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## UAE landscape inspires artists

Display of works  
of five French and  
three Emirati women  
will continue until  
March 23

ABU DHABI

By BINSAL ABDUL KADER  
Staff Reporter

The UAE offers so many possibilities of artistic expression, with the desert and the cities providing so many landscapes, a top French diplomat said while inaugurating the painting and sculpture exhibition of eight French and Emirati women.

“Contrary to the cursory opinion some might have of the Arab world, the eight artists prove how free and independent they can be in the UAE – free to paint, free to sculpt,” said Alain Azouaou, French Ambassador to the UAE.

“In one word they are free to let their feelings jump into reality. This is an outstanding message about the social welfare here in the UAE,” he said.

Azouaou said the exhibition of female artists’ paintings shows women’s status is good in the country.

He was opening the exhibition titled *Watchwomen and Dreamcatchers* on Friday evening within the framework of International Women’s Day and the *Month of La Francophonie*, a month of celebrations by French-speaking people. This exhibition of the works of contemporary female artists – five French



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**Alain Azouaou** |  
French Ambassador

and three Emiratis – in the UAE will continue at Sofitel Abu Dhabi Corniche until March 23.

Institut Français des Emirats Arabes Unis, the French cultural agency in the UAE, in partnership with Paris-Sorbonne University Abu Dhabi, is organising the exhibition.

The exhibition is a bicultural look at contemporary art in the UAE and an event to pay tribute to women’s talents in the country. It presents works from Emirati artists Dr Najat Mekki and Alia Lootah, and French artists CHRITICH, Bénédicte Gimonnet, Karine Roche and Isabelle Riou-Teisseire.

Denis Douvèneau, Institut Français director, said, “Celebrating women’s talents in the UAE comes in line with Institut Français’ commitment to organise artistic exchanges and public debates and to provide new ways in which to engage the people of the UAE.”