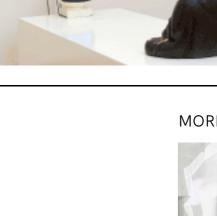
Crossing the River by "Feeling the

Stones"

FEB 08, 2022



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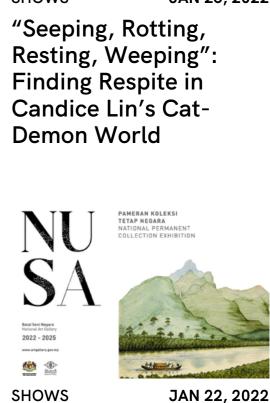




**JAN 26, 2022** 



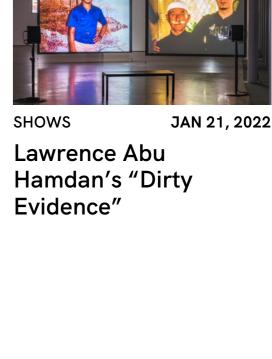




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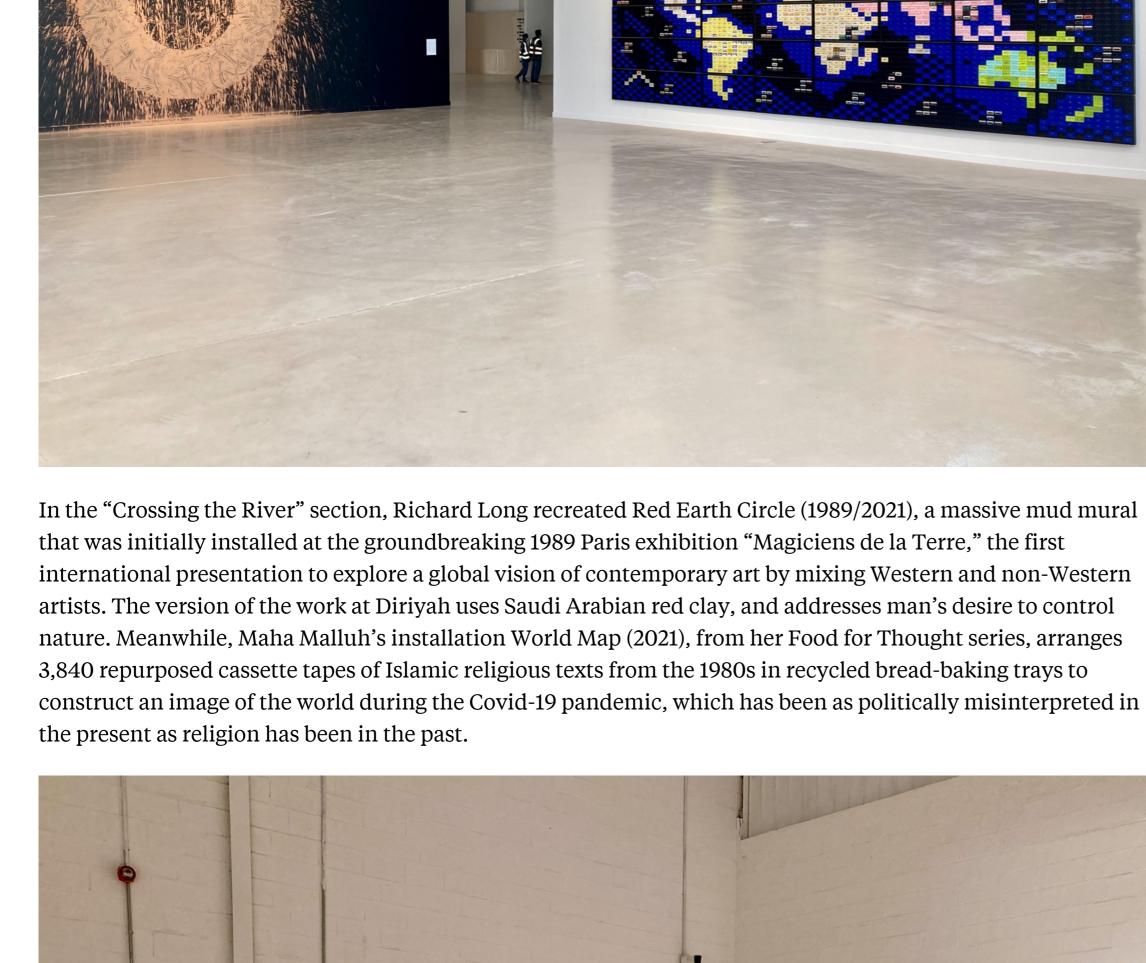






dynamism, optimism, and openness . . . and second, as a way of thinking about how artists around the world and across time approach their work—experimentally, improvisationally, directionally—and how they relate to their societies and to global culture." Under this theme, the show is further broken down into six sections: "Crossing the River" draws parallels between pioneering contemporary Saudi artists of the 1990s and 2000s with an earlier moment of

experimentation in China that began in the economic-reform era in 1978; "Experimental Preservation" examines artists mining the past for present inspiration; "Peripheral Thinking" explores the idea of looking beyond metropolitan centers for innovation; "Going Public" highlights art that engages communities and brings people together; "Brave New Worlds" presents works that imagine new realities; and "Concerning the Spiritual" delves into how artists attempt to make sense of their worlds and the beliefs that structure them.



The section continues with sculptures by the pioneering Chinese contemporary artist Wang Luyan, who was a

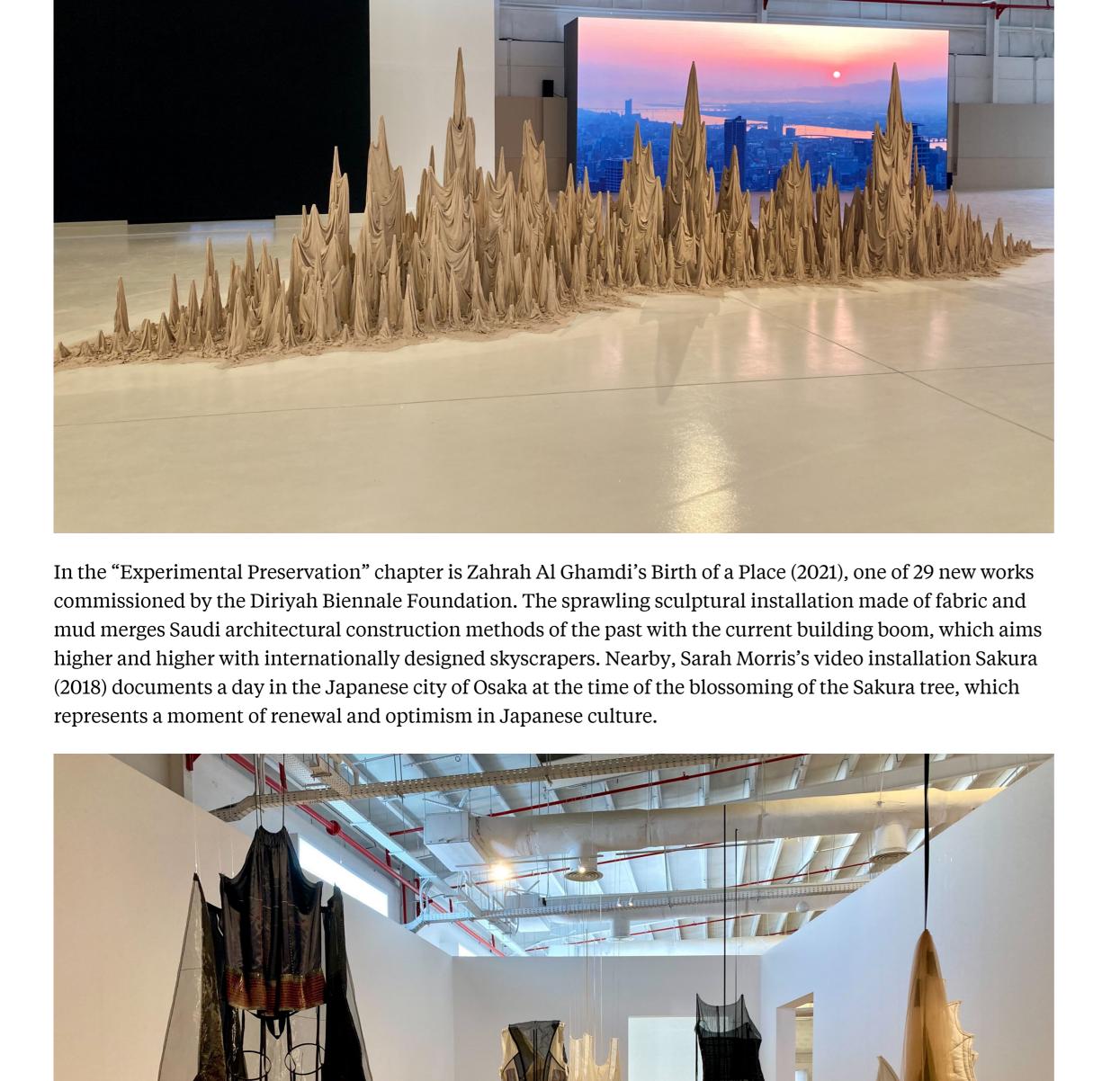
member of the avant-garde Stars group in the late 1970s. Wang's practice evolved from expressionistic abstract

paintings to multimedia installations and sculptures, such as the Corresponding Non-correspondence (2010–

on raw wooden pedestals, his everyman figurines convey the psychological situations that people deal with

daily.

19) series on view at Diriyah. Fashioned in papier-mâché, colored with markers and acrylic paint, and displayed



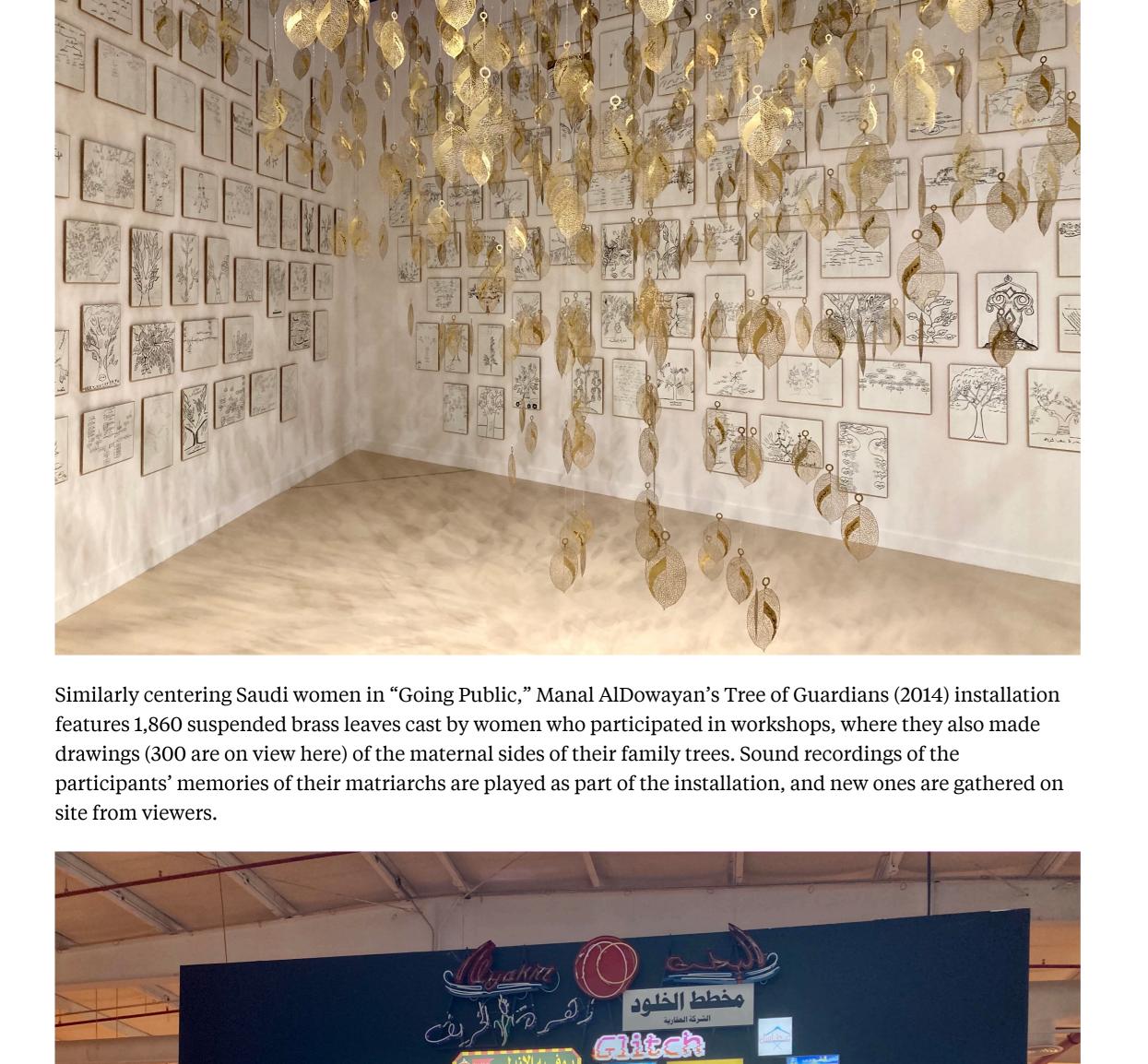
Informed by a background in fashion, Filwa Nazer deconstructed women's clothing to make a series of

same section. While transforming the garments, which are charged with the stories and memories of the

women who wore them, into airy abstractions, Nazer pays tribute to the important role that women have

played in Saudi society.

sculptural textile works, titled Five Women (2021), which extends the sense of renewal in Morris's video in the

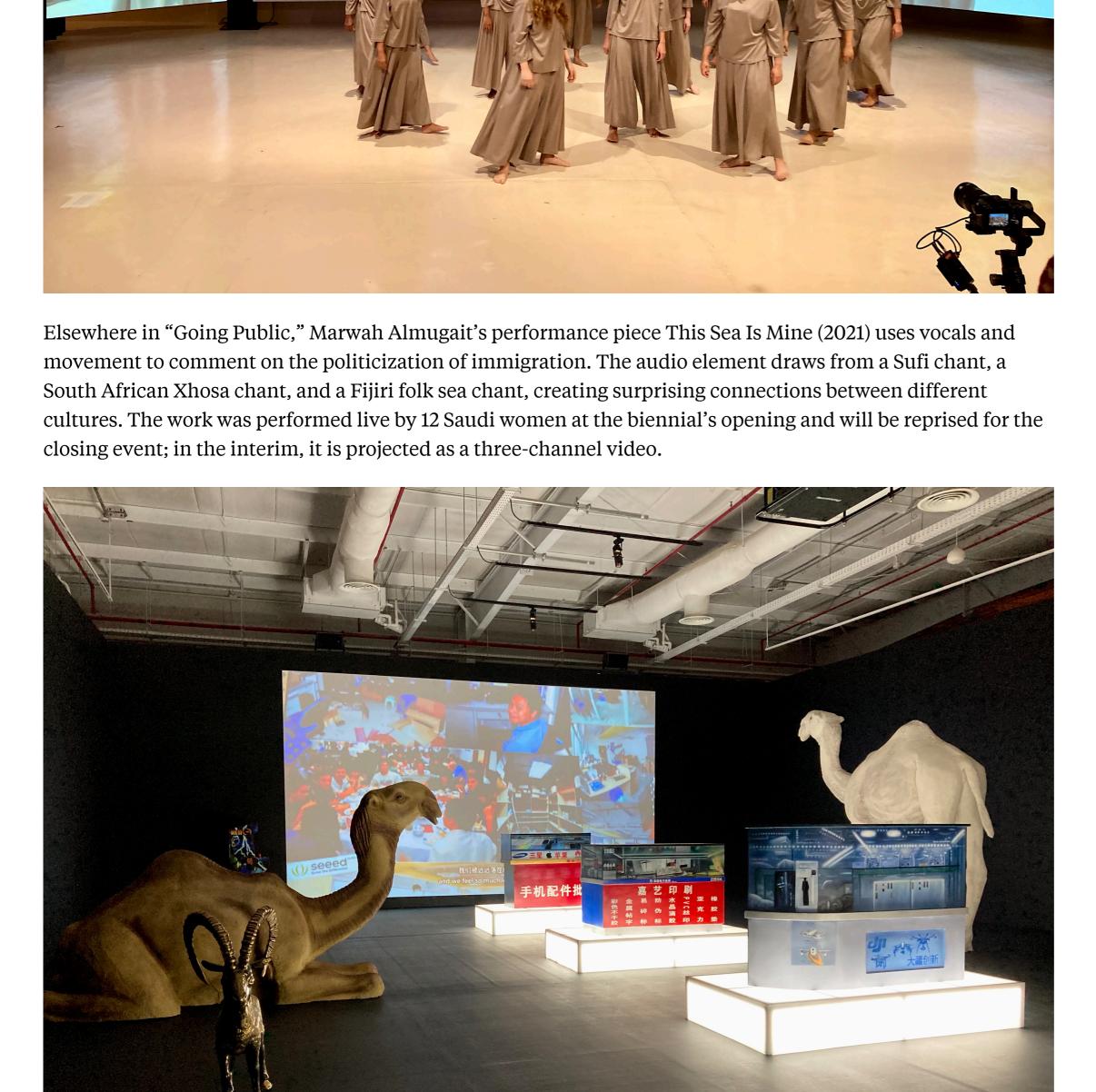


Abdullah Al Othman's installation of commercial signs Manifesto: The Language & City (2021) lights up the

"Going Public" room. Appropriating the city's lively array of advertisements and banners, the artist creates a

changing font styles take over.

colorful cultural assemblage that speaks to the moment but will soon be seen as a relic, as new technologies and



Another new artwork commissioned by Diriyah Biennale Foundation, Muhannad Shono's On Losing Meaning

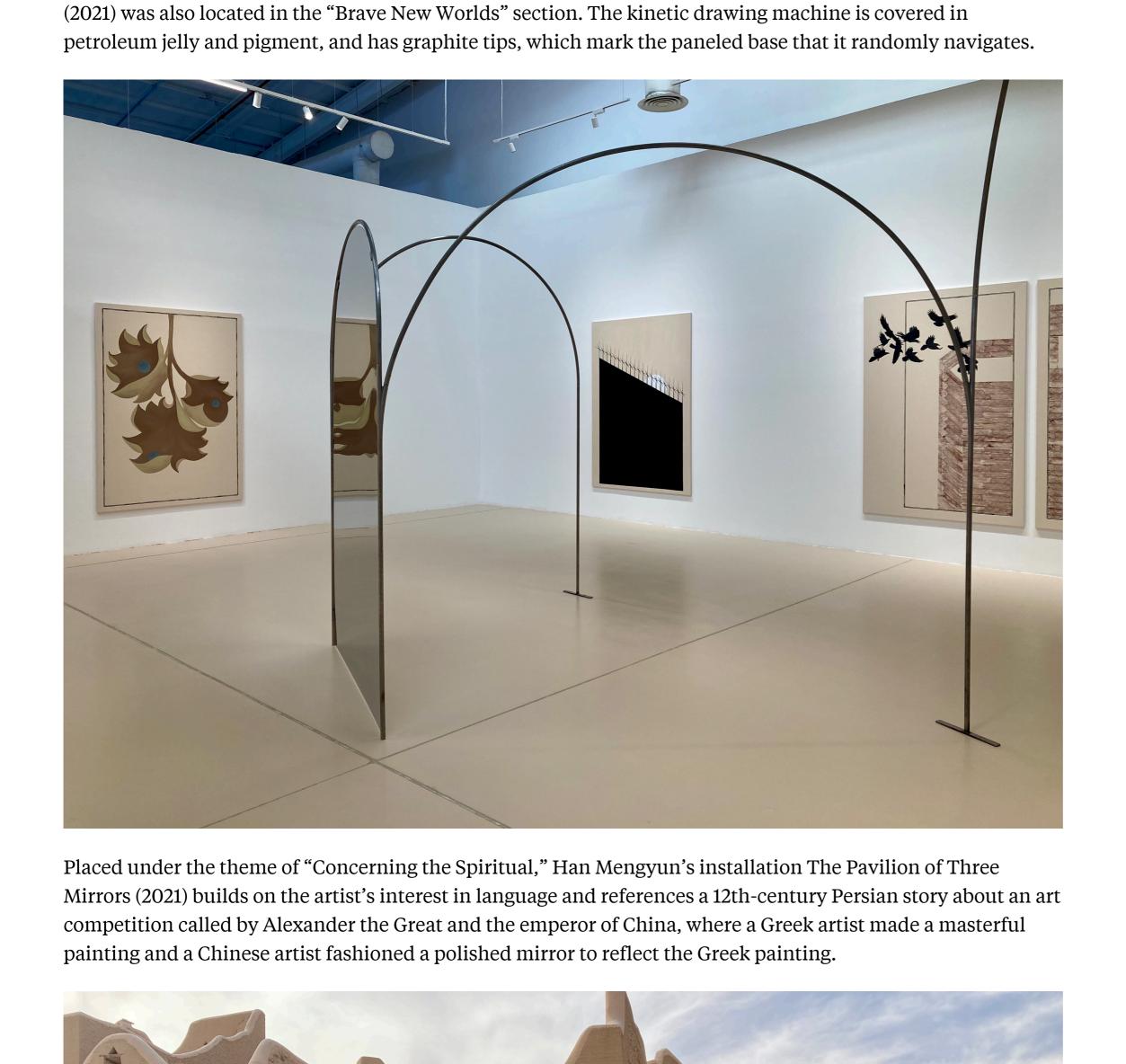
"Brave New Worlds" spotlights Real Mass Entrepreneurship (2017–21), a remix of Simon Denny's acclaimed

It simulates stalls from the Huaqiangbei electronics market, one of the largest in the world, capturing the

startups.

2017 project that examines the role of the Shenzhen technology industry in reshaping China's economic future.

chaos. Alongside cases displaying cell phones and drones, Denny presents a video that looks into the world of



1800s. The seven pillars are made from layers of mud, calcium chloride, and rammed earth, and pay tribute to seven significant women who helped shape the history of the Kingdom, from Princess Sara bint Ahmed Al Sudairi, mother of King Abdulaziz, the founder of Saudi Arabia, to Ghaliyya Al Bogammiah, a Saudi fighter who defended Mecca during the Ottoman-Wahhabi War. 2022 is a great time to be a Saudi artist. While the Kingdom has long had contemporary art, it now has thriving platforms to showcase works. Among these initiatives with global reach, the Diriyah Contemporary Art Biennale connects Saudi and international artists—and, with five Saudi artists who are participating in the

Biennale having recently been selected to exhibit in the 2022 Biennale de Lyon, the promise for further cultural

One of the biennial's two offsite installations, Hmoud Al Attawi's Al-Nourhah Pillars (2021) is placed at the

entrance to At-Turaif, a UNESCO World Heritage Site and the capital of the first Saudi state in the 1700s and

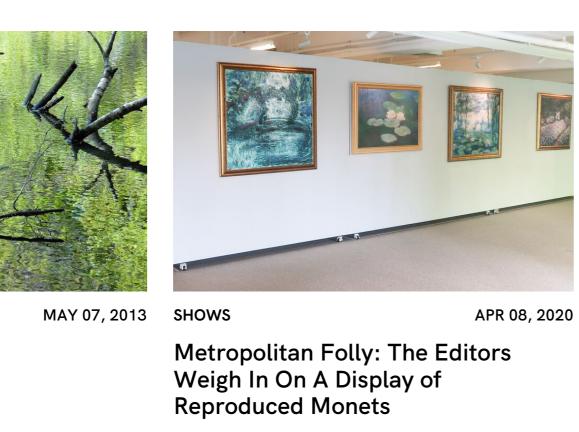
exchange is quickly becoming evident. The first Diriyah Contemporary Art Biennale is on view at the JAX cultural district until March 11, 2022.

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