

PAST FORWARD

Contemporary Art from the Emirates

السلام عليكم

EDUCATION
GUIDE

PAST FORWARD

Contemporary Art from the Emirates

EDUCATION GUIDE

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IN-GALLERY ACTIVITIES

AGES 7-11



Khalid Mezaina
Untitled, 2010
Courtesy of the artist

YOU

BE THE

CRITIC



Think about the artworks in the exhibition and answer the questions below on your own. In the spaces provided, write the name of the artist, the title of the artwork, and why you chose it.

Remember, there is no right or wrong answer!

	Which artwork is your favorite? Why?
	Which artwork do you think best represents the exhibition title <i>Past Forward</i> ? Why?
	Which artwork do you think took the longest to create? Why?
	Which artwork do you think is the most creative? Why?
	Which artwork do you think exhibits the best craftsmanship? Why?

Enhanced Viewing

Step 1. Initial Thoughts

Find the following works of art in the gallery:

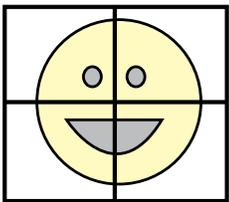
Zeinab Al Hashemi
Pearl Tale, 2010

Farah Al Qasimi
Ice Cream Truck, 2014

Choose one of the works of art to study for two minutes. What are your first impressions?

Step 2. Looking Even Closer

In your mind, divide the artwork into four quadrants. Study each quadrant for an additional two minutes to see what new details become visible. Use the chart below to list any people, objects, and activities in the artwork.



People	Objects	Activities

Step 3. Inference

Based on what you have observed, what do you think is happening in this artwork? Why?

Step 4. Questions

What questions would you have for the artist/photographer about this image?

Critical Thinking

"If you look at Dubai, there is the modern side and the traditional side, but they all interact with each other. If I'm in the car, I can go from one place to another and see different backgrounds, different people, and different surroundings."

– Zeinab Al Hashemi, 2012

When considering this statement, why do you think the curators decided to call the exhibition *Past Forward*?

Choose one artwork in the exhibition, not by Zeinab Al Hashemi, which best represents the theme of this exhibition.

Artist's name: _____

Artwork title: _____



Why did you choose this artwork?

How does Zeinab Al Hashemi's statement apply to the artwork you chose?



Be an Art Detective!



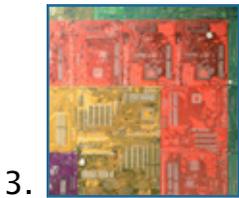
Instructions: First, find these twelve artworks by locating the details pictured below. After carefully looking at each work, use the space provided to explain what you think is the main subject.







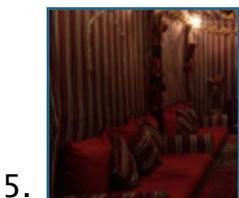




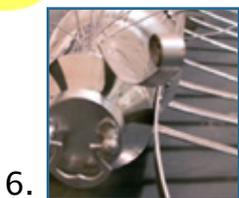


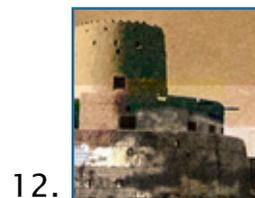








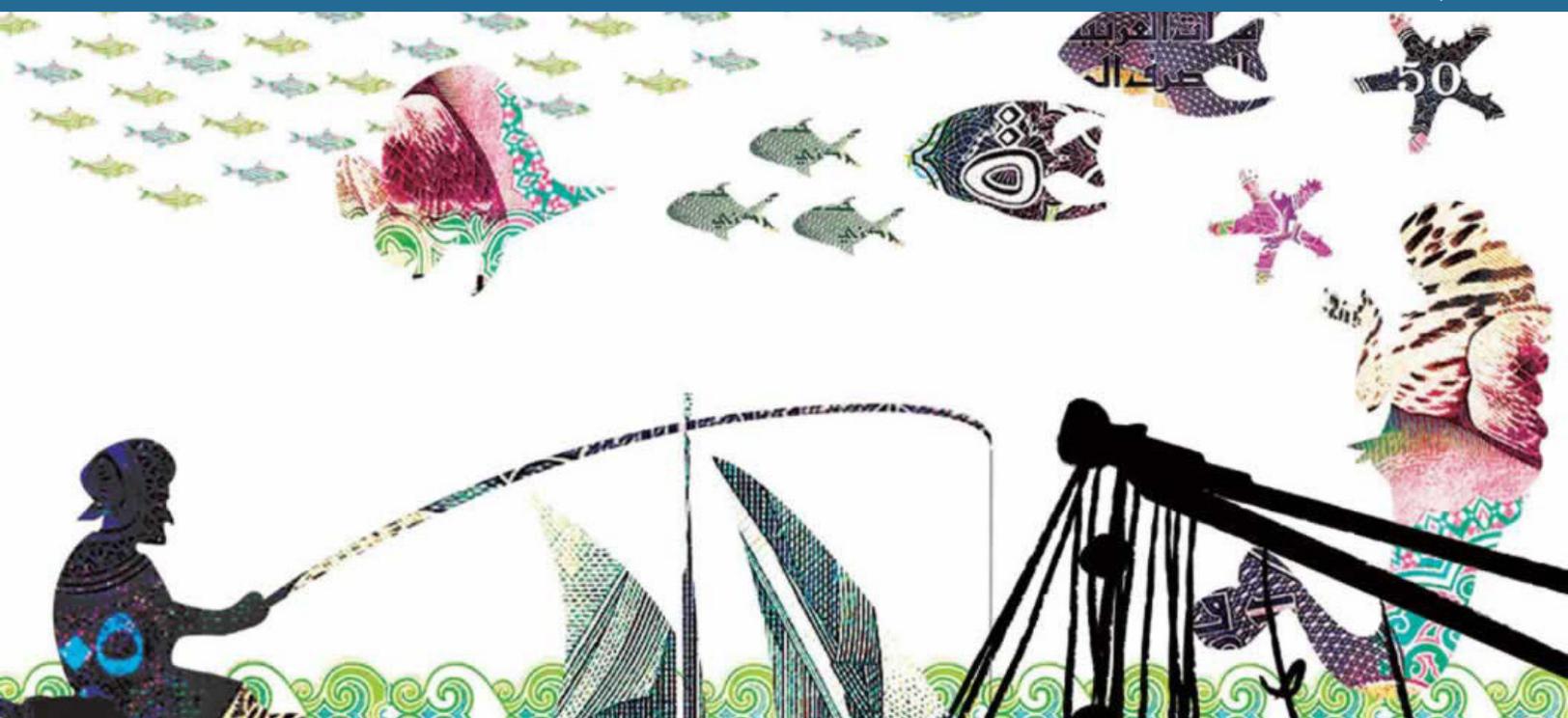




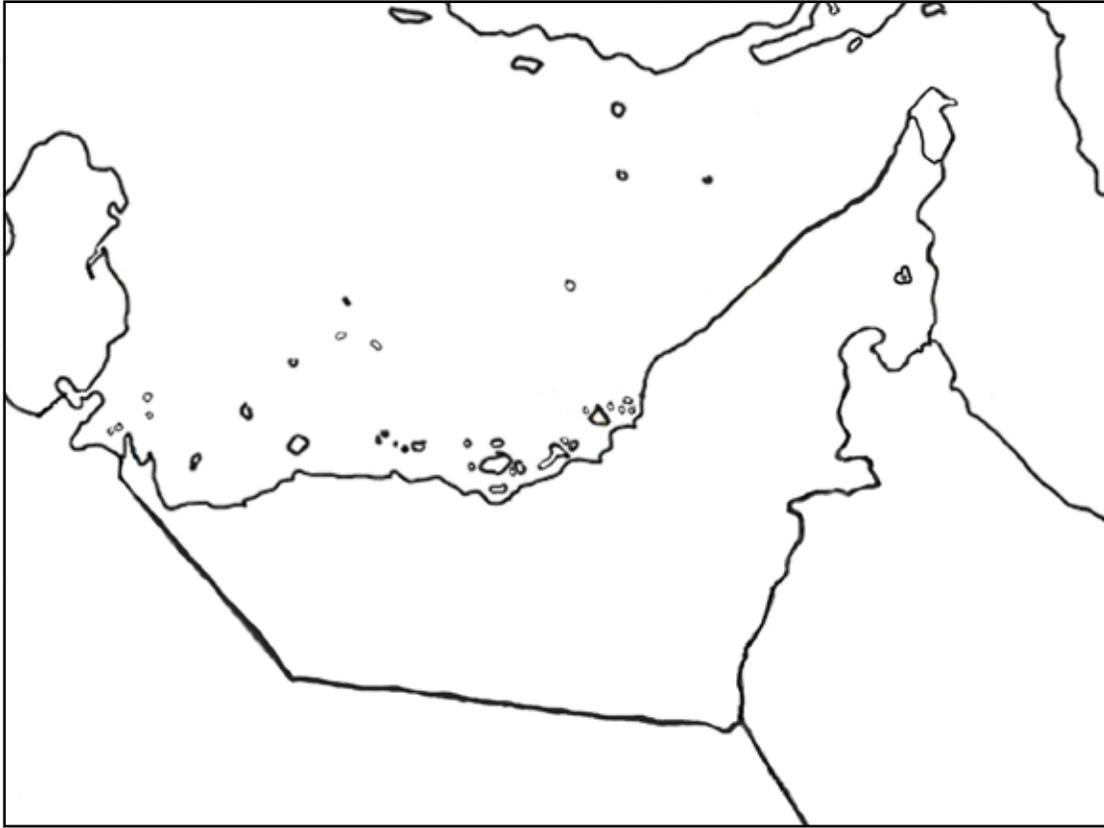
IN-CLASSROOM ACTIVITIES

AGES 7-11

Zeinab Al Hashemi — *Pearl Tale*, 2010 — Courtesy of the artist



WHERE INTHE WORLD?



Use a map, globe, or the internet to answer the following questions.

1. What continent is this country located in? _____
2. Label the surrounding countries and color each of them a different color.
3. Label the major bodies of water and color them blue.
4. Label the capital and mark it with a star. Identify another major city and mark it with a triangle.



Riddle Me This !



FREEJ is an animated television series about four Emirati grandmothers who live in a traditional neighborhood in Dubai. The main characters are Um Saeed, Um Saloom, Um Allawi, and Um Khammas (*Um* means “Mother of” in Arabic). During each episode the four women face challenges caused by changes going on around them because of the expansion of the city.

Watch clips from the show, *FREEJ*, at <http://www.freej.ae/bookofriddles/en/index.aspx>.

Pay close attention. At the end of each clip, a riddle will appear. Select the correct answer from the choices below.

Episode 3

I speak of a laborer of the desert night
Working in the depth of the firelight
It directs an army of coffee beans
Showing no fear of pressure or steams

- A. The Moon
- B. The Policeman
- C. Coffee Spoon
- D. The Knight

Episode 7

Green on the leaves of trees
Red on the palm of love
My love for it will never fade
On every occasion and every Eid

- A. The Lover
- B. Henna
- C. Tree Leaf
- D. Silk

Episode 11

I speak of a girl in the sea
Her lover is in grave danger
Hanging on the rope of love
He broke even the hardest rock

- A. Mermaid
- B. Island
- C. Pearl
- D. Ship

Episode 17

Aglow, its soul on fire
Burning, its eye will never tire
If friends pay a visit or come near
Clouds from within quickly appear

- A. Mountain
- B. Volcano
- C. Incense Holder
- D. Pot

Episode 19

I speak of a city steeped in culture and history
The power to charm, with its traditions and mystery
A shining pearl to delight the eye
It’s the historical name of old Dubai

- A. Al Wasl
- B. Dubai
- C. The Emirates
- D. Al Ain

Episode 20

What means of transportation did Um Khammas use in this episode?

- A. Yacht
- B. Submarine
- C. Dhow
- D. Camel



Traditional Emirati Food

Like the United States, the UAE offers a wide range of cuisine from Europe, Asia, and the Americas. However, its national cuisine can be traced back over 7,000 years.

Look at the following images and descriptions of traditional Emirati cuisine. Write your thoughts about the food in each picture. Are there any American dishes or those from your own cultural tradition that are similar?

Hint: You might want to look up some of the spices and learn what they are.

<p style="text-align: center;">Fresh Dates <i>A sweet fruit that can be eaten fresh or dried</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;">My thoughts:</p> <hr/> <hr/>	
<p style="text-align: center;">Harees <i>Ground wheat and meat cooked together over low heat until creamy</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;">My thoughts:</p> <hr/> <hr/>	
<p style="text-align: center;">Khabees <i>Semolina flour with sugar, rose water, and saffron</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;">My thoughts:</p> <hr/> <hr/>	
<p style="text-align: center;">Loqmat <i>Small deep-fried dumplings made of butter, milk, sugar, flour, saffron, and cardamom, drizzled with date syrup</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;">My thoughts:</p> <hr/> <hr/>	
<p style="text-align: center;">Chicken Makbous <i>Meat and rice cooked with lime and spices, served with nuts, raisins, and fried onions</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;">My thoughts:</p> <hr/> <hr/>	

**CREATE
Your Own**

SUPERHERO!



Draw your superhero below.

What's your secret identity?

My superhero's name is:

What are your super powers?

Who are you really?

What is your superhero's alias? (E.g., Superman's alias is Clark Kent)

What does he or she do when not in costume?

Why did your character become a superhero?

Create your world!

Name the city or places where your superhero lives:

Name and describe your superhero's villains and archenemies:

Name and describe your superhero's friends:

POW!



IN-GALLERY ACTIVITIES

AGES 11-14



Khalid Al Banna — 2012, 2014 — Courtesy of the artist

YOU

BE THE

CRITIC



Think about the artworks in the exhibition and answer the questions below on your own. In the spaces provided, write the name of the artist, the title of the artwork, and why you chose it.

Remember, there is no right or wrong answer!

	Which artwork is your favorite? Why?
	Which artwork do you think best represents the exhibition title <i>Past Forward</i> ? Why?
	Which artwork do you think took the longest to create? Why?
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Enhanced Viewing



Step 1. Initial Thoughts

Find the following works of art in the gallery:

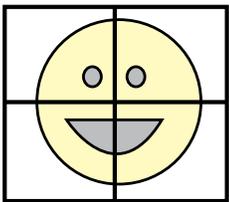
Lateefa bint Maktoum
Observers of Change I, 2011

Hamdan Buti Al Shamsi
Harmony, 2014

Choose one of the works of art to study for two minutes. What are your first impressions?

Step 2. Looking Even Closer

In your mind, divide the artwork into four quadrants. Study each quadrant for an additional two minutes to see what new details become visible. Use the chart below to list any people, objects, and activities in the artwork.



People	Objects	Activities

Step 3. Inference

Based on what you have observed, what do you think is happening in this artwork? Why?

Step 4. Questions

What questions would you have for the artist/photographer about this image?

Critical Thinking

“A portrait does not only represent a person, but can also represent a past, present, and a future – it can portray generations that have shared a history.”

– Maitha Demithan, 2010

When considering this statement, why do you think the curators decided to call the exhibition *Past Forward*?

Choose one artwork in the exhibition, not by Maitha Demithan, which best represents the theme of this exhibition.

Artist's name: _____

Artwork title: _____



Why did you choose this artwork?

How does Maitha Demithan's statement apply to the artwork you chose?



Scavenger Hunt



Instructions: Find the artworks that correspond to each of the following clues. Once you have located the correct work of art, write its title, the artist's name, and the year the work was created.

Hint: Important information can be found in the gallery labels.

1. UAE currency

Title: _____
Artist: _____
Year: _____

7. A genie (*jinni*) who destroys ships

Title: _____
Artist: _____
Year: _____

2. *Jalabiya* fabric

Title: _____
Artist: _____
Year: _____

8. *Barjeels*

Title: _____
Artist: _____
Year: _____

3. Circuit board

Title: _____
Artist: _____
Year: _____

9. The tallest building in the world

Title: _____
Artist: _____
Year: _____

4. Abstract landscape

Title: _____
Artist: _____
Year: _____

10. A place to buy fish

Title: _____
Artist: _____
Year: _____

5. Flamingos

Title: _____
Artist: _____
Year: _____

11. Equipment for a traditional sport

Title: _____
Artist: _____
Year: _____

6. Camel milk containers

Title: _____
Artist: _____
Year: _____

12. Al Jahili Fort

Title: _____
Artist: _____
Year: _____



IN-CLASSROOM ACTIVITIES

AGES 11-14

Salama Nasib — *Bu Daryah*, 2014
Courtesy of the artist



WHERE IN THE WORLD?



Use a map, globe, or the internet to answer the following questions.

1. Label the surrounding countries and color each of them a different color.
2. Label the major bodies of water and color them blue.
3. Mark and label the highest point in the country.
4. Label the capital and mark it with a star. Identify three other major cities and mark them with triangles.
5. Identify other important features (for example: mountain ranges, deserts, salt marshes, etc.)
6. What continent is this country located in?

7. What are the people from this country called?

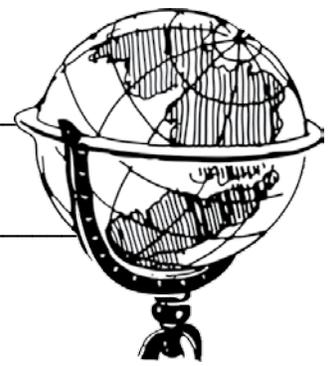
8. What is the country's official language?

9. What is the approximate population of the country?

10. What is the approximate area, or size, of the country?

11. What are its major natural resources?

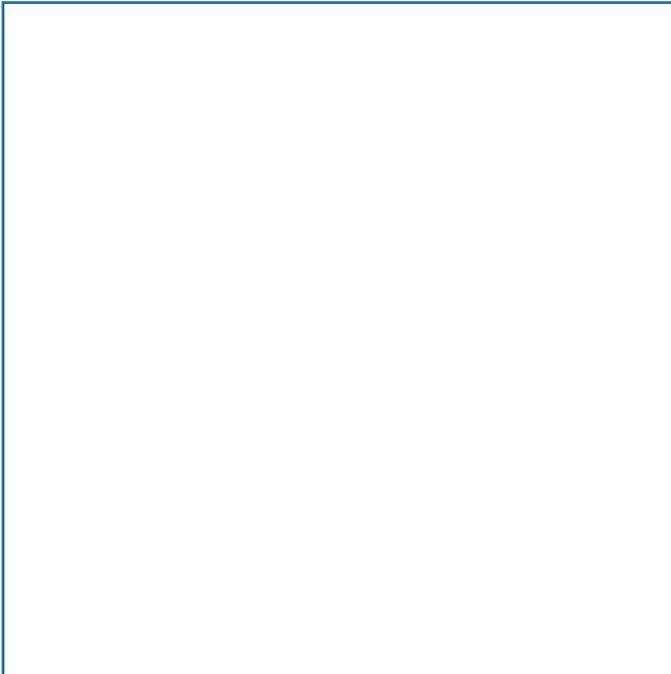
12. What are three of its major industries and products?



Everyday Items

In her work, Afra Bin Dhaher poses with a prayer rug – a household item used by Muslims for kneeling on when praying. According to the artist, in this scene she rediscovers everyday objects and reminisces about her past in the UAE.

In the space provided below, draw a portrait of yourself with a meaningful object you use every day.



Afra Bin Dhaher — *Prayer Rugs*, 2011 — Courtesy of the artist

Artist: _____

Title: _____

Object: _____

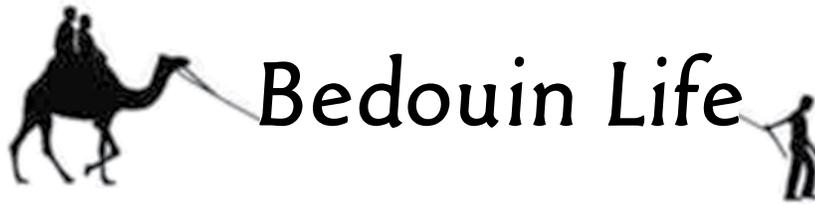
Artist: Afra Bin Dhaher

Title: *Prayer Rugs*

Object: Prayer rug

Why did you choose this object?

What meaning or fond memories does this object have for you?



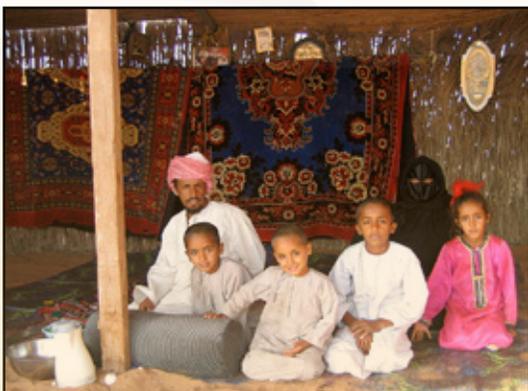
Bedouin Life

Some of the earliest inhabitants of the United Arab Emirates were Bedouins, a desert-dwelling ethnic group. They were mostly nomadic, living in tents and moving from place to place. Bedouins relocated seasonally in response to extreme desert and coastal climates. During the summer months they lived in the deserts of southern Arabia, where they cultivated date palms and grew vegetables and grains. In the winter, many families traveled to the coast where they subsisted on fishing. Often, Bedouins herded goats and earned additional income by transporting goods and people across the desert.

Take a look at the images below and write down your observations. What do you think is going on, and how might this represent Bedouin life?







ARTS & CRAFTS ACTIVITIES

ALL AGES



Shaikha Al Mazrou
Inside Out, 2013
Courtesy of the Gaiith
Abdulla Collection

Create Your Own Henna designs

Henna is a plant that is used in the UAE to dye hair and decorate hands and feet for special occasions like weddings and religious holidays.

Henna paste – made from crushed, dried henna berries and leaves mixed with medicinal herbs – is used to make intricate designs on the hands. Some common motifs include the following:

- Flowers
- Paisley
- Stars
- Vines
- Spirals
- Leaves
- Criss-crosses

Here are some examples of henna designs:



To create your own henna design:

1. Trace your hand onto a blank sheet of paper.
2. Divide your design into three sections: fingers, palm, and wrist.
3. Draw designs and patterns in your traced hand that are meaningful to you.
(Tip: You may wish to first create a design in pencil and then trace over it with a marker or a colored pencil).
4. Think of this as a self-portrait. Be creative and make a design that is unique to you!

Calligraphy

Calligraphy literally means “beautiful writing.” In the UAE, these remarkable word designs appear on everything from Islamic religious texts to ceramic vessels. Traditional calligraphers use a special reed pen cut from a dry bamboo stalk that is then dipped in ink.

Below you will learn how to write a phrase in Arabic calligraphy. First, practice writing the Arabic greeting *Asalaam-Alaikum* (“Peace be with you”) by following the numbers and arrows in the illustration. Since Arabic letters and words are written and read from right to left, remember to start on the right side of the page.



Next, practice writing the following quote from Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan, founder of the UAE.

إن الثروة الحقيقية لأي أمة متقدمة هي

شعبها، خاصة المتعلمين منهم . وإن

المعيار الذي يقاس به نجاح ورفاهية

شعبها هو مستوى تعليمهم .

“The real asset of any advanced nation is its people, especially the educated ones, and the prosperity and success of the people are measured by the standard of their education.”

– Sheikh Zayed



Pack a Suitcase!



The images from Maitha Al Mehairbi's video blend actual Emirati traditions with her own imagination, as she recreates her Bedouin grandmother's world through a suitcase of family heirlooms.

Pretend you are packing your own suitcase that tells the story of your family's history. List the objects you chose to put in the suitcase below. Explain why you selected each item.

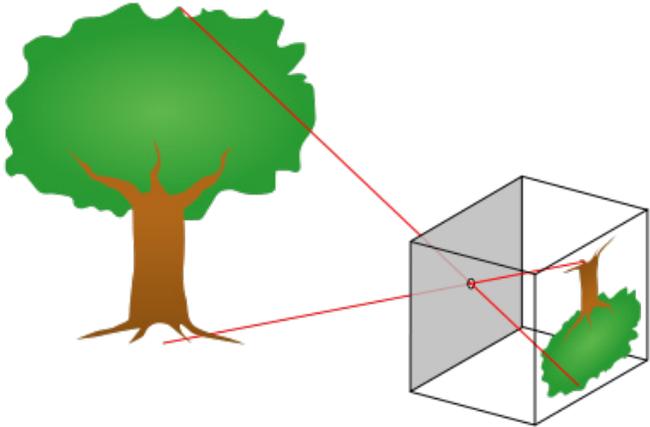
Object	Why did you choose this object?





Make a Pinhole Scope

In her work, artist Shamma Al Amri uses a pinhole camera to take pictures. A typical pinhole camera has no lens, but instead has a single small aperture, or pinhole. To create an image, light passes through this hole and projects an upside-down image on the opposite side of the camera apparatus. This is a very old-fashioned way to make photographs and allows Al Amri to depict modern scenes as if they happened a long time ago.



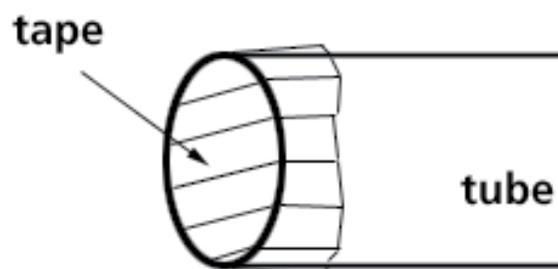
Shamma Al Amri – Burj, 2010 – Courtesy of the artist

To better understand how this works, follow the instructions to make your own pinhole scope.

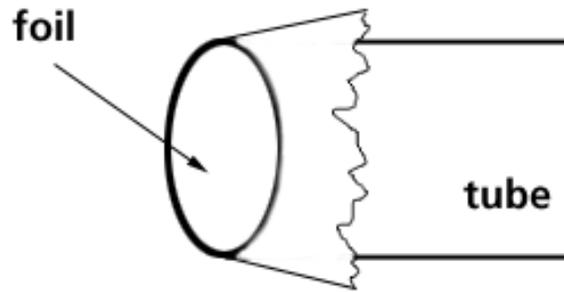
You will need:

- 2 cardboard tubes with different diameters (one from a roll of paper towels and one from a roll of toilet paper)
- 2 inch x 2 inch piece of aluminum foil
- clear tape
- rubber band
- small pin, needle, or thumbtack

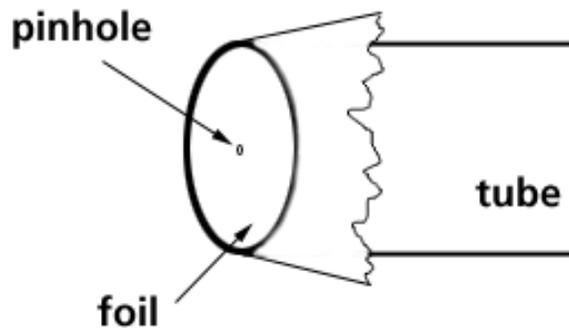
1. Make sure that one of the cardboard tubes has a smaller diameter than the other.
2. On one end of the smaller tube, place several strips of clear tape across the hole so it is completely covered, but with some overlap between the tape strips.



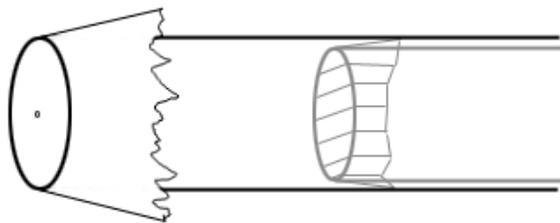
3. On one end of the larger tube, wrap aluminum foil over the hole so that it is completely covered. Use the rubber band to hold the foil in place.



4. With your pin or needle, poke a small hole in the center of the aluminum foil.



5. Slide the two tubes together so that the tape and aluminum foil are on the same side. If you place the smaller tube inside the larger one, the tape should rest against the foil.



6. Find a bright light source that you can view with your new scope.
(Note: fluorescent lights do not work that well.)
7. Standing 5-10 feet away, look at the light source through the viewer. Slide the tubes back and forth until an image of the light is seen in focus before your eyes.
8. To see multiple images of the light, poke several holes into the aluminum foil and point the viewer at the light source.
9. Rotate the scope while looking at the light. What do you notice about the images? Do they rotate with the scope?