

**RUW CONFERENCE ON WOMEN AND SOCIETY**  
**Royal University for Women,**  
**Kingdom of Bahrain**  
**19-20 April 2016**

<b>DAY II 20<sup>th</sup> April 2016</b> <b>Parallel Sessions III “Women in Art and Design”</b> <b>organised by the College of Art &amp; Design</b>	
<b>09.00 – 10.30 hours</b>	<b>Session II</b>
<b>Theme:</b>	<b>Women in Art, Architecture and Design</b>
<b>Chair</b>	Dr Samia Engineer, Assistant Professor, University of Bahrain
<b>Speaker</b>	<b>Title</b>
Ms. Emilie Burnham, Dar Al Hekma	“Using Cultural Values to Enrich (Design) Learning Outcome”
Dr. Janon A.W. Kadhim, Ms. Sara Ahmed, Ms. Amna Hassan, RUW	“The Role of Bahraini Women in Art and Design in the Kingdom of Bahrain”
Dr. Rashmi Jalota, RUW	“Inspirational Women Painters of Modern India”
<b>10.30-10.45 am</b>	Coffee break
<b>10.45 – 12.15 hours</b>	<b>Session III</b>
<b>Theme:</b>	<b>Women and Visual Communication issues</b>
<b>Chair</b>	Ms. Bayan AlBarak Kanoo, Director, Alriwaq Art Space
<b>Speaker</b>	<b>Title</b>
Ms. Sylvia Shapiro, Dar Al Hekma	“Visually Speaking: The Emerging Voice of Saudi Arabian Women”
Ms. Hind Talal, Dar Al Hekma	“Mixing Theory with Practice: Real-World Opportunities for Female Visual Communication Students in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia”
Ms. Colleen Comerford, Dar Al Hekma	“The Benefits and Challenges of including Experiential Learning for Female Visual Design Communication Students in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia”
<b>12.15 - 12.30</b>	Coffee break
<b>12.30 – 14.30 hours</b>	<b>Session IV</b>
<b>Theme:</b>	<b>Women in Fabric and Apparel Design</b>
<b>Chair</b>	Ms. Sara Suri, Fashion Designer
<b>Speaker</b>	<b>Title</b>
Ms. Barbara J. Anello-Adnani, Dar Al Hekma	“Handwoven: the ancient art of weaving and contemporary women weavers in Morocco’s Middle Atlas”
Ms. Monisha Kumar, Dr. Amita Walia, Dar Al Hekma	“Reciprocal Influence Of Persian And Indian Women Costumes”
Dr. Shweta Kinra Kalra, Dr. Nesreen Elmelegy, RUW	“The Traditions Of Wearing Jalabiya- Women Wear In Kingdom Of Bahrain And Its Contemporization”
<b>14.00 - 14.30 hours</b>	Presentation by Tamkeen representative and closing remarks in AC 01
<b>14.30 – 16.00 hours</b>	Lunch

## **Session II: Women in Art, Architecture and Design:**

**Chaired by: Dr. Samia Engineer**

**Rapporteur: Ms. Amina Al Hariri and Sh. May Alkhalifa**

### **1. Ms. Emilie Burnham: “Using Cultural Values to Enrich (Design) Learning Outcome”**

The first presenter was from Dar Al Hekma University. This presentation was attended by 49 people. She talked about the how smart phones released constrains in the GCC. Further she also expressed the concern that due to do the new generation’s fascination with cell phones and social media, the traditional cultural tradition of families interacting and sitting together to share stories, experiences that used to be passed from one generation to another is slowly being lost due to the high reliance on social media.

In her paper she shared an experiment she did with her visual communication students who tried to incorporate folktales in digital and social media so it would be viewed by a larger audience of the young generation.

### **2. Dr. Janon A.W. Kadhim, Ms. Sara Ahmed, and Ms. Amna Hassan: “The Role of Bahraini Women in Art and Design in the Kingdom of Bahrain”**

The second set of presenters were from the Royal University for Women. 63 people attended this presentation.

Dr. Janon pointed out how the Bahraini women are highly educated, most Bahraini women are well represented in all of the major professions such as in Art, businesses, Law, and more. The Bahraini women have empowered themselves within the Bahraini society and abroad, though little is written about this.

Bahraini women have been pioneers in many fields especially those related to the arts, and they are highly respected in the society. Bahrain has showed a concern in art since 1919 and since then Bahraini women have played a great role in shaping this profession in Bahrain.

She also shed light on a number of pioneers Bahraini women artist such as Balqess Fakhro, Faika Al Hassan, Ghada Al Sayed, and others. She also emphasized on the great support various Bahraini association provide for women to encourage them to peruse their careers and businesses.

### **3. Dr. Rashmi Jalota: “Inspirational Women Painters of Modern India”**

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The third presenter was from Royal University for Women. The session was attended by 66 people. Dr. Rashmi Jalota talked about women artists in India. She selected artists who reflected women on canvases. The paintings show the women social structure in the society during their times.

At the end of the session the chairperson complimented the researchers giving some general comments on her observations and thoughts. She then opened the floor for Q&A.

The following are some of the Q&A that were addressed to some of the presenters:

Q. How did women depict scenes in painting from their surroundings?

A. The drawings that show the women, reflects their society and life style.

Q. Why do men artist painters represent woman in a drawings focusing on their beauty, while women painters reflect the other side of her?

A. Because the man only wants to show romance, women figures and more. Where the women express their feelings in her drawings.

Q. What components help in social media and networking?

A. It allows people to share and exchange information, ideas, pictures and videos. It makes people closer and access to share information. Although social media allows people to network with the social media apps, it also makes people be apart from each other, and barley sit together and share information as they did in the past.

At the end of the session Dr. Samia Engineer presented certificates to the presenters and Dr. Janon Presented an RUW token to Dr. Samia thanking her for accepting RUW's invitation and for her chairing the session and her great input.

### **Session III: Woman and Visual Communication:**

**Chaired by: Ms. Bayan AlBarak Kanoo, founder and creator of Alriwaq Gallery**

**Rapporteur: Dr. Najwa Rashid and Ms. Sara Al Hamar**

1. **Ms. Sylvia Shapiro: "Visually Speaking: The emerging Voice of Saudi Women"**.

The presenter was from Dar Al Hekma University. Shapiro who's an illustrator educator featured a poster project that was given to her students at Dar Al Hekma where she

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emphasized on the challenges that faced her as an expat through the project. Students work was presented to show the fight for power, fighting the stereotype and respecting sensitivity in poster design. Shapiro also mentioned the importance in enrolling the students in international design competitions and collaboration with foundations and other universities which will encourage students to face the challenge and brings out more creativity.

**2. Ms. Hind Talal “Mixing theory with practice: Real world opportunities for female visual communications students in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia”.**

Ms. Talal is a lecturer at Dar Al Hekma University. Her presentation title was focused on the importance of taking the students to the level where they have to work on real life projects as part of their study. She spoke of a new experience that Dar Al Hekma University is practicing in their Branding course. Students were asked to design visual identities for real life projects through dealing with design briefs, meeting deadlines, meeting with client and getting a cash award at the end. The disadvantages they faced were the lack of clear design briefs, and lack of clear timeline. On the other hand there were many advantages the students gain from working on a real life project mainly taking their academic knowledge into the professional practice and adding at least one real life project to their portfolio.

**3. Ms. Collen Comerford “The benefits and challenges of including experimental learning for female visual design communication students in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia”**

Comerford presented her experience with her students in taking digital files into life, through a field trip arranged to Okaz Prints, a famous printing house in Jeddah, where it was regular field trip at the beginning but then they took it to a second level. The students took their own projects to print in the printing house learning different printing techniques such as color correcting, die cuts, folds, color plates, etc. The experience was a bridge from academia to real life that the students gained a lot from.

The parallel session was ended with certificate awards given by the chairperson to the respected speakers.

## **Parallel Session IV- Women in Fabric and Apparel Design:**

**Chairperson: Ms. Sarah Suri, Fashion Designer**

**Rapporteur: Dr. Rashmi Jalota and Ms. Sara Ahmed**

**1. Ms. Barbara J. Anello-Adnani “Hand-Woven the Ancient Art of Weaving and Contemporary Women Weavers in Morocco’s Middle Atlas”**

Ms. Barbara from Dar Al Hekma University mainly discussed how the terms art and culture intersect with each other towards accomplishing a creative economic development; by mainly addressing the challenges young women in Morocco are facing. Her presentation was visually attractive as she showed different examples of how the weaving is done, especially in certain areas in Morocco where Batania (a type of woven blanket) is only done by women and not men. And finally she concluded it by presenting a number of futuristic visions that may be dedicated towards the survival of this heritage.

**2. Ms. Monisha Kumar and Dr Amita Walia, “Reciprocal Influence of Persian on Indian Women Costumes”**

Ms Monisha is from Dar Al Hekma University, and her presentation was a section of the doctorate dissertation she is working on. She first explained the development of traditional Indian costumes throughout the history. After that she explained how the traditional Arabic costumes, specifically in the Middle East affected the Indian costumes and the opposite. She finally explained the upcoming further scope of studies that researchers can study to build up on her study and by demonstrating examples of a number of leading brands.

**3. Dr. Shweta Kinra Kalra and Dr. Nessreen Elmelegy “The Traditions of Wearing Jalabiya: Women Wear In Kingdom of Bahrain and Its Contemporization”**

The speakers were from Royal University for Women. They started by explaining Bahrain culture and traditions before moving to the traditional costumes for women in Bahrain. After that they discussed the history of Jalabiya as well as the types of embroidery in the Kingdom of Bahrain. They both explained how a study on a sample survey of Bahrainis was conducted to understand their preferences in terms of styles, colors, lengths, fittings and so on. They finally proposed a number of designs based on the findings.

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Following the presentations the chairperson gave some final comments and began a Question and Answer session. A question was asked to Dr. Shweta about the tradition of wearing Jalabiyas and making them more contemporary by adding different materials yet sticking to the same theme. Another request was to clarify one of the proposed costumes. Also, a question was again addressed to Dr. Shweta about the start of the Jalabiya. Another question was addressed to Ms. Monisha about the influence between the entities she mentioned, including Persian, Arabic and Indian.

Ms. Sarah Suri finally concluded how culture and heritage effects are becoming influential arts generally in fabric and apparel design.

At the end of the session Ms. Sarah Suri presented the participation certificates to the presenters and Dr. Janon presented Ms. Sara Suri with a token of appreciation followed by a group picture.