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Marie Claire Arabia

Marina Fedorova's Sci-Fi World in Dubai

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This article was originally published in Arabic and has been translated to English below:

"Every person, in some way, carries a whole universe within him." – Marina Fedorova

Since childhood, Marina Fedorova has always been fascinated by science fiction and space exploration. She believes that humanity may inhabit other planets in the future, imagining a future where we coexist in peace, tolerance and respect for other beings. But for her, Earth will always be our cradle and home, one that we must take care of. Much of her artwork carries a message to protect our beautiful green planet and its unique nature. While she founded the COSMODREAMS universe to unleash her imagination, each exhibition takes us into a limitless world of inspiration and philosophy. Her work has been exhibited in various locations across Europe and Asia, and while her latest exhibition, Journey with COSMODREAMS, runs until February 16, 2025 at the Shanghai Powerlong Museum, she takes us on a fascinating journey from the heart of Dubai this month with Fann À Porter Gallery. The exhibition, COSMODREAMS: ELEMENTA will be on view at the Dubai gallery until January 20, 2025. Join us in this exciting conversation with the incomparable artist!

Marie Claire Arabia: What do you think makes your exhibition in Shanghai special and what has the interaction with your artwork been like so far?

Marina Fedorova: This exhibition is designed as an immersive experience that blends traditional art with cutting-edge digital technology. We used LED screens, light boxes, holograms, and augmented reality to bring the paintings and sculptures to life. The exhibition is divided into five zones, each of which aims to create a sense of exploration. Starting from deep space surrounded by abstract star formations and nebulae to a terrestrial museum on the moon, then traveling through futuristic cities, and finally returning to our beloved planet Earth.

For me, as vast as the scope of external exploration is, the scope of internal exploration is equally vast. When we look into the human eye, we can see an entire universe within, similar to the relationship between atoms and planets – each person, in a way, carries an entire universe within them. I believe we should strive to explore the world outside and inside. As an artist, my goal is to highlight the human character – to show the strength, resilience, and potential that each person possesses. I often draw inspiration from the culture of a country, in this case, China. I often start with myths and ancient stories as they hold thousands of years of wisdom. Additionally, my travels provide me with further inspiration, and ultimately, I try to envision the future in my work. These influences come together to create art that resonates globally while subtly reflecting the unique spirit of each place it visits. I must say that the Chinese audience is incredibly receptive, curious and eager for new experiences.

MCA: Can you tell us about your experience mentoring students within the Abu Dhabi Art 2024 Education Programme?

MF: In collaboration with artist Afra Al Suwaidi, the students created a physical artwork, and my task was to complement it with virtual content using augmented reality, to seamlessly and innovatively merge art and technology. I really enjoy working with the students. Each one of them brought their own unique world of ideas and imagination. For context, when I create my own artwork, I usually write the scripts myself. However, this project presented a new challenge, as I had to work with ten students to develop one cohesive scenario. At first, I thought about running a competition and asking each student to write a short story based on their connection to the piece we were working on. But when I read their stories, I couldn't choose just one. They were all so beautiful and inspiring that I decided to collect the ten stories into one collection – a storybook. To bring the students' stories to life, we created 10-second scenarios for each story using augmented reality. By pointing your phone at one of the images, you can see these scenarios unfold. Additionally, all ten stories have been compiled into one video, which is available on YouTube.

MCA: If you could go back in time to any stage of your life to guide yourself, what is the main advice you would give to a young Marina?

MF: The funny thing is, if I could go back in time for advice, I would probably ask a young Marina. When I was a teenager and a young adult, I was very confident in myself and knew exactly what I wanted to do. I was probably a little too bold at times. I'm a huge fan of David Lynch, and I've always followed his saying, "Don't let anyone mess with your idea."

MCA: How did your love of science fiction and books like The Lord of the Rings growing up influence your artistic choices?

MF: My inspiration comes from everywhere: from life, cinema, people, and of course books. Science fiction and fantasy are inseparable from my life; they have shaped my personality and greatly influenced my art. I see the artist as the creator of his own world. The COSMODREAMS exhibition is a unique world with its own cities, characters, and heroes, spanning different worlds. After visiting the exhibition, I want visitors to feel as if they have traveled to another world or dimension.

MCA: Do you have any future plans you would like to share with us?

MF: I have a lot planned, but one of the latest is in Dubai this month at Fann À Porter Gallery. I created the first paintings in the COSMODREAMS series in 2017. Since then, the project has continued to expand with new works and now feels like a vast universe of its own. The pieces on display span a variety of media, including drawing, graphic art, high-quality, limited-edition colour prints, 3D printing and digital works supported by augmented reality.

Find out more about the world of Marina Fedorova and COSMODREAMS in [this video](#).