

Farmers' Market customers' first choice: official



In pictures, Bahrain Farmers' Market at Budaiya Botanical Gardens



TDT | Manama

Bahraini Farmers' market, now in its 11th week at Budaiya Botanical Gardens, has succeeded in fulfilling its goal of making Bahraini agricultural products the customers' first choice, said a top official.

Dr Khaled Ahmed Hassan, the Acting Undersecretary of Agriculture and Marine Resources, said the market had gained a high reputation since its opening as it allows customers to buy fresh, locally grown produce di-

rectly from farmers, reducing the distance that food travels from farm to table.

On offer at the market are a range of seasonal fruits and vegetables, as well as other locally sourced products such as honey, spices, and handmade crafts.

Officials also confirm that the market has, so far, attracted over 10,000 children through various activities.

Visitors to Bahraini Farmers' markets can experience the diversity and richness of the local food culture while supporting



sustainable and ethical food practices.

This year, the market has the participation of 32 farmers, four agricultural companies, five nurseries, four apiaries, four

date producers and 20 productive families.

"The remarkable turnout of visitors from neighbouring GCC countries speaks volumes about the popularity of the market that

has gone beyond the borders of the Kingdom," added Dr Hassan.

The government, Dr Hassan said, is committed to further developing the market by giving space to more Bahraini farmers

and making their products the first and best choice for consumers.

First introduced in 2012, the Farmer's Market was an initiative to develop the agriculture sector in Bahrain to support more sustainable food production and promote the sale of products produced sustainably.

The market, held annually from December to April and is open every Saturday, is organised by the Agriculture and Marine Resources directorate at the Ministry of Works, Municipalities Affairs and Urban Planning.

Culture, creativity take centrestage as art goes live



Ali Al Hawaj with his work



Maha Ghazal with her painting



Najma Earaji with her work

Zahra Ayaz

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Live artworks by international and Bahraini artists were on display for the first time at Swiss Belresidences yesterday as part of a special event to showcase Bahrain's culture to a wider audience.

Titled 'Art of Athens and Bahrain', the exhibition was a collaboration of interactive art by the Unesco Club of Greek, featuring paintings and calligraphy of 34 Greek artists who sent their work as prints.

Artists from Bahrain at the expo told *The Daily Tribune* that the event is giving a much-needed boost to the art scene in Bahrain, which is slowly gaining international recognition.

"We are using our artworks to communicate emotions and to learn from our peers, their works and inspirations."

For simple things that we never notice: Al Hawaj

While talking to *The Daily Tribune*, Bahraini artist Ali Al Hawaj emphasised the im-



Bana AlBsats with her work

portance of presenting "what is beautiful in our nation's environment" and "how simple things that we never notice can be seen in different aspects of the painting."

"The purpose of art is to introduce these small things into people's lives.

Al Hawaj further said it is "crucial for us as artists to pro-

mote art as a culture in Bahrain" as "we are oblivious to many wonderful things around us."

"While I don't have any time restrictions for my paintings," Al Hawaj said, "I do know that every artist strives to complete their work as quickly as possible."

My paintings are my emotions:



Works by Greek artists on display at the venue

Ghazal

Another Bahraini artist, Maha Ghazal, shared that each time she paints, she puts her emotions into it, and it typically takes two to three days to finish the art.

Recalling her younger days, Ghazal said that she developed an early interest in painting from

her school days and used to draw using pencils in school books.

"Now, I have a major in arts."

I am too realistic: AlBsats

Bana AlBsats, who is too realistic, stated that it takes her a long time to complete her paintings, but she never stops painting "even when I tell myself to."

"I always admired the beau-

ty, the landscape of Bahrain, its palm trees and historic buildings. "One of my most renowned art pieces, dating back to 1997, was created during my tenure as an art teacher before I ventured into entrepreneurship. Although I discontinued painting for nearly 15 years, the desire to resume my passion lingered, and I eventually achieved my goal."

My roots are my motivation: Earaji

Najma Earaji's artwork, which symbolises women's hair like an abaya, was motivated by her roots and the traditional theatre and the music she grew up with. "I always had a liking for Bahraini women and traditions.

Earaji, however, said she is not stressing herself with any time-frame. "Depending on how I'm feeling, I can complete artwork in two days, but other times it takes me two months.

When asked about her motivation, she said, "I come from a traditional household, and after watching traditional theatre and music, my roots served as my motivation."