

# what? **NEW**

Issue 35 • November 2006

**TO BE OR NOT TO BE?:  
DUBAI'S BUDDING  
EASCINATION WITH  
THE FLOORBOARDS**

**RINGS ON HER  
FINGERS AND BELLS  
ON HER TOES:  
NADA G'S LOVE AFFAIR  
WITH JEWELS**

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**WIN!**  
SEASON TICKETS  
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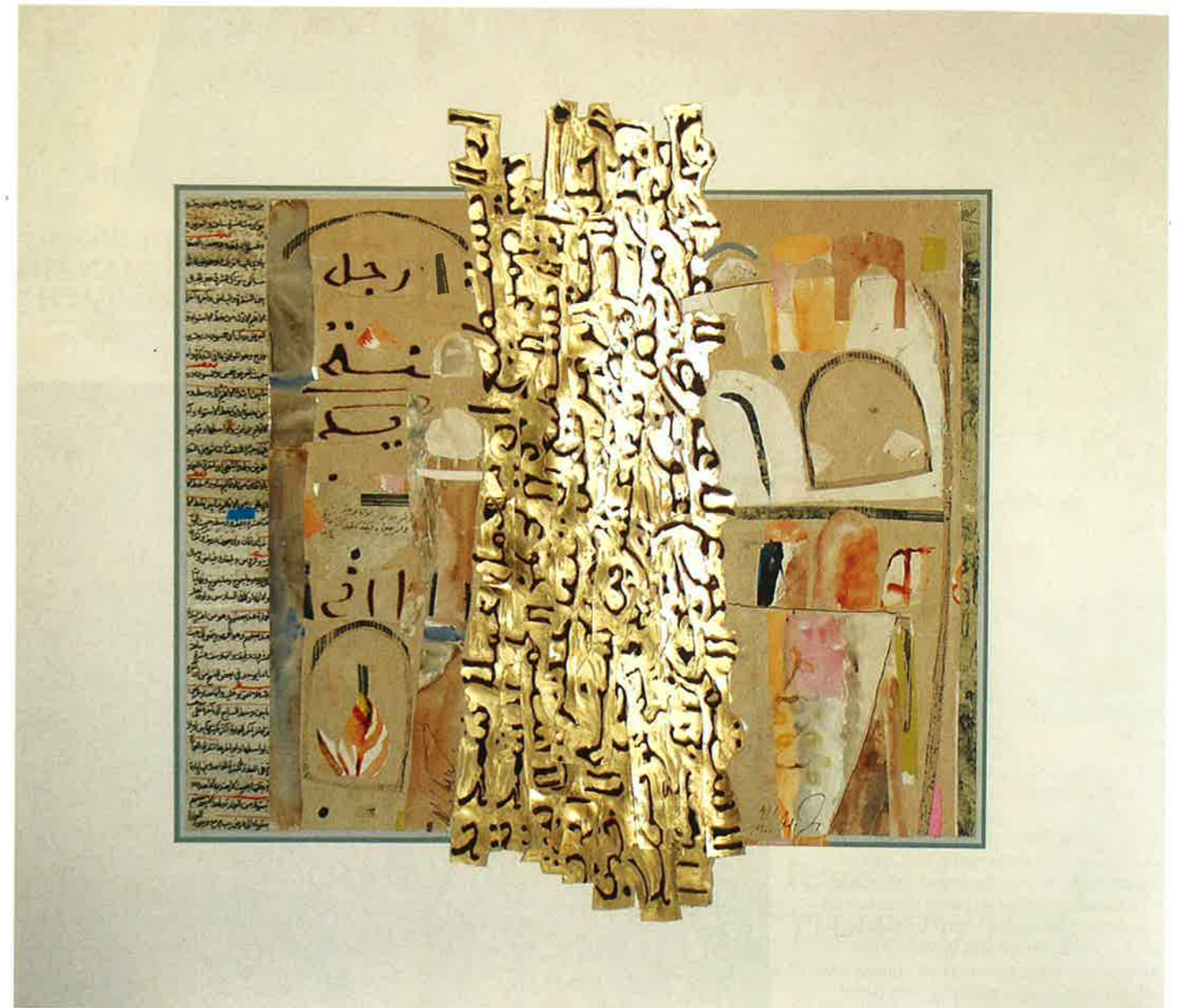




# Abdul-Latif Al Smoudi: A MAN OF ALL SEASONS

By Veathika Jain

ABDUL-LATIF AL SMOUDI PASSED AWAY IN JUNE LAST YEAR. BORN IN SYRIA, HE RESIDED IN THE UAE FOR MANY YEARS. HE BROUGHT IN HIS PAINTINGS THE HISTORY OF HIS COUNTRY FUSED WITH MODERN ART.



An art gallery, in an old Arab house like structure, The Majlis Gallery is very enticing for all art lovers. The paintings in each room not only invite you to every room of the gallery but also give an idea of what the piece would look like if you were to hang that piece of art in your own home.

The season begins at this gallery with a retrospective exhibition 'Man of all seasons,' - 40 oil paintings by Syrian artist Abdul-Latif. This is the eighth time Majlis is showing his work, and this time, his last work. Abdul-latif Al Smoudi passed away in June last year. Born in Syria, he resided in the UAE for many years. He brought in his paintings the history of his country fused with modern art.

"I have seen him work and, more than anything else, he was a brilliant draftsman. His sincerity towards each piece was outstanding. This is a fairly small collection of 40 paintings; it was all that was left when he died. His family wanted to showcase his art to the world and that's why we've put it all





together," said Alison Collins, co-owner of the Majlis Gallery.

Abdul Latif's paintings have a modern yet a traditional insight to them. Two figures kissing each other or the use of calligraphy with geometric designs, use of symbols and iconography does make it a little abstract, yet it captures the art and history of the Arab world. Some paintings, so vibrant with colours and some so soothing with pastel shades, the canvasses invoke a sense of peace. Out of the 40 paintings all are for sale but five. The exhibition runs until October 29th.

The Majlis Gallery is a home for all contemporary artists like Abdul Latif. And after 'A Man of All Seasons', it will house the work of Jamal Abdul Rahim, in an exhibition titled 'Graphic Statements', from 30 October to 12 November. The exhibition will include prints, paintings and expressionistic and figurative sculptures in bronze and stone.

Apart from these exhibitions, there's also an aesthetic display of jewellery, ceramics, quilts, furniture, cutlery and glassware, and the gallery also offers a comprehensive and cost effective framing service. ■



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## Janet 20 Y.O.

Janet Jackson's latest album *20 y.o.* refers to the last two decades of her career, during which she created albums such as *Control*, *Rhythm Nation 1814* and *The Velvet Rope*, to name a few. Almost all the tunes on the album sound like her earlier songs, only this time, her work is infused with the creativity of Jermaine Dupri which gives the album a stronger R'n'B feel to it. Janet is just being herself and having fun which you will notice on the songs *Daybreak* and *Enjoy*. *20 y.o.* is filled with dance grooves and slow jams fit to set any mood whether you are on a girls' night out or having a quiet time at home with that special someone. On the whole it's a feel-good album which will leave you feeling very upbeat.

"LIVIN' EVERYDAY LIKE IT'S MY LAST/I REFUSE TO BE STUCK IN THE PAST/PEOPLE ACTIN' LIKE MACHINES/ CAUSE THEY'RE SCARED TO LIVE THEIR DREAMS/NO NOT ME/SO JUST ENJOY AND CELEBRATE."

- Janet Jackson,  
Lyrics from *20 Y.O.*

## Evanescence THE OPEN DOOR

To label Evanescence's music by calling it just Rock pays no justice to their sound. Their music is a mixture of all genres of Rock - alternative, gothic, metal, piano rock... you can just go on. After a huge success with their previous album *Fallen* and a rough patch in their career, Evanescence is back with their brand new album *The Open Door*. Amy Lee's vocals on the new album are as chilling as her trademark piano playing especially on the songs *Lithium* and *The Only One*. It's brilliant how most of their songs start with an eerie combination of vocals and piano and then the rest of the band breaking into heavy guitar sounds. You will definitely ask yourself which one is this album's *Bring Me To Life* or *My Immortal* but will won't find the answer even if you listen to the album 4 or 5 times. *The Open Door* is everything that you could want in a follow-up album.

"DON'T CRY TO ME IF YOU LOVED ME YOU WOULD BE HERE WITH ME."

- Evanescence,  
Lyrics from *The Open Door*



## Fergie THE DUTCHESS

The pea doesn't split that far from the pod. Fergie, the sex-appeal of hip-hop/funk group, Black Eyed Peas (B.E.P.), released her debut solo album, *The Dutchess* recently and the song *London Bridge* has become quite a catchy tune on the radio stations and music channels. Will.i.am, has a big hand in the production making this sound very much like a B.E.P. album except the slow songs sound very R'n'B. Ludacris makes his presence known on the song *Glamorous* and she has a few ballads like *Finally* and *All That I got* showcasing her vocal talents. The album's alright if you are a fan of the Black Eyed Peas because the album is very "Fergalicious".

"YOU GOT ME TRIPPIN', STUMBLING, FLIPPIN', FUMBLING CLUMSY CUZ I'M FALLIN' IN LOVE"

- Fergie,  
Lyrics from *The Dutchess*