

***Move, Pause, Return* | Marking 20 years**

March 23 – April 11, 2026

Move, Pause, Return, on the occasion of our twentieth anniversary, Gallery Isabelle would like to invite you to mark this moment with an accumulative 20-day exhibition which unfolds with a series of encounters, reflections, and works we love. Each artwork is unveiled one day after the other commencing on Monday 23rd of March and leading up to a gathering of artists, artworks, and community, on Saturday 11th of April. Each artist's work is accompanied by a short note contributed by emerging curators, independent writers, and practitioners from across the region. The exhibition manifests day by day at the gallery and online throughout social media platforms over the twenty days.

Time rarely moves in the orderly ways we assign to it. Twenty years can feel both expansive and fleeting; twenty days can open a space for reflection that far exceeds the moment it marks. Works of art travel through these durations in complex ways. A gesture made in one context may return years later carrying entirely different resonances, its meaning shaped not only by the artist's intention but by the conditions through which it moves.

Art does not remain fixed in the moment of its making. It gathers significance through encounters, conversations, and the shifting circumstances in which it is seen again. What once appeared quiet may suddenly feel urgent; what once seemed immediate may reveal its depth only through return. In this sense, artworks function less as static objects than as propositions that continue to unfold as they move through different communities, histories, and ways of seeing.

The artists brought together here reflect this movement across time. Their works emerge from distinct practices and geographies, yet share a capacity to hold moments of experimentation, humour, resistance, and care. Seen together, they form not a survey but a constellation: one that reveals how ideas travel, reappear, and acquire new meanings as they pass through different contexts and generations.

In dialogue with these works, a group of emerging curators and writers has been invited to contribute reflections that unfold alongside the exhibition. These responses do not seek to explain the works, but to enter into conversation with them—bringing present-moment perspectives into encounter with earlier gestures. In this way, the exhibition becomes a field of echoes across time, where different voices return to the works and allow their meanings to deepen rather than settle.

Within this rhythm of movement, pause, and return, meaning emerges through accumulation. In this moment, Gallery Isabelle becomes a crucible where these encounters are held. A place where artistic ideas continue to circulate, gather force, and return through the communities that sustain them.

One Artist / One Note per Day
20-day exhibition

Artists:

HASSAN SHARIF
BAHMAN JALALI
MOHAMMED KAZEM
MOHAMED AHMED IBRAHIM
BITA FAYYAZI
LARA BALADI
FEREYDOUN AVE
HALEH REDJAIAN
SHAIKHA AL MAZROU
NARGESS HASHEMI
MANAL AL DOWAYAN
HODA TAWAKOL
VIKRAM DIVECHA
RAED YASSIN
LUBNA CHOWDHARY
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AHMAD MAKIA
SALEM ALSUWAIDI
RUBA AL-SWEEL
INDRANJAN BANERJEE
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