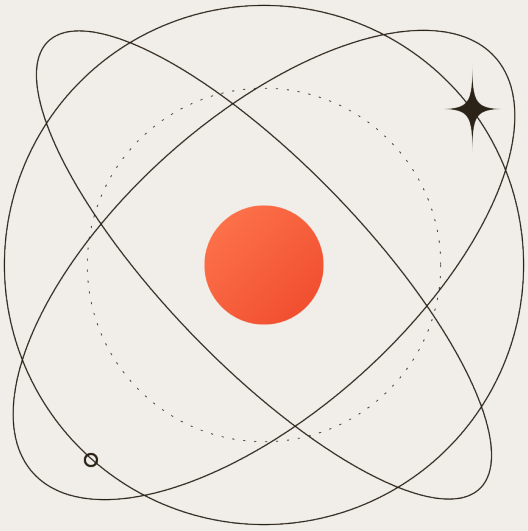
MADAR OBSERVATORY

About the moderator

PROFESSIONAL PROFILE

Dr. Maryam Faraj D. *AlSuwaidi*

Urban planning and design
Visual art, interiors and furniture



PORTFOLIO & CURRICULUM VITAE

Website edition | November 2026

A record of practice, research, exhibitions and public engagement.

Across urban space, art and design.

Dr. Maryam Faraj D. AlSuwaidi is a Qatari researcher in urban planning and design, designer and multidisciplinary artist. Her work moves between urban research, visual art, interior design and furniture design.

Her research examines the relationship between urban space, culture and identity, with a focus on public art, urban regeneration and transit-oriented development. Her artistic practice draws on social and cultural behaviour and the ways audiences perceive and interpret art.

She works across drawing, painting, digital illustration and glassmaking. She holds a Bachelor of Fine Arts in Interior Design from VCUarts Qatar, and a master's degree and PhD in Urban Planning and Design from Qatar University.

Maryam is the moderator behind MADAR Observatory. Inspired by her doctoral dissertation, MADAR brings close observation, open questions and shared discussion into a space where research can develop through different perspectives.

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Education & practice.

EDUCATION

PhD in Urban Planning and Design

Qatar University

Master's degree in Urban Planning and Design

Qatar University

Bachelor of Fine Arts in Interior Design

VCUarts Qatar

PROFESSIONAL PRACTICE

Researcher, designer and multidisciplinary artist

Urban planning and design research; public art and installation; visual identity; interior and furniture design.

Moderator, MADAR Observatory

A platform for observation, inquiry and exchange, developed from her doctoral research.

Interior Designer, Qatar National Bank

Role reported in the VCUarts Qatar interview of February 2023. Employment dates and present appointment status are not specified in the source.

RESIDENCIES

2021

AIR Alumni Residency

Fire Station, Qatar Museums, Doha

2016-2017

Artist in Residence, AIR 2

Fire Station, Qatar Museums, Doha

Qualifications follow the current moderator page. Degree completion years and a full employment chronology are not provided there.

Exhibitions & engagement.

EXHIBITIONS & PRESENTATIONS

2024

Design Doha Biennial

Participant, as recorded in VCUarts Qatar exhibition coverage.

2023

Zwara: Focus on Forever Valentino

M7, Doha. Participant as a product designer.

2023

Mishkal - Kaleidoskop

Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung art and environmental-awareness project.

2022

Majaz: Contemporary Art Qatar

Mathaf: Arab Museum of Modern Art, Doha.

2022

Milan Design Week

Shurouq Collection with FROMM.; Milan lab and showroom.

2020

Outbreak

Ajyal Film Festival exhibition; Oblivious Habits.

2020

2030, Part 1

al markhiya gallery, Doha.

2017

Unfolding Creative Methods

Garage Gallery, Fire Station, Doha.

2017

VCUarts Qatar's 20th anniversary

Exhibition coverage includes Genetics-DNA.

PUBLIC PROGRAMMES

2024

Scavenger Hunt #3

Presenter, Fire Station. 31 January 2024.

2022

Scavenger Hunt, second edition

Presenter, Fire Station. Event announced for 14 April 2022.

2022

UK Festival

Work with photography participants, recorded in the British Council Qatar festival report.

2021

Youth summer programme

Teaching artist listed in Fire Station's public programmes.

RECOGNITION

Doha Design District Public Art Open Call

Whispering Leaves, with Guillaume Rouseré, selected among the four winning projects in 2026.

Featured conversations

Doha Debates: design feature and Debate by Design interview (2024). VCUarts Qatar and SCALE: furniture-design interviews (2023).

Doha Debates

Geometric brand pattern | Commissioned in 2023; featured in 2024

PROJECT

Principles

A visual identity drawing on Islamic geometric art to represent Qatari identity and connect with an international audience.

APPROACH

Geometry as a shared language

The pattern brings circles and polygons into an interconnected composition. Its conceptual foundation connects Islamic geometry with the majlis: a place for exchange, listening and the search for common ground. The design allows a recognisable cultural language to remain open to different readings.

PRACTICE

From research to visual form

Maryam's process begins with questions of identity and social behaviour. Here, those questions become a brand pattern that can hold continuity and variation within the same visual system.

Doha Debates | Design feature and images

Doha Debates | Debate by Design interview

Official video interview

Project imagery is available through the linked feature and interview.

Shurouq Collection

FROMM. | Milan Design Week 2022

Haima & Baida

The Haima armchair and pouf, and Baida sofa translate the forms and movement of Qatar's desert landscape into furniture.

Developed with FROMM., the designs bring Qatari cultural references into contemporary everyday objects. Maryam drew on the changing contours and curves of sand dunes. The collection was presented at Milan Design Week in 2022 and subsequently at FROMM.'s launch in M7, Doha.

DESIGN RECORDS

Haima’ armchair

Haima’ small armchair

Haima’ pouf

Baida’ three-seater sofa

Baida’ two-seater sofa, leatherette

Cultural continuity

The project carries local landscape and memory into the scale of the interior, linking her background in interior design with a wider interest in culture and identity.

VCUarts Qatar | Collection interview and photographs by Raviv Cohen

FROMM. | Shurouq Collection catalogue

Sails,
Moving Forward

With Guillaume Rouseré | Posts of Qatar | 2022

A shared encounter through sound and reflective form.

Created for Posts of Qatar at The Pearl-Qatar, the installation brings metallic sail forms into conversation with whispered poetry in Arabic and French. The reflective sails carry and amplify sound, drawing visitors into an experience shaped by movement, proximity and listening.

COLLABORATION

Visual and auditory experience

The work combines Maryam's visual practice with Guillaume Rouseré's sound practice. Its dhow-inspired forms refer to the local maritime landscape, while the two languages create a meeting point between cultural backgrounds.

SETTING

The Pearl-Qatar, Doha

PROGRAMME

Posts of Qatar

FORM

Public-art installation combining reflective metallic sails and sound

CREDIT

Maryam Faraj AlSuwaidi and Guillaume Rouseré

The Peninsula | Interview, installation photographs and project details

Whispering Leaves

With Guillaume Rouseré | Doha Design District Public Art Open Call | 2026

A listening sculpture that invites people to pause.

Whispering Leaves takes the soft form of a leaf or petal as a starting point for an interactive listening sculpture. The proposal invites visitors to slow down, listen and reconnect with their surroundings, giving attention and shared discovery a place in the public realm.

SELECTION

One of four winning projects

Doha Design District announced the project among the four winners of its 2026 Public Art Open Call. The official announcement credits Guillaume Rousere and Maryam Faraj Al-Suwaidi and places the selected works within the future development of installations across Msheireb Downtown Doha.

PROJECT STATUS

Selected proposal

The August 2026 announcement describes the winning teams moving into development. This profile records that selection and does not present the work as a completed installation.

Doha Design District | Official announcement, 11 August 2026

Further art & design activity.

INSTALLATION / 2020

Oblivious Habits

Presented in Outbreak, part of the eighth Ajyal Film Festival, at Sikkat Wadi Msheireb. Contemporary coverage describes an installation concerned with destruction, decay, rejection and acceptance during the pandemic.

Read the exhibition coverage

ARTWORK / 2017

Genetics-DNA

Recorded in coverage of VCUarts Qatar's twentieth-anniversary exhibition. The moderator directory identifies the artwork but does not provide its medium, dimensions or a complete project statement.

Read the anniversary coverage

DESIGN PROGRAMME / 2023

Zwara: Focus on Forever Valentino

Participant as a product designer in the third edition of M7's Zwara programme. The exhibition brought design disciplines into conversation with fashion, heritage and the Forever Valentino exhibition.

Qatar Museums | Official programme announcement

ART & CULTURAL EXCHANGE / 2023

Mishkal - Kaleidoskop

Participating artist in Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung's project connecting artists and cultural practitioners from the Gulf and Germany around environmental awareness, identity and cultural dialogue.

Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung | Project and artist profile

Research & writing.

Public art, cultural space, urban identity, regeneration and transit-oriented development.

The seven co-authored publications indexed on the moderator page. Online publication and journal issue dates are distinguished where they differ.

2026

Creative movements and urban regeneration in Qatar: the case of Msheireb in Doha

Maryam AlSuwaidi, Djamel Boussaa and Muhammed Madandola

Cogent Arts & Humanities, 13(1), 2602410

2026 journal issue; first published online in December 2025.

2026

Globalization, Glocalization, and Heritagization: The Evolving Urban Identity of Kuwait City

Maryam Al Suwaidi, Djamel Boussaa and Saad Hanif

Journal of Urban Planning and Development, 153(1)

Published online in November 2026; March 2027 journal issue.

2024

The Paradox of Kowloon Walled City: Architectural Anomaly and Social Microcosm

Maryam AlSuwaidi, Djamel Boussaa, Raffaello Furlan and Reem Awwaad

Sustainability, 16(15), 6515

2018

Doha Metro System in the State of Qatar: The Metamorphosis of Al Sadd District

Maryam AlSuwaidi and Raffaello Furlan

Saudi Journal of Civil Engineering, 2(2), 89-109

Publications, continued.

Public art, cultural space, urban identity, regeneration and transit-oriented development.

2018

Light Rail Transit and Land Use in Qatar

Qatar Foundation Annual Research Conference Proceedings

Integrated planning research on West Bay, Al Sadd and Al Wakra transit-oriented developments.

2017

Katara Cultural Village in Qatar: Public Art and Urban Space

International Journal of Arts and Humanities, 1(7)

2017

The Role of Public Art and Culture in New Urban Environments: The Case of Katara Cultural Village in Qatar

Architecture Research, 7(4), 109-122

Research into conversation

MADAR Observatory extends the spirit of Maryam's doctoral research through observation, questions and exchange. The notebook gathers observations; live discussions invite different perspectives; and questions and ideas shared through Connect help shape further inquiry.

ORCID: 0000-0002-4225-504X
MADAR Observatory

About this edition. Prepared from MADAR's moderator page and its linked references, reviewed 23 November 2026. The website provides a public professional record; unstated degree and employment dates remain unspecified. The portfolio is presented as project records with links to visual documentation. Project photographs and production files were not available in the website assets.

Profiles, press & references.

Complete 61-entry directory from the moderator page. Titles link to the original records.

01 Fire Station, Qatar Museums | Undated | English

Artist in Residence profile

Artist profile, residency history and exhibitions.

02 VCUarts Qatar | 2023 | English

A design collaboration at Milan Design Week

Interview about the Shurouq Collection, education and design practice.

03 SCALE Magazine | 2023 | English

Taking cues from Arabic culture for design

Interview about cultural identity and furniture design.

04 FROMM. | Undated | English

Designers: Maryam

Designer profile and conceptual approach.

05 Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung | 2023 | English

Mishkal - Kaleidoskop: artist profile

Participant profile in the art and environmental-awareness project.

06 Al Arab | 2022 | Arabic

Maryam AlSuwaidi: an artist inspired by social phenomena

Interview about artistic practice, social questions and Sails, Moving Forward.

07 Doha Debates | 2024 | English

How one artist used four shapes to inspire infinite conversations

Feature on the geometric brand pattern and its conceptual foundations.

08 Doha Debates | 2024 | English

Debate by Design

Video interview about identity, influence and design.

09 Doha Debates on YouTube | 2024 | English

Debate by Design - video

The interview on Doha Debates' official video channel.

10 FROMM. / Marhaba | 2023 | English

Milan Design Week interview - republished

A republished interview on the design collaboration and collection.

11 FROMM. / SCALE | 2023 | English

Arabic culture and design - republished

Republished coverage of the Shurouq Collection interview.

Profiles, press & references.

Complete 61-entry directory from the moderator page. Titles link to the original records.

12 Al Raya, via Nabd | 2026 | Arabic
University graduates: urban planning in service of quality of life
Graduation coverage including Maryam's reflections on urban planning.

13 Architectural Digest Middle East | 2026 | English
The Creative Condition: carrying culture forward
Includes a discussion of the Haima armchair in FROMM.'s design practice.

14 Doha News | 2022 | English
Qatari designers at Milan Design Week
Coverage of the Shurouq Collection and its designers.

15 The Peninsula | 2022 | English
France's goalpost at The Pearl: Arabic and French poetry
Interview and coverage of Sails, Moving Forward with Guillaume Rouseré.

16 The Peninsula | 2022 | English
Ten goalpost installations around Qatar
Includes Sails, Moving Forward in the Posts of Qatar programme.

17 The Peninsula | 2020 | English
Artists give hope at the Outbreak exhibition
Coverage of Maryam's installation Oblivious Habits.

18 Gulf Times | 2020 | English
Outbreak opens at Ajyal
Exhibition coverage including Oblivious Habits.

19 Qatar Tribune | 2020 | English
Doha artists portray a new reality at Outbreak
Coverage of the exhibition and Maryam's work.

20 The Peninsula | 2017 | English
VCUarts marks two decades of excellence
Includes the artwork Genetics-DNA in the anniversary exhibition.

21 The Peninsula | 2024 | English
VCUarts Qatar at the Design Doha Biennial
Names Maryam among the participating VCUarts Qatar exhibitors.

Profiles, press & references.

Complete 61-entry directory from the moderator page. Titles link to the original records.

22 The Peninsula | 2023 | English
Zwara: Focus on Forever Valentino - opening
Coverage of the M7 programme and participating designers.

23 Gulf Times | 2023 | English
Zwara: Focus on Forever Valentino at M7
Exhibition coverage with a participant credit.

24 Qatar Tribune | 2023 | English
Zwara exhibition opening at M7
Coverage of the participating design disciplines and designers.

25 Marhaba | 2023 | English
Zwara: Forever Valentino exhibition
Coverage of the exhibition and its designers.

26 OpenSpace | 2023 | English
Zwara: Focus on Forever Valentino
Coverage with a designer and Haima armchair credit.

27 Rüya Akyol Studio / WWD | 2023 | English
Qatari design coverage from WWD
Republished coverage naming the Shurouq Collection's designers.

28 Doha Design District | 2026 | English
Four winning public-art projects
Official announcement including Whispering Leaves with Guillaume Rouseré.

29 Qatar News Agency | 2026 | English
Doha Design District's Public Art Open Call winners
Winner announcement with a project and collaborator credit.

30 Qatar Tribune | 2026 | English
Public Art Open Call: four winning projects
Coverage of Whispering Leaves among the selected proposals.

31 Qatar Day | 2026 | English
Doha Design District names its public-art winners
Coverage of the winning teams and projects.

Profiles, press & references.

Complete 61-entry directory from the moderator page. Titles link to the original records.

32 Bisht Magazine | 2026 | English
The four winning public-art projects
Coverage including Whispering Leaves.

33 Qatar PR Network | 2026 | English
Doha Design District: Public Art Open Call announcement
Press-release coverage of the four winning teams.

34 MENAFN / Gulf Times | 2026 | English
Public-art winners - republished coverage
Republished coverage of the winning public-art projects.

35 MENAFN | 2023 | English
Zwara opening - republished coverage
Republished exhibition coverage including Maryam's participant credit.

36 The Peninsula | 2022 | English
Scavenger Hunt at Fire Station
Coverage of the second Scavenger Hunt, presented by Maryam.

37 Qatar Museums | 2022 | English
Inside Majaz: Contemporary Art Qatar
Video feature presenting three artists' journeys, including Maryam's.

38 Qatar Museums | 2022 | Arabic
Inside Majaz: Contemporary Art Qatar (Arabic edition)
Arabic edition of the Majaz artist feature.

39 Mathaf | 2022 | English
Majaz: about the artists
Exhibition artist listing.

40 Mathaf | 2022 | Arabic
Majaz: about the artists (Arabic edition)
Arabic exhibition artist listing.

41 Qatar Museums / M7 | 2023 | English
Zwara: Focus on Forever Valentino - programme announcement
Official programme announcement and participant list.

Profiles, press & references.

Complete 61-entry directory from the moderator page. Titles link to the original records.

42 Fire Station | 2024 | English
Scavenger Hunt #3
Official event page crediting Maryam as the presenter.

43 Fire Station | 2021 | Arabic
Public programmes: youth summer programme
Lists Maryam among the artists teaching in the youth summer programme.

44 Qatar Museums | 2022 | Arabic
FROMM. design platform opens at M7
Official launch coverage of the Shurouq Collection and its designers.

45 Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung | 2023 | English
Art for the Climate
Mishkal project coverage and participating artists.

46 Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung | 2023 | German
Kunst fürs Klima
German-language coverage of the Mishkal project and artists.

47 British Council Qatar | 2022 | English
UK Festival 2022: highlights
Festival report mentioning Maryam's work with the photography participants. PDF.

48 Sustainability / MDPI | 2024 | English
The Paradox of Kowloon Walled City
Co-authored research: Architectural Anomaly and Social Microcosm.

49 Cogent Arts & Humanities | 2026 | English
Creative movements and urban regeneration in Qatar
Co-authored study of Msheireb in Doha; first published online in 2025.

50 Journal of Urban Planning and Development / ASCE | 2026 | English
Globalization, glocalization and heritagization
Co-authored study of Kuwait City's urban identity; online publication.

51 Saudi Journal of Civil Engineering | 2018 | English
Doha Metro: the metamorphosis of Al Sadd
Co-authored research on transit and urban transformation.

Profiles, press & references.

Complete 61-entry directory from the moderator page. Titles link to the original records.

52 Qatar University repository / IJAH | 2017 | English
Katara Cultural Village: public art and urban space
Co-authored research publication. PDF.

53 Architecture Research | 2017 | English
Public art and culture in new urban environments
Co-authored Katara Cultural Village study.

54 Qatar Foundation Annual Research Conference | 2018 | English
Light rail transit and land use in Qatar
Conference research on West Bay, Al Sadd and Al Wakra TODs; bibliographic record.

55 FROMM. | Undated | English
Haima' armchair
Product page and designer credit.

56 FROMM. | Undated | English
Haima' small armchair
Product page and designer credit.

57 FROMM. | Undated | English
Haima' pouf
Product page and designer credit.

58 FROMM. | Undated | English
Baida' three-seater sofa
Product page and designer credit.

59 FROMM. | Undated | English
Baida' two-seater sofa, leatherette
Product page and designer credit.

60 FROMM. | 2022 | English
Shurouq Collection catalogue
Collection catalogue with a designer profile. PDF.

61 SLALOM | 2024 | English & Arabic
ICONE book: designer voice
Includes designer commentary credited to Maryam. PDF.

All 61 moderator-directory entries are included. Translations and republications are retained as separate records. Arabic titles are described in English, with original-language sources retained in the links.