

The Third Line at Art Basel Qatar 2026

Sophia Al-Maria

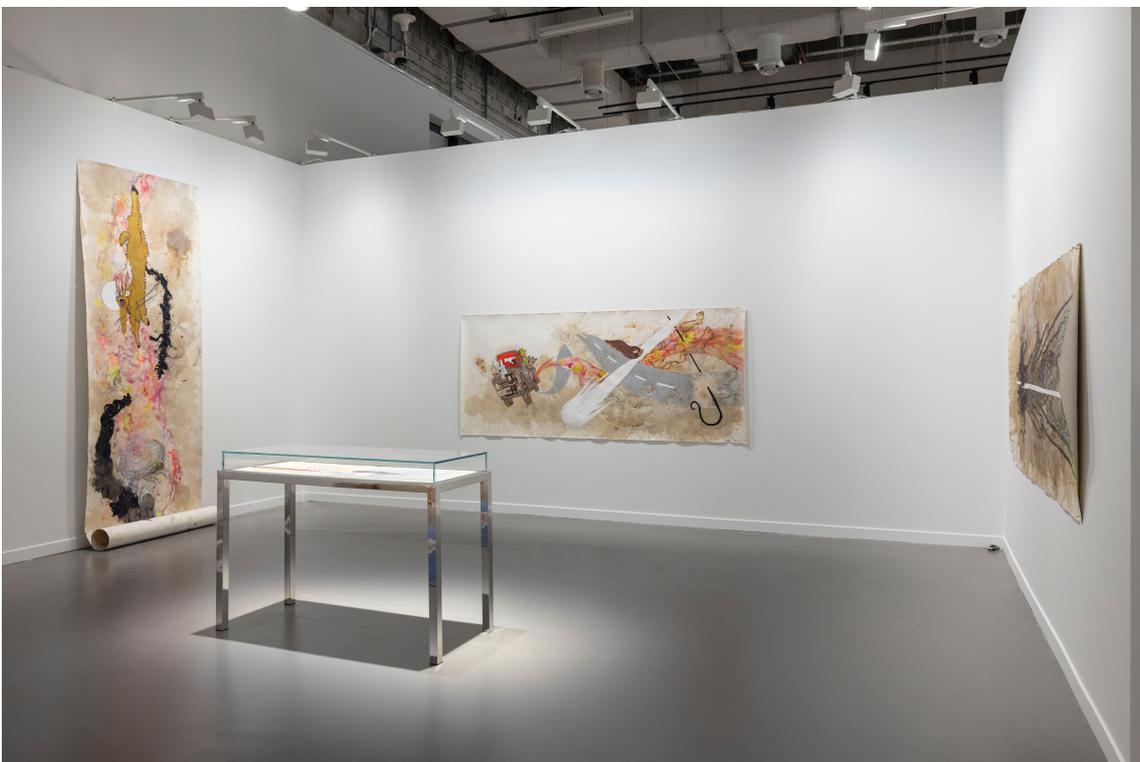
HILUX

Booth: M118

M7, Doha, Qatar

Preview: 3-4 February | Public: 5-7 February 2026

The Third Line is thrilled to present *HILUX*, a new body of work by Sophia Al-Maria debuting at the inaugural Art Basel Qatar 2026. In *HILUX*, Al-Maria returns home to Doha and to her originary practice of drawing and cartooning with a major new body of mixed media work. Rendered in monumental ink and watercolor paintings, the series marks a shift from video toward a more intimate, gestural mode of art-making, layered with complex historical and symbolic references.



Installation View, Sophia Al-Maria, *HILUX*. The Third Line, Art Basel Qatar, Doha, 3-7 February 2026. Photo by Ismail Noor. Courtesy of the artist and The Third Line.

Taking the Toyota Hilux—a ubiquitous civilian vehicle turned emblem of resistance—as both subject and structure, Al-Maria traces symbolic timelines that fold and bend across centuries of human movement, extraction, and resistance. At the center of these works are goats and sheep: the first domesticated animals, whose entanglement with human survival and symbolism marks the beginning of civilization itself.

Through spiraling compositions, swirling timelines, and fragmented manga motifs, *HILUX* charts the entropic cycles of empire, acceleration, and collapse. Simultaneously elegiac and insurgent, the works ask what it means to return to land, to language, to form, and how history can be read in the lines of a speeding truck or a goat.

Sophia Al-Maria At Art Basel Shop



In tandem with Al-Maria's on-site presentation at Art Basel Qatar, the AB by Artist Collection, available at Qatar Art Basel Shop, features works by the artist. Using the language of her new body of work, *HILUX*, the artist has applied truck decal-inspired graphics to tote bags and keychains, plotting a timeline of the Gulf.

About Sophia Al-Maria

Sophia Al-Maria (b. 1983, Tacoma, USA) is a Qatari-American artist, writer, and filmmaker whose multidisciplinary practice spans drawing, sculpture, video, performance, and experimental film. Grounded in storytelling, myth, and speculative fiction, her work constructs revisionist histories that foreground marginalized perspectives and challenge dominant narratives of progress, futurity, and globalization.

Raised between the United States and Qatar, Al-Maria studied comparative literature at the American University in Cairo before completing an MA in aural and visual cultures at Goldsmiths, London. Her practice draws on Arabic poetry, pop culture, and ecological anxiety, with the notion of ruins—particularly as articulated in pre-Islamic poetry—serving as a recurring conceptual framework.

Al-Maria has presented solo exhibitions at Spike Island, Bristol (2024); the Henry Art Gallery, Seattle (2023); Mathaf: Arab Museum of Modern Art, Doha (2022); Tate Britain, London (2019); and the Whitney Museum of American Art, New York (2016). She has participated in major international exhibitions including the Venice Biennale (2022). She lives and works in London.

About The Third Line

Founded in 2005, The Third Line is a Dubai-based gallery that represents contemporary artists locally, regionally, and internationally. With two decades of dedicated commitment to the arts, it has become a pioneering platform for established talent and emerging voices from the region and its diaspora, building a dynamic program that explores the diversity of practices in the region.

In addition to its exhibitions, The Third Line engages in the production of art publications in English and Arabic and hosts numerous non-profit, alternative programs that add to the discourse on art, film, music, and literature in the region.

Represented artists include: Abbas Akhavan, Ala Ebtekar, Amir H. Fallah, Anuar Khalifi, Bady Dalloul, Farah Al Qasimi, Farhad Moshiri, Fouad Elkoury, Hassan Hajjaj, Hayv Kahraman, Huda Lutfi, Joana Hadjithomas & Khalil Joreige, Jordan Nassar, Kamran Samimi, Laleh Khorramian, Lamyra Gargash, Monir Shahroudy Farmanfarmaian, Nima Nabavi, Poursafar Jinchang, Rana Begum, Sahand Hesamiyan, Sara Naim, Sarah Awad, Shirin Aliabadi, Slavs and Tatars, Sophia Al-Maria, Tarek Al-Ghoussein, Vian Sora, yasiin bey, and Youssef Nabil.

Press Inquiries:

Insun Woo | insun@thethirdline.com