

# Egyptian art show gets underway in Dubai

BY A STAFF REPORTER

"14.05.09 — Undercurrent," the highly anticipated exhibition of contemporary Egyptian art opened at Art Sawa, Dubai. Held under the joint patronage of Minister of Culture, Youth & Community Development Abdul Rahman Mohammad Al Owais and Egypt's Minister of Culture Farouk Hosny, the exhibition is also supported by Dubai Culture and Arts Authority.

"14.05.09 — Undercurrent" showcases the works of a group of 29 selected Egyptian artists, both well-established and at the cutting-edge of the Egyptian art scene.

The exhibition takes its inspiration from the city of Cairo, with its exuberant energy, continuously stretching boundaries, and complex social and economic environment. The artworks reflect the impact of all these dynamics on the art and culture of contemporary Egypt.

"14.05.09 - Undercurrent is a valuable contri-

bution to the region's artistic agenda, as it highlights a number of outstanding Egyptian artists," said Amel B Makkawi, founder of Art Sawa in Dubai.

"Hosting this exhibition in the UAE draws our two cultures together and closer. Both Dubai and Cairo's growth demonstrate an impact and electric energy, although each originating in entirely different sources.

One rooted in millennia of history and civilisation, of human artistic expression dating back thousands of years, the other emanating from a small trading community that in a moment of great opportunity decided to stand up and be counted, to create a major 21st Century hub for commerce, finance, transportation, media, and arts."

Abdul Rahman Al Owais commented, "This exhibition presents an excellent platform for Egyptian and Emirati artists to interact and share experiences and creative ideas, which further highlights

the depth of the ever-growing relationship that has for centuries brought Egypt and the UAE together, especially in literary and artistic arenas."

More than abstract works signed by artists, these pieces of art convey the culture, heritage and reality of the Egyptian society, further instilling the mission of art as means to bring cultures closer together, express sincere human feelings and elevate our perception and understanding of fine arts.

Through these wonderful pieces, the Egyptian artists try to describe the small details of the Egyptian culture, which visitors are expected to enjoy. This is also an opportunity to learn more about the Egyptian school of contemporary arts.

This is an occasion where the creative talents of Egyptian and Emirati artists meet and blend in great harmony that creates deeper understanding and credibility of the realities and distinct qualities of life in these two countries.