

The Place of Perpetual Undulation

By Reem Falaknaz

Opening night **January 7, 2016, 7 PM**

Exhibition runs through **January 31, 2016**

Alserkal Avenue, Unit 36, Street 8, Al Quoz, Dubai



About the exhibition

Reem Falaknaz's exploration of small Emirati villages began several years ago when, struck by the drastic developmental changes these villages and their surrounding landscapes faced, she decided to capture the shift through the lens of her camera. This developed into a proposal to document the life of the UAE's mountain regions, winning her a fellowship with the NYU Abu Dhabi FIND program. This fellowship in turn laid the basis for the project that became "The Place of Perpetual Undulation".

Concentrated on the emirate of Ras Al Khaimah, the exhibition showcases the life of the local people and the life of the surrounding mountains – a constant source of stone and raw construction material for an emirate with a rapidly developing and ravenously demanding infrastructure. As the artist explains, "Ras Al Khaimah, where the series is set, is a mountainous area that is being flattened to pave way for new resorts and hotels, or by quarry sites for providing the building materials for places like these resorts."

Falkanaz's thoughtful examination of the emirate's shifting landscape and the relationship between its inhabitants and natural habitat won her the 2014 grant from the Arab Fund for

Art and Culture. This has permitted her to continue the exploration of smaller communities within the UAE, as well as to create a quiet portrait of their daily lives as they intersect with the mountains and their ancestral grounds.

The exhibition brings together about 20 select images from Falkanaz's ongoing documentation of Ras Al Khaimah, laying out a subtle yet distinct struggle between the fragility of the mountains, the persistence of human interference, and the relentless drive for development.

About Reem Falaknaz

Reem Falaknaz (b. 1985) graduated from the Visual Communications department of American University of Sharjah. In 2013 she participated in the Delfina Foundation residency where she worked on a project called "This Momentary", a series of photographs and stories exploring the notion of history in the context of Dubai's rapidly changing urban landscape. During this project, she collected and documented narratives from inhabitants in the city's oldest neighborhoods, creating a subtle connection between people, objects, and place.

In 2013 she won a fellowship with the NYU Abu Dhabi "Forming Intersections and Dialogues" (FIND) research program with her proposal to document mountain life in the UAE. This resulted in "The Place of Perpetual Undulation" project. In 2014 she received a grant launched by the Arab Fund for Art and Culture (AFAC) and the Prince Claus Fund (Amsterdam, Netherlands) in partnership with the Magnum Foundation (New York, USA).

She currently works as a staff photographer for The National newspaper.

About Gulf Photo Plus

Gulf Photo Plus (GPP) is Dubai's Photography Centre, dedicated to developing the knowledge and appreciation of photography through education, exhibitions, and a variety of events held throughout the year. Over the course of ten years, GPP has garnered an international reputation as a leader in photography events. It exists at the epicenter of the photography community in the MENA region, and continues to develop its international presence through its GPP PopUp events held around the world from Seattle to Singapore. GPP's annual calendar includes photography exhibitions, movie nights, free artist talks, regular photography workshops, and Slidefest evenings where local creatives can share personal projects and find new inspiration.

For further information about the exhibition, please, contact:

Anna Arutyunova

anna@gulfphotoplus.com

T: +971 4 380 8545

M: +971 56 182913

