

# Canvas

ART AND CULTURE FROM THE MIDDLE EAST AND ARAB WORLD



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Sarkis's interplay of light and dark, depictions of whimsical scenarios in Fayçal Baghriche's oeuvre, recollecting history through Maha Malluh's body of work

PLUS the artist's influence on the Arab world



# EMPIRE STATE OF MIND

Through the culinary, the contemporary, the humanity and more – Iranian-born artist **Pouran Jinchi** writes about life in the Big Apple.



Photography by Robin Holland. Image courtesy of the artist and The Third Line, Dubai.

**N**ew York is a city of a thousand stories – mine is only one. It is a city that belongs to everyone, planned in such a way that you can learn how to get around after a week. At the same time, it remains an unknowable place, a composite of overlapping moments and divergent stories. And that is what makes it so incredible to live here. Simply by stepping out of my front door every day, I experience a jumbled mix of humanity from all conceivable backgrounds speaking all possible languages. Beyond diversity, there is a real mix and crossover. This is the most multiracial city that I have ever seen.

The delicious culinary landscape is, without a doubt, one of my favourite things about New York. There are lots of quirky hidden gems and nothing beats sitting at a great little café with friends. Top of my list are South, Lupa, Il Buco and my latest favourite, The Lobster Joint in Greenpoint, Brooklyn.

You'll also find a hodgepodge of architecture, with gardens interwoven throughout

the city's streets. Look up and you see historic buildings, classic skyscrapers and contemporary innovations. One of my favourite sites is the High Line, a beautiful new park growing atop abandoned elevated subway tracks. Of course, the city is a natural home for artists. I love to lose myself in The Met, to find inspiration at the Guggenheim and the MoMA, to see long-admired artists and new talent at the New Museum, the Whitney and The Drawing Center. And no matter what I am looking for, I can find a store that specialises in it: from the niche button shops in the fashion district to the plastics suppliers I rely on to provide the perfect material for my latest work.

The city is best explored by foot and by subway as it is both easy to navigate and a great way to experience everything up close and personal. It is a city of stumbling upon something, of cutting-edge culture, cuisine, music and art and the innovation that results from boundless diversity. 