

Marsai Martin stars in "Good Times," now streaming on Netflix.



Weekend Lifestyle, Art & Culture



FARAH AL-QASIMI
'Toy World'
The acclaimed Emirati artist's latest exhibition, which runs until April 19 at The Third Line in

Dubai, includes her first black-and-white image series. "Black-and-white images automatically historicize," Al-Qasimi told Sarah Chefka in an interview for

promotional material. The series includes this image, "Camel Bones," of which Chefka writes: "I know that the camel bones lying in the barren grass are innocuous

victims of the cycle of life, but all I can think of are anonymous human remains, lying forgotten in battlefields that will never bear another rose."

WEAM ISMAIL

'Ala Belady' (Remix)
The latest release from the Egyptian producer is a remix of his popular track "Ala Belady." According to his label, Universal, Ismail "invites listeners on a transformative journey where artistry and spirituality intertwine." His blend of electronic music, Afro-house beats and Arabic sounds has connected with fellow artists in the region and in Europe, and his upcoming album should be one to look out for.



Screen Scene

NEW TO WATCH AT HOME



Franklin

Starring: Michael Douglas, Noah Jupe, Marc Duret

Where: Apple TV+

Star-studded biographical miniseries about US founding father Benjamin Franklin, focusing specifically on the eight years that Franklin spent in France trying to persuade the French government to underwrite America's new democracy.



Love for Rent

Starring: Moatasem Al-Nahar, Nour Ali

Where: Shahid

Romantic comedy show based on a popular Turkish series. A wealthy young man, Malik, is grieving the loss of his parents. He meets Sama — a simple young woman from a poor background. The pair feel an immediate connection, but the odds are against them.



Heartbreak High

Starring: Ayesha Madon, James Majoos, Chloe Hayden, Asher Yasbincek

Where: Netflix

Season two of this reboot of the popular Australian comedy drama from the Nineties finds the students of Hartley High continuing to navigate the trials and joys of adolescence with varying degrees of success.

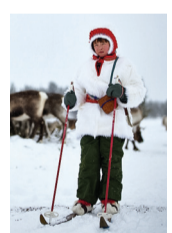


Good Times

Voice cast: J.B. Smoove, Yvette Nicole Brown, Marsai Martin, Wanda Sykes

Where: Netflix

Animated reboot of the groundbreaking Seventies sitcom about a Black two-parent family, which Netflix bills as a "spiritual sequel of sorts," centering on the fourth generation of the Evans family to live in apartment 17C in a Chicago housing project.



Stolen

Starring: Elin Oskál, Martin Wallstrom, Lars-Ante Wasara

Where: Netflix

Swedish drama film based on Ann-Helen Laestadius' novel of the same name. It focuses on Elsa, a young Sami (historically known as Laplanders) girl from a family of reindeer herders who is facing up to the challenge of protecting both her heritage and her livelihood.

CULTURE

The Roundup: From art and fashion to Egyptian electro

Pop-culture highlights from across the Arab world

SALAMA HASSAN

'Kanji'
This piece by the self-taught Saudi conceptual calligrapher was featured in "Senses and Spirituality," an exhibition curated by Saudi designer Amar Alamdar at Riyadh's Centria Mall. In "Kanji," Hassan



used Chinese typography characteristics to reproduce Qur'anic verses. "I love Eastern cultures like Japanese and Chinese and their calligraphy, as well as Arabic," she told Arab News previously. "I wanted to prove that the Arabic letter is valid in any time and space."



MAJDULIN NASRALLAH
'Hadatha Ghadan'

Zawya Gallery announced a series of new prints from the Palestinian artist Majdulín Nasrallah last month, in which, according to the gallery, she "takes us on a journey through the urban landscape of Palestine, offering a fresh perspective on

power dynamics" and sparks conversations about "the role of built environments in perpetuating or challenging systems of control." The series, including this image, titled "The Hole Hanging," is typical of Qatar-based Majdulín's work, which focuses heavily on life and the built environment under occupation.



MOHAMMED SULIMAN AL-FALEH
'Kara tribe'

The Saudi photographer was one of the winners of March's

Hamdan Bin Mohammed Bin Rashid Al-Maktoum International Photography Awards' Instagram competition, which was held under the theme "Culture." The

striking image is one of a series of photographs that Al-Faleh has taken of members of the Kara tribe in Ethiopia. This one was shot on the banks of the Omo River.

ARAB-AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

Aneesa Shami Zizzo — 'Fiber art really speaks to me on a subconscious level'

Rawaa Talass Dubai

The second in this year's series focusing on contemporary Arab-American artists in honor of Arab-American Heritage Month.

Aneesa Shami Zizzo is a Los Angeles-based artist and researcher who has devoted herself to the tactile medium of textiles and fabrics. She grew up watching her grandmothers quilt and crochet. "I feel like it's there in the DNA. I love hand-sewing and the feel of the fabric," she tells Arab News.

Born in Kansas to a Lebanese father and an American mother, Zizzo says her creativity was "fostered at a very early age."

"I knew I really wanted to be an artist; I remember falling in love with this ability to create something from nothing," she says.

As an adolescent, she was drawing, painting and making collages (the latter became "a main outlet for a lot of teenage angst and anxieties"). It was at the Kansas City Art Institute that she first began to focus on fiber art. "It really speaks to me on a subconscious level," she says of the medium.



Her textile works are put together using scraps. "I use a lot of industry waste," she explains. "It's incredible the amount of textile waste there is in this world. It's frightening, quite frankly."

From her youth, Zizzo remembers her Arab grandmother's cooking and grandfather's furniture-making skills — he once designed a desk for her. But she says she has only recently started to incorporate her Arab ancestry into her work, which has always been

(Right) Aneesa Shami Zizzo. (Left) Zizzo's 'Baba's Goldmine,' inspired by her 2017 trip to Baalbek, Lebanon. Marinna Jamadi; supplied

influenced by personal memories and close family members.

"Growing up in Kansas, post 9/11, it was hard being Arab-American and embracing my heritage," she says. "Now, I'm trying to embrace it and bring it into my daily life, especially since I have a two-year-old son, Yuri, and I want to share that with him."

In 2017, Zizzo visited Lebanon. "It was so amazing to be there in person and see where my dad

grew up," she recalls. "We saw the country and toured in a little bus with all my cousins together. We went to Baalbek. It changed my life. Coming home from all of that, I'm changed." She referenced the ancient Roman columns of Baalbek in her work "Baba's Goldmine."

"It was my first and only trip to Lebanon," Zizzo, who will soon take on a residency at the Arab American National Museum in Michigan, says. "I wanted to commemorate it."

