

Threads of Humanity Unites 40 Artists From 15 Nationalities in Dubai

Three-week festival at Al Shindagha Museum brought together 40 artists, 65 artworks, youth programmes and inclusive cultural experiences.

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EINPresswire.com/ -- [Funun Arts Group](#) has concluded Threads of Humanity – Summer Art Festival 2026, a three-week multidisciplinary cultural festival that brought together 40 artists representing 15 nationalities and 65 artworks at House 353, Al Shindagha Museum in Dubai.

Held from 25 July to 15 August 2026, the festival was presented in collaboration with Dubai Culture under the Creative Spaces initiative, transforming nine heritage rooms within House 353 into spaces for contemporary art, cultural dialogue, learning, inclusion and community engagement.



Shiba Khan & Farah Khan,
Founders & Curators, Funun Arts Group

Shiba Khan & Farah Khan, Co-Founders, Funun Arts Group

خيوط الإنسانية
Threads of Humanity
Weaving Families, Cultures, and Communities

Threads of Humanity was never just an exhibition. It was a coming together. A celebration of the threads that connect families, cultures, communities and people through the universal language of art.

Thank you for being a part of the journey.

“

Threads of Humanity was created around the belief that art connects people beyond nationality, age, language and background.”

Funun Arts Group

programme of artist conversations, masterclasses, workshops, panel discussions, youth activities, live painting, inclusive art experiences and community networking.

At the centre of the festival was a simple idea: people may come from different nationalities, cultures, generations and backgrounds, but creativity can provide a shared language through which people connect.

Bringing Contemporary Art Into a Heritage Setting

One of the defining characteristics of Threads of Humanity was its location within Al Shindagha Museum, allowing contemporary creative expression to interact directly with Dubai's cultural heritage.

Rather than presenting the programme within a conventional gallery environment, Funun Arts Group activated nine heritage spaces across House 353 for exhibitions, workshops, masterclasses, discussions, collaborative displays, community gatherings and creative experiences.

Senior artists, Emirati artists, international practitioners, young creatives and members of the wider community shared the same cultural platform.

Visitors were encouraged to go beyond viewing the artworks. They could interact with artists, participate in creative activities, exchange ideas and discover the personal and cultural narratives behind individual works. The approach turned the heritage house into a living creative environment where Dubai's past and contemporary artistic voices existed side by side.

Opening Programme Welcomes More Than 150 Guests

Threads of Humanity officially opened on 25 July 2026, welcoming more than 150 guests from across the UAE's art, cultural, educational, entrepreneurial and community sectors.

Artists, cultural personalities, educators, students, families, collectors, entrepreneurs and art enthusiasts came together for an opening designed around interaction rather than a

مهرجان الفن الصيفي
SUMMER ART FESTIVAL

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Closing & Felicitation Ceremony

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CSR Live Art Activity with BYTe Inclusive Affair — a beautiful creative exchange with People of Determination, facilitated with the support of Nisha Tandon, reminding us that art truly belongs to everyone.

conventional inauguration.

Distinguished guests included H.E. Halima Al Sayegh, Emirati artists Faisal Abdul Qader and Ahmed Al Awadhi, international artist and MRK Contemporary Art Gallery Co-Founder Meena Kamal, journalist and cultural storyteller Tessy Koshy, artist and mentor Anjini Prakash Laitu, and Abdul Jabbar Weiss, Art Supervisor at Al Qasimia University, among others. A Rapid-Fire Round invited participants to share spontaneous perspectives on art, culture, humanity and identity, establishing the participatory character that continued throughout the festival.

Three Weeks of Art, Dialogue and Creative Learning

Throughout its three-week programme, House 353 hosted activities intended to engage artists, families, young people, collectors, creative professionals and the wider public. Programming included artist masterclasses, live painting demonstrations, portfolio discussions, community gatherings, interactive art experiences, creative workshops, networking sessions, youth debates and panel conversations addressing the evolving role of creativity in society.

The panel “Threads of Humanity: Art as a Universal Language” explored the capacity of visual expression to cross cultural, linguistic and geographical boundaries.

Participants included artists and cultural voices such as Maria Komal Abie, Sadika Kebbi, Shruti Kikani, Tessy Koshy and Yuvika Garg, bringing together perspectives from art, education, communication, personal development and cultural storytelling.

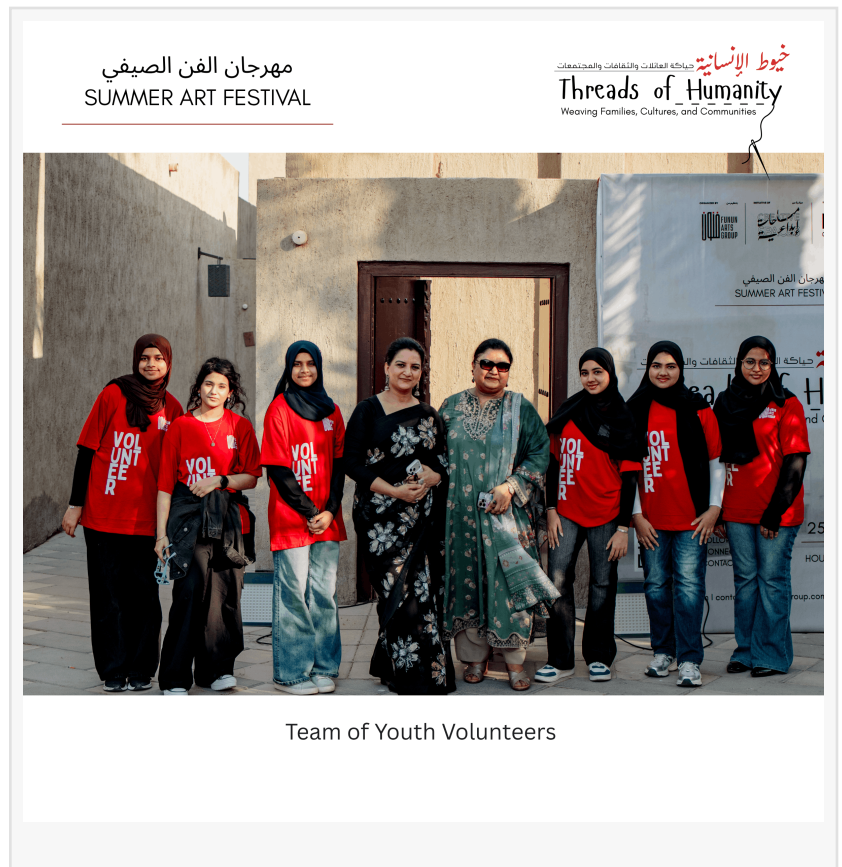
The festival also created opportunities for audiences to engage directly with practising artists. Through the Weaving Stories programme, participating artists guided guests through the exhibition and discussed the inspiration, emotions, techniques and personal experiences behind their work.

Specialised learning sessions included an Acrylics Masterclass by Abdul Jabbar Weiss and a Palette Knife Masterclass by Jivan Hovhannisian, offering participants practical exposure to different artistic techniques and modes of expression.

Giving Young Creative Voices a Platform

Youth participation formed an important component of the festival.

Through “Youth Talk: Creativity, Careers & the Future,” young speakers including Haya Sajjad,



Team of Youth Volunteers

Khwahish Punjabi and Aazeen Fatema Khan were given a platform to discuss creativity, aspirations, career opportunities and the changing role of art.

Other youth-focused activities included YCM Talk Show – Gen Z Unfiltered, interactive debates, speed networking, a Mystery Box Challenge, Open Mic and Creator Content Challenge. The programming was designed to position young people not simply as audiences, but as active participants in cultural conversations while developing communication, confidence, creative thinking and collaboration.

Art, Accessibility and Inclusion

Inclusion was another central pillar of Threads of Humanity.

Under the programme “Threads Without Limits,” Funun Arts Group presented an Inclusive Art Celebration dedicated to People of Determination, providing an environment where participants and artists could collaborate through creative expression.

The initiative reflected the organisation's belief that cultural participation should extend beyond physical access and create genuine opportunities for belonging, communication and involvement.

By incorporating inclusive artistic experiences into the wider festival programme rather than treating them as separate activities, Threads of Humanity sought to demonstrate how creativity can bring together people with different abilities, experiences and backgrounds.

Forty Artists, Fifteen Nationalities, One Creative Platform

The exhibition represented a diverse mix of cultures, generations, disciplines and personal narratives.

Participating artists included Abdul Jabbar Weiss, Ahmed Al Awadhi, Ali Hassan Ali Alhosani, Anjini Prakash Laitu, Jivan Hovhannisian, Kamal Al Yammahi, Maria Aamer, Maria Komal Abie, Meena Kamal, Mirin Jamal Al Weli, Mona Mohammad Moheb, Nourma Almasri, Omar Habra, Rita Chehab, Tariq Al Salman, Tikran Bayat and Yuvika Garg, alongside artists and creatives from several other cultural backgrounds.

Collectively, the 65 artworks reflected the broader message of Threads of Humanity: individual stories and cultures may be different, but creativity can create meaningful connections between them.

“Threads of Humanity was created around the belief that art connects people beyond nationality, age, language and background,” said Shiba Khan and Farah Khan, Co-Founders of Funun Arts Group.

They added that bringing together different generations, nationalities and creative voices within a heritage environment allowed House 353 to become more than an exhibition space, developing instead into a place for conversations, learning, friendships and shared cultural experiences.

Community Connections Beyond the Exhibition

Community engagement extended beyond the exhibition programme.

A Community Circle featuring Reema Mahajan and the Indian Women Networking team created a space for discussion around community, connection and shared experiences.

Ahmed Al Maghribi Perfumes participated as the festival's Gifting Partner, supporting the experience for participating artists and guests.

The festival also connected cultural practitioners with educators, community leaders, creative entrepreneurs, families and audiences, expanding the role of the event beyond a traditional art exhibition.

Festival Culminates With Closing and Felicitations Ceremony

A special Closing & Felicitations Ceremony on 14 August 2026 brought together participating artists, speakers, workshop facilitators, supporters, volunteers, guests and community members.

The programme recognised individuals whose participation and contribution helped develop Threads of Humanity into a three-week cultural experience.

Distinguished attendees at the closing included Ahmed Al Awadhi, Dr. Mariam Shaikh, Faisal Abdul Qader, Meena Kamal, Rayad Kamal, Vikas Bhargava and Abdul Jabbar Weiss.

Artists, contributors and supporters were recognised for their participation, bringing the festival to a close around the values that had shaped the programme: creativity, gratitude, recognition, cultural dialogue and community.

Heritage Spaces as Living Cultural Platforms

Threads of Humanity – Summer Art Festival 2026 demonstrated how heritage environments can serve not only as places for preserving history but also as active platforms for contemporary cultural exchange.

For three weeks, House 353 created opportunities for artists to meet audiences, young people to participate in cultural conversations, communities to connect, People of Determination to create alongside artists, and visitors to encounter contemporary creativity within one of Dubai's significant heritage environments.

Funun Arts Group extended its appreciation to Dubai Culture and the Creative Spaces initiative for the opportunity to activate House 353 at Al Shindagha Museum, as well as to the participating artists, speakers, panellists, facilitators, youth participants, volunteers, partners, supporters and visitors involved in the festival.

The festival ultimately reinforced the principle behind its title: while humanity is made up of different cultures, identities, languages and experiences, creativity can become a thread connecting them.

About Funun Arts Group

Founded in 2016, Funun Arts Group is a UAE-based creative enterprise operating at the intersection of art, culture and education.

The organisation curates exhibitions, develops creative platforms, nurtures emerging talent and provides art solutions for creative and commercial spaces.

With a global network of 3,000+ artists representing more than 50 nationalities, Funun Arts

Group works to foster cultural dialogue, strengthen artistic communities and build platforms that connect creativity with purpose.

Rebecca

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