

United Arab Emirates

Sultanate of Oman

WHAT'S ON

Entertainment and sport

April 1999 No 252

DRESS TO IMPRESS

Step out in style

EYES ON THE PRIZE

SACHIN EXCLUSIVE!

MUSICAL MADNESS

Battle of the bands

SPORTS SPECIAL INSIDE



WHAT'S ON
20
ANNIVERSARY

UAE DH 12 OMAN RO 1.200 KUWAIT KD 1 SAUDI ARABIA SR 12

Gallery's art and soul

The largest gallery in the UAE opens its doors this month with two major exhibitions designed to take the art world by storm

The Orient Art Gallery aims to be all things to all art lovers. Not only is it the largest gallery in the UAE, it also aims to be the country's most comprehensive supplier of art products and services.

Majid Saif Al Ghurair and Neel Shukla are the brains behind the project and their philosophy is simple: the imposing 650-sq-m gallery is designed to be a one stop location catering for all artists and art buyers. An artist can book exhibition space, buy art supplies and even frame their work in one location. For lovers of art the gallery has a range of exclusive Italian frame mouldings and a wide variety of prints.

In addition to these services, the BurJuman-based gallery sells replicas of ancient civilisation artefacts, jewellery and speciality gifts in its museum section.

There is also a photographic studio specialising in black and white portrait photography. Gallery-based photographers can undertake family portraits as well as commercial photography.

Officially appointed as a Disney Gallery, Orient exhibits original Disney animation cell art. While well-known resident artist Ramesh Shukla will have his work on permanent display.

There will be artistic exhibitions throughout the year, but the first to be featured in the warm, wooden interior of the hall is by renowned French glass sculptor Gilles Chabrier. Twenty-five of his original classic pieces will be exhibited.

Born in 1959, Chabrier is considered to be one of the most talented glass sculptors of his generation and has



Glass sculpture by Gilles Chabrier being exhibited at the new Orient Art Gallery



Transparently superior glass furniture

exhibited extensively in Europe and America. Chabrier's work combines glass and metal to create figurative and abstract images. The exhibition runs from April 7-18.

The second exhibition at the gallery runs from April 25 until May 6 and features paintings by Lebanese artist Mounir Lakkis. Resident in the UAE



Glass act: Gilles Chabrier in his studio

since 1975, Lakkis has exhibited in the United States, Europe, Lebanon and the UAE.

The gallery is located on the ground floor of the BurJuman Centre next to the Dome Café. Tel: (04) 486262 or (04) 558832. It is open from 10.00am-10.00pm (Fridays 1.00-10.00pm). - MM

Who dares wins

Paul Flaherty is by no means your average artist. Up until four years ago he was more at home using pistols than paintbrushes. He has spent most of his 46 years risking life and limb for Queen and country, in both the regular army and the elite SAS. Only when he took a bullet in a gunfight in Kashmir, did he finally concede that there were easier ways to make a living.

Flaherty's biggest danger today is being swamped by paperwork. But

despite the stress of running his own expeditions company in Dubai, he still finds time to indulge his passion for art.

Flaherty's real strength lies in pastels, a fact he discovered when he joined the lessons of local artist Tina Ahmed at the Dubai International Arts Centre. "Pastels allow you more contact with what you're doing, and I think they give a nicer effect than oils," he says. "They're also easy to scrub out if you go wrong!"

To contact Paul Flaherty call (04) 328702. For information about Ahmed's classes at the Dubai International Arts Centre, call (04) 444398. - SW



Paul Flaherty