

Look: Louvre Abu Dhabi's 'Stories of Paper'

About 100 artworks and objects from 16 museums and private collections on display

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A visitor looks at "Dictionary", a work by late Emirati artist Hassan Sharif. Image Credit: AFP

Visitors walk through the "Labirinto e Grande Posso", a work by Michelangelo Pistoletto, displayed as part of the "Stories of Paper" exhibition at the Louvre Museum Abu Dhabi. From the first century to the present and from ancient Asia to Europe and contemporary Arabia, Stories of Paper examines the rich artistic legacy of this fragile material that not only became indispensable for record keeping and trade but has proved essential to cultural interaction and intellectual exchange for two millennia.

Created in partnership with the Musée du Louvre and in collaboration with France-Muséums as well as several leading international institutions and private collections, Stories of Paper explores the special material's qualities: uniquely suited to recording, remembering and re-production, paper manages to be simultaneously fragile and malleable, light-sensitive and resilient.

About 100 artworks and objects from 16 museums, cultural institutions and private collections will be on display. These include books, manuscripts, drawings, a reproduction of a house and 13 contemporary artworks and installations made of paper.

Stories of Paper also includes the Labyrinth, a colossal maze made from sinuous ribbons of corrugated cardboard by the Italian conceptual artist Michelangelo Pistoletto, traditional paper clothing and a reconstruction of a room from a Korean paper house, masterworks by Antonio Pisanello and Pablo Picasso, alongside paper-based artworks by Hassan Sharif, Abdullah Al Saadi and Mohammed Kazem, pioneers of Emirati conceptual art.

The exhibition will take visitors on a journey through time to discover the various ways in which paper was utilized across cultures. Visitors will also be able to enjoy a diverse public program of wide-ranging cultural activities.