



**Critical Practice Programme**  
**CALL FOR ENTRIES 2023**  
**GUIDANCE DOCUMENT**

**Open to visual arts practitioners  
living and working in the UAE**

**Deadline: 10pm, Sunday 4 September 2022**



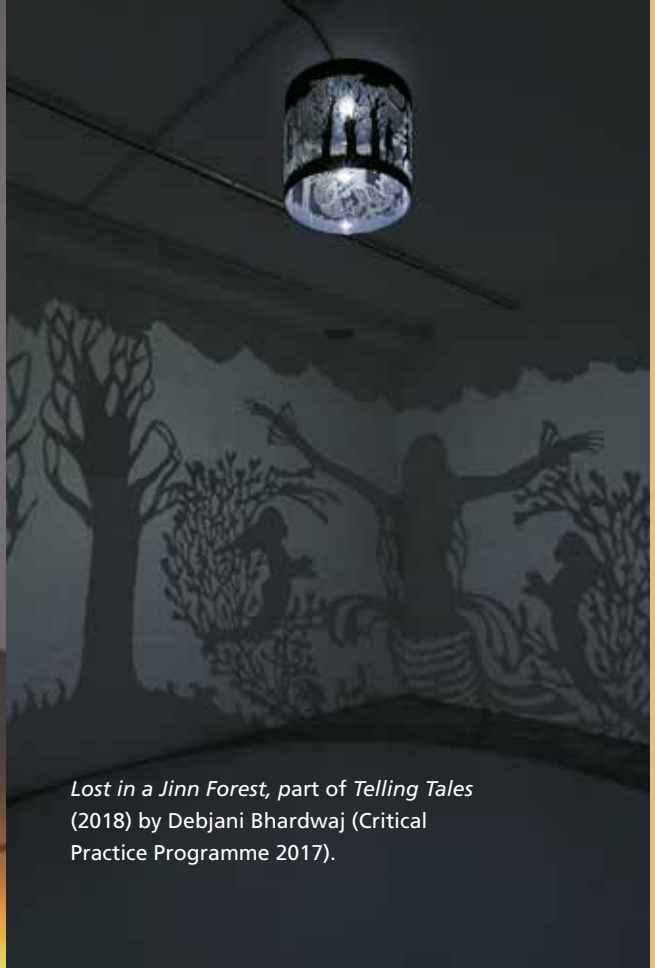
*Beyond the Fence* (2019) by Jalal Bin Thaneya  
(Critical Practice Programme 2018).



*Kn-bkhair* (2021) by Hamdan Buti Al Shamsi  
(Critical Practice Programme 2020).



*Teleprompter (A Terranean Love Note)*,  
part of *A Terranean Love Note* (2021)  
by Mays Albaik (Critical Practice Programme 2020).



*Lost in a Jinn Forest*, part of *Telling Tales*  
(2018) by Debjani Bhardwaj (Critical  
Practice Programme 2017).

# About Tashkeel

Established in Dubai in 2008 by Lateefa bint Maktoum, Tashkeel seeks to provide a nurturing environment for the growth of contemporary art and design practice rooted in the UAE. Through multi-disciplinary studios, work spaces and galleries located in both Nad Al Sheba and Al Fahidi, it enables creative practice, experimentation and dialogue among practitioners and the wider community. Operating on an open membership model, Tashkeel's annual programme of training, residencies, workshops, talks, exhibitions, international collaborations and publications aims to further practitioner development, public engagement, lifelong learning and the creative and cultural industries.

Tashkeel's range of initiatives include: **Tanween**, which takes a selected cohort of emerging UAE-based designers through a nine-month development programme to take a product inspired by the surroundings of the UAE from concept to completion; **Critical Practice**, which invites visual artists to embark on a development programme lasting up to one year of studio practice, mentorship and training that culminates in a major solo presentation; **MakeWorks UAE**, an online platform connecting creatives and fabricators to enable designers and artists accurate and efficient access to the UAE manufacturing sector; **Exhibitions & Workshops** to challenge artistic practice, enable capacity building and grow audience for the arts in the UAE; and the heart of Tashkeel, its **Membership**, a community of creatives with access to facilities and studio spaces to refine their skills, undertake collaborations and pursue professional careers.

Visit [tashkeel.org](http://tashkeel.org) | [make.works](http://make.works)

## About Critical Practice Programme

The Critical Practice Programme offers studio support, critique and production for practicing, contemporary artists living and working in the UAE up to one year. The programme generally culminates in an exhibition, publication or other digital/physical outcome. Each artist's programme is carefully constructed and built around the individual's practices and/or areas of research. Tashkeel works with the artist to identify a key mentor to both build, challenge and guide them through the programme. This mentor can be an artist, curator, critic or arts professional with whom the artist feels both comfortable working but also, whose own area of research and/or practice ties in with the proposed programme and focus areas. Ongoing participant updates are posted via a blog on the Tashkeel website at key points in the programme. In short, the aim of the programme is to provide the artist with sustained support to develop their work in an environment that encourages progressive experimentation, cross-disciplinary exchange and cross-cultural dialogue. Outcomes feed into the Tashkeel annual programme.

Programme Overview: Selected participants will be expected to work on the development of their practice with the guidance of an appointed mentor(s) in consultation with Tashkeel. Participants will be provided with full Tashkeel membership with regular interaction and ongoing support from Tashkeel personnel and access to all facilities for the duration. Tashkeel allocates a specific budget to each artist, which includes the production of artwork and an accompanying publication. It is the responsibility of the artist to work within that budget. Whilst the programme acts as an ongoing residency format, it is understood that applicants may have other commitments and therefore not be able to commit on a full-time basis.

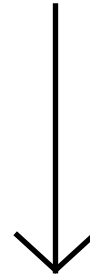
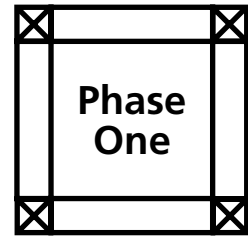
The Commitment: Throughout the programme, there will be periodical one-to-one status reviews with the Tashkeel team as well as meetings with appointed mentors. Participants are expected to be active members of the Tashkeel community, using Tashkeel and its facilities regularly; and attending Members' Monday sessions, which occur on the first Monday of every month (5-6.30pm). Participants are also encouraged to contribute to Tashkeel's online platforms with regular journal entries charting one's progress on the programme, such as findings, images, sketches, conversations, found relevant articles and references.



## Phase One

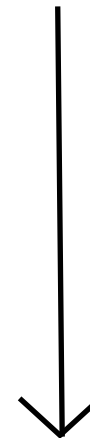
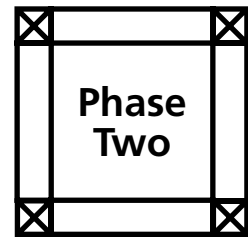
This initial period brings participants together for group training and discussion sessions, initiates mentor introductions and enables participants to identify and clarify intended area(s) of study. Participants must be available to attend sessions on the following dates:

Induction: Sunday, 8 January 2023  
Workshop 001: Tuesday 17 January 2023  
Crit 001: Sunday, 22 January 2023  
Studio Visit 001: Sunday, 29 January 2023  
Workshop 002: Tuesday, 14 February 2023  
Crit 002: Sunday, 19 February 2023  
Studio Visit 002: Sunday, 26 February 2023  
Art Dubai Visit: Saturday, 4 March 2023  
Workshop 003: Tuesday, 4 April 2023  
Crit 003: Sunday, 16 April 2023  
Studio Visit 003: Sunday, 30 April 2023



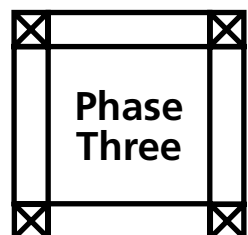
## Phase Two

This period of research and experimentation is self-directed with the support of mentors and Tashkeel personnel. Participants begin by documenting and archiving processes and explorations, leading to a review and planning session that finalises the scope and intention of the public outcome production. Based on a timeline agreed with Tashkeel, the participant then proceeds to produce a body of work ready to present in Tashkeel at Nad Al Sheba or equivalent (i.e. film/sound/publication/performance/intervention/digital/other) as agreed with Tashkeel.



## Phase Three

The final phase of the Critical Practice Programme consists of the installation and activation of a six-week solo public outcome and accompanying catalogue/publication. This is supported by mentors and Tashkeel personnel. Participants should be available for media interviews and any other marketing/promotional activities alongside delivering guided tours (if applicable), talks, workshops or other activities. Public solo outcomes will be scheduled in the Tashkeel exhibitions programme during the first six months of 2024



## Who is eligible to apply?

- Over the age of 21 as of December 2022
- Resident in the UAE
- Working in any discipline(s)
- Not yet represented by a gallery
- Hold a university degree or equivalent experience
- Committed to pursuing a self-directed programme of development
- Able to commit to the programme from 1 January 2023 until end of solo outcome
- Interested in growing as a teaching artist, delivering talks, workshops and other forms of public engagement
- A strong portfolio demonstrating sustained investigation into themes and/or topics

## Submission Procedure

Before the deadline, click on the link below to access the online platform:

<https://form.jotform.com/Tashkeel/critical-practice-programme-2023>

Upload your biography, artist statement, portfolio and respond to the following questions:

- What is your experience in the development and delivery of talks, workshops or other forms of public engagement?
- Should you be selected, what areas/practices do you wish to focus on? And what are your core objectives?
- How do you hope to benefit from the studio, critique and production support provided?
- We understand that plans may change but currently, what are the intended outcome(s) of your participation in the Critical Practice Programme (i.e. exhibition, publication or other digital/ physical outcome)?
- As part of the Programme, we encourage participants to publish on the Tashkeel online platforms. Do you generate online content as part of your process (i.e. website, blog, social media, etc)?
- Are you able to commit 15 hours a week or more to the Programme through session attendance and independent study/research?

## Selection Process

All applicants will be notified by 1 October 2022. Shortlisted applicants will be invited for an interview at Tashkeel in Nad Al Sheba.

The selection panel's decision is final and no correspondence shall be entered into.





Part of the *Wonder Land* series, from *Wonder Land* (2021)  
by Hind Mezaina (Critical Practice Programme 2020).

## CRITICAL PRACTICE PROGRAMME ALUMNI



### Afra Bin Dhaher

Mentored by Andrew Starner,  
Writing Program lecturer, NYUAD.

**Solo Exhibition:** *Hymns to a Sleeper* (Tashkeel, 2016)

#### Where are they now?

The programme's first participant continues to pursue her practice. Senior Designer at Abjad design, an innovative interdisciplinary design studio based in Dubai, in 2019 she was a researcher on the Warehouse421 exhibition 'Nomadic Traces: Journeys of Arabian Scripts'.



### Vikram Divecha

Mentored by Debra Levine,  
Assistant Professor of Theatre, NYUAD.

**Solo Exhibition:** *Portrait Sessions* (Tashkeel, 2016)

#### Where are they now?

Vikram went on to represent the UAE at the 2017 Venice Biennale and receive a Louvre Abu Dhabi commission. Represented by Isabelle van den Eynde gallery, he is back in Dubai having completed his MFA at Columbia University and the Independent Study Programme (ISP) at Whitney Museum of American Art.



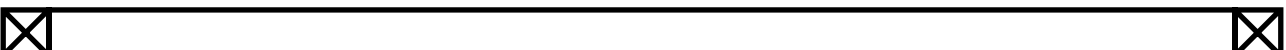
### Hadeyeh Badri

Mentored by Roderick Grant, Chair & Associate Professor  
of Graphic Design, OCAD University, Toronto & curator, writer,  
art historian Dr. Alexandra MacGilp.

**Solo Exhibition:** *The Body Keeps the Score* (Tashkeel, 2017)

#### Where are they now?

Hadeyeh went on to receive a MFA in Studio (Fibre and Material Studies) from the School of the Art Institute of Chicago. Currently a Lecturer at the American University of Sharjah College of Architecture, Art & Design, she is among eight finalists shortlisted for the Jameel Prize 2021.





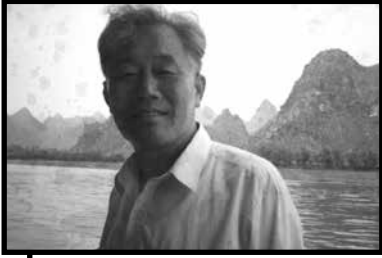
## Raja'a Khalid

Mentored by artist and cultural producer Jaret Vadera & Iftikhar Dadi, Associate Professor of Art Cornell University, NYC.

**Solo Exhibition:** *FASTEST WITH THE MOSTEST* (Tashkeel, 2017)

### Where are they now?

Raja'a's work was featured in *Crude* the 2018 inaugural exhibition of Jameel Arts Centre, Dubai as well as at the Museum of Contemporary Art (Toronto), Jeddah 21,39, and co. gallerie (Paris). Following a residency at Jan Van Eyck Academie (Maastricht), in 2022 she will embark on her second at Tokyo Art and Space. In 2019, she received a commission from NYUAD.

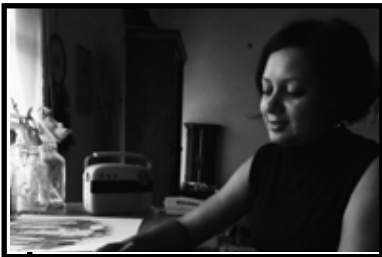


## Lantian Xie

Convened *Water, Gas, Electricity, Rent: A Reading Group* throughout 2017 exploring hospitality, occupancy, homeliness, precarity, exception and temporariness.

### Where are they now?

Following the National Pavilion of the UAE at the 2017 Venice Biennale, in 2018 Lantian's work formed part of *Crude* the inaugural exhibition of Jameel Arts Centre, Dubai as well as *Powerplay* (Songeun ArtSpace, Seoul).



## Debjani Bhardwaj

Mentored by artist Les Bicknell & artist and gallerist Hassan Meer.

**Solo Exhibition:** *Telling Tales* (Tashkeel, 2018)

### Where are they now?

Now an Honorary Member of Tashkeel, Debjani has continued to explore the folklore of the Arabian Gulf while expanding her practice to include animation. She is an active member of the art scene in her current hometown of Muscat, Oman.



## Jalal Bin Thaneya

Mentored by photographer Jassim Al Awadhi & artist, curator, educator Flounder Lee.

**Solo Exhibition:** *Beyond the Fence* (Tashkeel, 2019)



## Chafa Ghaddar

Mentored by arts writer and critic Kevin Jones and artist, critic and educator Jill Magi.

**Solo Exhibition:** *Recesses* (Tashkeel, 2020)







## Hamdan Buti Al Shamsi

Mentored by artist Hind bin Demaitan Al Qemzi, founder of Hamzat Wasl Studio.

**Solo Exhibition:** *Kn-Bkhair* (Tashkeel, 2021)



## Silvia Hernando Álvarez

Mentored by artist, academic, writer Isaac Sullivan & artist, writer Cristiana de Marchi.

**Solo Exhibition:** *Under the Red Light* (Tashkeel, 2020)



## Mays Albaik

Mentored by audiovisual artist Lawrence Abu Hamdan and artist, curator Ala Younis.

**Solo Exhibition:** *A Terranean Love Note* (Tashkeel, 2021)



## Hind Mezaina

Mentored by curator, writer, strategist and photographic consultant, Peggy Sue Amison.

**Solo Exhibition:** *Wonder Land* (Tashkeel, 2021)



## Nora Zeid

Mentored by design professional, researcher and educator Ghalia Elsrakb & Möbius Design Studio co-founder, Tashkeel member and American University of Sharjah lecturer, Hala Al Ani.

**Solo Exhibition:** *Cairo Illustrated: Stories from Heliopolis* (Tashkeel, 2021)



**tashkeel.org**

