the Houthi rebels stormed Aden, Al Hadrami watched -nervously as local military forces and resistance fighters flooded into the city. "During the fighting, my paintings that portray the army, the people and the war in Aden have increased," she says.

Despite all that she and her family have been through, however, Al Hadrami is confident her paintings have the potential to win international awards, if she could only get the chance to display them in front of a global audience. "I want to introduce my paintings to renowned painters," she says. "I have talked to some of those painters. They either cautiously respond to my messages or ignore them, simply because they do not know me."



Abeer Mohammed Al Hadrami during an exhibition

activist filmmaker shines light on Nakba



the set of Farah Nabulsi's film.jpg Actors and technicians at the set of Farah Nabulsi's film

"With one foot in the West - having been born, raised and educated in London - and the other - my heritage, the blood running through my veins - in Palestine, I recognized the unique and rather powerful position I was in, so I changed the trajectory of my life

FARAH NABULSI

the trauma of her young son being taken away by the Israeli military.

It was named an Official Selection at the Edinburgh Short Film Festival in 2016, and was a finalist at the International Short Film Competition at the USA Film Festival in 2017.

The other films, "Oceans of Injustice" and "Nightmare of Gaza," have similar themes of Israeli prejudices against, and abuses of, Palestinians.

"What I do is painful, raw and exhausting. But the satisfaction that I'm doing something with meaning - giving voice to the silenced, playing my part in informing and educating with the aim of ending injustice, and being able to use my creativity and my emotional IQ while doing that - has been a blessing I'm truly grateful for," Nabulsi said.

"I have children of my own, and the very idea of a child being taken - usually in the middle of the night by armed soldiers, with no parent or adult with them, processed through a military system and subjected to all sorts of abuses - is just insane," she added. "That ('Today They Took My Son') was a film I didn't choose to make. I had to make it."

Nabulsi is working on her fourth short film, "The Present," which features Israeli-Palestinian actor Saleh Bakri.

"It's a beautiful story of a Palestinian father and his young daughter dealing with the indignities of checkpoints," she said. "I'm looking forward to completing it and sharing it with the world."