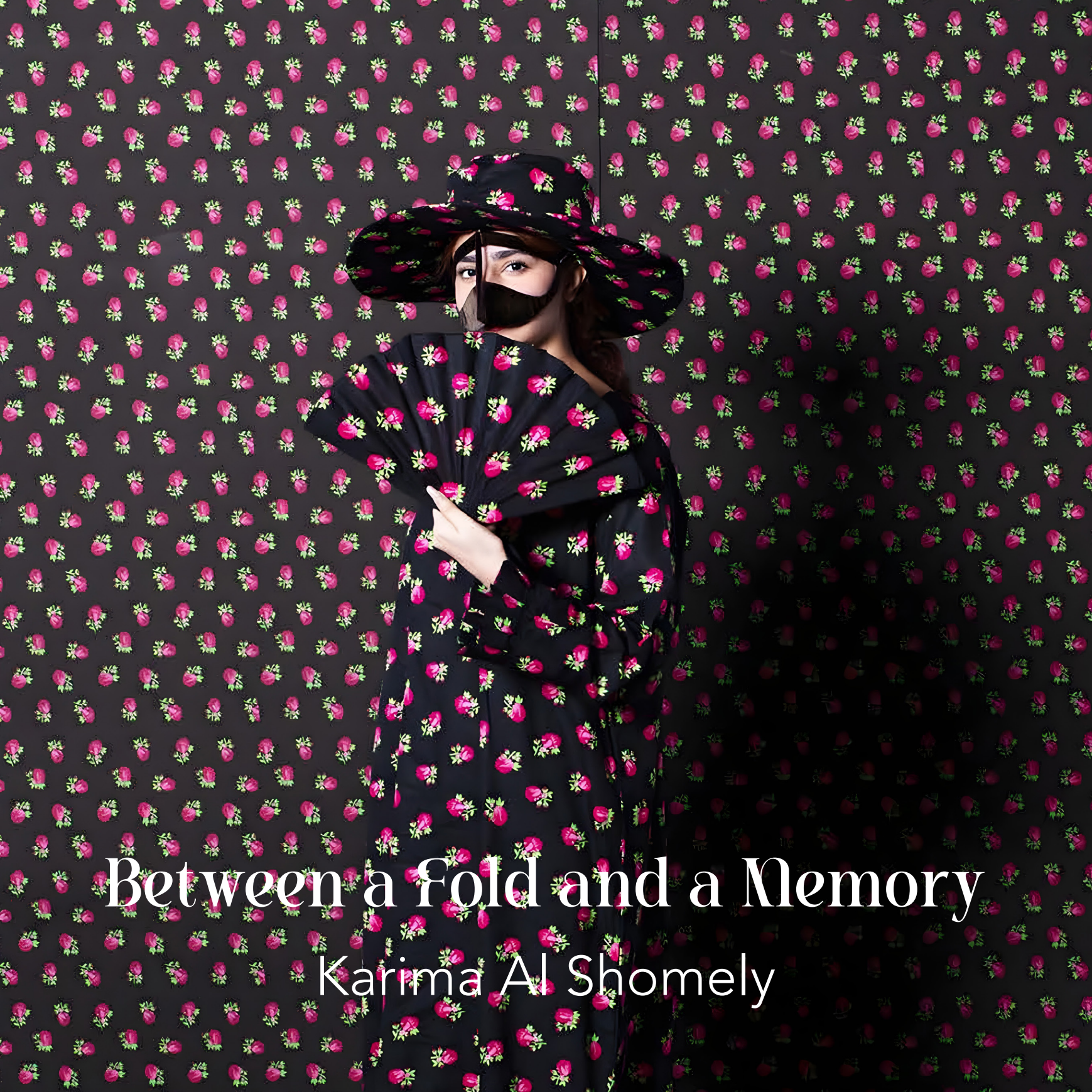


Between a Fold and a Memory

Karima Al Shomely

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My artistic practice explores the cultural heritage of Emirati women through a contemporary lens, focusing on the stories, memories, identities, and social histories embedded within traditional clothing, textiles, and objects of adornment. Through photography, sculpture, textiles, and video, I reinterpret these elements as carriers of memory and as witnesses to the lives of generations of women.

At the centre of my practice is the Emirati woman and the objects that have shaped and represented her identity. The Emirati burqa, once part of everyday dress and now a significant symbol of cultural heritage, frequently appears in my work. I use it to explore memory, transformation, labour, femininity, and social change. In Neel (Indigo), the burqa is submerged in water, allowing its indigo dye to bleed from the fabric, becoming a metaphor for disappearance and cultural transformation. In Khait (Thread), the repetitive movement and sound of the sewing machine reflect the labour of Emirati women who made burqas while caring for their families and contributing to household income.

Traditional Emirati textiles are another central element of my practice. In Khulqan, colourful fabrics such as Bou Tira, Bu Glaym, Bu Teelah, Bu Kazwah, and Bunqta are transformed from soft textiles into large metallic sculptural forms. By changing their scale, materiality, and context, I emphasize their cultural significance and transform familiar patterns into archives of collective memory.
Photography also enables me to place traditional fabrics and objects within contemporary settings, creating encounters between past and present. Across my practice, I enlarge, reconstruct, photograph, and reimagine cultural forms to explore how heritage can remain active within contemporary society.

Ultimately, my work is a tribute to Emirati women and the cultural knowledge they have carried across generations. It presents heritage as a living presence that continues to evolve, connect generations, and shape contemporary identity.

Dr.karima Al Shomely





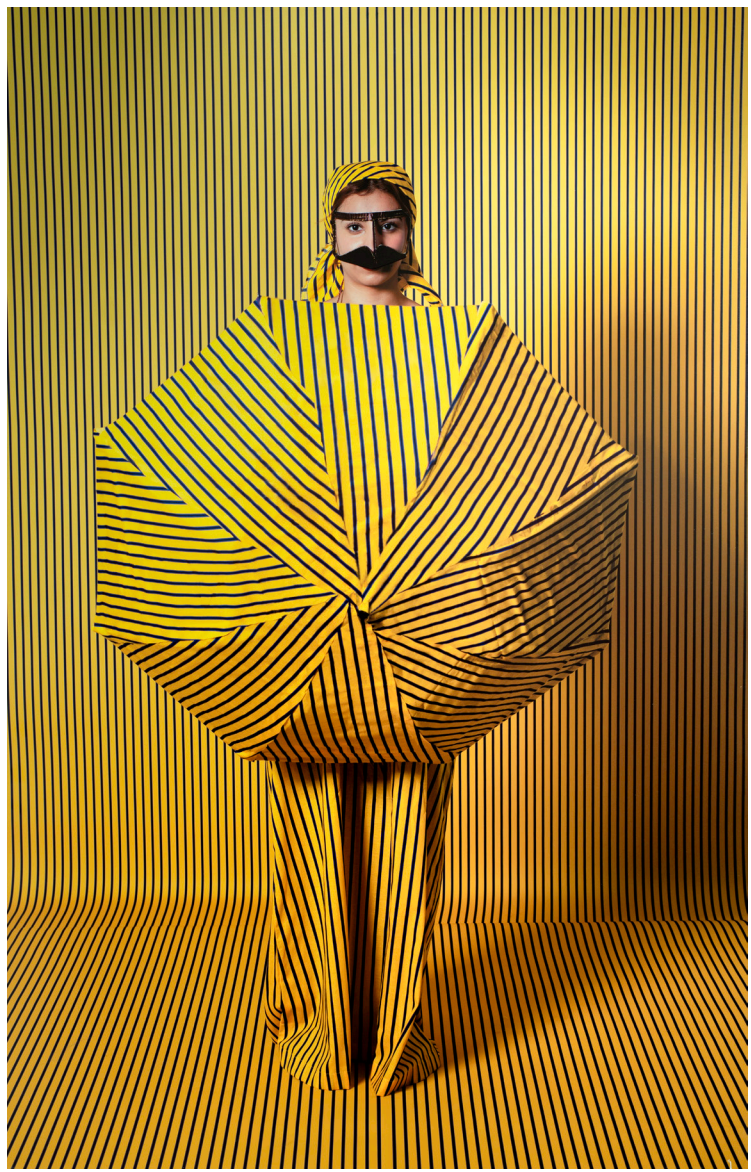
Bu Harara
2024
Print photo
70cm x 47cm
(without frame)
Edition 1/5



Bu Alnaf
2024
Print photo
70cm x 47cm
(without frame)
Edition 1/5



Bu Glaim
2024
Print photo
70cm x 47cm
(without frame)
Edition 1/5



Bu Glaim
2022
Print on aluminum
130cm x 200 cm
Edition 1/3



Halwah Sakhina
2024
Print photo
70cm x 47cm
(without frame)
Edition 1/5

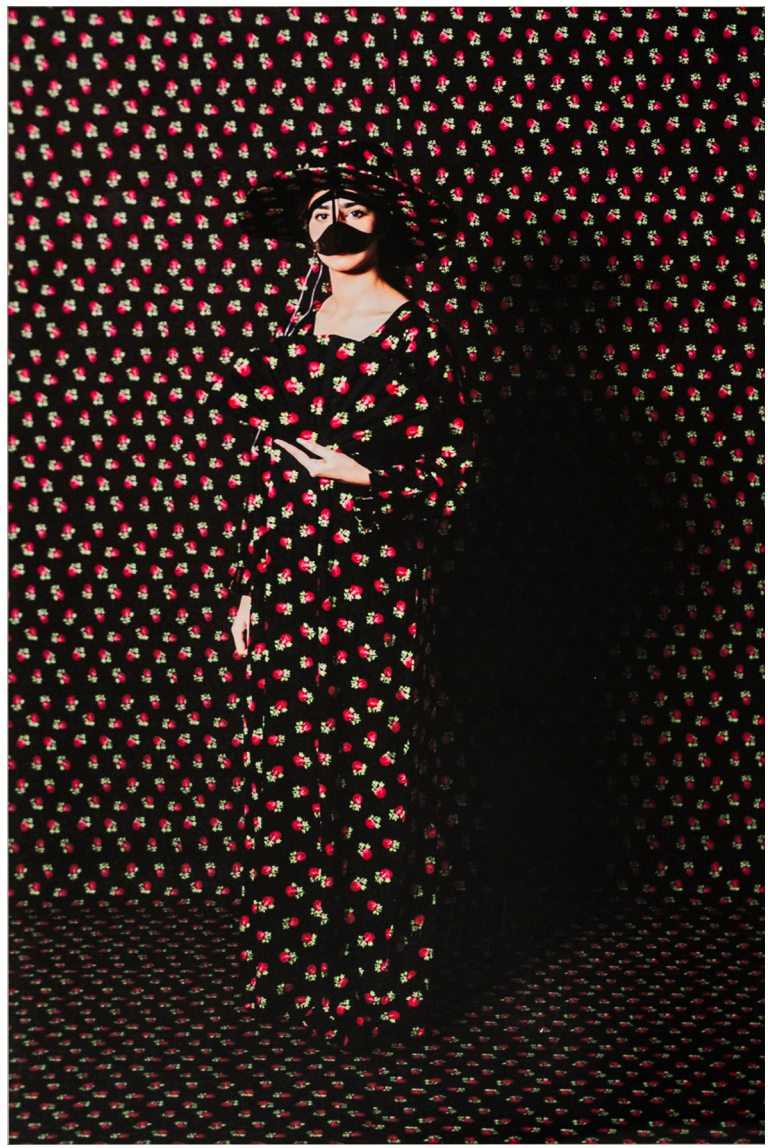


Bu Khahil
2024
Print photo
70cm x 47cm
(without frame)
Edition 1/5





Bu Nasieh
Print photo
70cm x 47cm
(without frame)
Edition 1/5



Bu Warda
2024
Print photo
70cm x 47cm
(without frame)
Edition 1/5



Bu Tayla
2024
Print photo
70cm x 47cm
(without frame)
Edition 1/5



Bu Tayla
2022
Print on aluminum
130cm x 200 cm
Edition 1/3



Bu Tarah
2024
Print photo
70cm x 47cm
(without frame)
Edition 1/5



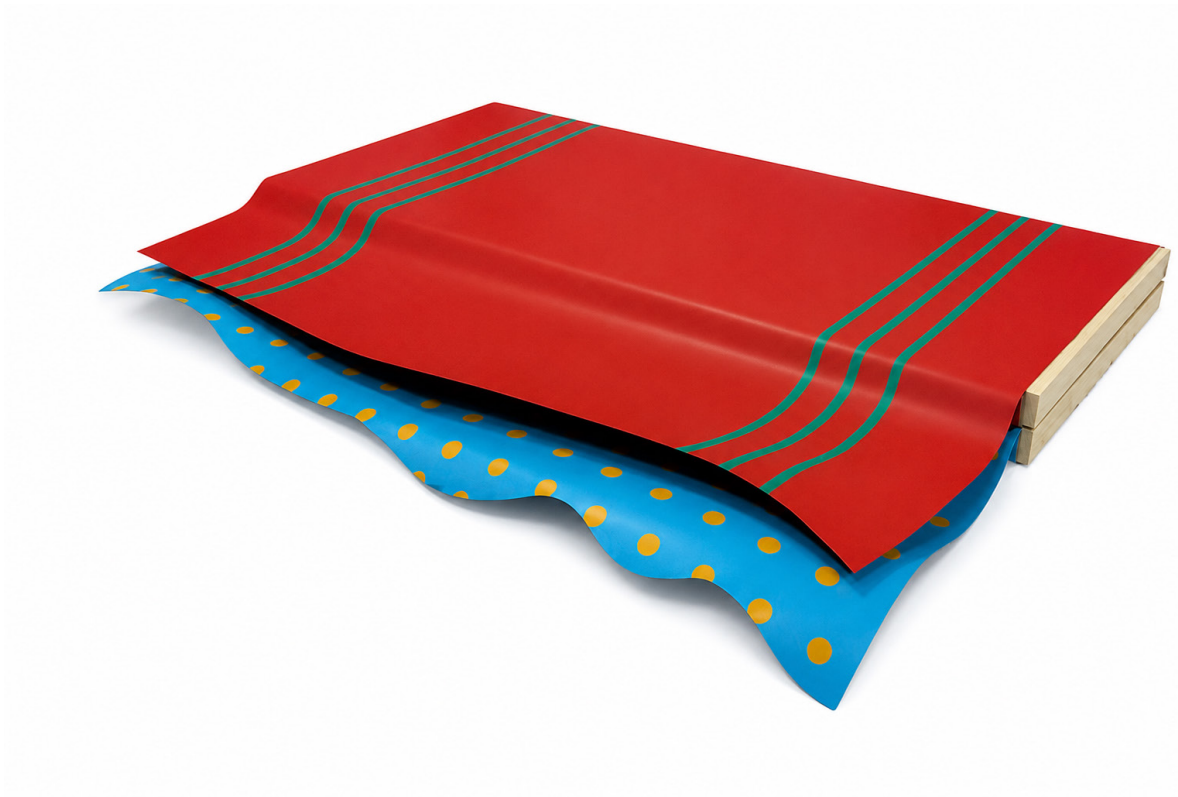
Bu Tarah
2022
Print on aluminum
130cm x 200 cm
Edition 1/3







Sultani
2024
Print photo
70cm x 47cm
(without frame)
Edition 1/5



Bu nagtah with Bu galim
2022
Aluminum
10 x 62 x 44 cm



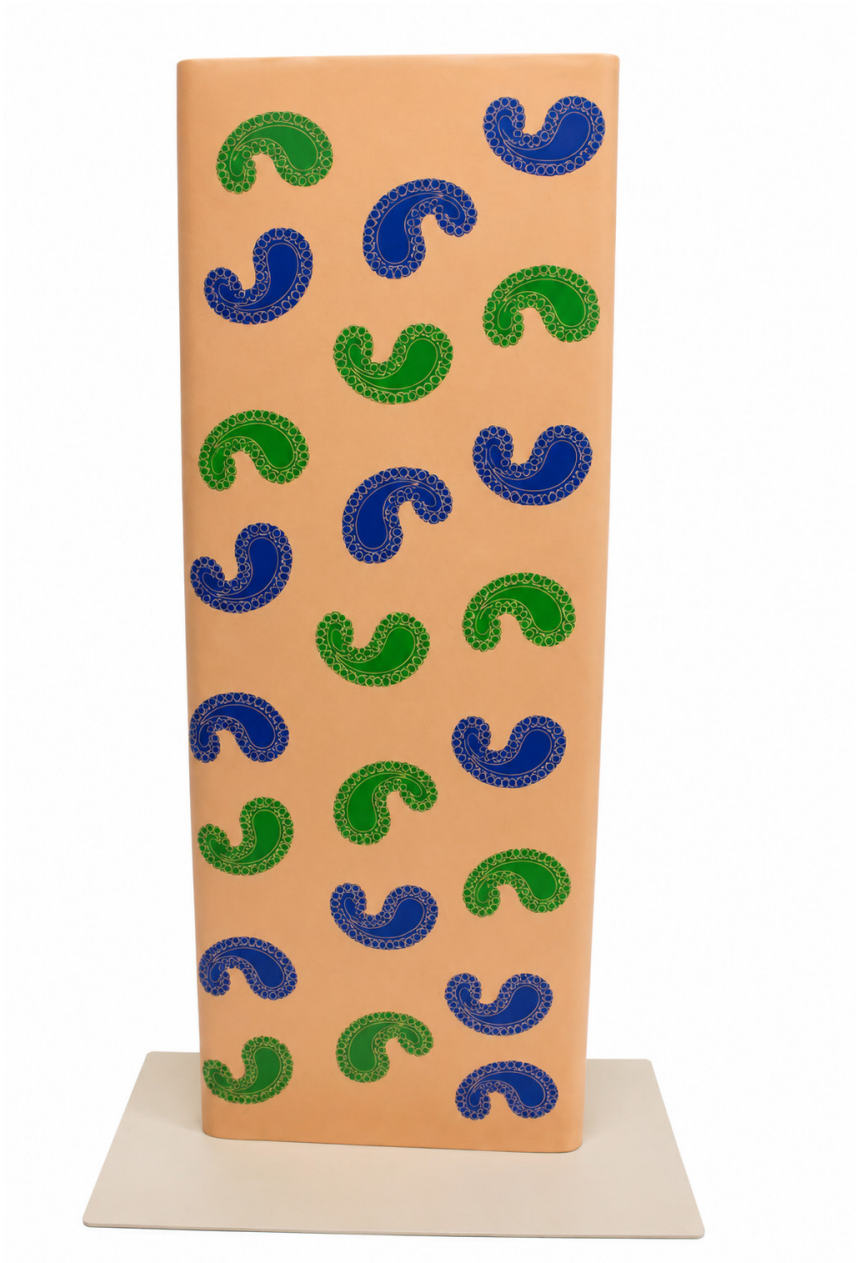
Sultani
2022
Aluminum
60 x 16 x 6 cm



Bu Tayla
2022
Aluminum
137 x 20 x 40 cm



Bu Nasieh
2022
Aluminum
60 x 16 x 6 cm



Bu kazowah
2022
Aluminum
120 x 70 x 35 cm



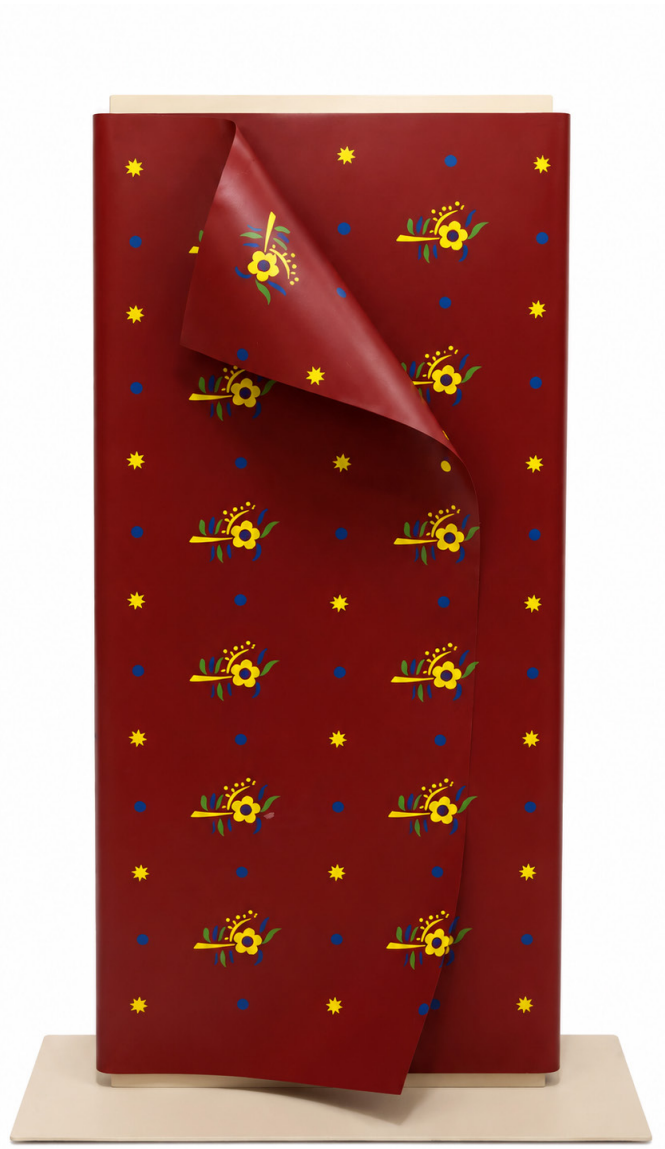




Bu Tayla
2022
Aluminum
61 x 51 x 25 cm



Bu Warda
2022
Aluminum
61 x 35 x 16 cm



Bu Tarah
2022
Aluminum
130 x 70 x35 cm



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Front Cover image
Bu Warda
2024
Print Photo
70cm x 47cm
(without frame)
Edition 1/5

Back cover image
Bu Tayla
2022
Aluminum
61 x 51 x 25 cm

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