

# CITY PULSE

THE MAGAZINE THAT MIRRORS DUBAI SOCIETY  
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*Travel*  
Prague "The golden city"

*Bollywood*  
Chit chat with Abhay Deol

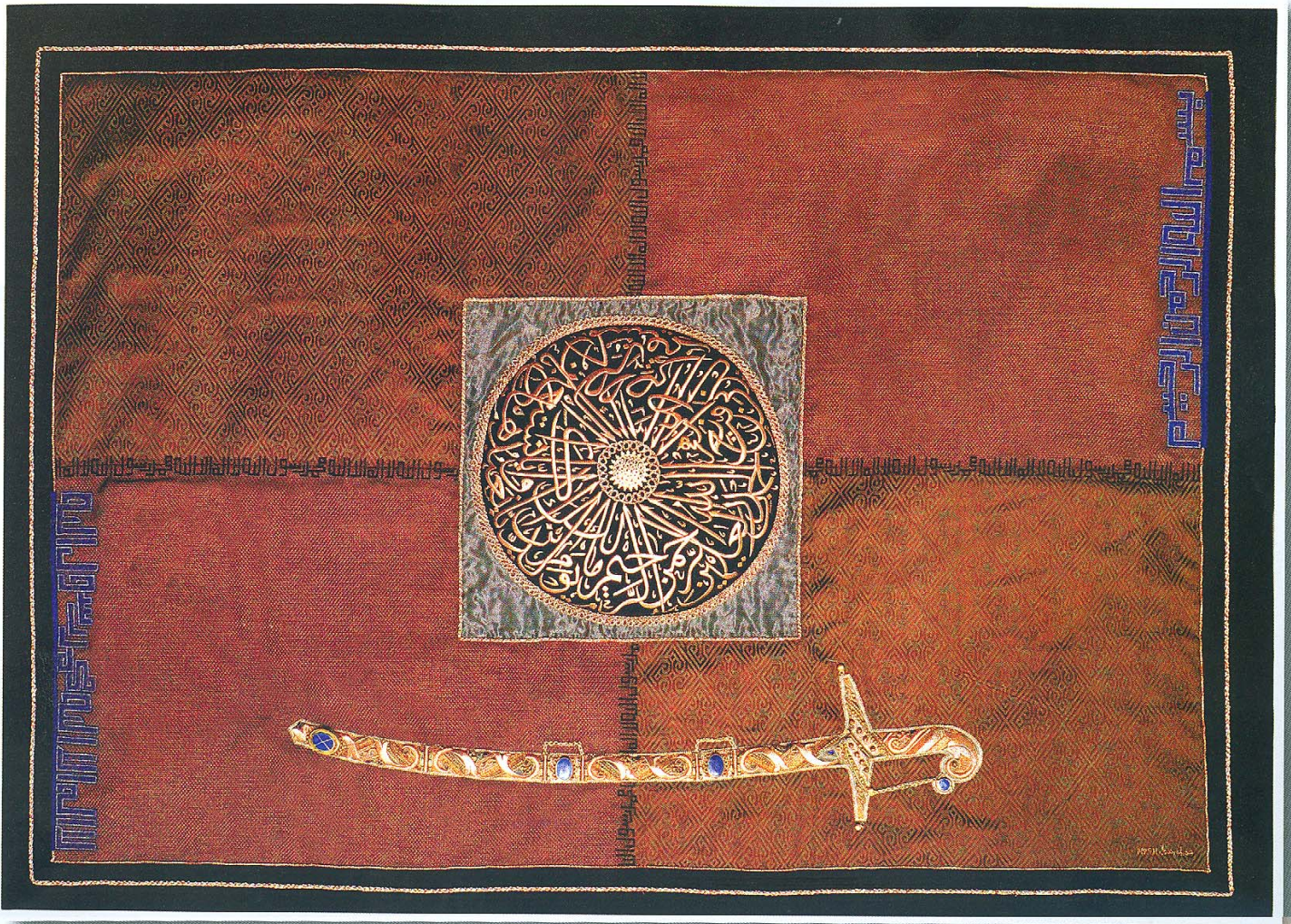
*Motoring*  
Aston Martin One-77

a tribute to legend  
Michael Jackson

# Aishwarya Rai Beyond Beauty & Brain

AED20/US\$7/£5





# Faith inspired

*Decorative Arts based on traditional methods of embroidery. Adilah Bundakji is a contemporary Islamic artist and designer whose works favor diverse threads and mixed media on fabrics that result in pieces of exquisite detail and luster that invite participation.*



She innovates upon traditional concepts of embroidery with contemporary treatments, drawing inspiration from Quranic verses and motivated by the “Kiswah” cloth that ordains the Kaaba in Mecca. All pieces are hand made and hand stitched.

Design, texture colour and form are harnessed in works that seek to express the strong

of a quranic reciter frozen in time and form

she creates grand pieces that are unique and influential. Her works depict subtle movement that finds harmony between content and medium. These visual productions are inspired by commonly shared spiritual experiences easily understood and delightful to her audience. Her works are sought after by serious art collectors, for their authenticity, heritage and history and as heirlooms for posterity.

She is a descendant of Meccan lineage. A Saudi Arabian citizen who was born in South Africa and lived in Pakistan. Her beliefs and works draw upon her life long experiences, her heritage and love for diverse Muslim communities who helped shape her expressions of life. Over the last 12 years Adilah has been commissioned by members of the Saudi Royal family, leading Middle-Eastern merchant families and discreet art collectors, whose walls are adorned by her works. Adilah recently exhibited for the first time outside of Saudi Arabia at the Dubai Houghton Design Fair in February this year to much acclaim.

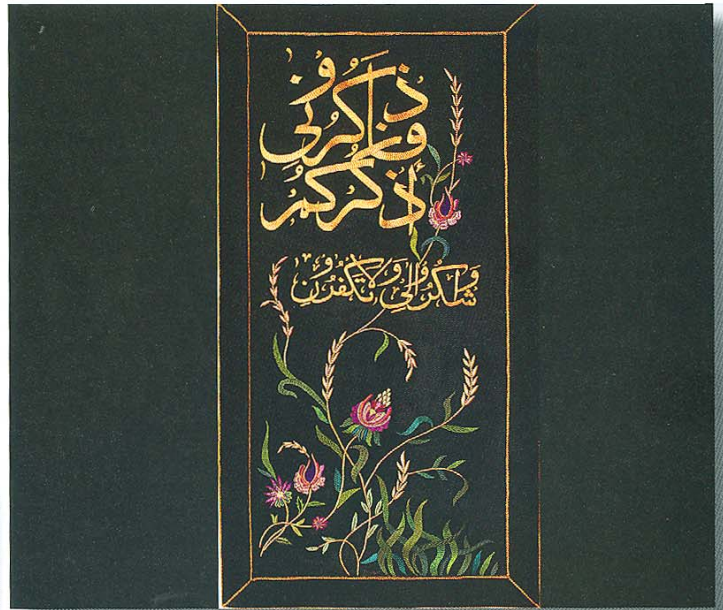
bond between Islam and art - a bond which through her works, Adilah strives to overcome the differences in language, culture and creed and at the same time, creatively express the uplifting message of the Islamic faith. Adilah's treatment of Quranic scripts are expressive of almost musical notes, rich in tone and texture. It is in these works that one senses the call

***This exhibition is called Faith Inspired – can you tell us why?***

Almost all my works are inspired by Ayat's and Sura's from the Holy Quran and my medium of expression is motivated by the Kiswah, which is the decorative cloth covering the holy Ka'abah. I sometimes hear people refer to my works as "Kiswah Art" or "Faith Art".

I think it is the visual interpretation of the Ayat's that people have been responding to and this is the kind of response I wanted my work to evoke. Every Ayat has such a profound meaning that it in turn gives each piece its own unique message and value. The meaning of the Ayat is the same in any language as it is the message of God and I think people respond to those messages that I try and interpret.'

This is your 2nd exhibition in Dubai isn't it but you have been making pieces now for 10 years. You recently exhibited at the Art Antiques Design Dubai earlier this year – what was the response?



Although I apply the general principals of Kiswah Art to most of my work I express my designs in many ways and using many decorative materials and ornaments that best express the beauty of Ayat's and verses. However the Ayat remains central to the work and all of my work reflects this.

***As Saudi Arabian women did you face any usual challenges in becoming an artist?***

From my perspective without challenges there is no art or expression. I try to use the strength of Quranic verses as encouragement to overcome all challenges. Female artists have many opportunities to express themselves as never before. I would advise any Artist today to express themselves in the way they feel they should and strive to do it as best they can. Staying true to what you feel artistically is very important. Go with your heart – take what inspires you and work with it – the journey is as thrilling as the end result. ❖

Adilah Bundakji "Faith Inspired"

Mondo Arte Gallery, Mall of the Emirates, Dubai

2nd Level, the Galleria, Tel: +971 4 341 3001

July 5 – 25, 2009 • 10:00 am - 10:00 pm

Tel. 04-372 4288 for more information

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stunned by the appreciation shown to my work quite frankly – I had never shown the works at an exhibition before was very nervous about how people would react. I also received a lot of support and encouragement from the other exhibitors which was really helpful in telling me what to do next to reach out to more people with my art.

***What surprises you most about the response to your works?***

I like to think of my work as Islamic and unrestricted by boundaries or nationality. I borrow from Persian, Moghul, Ottoman and many other influences that I feel are the best way to express the Ayat's that inspire me. For me the biggest surprise is the response from all types of people – I thought perhaps only those following the Islamic faith would see what I was trying to do but it was not the case. People of all nationalities and beliefs have been giving me such amazing feedback and appreciating the message in my works both spiritually and artistically.

***Do your artworks reflect Gulf Art or Arabian art in general?***

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