

ALSERKAL AVENUE

SENSING MEMORY.

15 JULY - 15 SEPTEMBER 2018

ALSERKAL PROGRAMMING

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Alserkal Programming presents the Avenue's third annual summer programme: *Sensing Memory*. From a patchwork of sights, smells, sounds, textures, and tastes, our senses construct the world around us, creating memories in the process. Beyond perceiving what is, our senses evoke what was. A mere smell or sound—brewing coffee, or waves breaking on the shore—can take us back in time.

In a series of workshops, lectures, performances, and seminars, *Sensing Memory* will draw from the UAE's creative community and beyond to explore the connection between the senses and our personal and collective memories.

All events are free and open to the public; prior registration necessary as spaces are limited. Details on how to register can be found with each individual event.

CONTACT INFO

RSVP@ALSERKALAVENUE.AE

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— BOOK CLUB

This summer-long book club will examine Marcel Proust's *The Way by Swann's*, the first (and perhaps most essential) volume of the author's seminal masterwork *In Search of Lost Time*. Writer Kevin Jones will lead a series of intimate group discussions, during which participants will explore the book's cultural context and legacy, examine Proust's narrative techniques, and interrogate notions of memory and time. Engaging and critical, the discussions should enable participants to walk away with a deeper understanding of the Proustian universe, and why it remains a literary cornerstone.

Dates Thursday, 19 July | 6.30-8.30PM
Monday, 30 July | 6.30-8.30PM
Wednesdays, 15 & 29 August | 6.30-8.30PM

Location Loft, A4 Space

Limited to 15 participants. To register, email rsvp@alserkalavenue.ae with the subject line 'Book Club'. Confirmed participants are expected to attend every meeting and engage in the discussions regarding the text.

TAI CHI —

A martial art known for its breath, defense techniques, and health benefits, tai chi aligns participants' bodies and minds. Known to alleviate stress and anxiety, it has been considered to be a form of 'meditation in motion' that promotes serenity and inner peace. Masters Hang and Luo from Shaolin Kung Fu, the first Chinese martial arts school based in Dubai, will lead the weekly sessions. Dress code: comfortable clothes in neutral tones (black, white, beige, etc.)

Dates Every Saturday from
21 July to 15 September, 11AM-12PM

Location Nadi Al Quoz

Limited to 15 participants per session. To register, email rsvp@alserkalavenue.ae with the subject line 'Tai chi – [Date you'd like to attend]'

TALKS/ LECTURES

Stories in the Sky

Hasan Ahmad Al Hariri, head of Dubai Astronomy Group, will share stories about the night sky that have been passed down through generations of people who used the stars to navigate their everyday lives. Hear the tales told by Greek and Arab civilisations and learn how ancient peoples used these as memory tools.

Date Saturday, 21 July | 4-6PM

Location A4 Space Cinema Room

Rsvp recommended, email rsvp@alserkalavenue.ae with the subject line 'Stories in the Sky'.

Revival: Arish Architecture

This interactive presentation led by architect Asna Moazzam will examine Arish (palm leaf) architecture, its long history in the UAE, the challenges facing its conservation, and the way forward in its revival.

Date Saturday, 4 August | 4-6PM

Location Nadi Al Quoz

Rsvp recommended, email rsvp@alserkalavenue.ae with the subject line 'Revival'.

A Trip Down Memory Lane

Glimpse into Earth's past and the formation of our solar system. In this discussion, Hasan Ahmad Al Hariri, head of Dubai Astronomy Group, will delve into everything from dinosaurs and their extinction through to meteorites. Attendees will be invited to examine meteorites on show, some of which are 4.5 billion years old.

Date Tuesday, 14 August | 6.30-8.30PM

Location A4 Space Cinema Room

Rsvp recommended, email rsvp@alserkalavenue.ae with the subject line 'A Trip Down Memory Lane'.

Visualising Memory: Archiving an Evolving City

Join Irish-Libyan photographer Jalal Abuthina as he takes you from the bustling streets of Deira to the alleyways of Satwa, discussing the inspirations behind some of his projects that have preserved memories of areas of Dubai that are rapidly changing. Jalal has spent more than a decade capturing visual reflections of Dubai, compiling some of his work into several self-published photo books, including *Memories of Satwa and Dubai: Behind the Scenes*. Moderated by Lola Boatwright, Managing Director, Gulf Photo Plus.

Date Monday, 27 August | 6.30-7.30PM

Location Nadi Al Quoz

Rsvp recommended, email rsvp@alserkalavenue.ae with the subject line 'Visualising Memory'.

TALKS/ LECTURES

Inherited Memory: How the Generation After Remembers War, Partition, and Genocide

This lecture explores how we remember the past, in particular how the descendants of those who experience war, genocide, and partition, recall these traumatic historical events. Dr. Maya Aghasi, Assistant Professor of Literature, American University of Sharjah, will discuss how such 'inherited memory' contributes to and shapes one's identity, and the critical role imaginative fiction plays in keeping that memory alive. The talk considers literary and artistic examples from Palestine, the Armenian Genocide, dictatorship in the Dominican Republic, the India-Pakistan partition, and the 1975 Lebanese Civil War. At the end of the talk, audience members will be invited to share how their own stories and inherited memories have contributed to their sense of identity.

Date Saturday, 1 September | 4-6PM

Location Nadi Al Quoz

Rsvp recommended, email rsvp@alserkalavenue.ae with the subject line 'Inherited Memory'.

Sense and Reality in the Virtual Age

How are our senses changing in the digital age? This panel discussion will address the growing role of technology, such as virtual reality (VR), in altering our perceptions of the physical world. The panel will feature Professors Alex Albani and Hendrik Wahl from the American University in Dubai, both of whom use VR technology in their fields (architecture and digital media, respectively).

Date Monday, 10 September | 7-9PM

Location Techarc | Warehouse 25

Rsvp recommended, email rsvp@alserkalavenue.ae with the subject line 'Sense and Reality in the Virtual Age'.

WORK - SHOPS

Memories and Traditions in Perfume-making

Perfume artist Mona Bassam Haddad will share her expertise in creating perfumes and matching smells with both memories and personalities. Learn the techniques of mixing essential oils, making sachets with Arabic perfume powders, and mixing scented oud. Participants will create their own perfumes, which they can take home.

Date Saturday, 11 August | 2-4PM

Location Nadi Al Quoz

Limited to 30 participants. To register, email rsvp@alserkalavenue.ae with the subject line 'Perfume-making workshop'.

Creating Memoir from Memory: Your Life as a Book

Tell your story in your own words. In this two-part workshop led by writer Allison K. Williams, participants learn the basics of writing a memoir. In addition to guided writing, participants will discuss dramatic structure, considerate truth-telling, and narrative power. The workshop also provides tips on editing and revision techniques and professional insights into the memoir market. All experience levels welcome; suitable for people with an idea, a draft, or pre-existing material. Bring paper, pens, laptop, or whatever you write with.

Dates Wednesday, 25 July & 1 August |
6.30-8.30PM

Location Nadi Al Quoz

Limited to 12 participants. To register, email rsvp@alserkalavenue.ae with the subject line 'Memoir writing workshop'. Confirmed participants are expected to attend both workshop dates.

Intuitive Creativity

Discover deeply rooted messages in your subconscious—memories, feelings, thoughts, sensations, and ideas—and transform them into artwork. Through breathing exercises and meditation techniques, participants will be guided into a state of relaxation to loosen inhibitions that may block emotions and memories, revealing imagery that can be physically manifested using ink techniques.

Dates Saturday, 18 August &
1 September | 4-6PM

Location thejamjar | Warehouse 74

Open to ages 16 and up. Limited to 15 participants. To register, email rsvp@alserkalavenue.ae with the subject line 'Intuitive Creativity workshop'.

WORKSHOPS

Documentary Filmmaking

This two-part workshop will teach the basics of documentary filmmaking, including editing, storyboarding, and scriptwriting. The workshops will be led by Wafa and Amirah Tajdin, documentary filmmakers and founders of Seven Thirty Films, a production house dedicated to telling African stories from an African perspective, inspired by a globally nomadic experience. All experience levels welcome.

Dates Wednesday, 5 & 12 September | 6.30-8.30PM

Location A4 Space Cinema Room

Limited to 12 participants. To register, email rsvp@alserkalavenue.ae with the subject line 'Documentary filmmaking workshop'. Confirmed participants are expected to attend both workshop dates.

Set Your Senses on Fire!

Led by Hananah Zaheer, founder of Dubai Literary Salon, this two-part workshop is designed to train writers to create stronger prose by using all five senses - not just for observation and inspiration but also on the page. Participants will use writing prompts to practise concepts, and will walk away with a good start to at least one written piece.

Dates Saturday, 8 & 15 September | 2-4PM

Location Nadi Al Quoz

Limited to 15 participants. To register, email rsvp@alserkalavenue.ae with the subject line 'Senses writing'. Confirmed participants are expected to attend both workshop dates.

Nightjar Coffee Tasting

This workshop will walk participants through the tradition and production of coffee, from cultivation to roasting. See coffee in various stages of its production, using its smell, feel, and taste to access each bean's history and place in modern society.

Date Saturday, 15 September | 4-6PM

Location Nightjar | Warehouse 62

Limited to 15 participants. To register, email rsvp@alserkalavenue.ae with the subject line 'Coffee tasting workshop'.

PERFORMANCE & THEATRE

Contemporary Dance Workshop

Sima Dance Company will host an interactive dance workshop led by Alaa Krimed addressing questions such as: How do dancers learn? Is what you learn an exact copy of what you've been taught? How does previous experience or knowledge influence what you learn? Exploring the relationship between memory and movement, these questions can help to explain how dancers learn choreography and understand where difficulties in learning and memory can arise.

Date Saturday, 28 July | 2-4PM

Location Sima Performing Arts | Warehouse 38

Open to ages 16 and up. Limited to 20 participants. To register, email rsvp@alserkalavenue.ae with the subject line 'Contemporary Dance Workshop'.

Stage Write 2018

In this unique 24-hour playwriting competition, aspiring playwrights will be given two cards, one outlining a character and another describing a situation. With those cards as inspiration, they will have 24 hours to write and turn in a 10-minute play. This year's theme is focused around sensing memories. The top play will earn a spot in the Short+Sweet Theatre Festival 2019, and the second-place play will earn a 'wildcard' spot. Top three plays will also receive certificates.

Date Friday, 7 September | 4PM

Location A4 Space

Open to all age groups. To register, email rsvp@alserkalavenue.ae with the subject line 'Stage Write 2018'.

Contemporary Dance Performance

Sima Dance Company will perform a contemporary dance piece inspired by memory and its relation to dance. Choreography by Alaa Krimed.

Date Saturday, 25 August | 7.30-8PM

Location Sima Performing Arts | Warehouse 38

Limited spaces. First-come, first-seated.

Interactive Storytelling for Kids

Master storyteller Akansha Goenka will entertain kids between the ages of 4-8 with interactive storytelling. Children will use props to participate in this immersive storytelling session.

Date Saturday, 8 September | 10.30-11.30AM

Location A4 Space Cinema Room

Limited to 25 participants. To register, email rsvp@alserkalavenue.ae with the subject line 'Interactive storytelling for kids'.

BIOGRAPHIES

Akansha Goenka

Akansha is co-founder of The Junction, Dubai's only community theatre located in Alserkal Avenue. She has been involved in theatre for over 9 years in various capacities. She specialises in building confidence and performing arts skills with kids aged 4-10 years. Akansha teaches drama to kindergarten children at GEMS Modern Academy.

Alaa Krimed

Alaa is a renowned choreographer from Damascus, Syria. He founded Sima Dance Company in 2003 after noticing a void in the Arab contemporary dance landscape. Alaa also founded Sima Performing Arts, a performing arts space that offers in-house productions and performance, dance classes and workshops, screenings, and talks.

Alex Albani

Alex I. Albani is an architect and academic who began his career teaching computer applications in architecture at the University of California at Berkeley, then worked as a CADD/BIM specialist and a store designer for multinational corporations. He is an associate member of the American Institute of Architects, a BIM Revit Architecture Certified Professional, and an Autodesk Certified Instructor.

Allison Williams

Allison K Williams has edited and coached authors to deals with Big Five publishers (including Only Child) and inspired thousands of writers with her Brevity blogs on process and craft. She has led workshops, and been a featured speaker, at writing conferences across the USA and at creative events. Allison's work has appeared on National Public Radio's Snap Judgment and in *The Moth*, *Prairie Schooner*, and the *New York Times*.

Asna Moazzam

Asna is an architect, founder of ard and an Associate at DesignAware. She is a professional architect with expertise in energy and environment design. For the past 10 years, Asna has been involved in architectural projects within Abu Dhabi and Dubai, including leading a Green Building Project towards an Estidama Pearl in Abu Dhabi.

Hananah Zaheer

Hananah's recent work has appeared (and is forthcoming) in *Michigan Quarterly Review*, *Southwest Review*, *Alaska Quarterly Review*, *Gargoyle*, *Willow Review*, *Concho River Review* and *Westview* literary journal among others. She is a co-founder of #MTGcollective and a founder of the Dubai Literary Salon, a prose reading series. She teaches writing, dabbles in corporate training, and improvises theatre and life.

Master Hang

Master Hang is a chief master at Shaolin Kung Fu Dubai. He received his training from Shaolin Temple, China and completed a Chinese Martial Art International level coaching degree. He is a Chinese Martial Art International 6th Dan Black Belt and a Shaolin Kung Fu 7th Dan Black Belt.

BIOGRA- PHIES

Hasan Ahmad Al Hariri

Hasan Ahmad Al Hariri is the founder of Dubai Astronomy Group (DAG). Since 2000, DAG has become an international organisation with more than 7,000 members. A well-known speaker and supporter of astronomy in the Middle East, Hasan also co-established the Emirates Astronomy Society and Astronomy League in Abu Dhabi, as well as the Emirates Science Club.

Hendrik Wahl

Hendrik Wahl was born and brought up in Germany. After graduating from the Burg Giebichenstein, University of Art and Design, Halle as 'Diplomdesigner', he has been employed as Digital Artist, Team-leading Supervisor and Creative/Art Director in the media industries around the world. Dr. Hendrik Wahl joined AUD in August 2012.

Kevin Jones

Kevin Jones is a New York-born, Paris-bred writer and critic of contemporary art from the Middle East. Based in Dubai since 2006, his art critical interest stems from his literary background. He holds a BA in English literature from Northwestern University, a second BA in "lettres modernes," or French literature from Université de Montpellier in France, and an MA in semiotics/linguistics from Université de Paris III, La Sorbonne Nouvelle. He is an uncompromising and unapologetic Proust fan.

Master Luo

From Shaolin Temple, China, Master Luo holds a Chinese Martial Art International level coaching degree. He is a Chinese Martial Art International 6th Dan Black Belt and a Shaolin Kung Fu 6th Dan Black Belt.

Maya Aghasi

Dr. Maya Aghasi, Assistant Professor of Transnational Literatures at the American University of Sharjah, received her PhD in Comparative literature at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. She specialises in transnational literatures in English, Arabic, and French, and in her research explores such problems as colonialism, the nation, race, and globalisation, placing gender at the heart of her analyses. She has published on the gendered nature of national conflict and wrote the entry on Arab American Women Writers in the Encyclopedia of Women and Islamic Cultures.

Mona Bassam Haddad

Mona Haddad is a visual artist and a self-taught perfumer from Abu Dhabi. She graduated from Zayed University with a Bachelor of Fine Arts in Visual Arts. As an artist, she sees light as a vivid image of a specific dream that lives between people and she studies it through her work.

CONTACT INFO

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