

# VOGUE MAN

ARABIA

FALL/WINTER 2023

KSA'S NEW  
**BOXING  
CHAMPION**

ARABIA'S  
GREATEST  
**CHEFS**

THE MUSIC  
REIGN OF  
**BEDOUIN**



LIGHTS,  
CAMERA,  
DHAFER

**ART**

# The Portuguese contemporary artist Miguel Rodrigues brings his hyperbaroque signature to Dubai

**MONUMENTAL**



At the invitation of his Dubai-based gallery AWC, Portuguese contemporary artist Miguel Rodrigues was asked to create a site-specific piece for the DIFC Sculpture Park. “They asked me for an inspiration....to think about the Dubai of the Future and to think about technology. I came up with the idea to have clouds and that you would come out of the clouds to the Dubai of the future.” The result is a floor-to-ceiling sculpture six meters long hanging in the interior stairwell.

The work expresses the artist’s vision of strength, beauty, and luxury, created through his undulating and curvilinear floating forms. Rodrigues often states that his work is inspired by all things baroque, and he has dubbed

this aesthetic “The Hyperbaroque.” Rodrigues, who lives and works in Lisbon, shares that the entire process took six months including all the approvals and modifications. “The gallery asked me to submit a project and I made a small model,” he explains. “The sculpture is made of plexiglass, and I wanted to do this baroque idea in a contemporary material and for its size. It is super light.” The actual production took place over two months in Lisbon and then one week to install in Dubai. The artist notes, “Although this work was commissioned for the exhibition, perhaps it will become part of the permanent collection.” In addition is a solo exhibition earlier this year at the Art Center in Manama with The Bahrain Gallery and the Ministry of Culture, under the patronage of HE Sheikh Rashid bin Khalifa Al Khalifa. Rodrigues will finish off the year with a solo exhibition at his gallery in Dubai with new work, but not exclusively.

The artist’s connection to the Middle East stems from his early interest in Turkey. “I had a Turkish collector who took me there and I now go several times a year to work on projects. My gallery in Dubai is Turkish. It all comes from my interest in culture and wanting to explore the Middle East.” There will also be a solo exhibition coming up next year in his home country at the historic Fronteira Palace, a baroque jewel built in 1671. Rodrigues states, “The show will be the history of my work.”