

Huda Abdulmughni
Work Statement

“Nowruz Sayadeen”
Qeshm Island, Iran

During the searing summer heat in Qeshm Island in the Persian Gulf, the village of Salakh is overcome by the celebrations of the annual Nowruz Sayadeen (the Fisherman’s New Year). On this day, all fishing – a symbol of the village’s livelihood – comes to a standstill out of respect to nature’s bounty. In the midst of the celebrations an array of characters’ push through the crowd, teasing and frightening anyone in their path. The only make-believe character, the Shushi, toys with the crowd the most. With the palm leaves brandished on each of his hands, and the long woven reed hat on his head, the shushi in his dance is never lost in the crowd. The other characters scattered on the sand include; the shtoor (camel), the asb (horse), a rooba (bird), and the booye saroom (pastor’s son).