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# ARTISTIC IMPRESSIONS

*Exploring the art of giclee printing with Dubai-based Iraqi artist, Muhanad Al Nassiri.*



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**AT WHAT AGE DID YOU DISCOVER YOUR PASSION FOR THE ARTS?**

I wanted to be an artist from my earliest childhood days. I come from a family of doctors and artists. They were always supportive of my pursuit of a career as an artist. I worked with my uncle, Rafa Al Nassiri, who was Director of the Bahrain Center for Fine Arts. When he traveled back to Iraq, I took over the work over there. Later, I incorporated my background as an architect with my knowledge of arts into my giclee printing. I'm not the traditional artist because I don't use a brush or pen.

**HOW WOULD YOU DESCRIBE YOUR CREATIVE PROCESS?**

I usually depict daily life and what sparks my interest from the environment around us. I follow the steps of Orientalist artists from the 1800s and

1900s. Back then, European artists would come to the East because the art scene here was thriving. They would capture whatever place they visit in their works, whether it was towns, mosques, or other cultural elements. This is what I do. I sketch the places I visit as a form of documentation. I see myself as a new type of Orientalist.

**IRAQ'S OLD AND MODERN HISTORY IS A MAJOR PART OF YOUR PORTFOLIO. HOW DO YOU FEEL ABOUT THE ART MOVEMENT IN IRAQ?**

Iraq is bustling with modern day artists, each one of them possessing spectacular talents. This is why there's an enormous and diversified range of styles. I would say Iraq has the best artists in the Middle East. Their subject matter is also interesting because it stems from their love and knowledge of the rich history and civilizations of the region.



**WHAT ATTRACTED YOU TO GICLEE PRINTS?**

I started art prints making in 1995. At that time, I used to do etching but when I later arrived at the UAE, I realized I didn't have enough space for that. This is when I developed my style with giclee because it's an art form that doesn't require large spaces. The result was also much cleaner. I developed that style by using a combination of architecture, fine arts, and art printing.

**HOW LONG DOES IT TAKE YOU TO FINISH A GICLEE PRINT? AND WHAT WAS THE LONGEST YOU HAVE EVER WORKED ON A PIECE?**

It usually takes me about 4 or 5 days to finish an artwork, with me working 12 hours each day.

The most demanding piece I have ever done was the architecture wallpaper sketch for Dubai Creek featuring boats. It took me three weeks to finish it.

**DO YOU HAVE A FAVORITE PIECE FROM YOUR WORK?**

My absolute favorite is the one featuring King Faisal I of Iraq riding a horse. He was the King of Iraq from 1921 to 1933 and is one of the most prominent characters in Iraqi history.

**WHICH ARTISTS HAD THE BIGGEST INFLUENCE ON YOUR STYLE?**

There's no particular artist that I can say

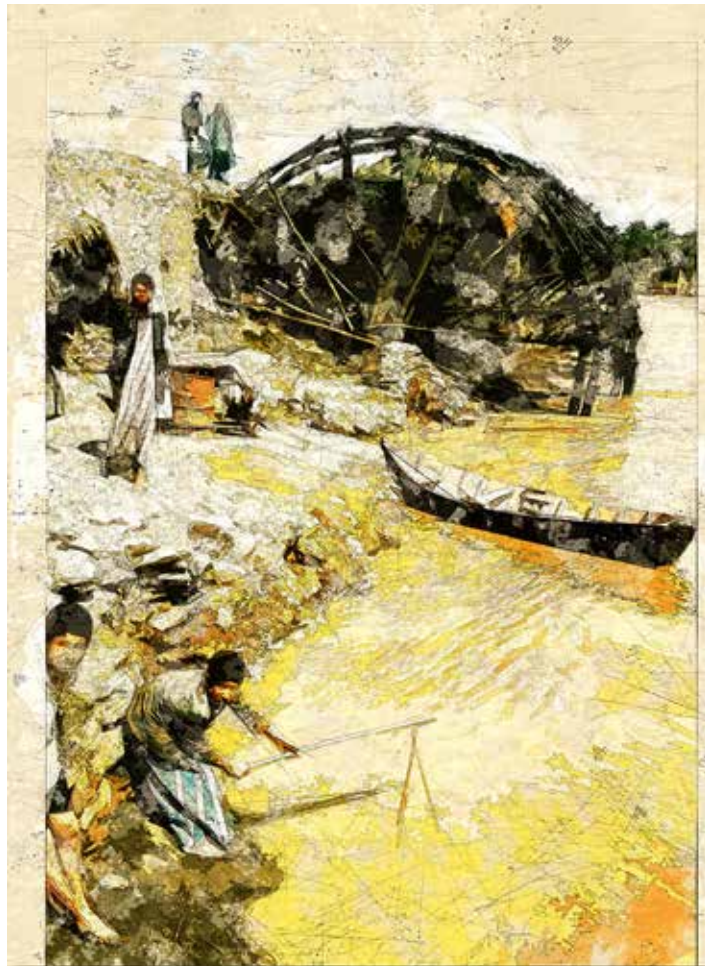
influenced my style. I work with architectural sketches but I express them through my own artistic experience, so I would say it's my own style. However, I would credit my uncle Rafa Al Nassiri and artist Mohammed Al-Shammarey with giving me the techniques that inspired my style.

**ARE THERE ANY EXHIBITIONS OR COUNTRIES WHERE YOU LOVE TO PARTICIPATE?**

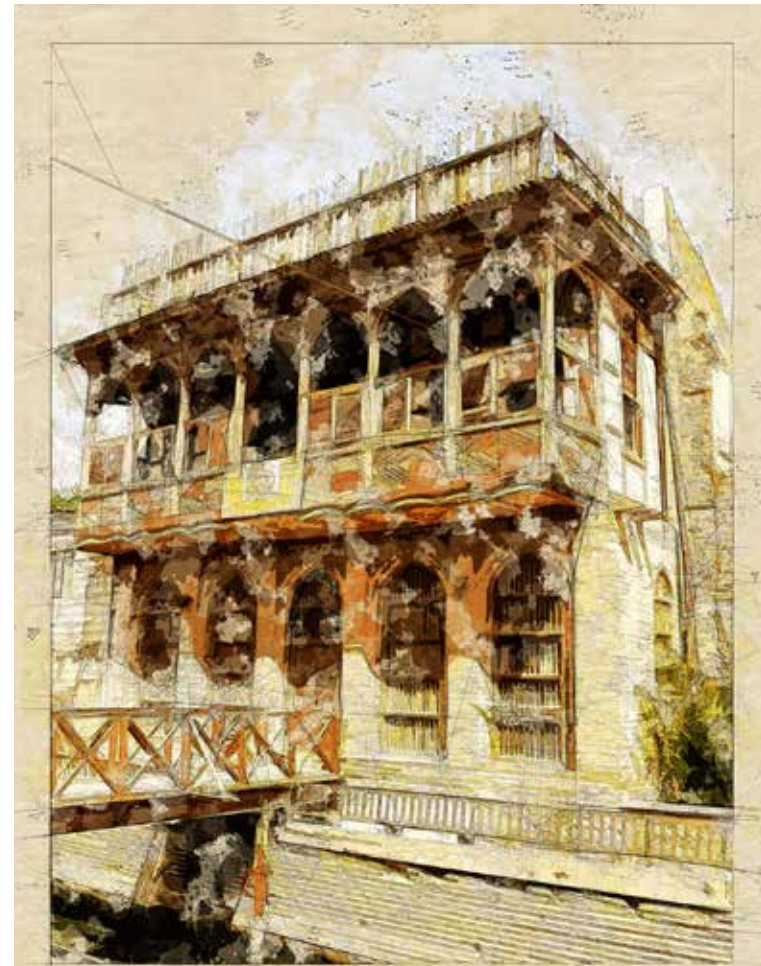
I love to showcase my work in Bahrain, Iraq, France, Italy, and Turkey.

[mnassiri.com](http://mnassiri.com)

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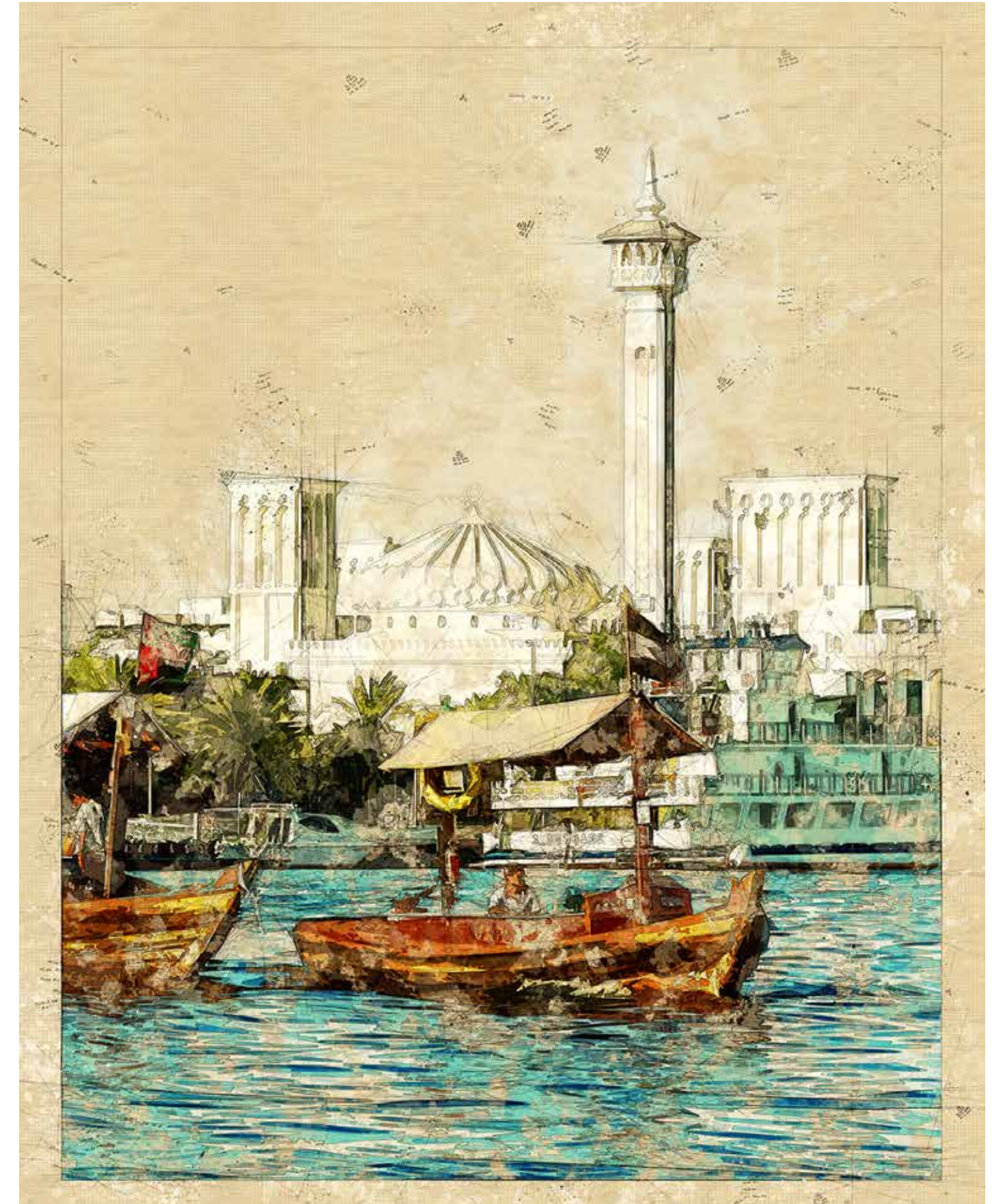
01 One of Diaa Allam's projects

02 Diaa Allam

03 Stunning attention to details

04 Diaa Allam

05 Stunning attention to details



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