

THE TRAVEL ISSUE

EMIRATES

# nomme

BRING THE HOLIDAYS HOME...

**125**  
Summer Trends  
TO SHOP NOW!

BOUTIQUE HOTELS THAT ARE BIG ON STYLE

## Good Vibrations

ENERGY HEALING TIPS

REAL HOMES

DAZZLING DESIGN INSPIRATION



VOLUME 11 / JUNE 2013 DHS 10 AN ITP CONSUMER PUBLICATION

» NEWS » INTERVIEWS » ADVICE

# HOME GROWN TALENT

Emirates Home talks to professional visual artist Mattar Bin Lahej following his recent debut at Design Days Dubai.

## TELL US A BIT ABOUT YOURSELF?

I am among the second generation of Emirati artists, and I work primarily within the realms of sculpting, painting, and photography. I use the concept of movement in all my art – as an artist I insist on leaving my fingerprint on society. I am always looking for creative ways to express my art, using my own technique and style.

## YOU ARE FOREMOST AN ARTIST, BUT ALSO DESIGN FURNITURE. HOW DID THIS TRANSITION COME ABOUT?

Having worked with traditional furniture design and fit outs for many years, it was a natural transition for me into the world of artistic furniture design, 'Wajal' (pictures here) being the first piece of its kind that I've created.

## YOU HAVE BECOME AN ARTIST WITHOUT ANY FORMAL TRAINING, IS THIS THE SAME FOR FURNITURE DESIGN?

I consider experimentation my form of schooling, and have been fortunate enough to build my experience in various forms of art through pushing boundaries and exploring different techniques.

## TELL US ABOUT THE PIECE THAT YOU CREATED FOR DESIGN DAYS DUBAI - HOW DID THIS COME ABOUT?

The idea came about when FN Designs contacted me and invited

me to participate in Design Days Dubai. I took it as a challenge to create an innovative and unique piece of furniture using the concept of movement and emotion.

## WHAT WAS THE INSPIRATION BEHIND THE PIECE?

The piece is titled 'Wajal' and takes its inspiration from the human emotions connected to the Holy Quran. In Islam, the Quranic verse titled 'Surat Al Ikhlas', is believed to awaken a feeling of tranquility when read 100 times. The piece incorporates an interconnected wall-hanging mirror and various elements of seating. The starting point of the feature is the hanging mirror on the wall, which then trails down and connects with the individual seated areas.

## WHAT HAS THE PUBLIC REACTION BEEN LIKE?

I believe that people were able to appreciate the meaning and spirituality behind the piece.

## DO YOU PLAN TO CONTINUE WITH FURNITURE DESIGN?

Yes indeed. I was present at INDEX Dubai this year with a new collection of furniture and I also intend to participate in Design Days 2014.

## WHAT CAN WE EXPECT IN TERMS OF FUTURE DESIGN?

As the creative scene in Dubai continues to grow, I do feel inspired to push myself and break new boundaries in terms of creativity. Furniture design in particular is playing a strong role in the local art scene, and this is an area I expect will continue to develop within the next few years.

