

**MARAYA ART CENTRE PRESENTS SECOND EDITION OF *JEDARIYA* – THE LIVE
OUTDOOR STREET ART INITIATIVE – WITH MYNEANDYOURS**

**ONSITE PAINTING OF MARWAN SHAKARCHI’S FIRST MURAL IN SHARJAH COMPLETED ON
MARCH 24TH**

**THROUGH HIS RECOGNISED WORK, THE INSPIRATION BEHIND IT IS TO LOOK BEYOND THE SKY
AND RISE FURTHER THAN YOU EVER THOUGHT WAS POSSIBLE**

MARCH 29, 2016 – SHARJAH, UAE | Following a successful first edition of *Jedariya* in February 2015, Maraya Art Centre, continues to enrich Sharjah’s cultural landscape, literally, with a life-size mural by MYNEANDYOURS. *Jedariya*, the live outdoor street art initiative presents a street artist to bring to life and beautify areas of the city with their signature style, bold colours and inspiration they find from Sharjah.

Born and raised in London, Iraqi Marwan Shakarchi, the artist behind MYNEANDYOURS, moved to Dubai two years ago to pursue a career in the arts and introduce the region to his recognizable image of a cloud with ‘x’s for eyes. The symbol that he has been using to represent his practice and has since become synonymous with the artist himself and various elements such as stickers, wheat paste’s and apparel.

Interested in symbol repetition, Shakarchi likes to leave his mark on new surfaces, leaving people who come across it something to think about. Now with a much, much larger canvas, he hopes that his symbol will “open up a dialogue with the public, to inspire them to dream big, and to brighten up their day with strong colours, and a positive message.”

The final work consists of the colourful clouds rising from the ground to the sky against a grey backdrop, with lines which follow them representing motion, which in turn signify people’s motion to develop and move forward. This, he says, also reflects in all great initiatives, industries and cities, in particular art in Sharjah and the UAE.

Maraya Art Centre Director Giuseppe Moscatello says of this second edition: “The art of graffiti has reached a level of international and critical acclaim, through the works of such artists as eL Seed and Banksy, for example, the result is an indication of talent and levels of creativity on unique surfaces. This “street art” presents an additional understanding of the depths that art holds and what better place to continue enhancing cultural initiatives than in Sharjah, for the audience that wants more, the community that loves it, and creating opportunities for the younger generation within the arts.”

Using a wide colour palette Shakarchi has been working twelve hour days for ten days to eventually cover 24m x 28m of the full façade of the iconic Sharjah building on Al Khan. From a secured platform, he has utilised spray-paints, and huge-scale stencils to help bring his work to life.

“The skies above us are full of colour, the symbol of the cloud aims to inspire us to look up, and dream in colour. I hope my work will open up a dialogue with the public, to inspire them to dream big, and to brighten up their day”, says Shakarchi.

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About Maraya Art Centre

Established in 2006 Maraya Art Centre is a three storey non-profit creative space located in Sharjah, UAE. Since its inception Maraya has offered the public an innovative curated exhibitions programme with leading Middle Eastern and international artists, multi-media facilities, video archive, art library and regular public programme of workshops and events designed by its in house team and guest curators. Maraya also has several public art park sites within its local vicinity that feature interactive projects and sculptures.