The Nomadic Dolls
The Nomadic Dolls

Designer: Hamda Al Ansari
Photographer: Daniel Echeverri

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The History

It all started as a pitch for a class project from back when I was a student at ZU. It was a Curating course, and for the final group assignment each student had to come up with an idea for a fundraiser. The class would then vote on whose idea they thought was best and it would be a class effort to make it work. I had proposed the plush doll idea; a stuffed fabric doll, which we would design, as a blank canvas to distribute among creative people. The idea was chosen, and that was then the start of this stuffed toy’s journey.

I had chosen a plush doll as my idea mainly because I was a big kid and had a thing for handmade dolls that had character. These were not dolls for children. They were carefully thought of, executed and conceptualized. They were like little comrades for the creative adult with a child’s heart. They were so versatile in shape and size, the possibilities were endless. It was a good match for the class project we were about to do, as it was such a simple thing yet could be turned into anything! I was also curious to see what artists would make of these plush dolls, and how they would interpret them.

It was now a group effort to bring the project to life. We designed the shape, had them made, I hand stuffed each doll and sewed them shut. We were to each chose 10 artists to give the dolls to and set them a deadline. We collected bios and statements & waited to see what these dolls would come back as. The result was great and full of such different outcomes, and people were very intrigued by these mini artworks.

I’m really glad to see these dolls being carried forward by CACE’s students, and can’t wait to see how these little dolls evolve!

Arwa Fuad Bukhash
CACE Alumni
The Nomadic Dolls was an initiative by the College of Art & Creative Enterprises (CACE), Zayed University graduates, Arwa Bukhash Hind Bin Demaithan in 2009. The concept was to unite artists for a fundraising project through the Doll as a blank ‘canvas’, of sorts.

CACE’s Student Council, as a means of promoting the college and engaging the wider community, picked the idea up again earlier this year at Zayed University’s Carnival. The Nomadic Doll has become a mascot for CACE activities, as the Council became renowned through the customization, and enabling individual creativity to thrive. The Nomadic Doll allowed non-art students to showcase their creativity.

We at CACE are pleased to explore the possibilities of the Nomadic Doll initiative. ISEA2014 has presented CACE with an ideal opportunity to share the Nomadic Dolls with the wider community, incorporating the Nomadic Doll into a collaborative student exhibition that spans the Middle East region. The exhibition was a part of ISEA2014, Oct 30-Nov 8.

The exhibition has gained interest from professional artists, art and design students and non-art students alike. This has begun to prove the playfulness of the initiative.

The participants explore idea generation, limitations and possibilities. Some have spent time exploring the character created into a narrative, character interaction and narrative options.

The Nomadic Doll project proves that it is a wonderful bridge between designers and artists and the wider community, as a means of creative play with the goal of fun and whimsy at its heart. It demonstrates the reason we begin to create and reminds us of our ability to surprise ourselves.

Stefan Messam
Team Leader
Education Innovation Team
ISEA2014
Nomadic Doll #1… the quintessential doll to start this project. Nomadic Doll #1 was sent out like the rest of the 120 Nomadic Dolls… it did not return. At the College of Arts & Creative Enterprises the mystery of Doll #1 has become legend. How is it this iconic Nomadic Doll… of all 120 did not manage to return? Speculation is rife, was it stolen? Intentionally kidnapped?

Some have suggested it took its chances going it alone to explore the wide world. Last seen in a box heading to Qatar, we feel it has led the way in name and intention. The Nomadic Doll #1 never returned, perhaps exploring the world, perhaps one day it will return… and what adventures may it speak of?
12 Virginia Commonwealth University of Qatar
38 American University of Dubai
50 Higher Colleges of Technology Abu Dhabi Men
60 Higher Colleges of Technology Abu Dhabi Women
68 Brighton College Abu Dhabi
80 Brighton College Al Ain
90 Ecole Superieure Des Arts Visuels Esav Marrakech
106 GEMS Wellington International School
116 Zayed University Abu Dhabi
126 Zayed University Dubai
Virginia Commonwealth University
of Qatar
The Valkyrie

Mahmoud Abbas

I had set a goal of creating a doll with none destructive means. The doll is built with transparency film and pins. You could take it apart and make a new doll in endless variations using the same process, recyclable toys.

Wings by Arturo Alejandro Romo Escartin from The noun Project. “In Norse mythology, a Valkyrie is one of a host of female figures who choose those who may die in battle and those who may live.”

Faceless Beauty

Doll # 003

Wanoun Yaqoob

Faceless beauty is a mystery. Because mystery is hidden, and everything that is hidden is attractive. Everything attractive but no face. Because everybody does not have the right to see her. But she is confident.

Because she is important. Because she is precious. She represents the femininity in a way that is unique to the world. Veiled but not veiled at the same time.
Think Green

Mohammad Jawad

In this world, where the rate of carbon footprint is increasing; we need people and especially the youth to think green. This ‘think green’ doll is an initiative to teach kids about the value of green; even though the roots of the plant might destroy the doll in the future, the tree will provide our shelter, fruit as a form of charity.

Wanted Doll

Abdul Rahman

The story behind this piece is that the doll ran away from UAE & is hiding in Qatar at the moment. To raise awareness the UAE government is doing a campaign of the wanted doll box around the GCC countries in hope of finding it. Plus, they are also giving away a reward for the capture of this doll.
The Real Me

Mariam Al-Jufairi

This doll represents two parts of who I am. One side represents how I really am and how I am most comfortable: hair loose, no make up, no contact lenses, baggy t-shirt, leggings, and flip-flops. The other side represents who I’m expected to be in society – Abaya, shaila, and a wedding ring. They say, “be yourself”, and then they judge you.

Dala Man

Brandon Geib

Recently, I had the opportunity to reconnect with some of my distant relatives from Sweden. This was a very refreshing experience that opened up a gateway in history to my family. It was because of this experience that my doll was shaped in the fashion you now see. The Dala Horse has come to represent all of Sweden. It was in honor of my heritage that I crafted my doll with the same patterning as the horses.
Ink Jet

Michael Wacker

Doll # 008

This piece is a visual reminder of waste created through the printing process. The volume of the doll is minimized to promote the minimization of ink usage.

Insight

Maha Akl

Doll # 009

Covering your eyes to see your soul, isolate it to reach your inner peace. Insight and seeing are not the same indeed.

Mixed Identity

Nabiila Lubay

Doll # 010

The doll reflects my third cultural identity problem in trying to fit in with my culture, but unable to truly belong there.

Dilltype

Leland M. Hill

Doll # 011

Typography and printing, these areas have been drastically affected by technology. As a graphic designer, I was interested in using a medium that had a history in the development of visual communications.
Bunny Lost His Eggs

Wurood Ismail

When I first saw the doll, I was observing it from different angles and positions. When I flipped the doll upside down, I saw a figure with hands sticking up. That led to seeing the torso of the doll as a face, and then the legs appeared as ears. This made me think about illustrating a freaked out bunny (reason why the arms are upwards). The bunny could be frightened because someone stole his Easter eggs.

Nora

Doll #013

Maryam Almeraikhi

I made my doll as a representation of the new generation or culture. As the times change, people of the world and Qatar change as well. This doll dressed for “Garandgaoh” which is a traditional event that happens in 14th of Ramadan. I called her “Nora: as they call the names nowadays. Nora wears her clothes differently; she’s more modern than traditional.
Dia de los muertos (or “day of the dead”) takes place on Oct 31, Nov 1 and Nov 2 – the same days as the ISEA conference. The timing coincides with the coming together of friends to celebrate & remember the art of craft and its connection to technology in the growing age of the digital.

Jawaher AlHajri

I was inspired by “Interaction class”, where we had to use arduino to control the light by using sensors. However, as a Graphic Design student, I wanted to combine the idea of technology with typography. I illustrated the circuit drawing on the doll, and I added type, keyboard, wires and a model square that represents the idea of the robot. I called it ‘Four’ because usually it’s rare to have a number as a name.

Denielle Emans

Four
Doll # 014

Esqueleto
Doll # 015
Boqin Peng

The Chinese character is used to count days, votes, and so on. It has the same function as IIII used in many other countries. The character has 5 strokes which represents count 5. Covered by the characters, the doll goes through birth to the end of its life.

Khepri

Doll # 016

Basma Hamdy

This doll is an exploration of the dialogue between nature and man. Ancient Egyptians believed that Khepri renewed the sun everyday before rolling it over the horizon. It is both a death and a rebirth indicating transformation, renewal and resurrection.

Diary

Doll # 017
Walking in the mangrove forest the other day, I saw what made me happy... the mangroves looked happy and healthier than in a long time. This takes care and a lot of hours of work. Mother Earth seemed so happy in this place, at least.
Rosa
Doll # 019
Hissa Yousuf
For my doll, I chose to dress it with something I did by myself. "Hand made dress and hat". Because I always like to be special and different than people likewise my doll.

Traditional Doll
Doll # 020
Eman Al Mansouri
I have stylized the doll as a traditional girl in quranquo night, which she’s wearing Jalabiya and bokhanag or vale.

Ghalya
Doll # 022
Wadha Al-Thani
Ghalya represents the heart of erstwhile and traditional culture of Middle East. While the world has transformed hugely. Ghalya remains unchanged. Her simplicity can be ganged by her content facial expression and fancy-free look, only dominated by her dark, flowing hair which is as natural and free as her simple soul, clutching on to her camel. She holds on to the traditions, cultures of an era gone by.

Future
Doll # 025
Noof Al-Binali
I believe that Doha today is not taking design and art seriously, so people are using their talent as a hobby. However, people are starting to come out of their shells and embrace their creative side. I believe that art and design will have a big role in 10 years from now.
Mr. Prototype

Maryam Al-Homaid

Mr. Prototype is a doll inspired by the Maker Movement that mixes technology based mediums and the crafty DIY culture. It celebrates the intersection between the skills of an engineer and a designer at the same time. Mr. Prototype name is derived from the word prototype that refers to a model that is not necessarily complete, but gives a general idea of how it looks like or how it can fully function. It might not appear to the viewer to have a ‘polished’ or a ‘finished’ look because of its tiny bits of imperfection.

Kaltham Meets Kathrin

Kaltham is a traditional girl from the east and meets Kathrin on the other half, which is from the west. The use of buttons is to show the connection. Just like we connect our shirts with buttons, I’m connecting two parts of the world in one moment. Although we are all different in a way, we are all one and in one planet/world.

Doll # 026

Doll # 029

Maha Al Naemi

Mr. Prototype name is derived from the word prototype that refers to a model that is not necessarily complete, but gives a general idea of how it looks like or how it can fully function. It might not appear to the viewer to have a ‘polished’ or a ‘finished’ look because of its tiny bits of imperfection.
This doll is a metaphorical representation of how concerned we are with people’s views of us. Each pin represents one bad thing said about us that we hold on to for no reason, and it is what shapes us into whatever ugly things are said about us. If only we can grow thicker skin. That’s what I am trying to do and that is why the doll represents me (Miim).
NOMADIC DOLLS

Since we were kids we wished to paint on our dolls.

Now you got the chance to use the Nomadic Dolls!

Pecha Kucha Dubai will make you...
Pirate Jack

Doll # 032

Kamel Hassan

My doll’s theme came from a movie I recently watched. I just thought I would show how a long time ago pirates used to look like and how times changed.

Hipster

Doll # 033

Sarab Sahni

The doll basically represents a hipster of a modern Asian child. The idea spontaneously came in mind during the process of making the doll.

Variations

Doll # 034

Jessica Khawam

For my nomadic doll I chose the speculative mediations. My nomadic doll explains how everyone identifies themselves as something. There are various degrees of that something, as the degree of that one thing makes a variable of that personality. I chose the red color for different interpretations, black spots refer to many incidents that happened in my life; whereas, the yellow is used to represent the hope that I have.

Holly

Doll # 035

Mariam Elhalawani

Nowadays, Technology enables us to create virtual realities by generating a perception that plays with the idea of existing in a non-physical world. The more the person suspends the judgment of the implausible, the more the immersion is. The doll speaks of the heights that technology has reached and aims to provoke a sense of wonder.
With technology being in the center of our lives today, it has played an important role in shaping our lives wherever we are.

An hourglass figure showing sand that is a compulsory component of Dubai. On one side, is the henna heritage, and on the other, the vibrant technological Dubai of today.

What better way to portray interlacing ideas (related to the media) than propaganda? One potential source of propaganda can map out and continue to branch over millions.
Mountain Man

Sabantain Sharif

A combination of nature and the physical aspects of life’s harsh circumstances.

Freedom

Riem Sinjab

“Freedom” is a doll that represents people fighting for their rights. She has her eyes shut, her mouth zipped, her ears closed, and her legs tied. The blood stains on her clothe represent the price she is willing to pay for her freedom.

East meets west bride

Zoha Bagasrawala

The doll represents a fusion between a western and an Arabic bride. The mouth is covered to show Arabic values.

Riutilizzo

Shouk Al-Sayegh

For my nomadic doll I chose to address the idea of connecting the world and linking ideas. All over the world people tend to forget that many materials can always be refused. Therefore, everything I’ve designed my doll with is from old and unwanted clothes, which I cut and made into smaller sized clothes for it. Through this, I hope to motivate the idea of reusing and recycling old, unwanted materials.
Diversity

Aisha Almohtadi

Through this doll, I wanted to convey the diversity of culture in the Eastern world compared to the lack of diversity of culture in the Western world. My main focus was on clothing, colour and pattern.

Connecting Worldwide

Zhiwen Shan

We are always connected to our technological world, and we don’t realize how connected we are all to each other.

Abu Eissam

Cham Al Mallah

I am so interested in showing people part of my culture. This doll presents the Syrian men uniform 100 years ago, which men do not wear anymore. The doll’s name is Abu Eissam, a very famous character in Syria. Abu Eissam is a traditional Syrian man.
Higher Colleges of Technology
Abu Dhabi - Men
Ma’arf
Humaid Ali, Khamis Mohammed, Mohammed Alotaiba & Abdulraheem Hamad

This doll represents the younger generations and finding a suitable marriage partner. We added clothes, which represents male and female. Our doll has two faces and use the Emirati kandora and the female darra’a. The name Ma’arf is an Arabic word that means “I don’t know”. The doll is a combination of art, craft, and Art Nouveau.
One day I was sitting with my friends when all of a sudden a great idea of sewing handmade dolls clicked me. I decided to introduce the idea to my friends; they were so excited for this mini activity. Our idea is to make use of the unused things and recycle them into handmade dolls. We started collecting fabrics, needles, buttons, threads, top measures, sheers and unused baby clothes. Our steps are simple and easy to apply in which it can be summarized with five steps.

Mohammed Ali, Ahmed Khamis & Salem Alnaqbi

Doll # 040

We decided to dress the doll in pink and to give it a cart with consumer goods and a burned phone. Modern technology is all about consuming, and many young Emiratis shop using Instagram.

Hasan Al Housani, Sultan Al Breiki, Ahmed Salih & Kaltham Al Sumaiti

Pinkberry

Doll # 039
Metawood

Khalid Almaskari, Abdalla Aqeel, Abdulla Harib & Khaled Al Jesmi

Metawood is a doll that has a mix of metal and wood and screws. The lines that are on the doll is related with the traditional henna decorations in the UAE.

Suki

Khalifa Mohamed, Sultan Al Harthi, Mohamed Al Ali & Zayed

We made this doll by cotton and piece of cloth after that we designed the piece of cloth like human body, then we put the cotton inside the body after that we designed UAE flag clothes and put the necklace around the head with bracelet on the hand and UAE flag belt on the waist.
Higher Colleges of Technology
Abu Dhabi - Women
Futurism
Ashwag Ali, Dana Salem & Najlaa Khalifa

Post Modernism
Mariam Al Zaabi, Badreya Al Hosani & Aisha Alsuwaidi

Dada
Rasha Almazrouei, Deena Al Shasi, Abir Al Hajr & Abir Al Hari

De Stijl
Shamma Khalfan, Fatima Ali & Amna Mubarak
Art Nouveau
Doll # 055
Khulood Albishr, Khawla Albishr & Sara Khalifa

Bauhaus
Doll # 056
Shamma Al Dhaheri, Amna Ibrahim & Rawda Saif

Constructivism
Doll # 057
Afra Salem & Fatima Mohamed

Arts & Crafts
Doll # 058
Reem Jaber, Ameera Mohamed & Mashael Mohamed

International Style
Doll # 059
Amani Mohamed, Duaa Bader & Fatima Saeed

New Wave
Doll # 060
Salama Rashed, Shaikha Rashed & Soaad Muhna
Sending the Plain Dolls
Brighton College
Abu Dhabi
Albert Einstein was a German-born physicist who developed the theory of relativity. He is considered the most influential physicist of the 20th century. In 1921, he won the Nobel Prize. Albert Einstein's vision and innovation created a lasting impact on the world of science and our society.
Square Eyes

Amelia Preston

My doll is mainly influenced by the media theme. I wanted to convey how social media and branding is so influential in the modern days that it is almost becoming a part of who we are. It’s called Square Eyes, because that is what my mom would say I would get when I watch TV for too long. Branding and commercial news are everywhere we look and are hard to escape from. Like how a tattoo is permanent and personal, the words linking to media reflect on how media can have a permanent and personal affect on teens.

Art-Tech

Ellie Middlehurst

I chose to look at art, technology and science. On my doll, I chose to paint a cascading green up the Doll's body. The green represents a circuit board. On the circuit board there are painted white shapes, which were then filled with patterns. I then made some stitching marks.
Once upon a time, not so long ago a family sat crying in their lovely big garden. They were to move away, and they would have to leave their beloved flowers forever. As they cried they knew that their tears would be the start of a new life with happiness and new triumphs. The flowers and their friends knew will always be in their hearts and live like blooming flowers. Each with special personalities and memories.

Media is its own soldier and technology is its weapon. I created this doll with the aim to show how everyday technological objects are now used for negative purposes. Media is technically blinding everyone into seeing what is supposed to be right, by showing everyone or convincing them otherwise.
“Le avventure di Pinocchio” is a book by the Italian writer Carlo Collodi dated 1883. According to a research done by UNESCO, it has been adapted in more than 240 languages worldwide. That makes it the most translated and read non-religious book of all times. In this sense Pinocchio is a nomad, who travels around the world without barriers. On an old newspaper at first, then through the net on an electronic book. From wood to chip. From doll to human. From Pinocchio to Pinokio.
Human Technology

Claire Hackett

The doll illustrates the fast moving society that people live in. It looks at the raw materials that have been used and how they have been used to connect people from all over the world. It symbolizes how we have benefits from media communication links, but also how people have become so dependent on it, that it can take over their lives.

Eugene

Martha Hunt & Aki Stucelhoome

"Eugene" represents the interlinking of broken up pieces to form a new piece of technology, connecting previous ideas to form new creations. Also, represents the wide variety of technology available today and its many uses. We included motherboards to show all pieces of technology that have the same base.
Z.E-R.O
Doll # 082

Dara Hussein & Emily Maxwell - Hillard

Represents the timescale and development of technology from floppy disks to CDs to iPads. There is a contrast between the LG phone torso, back, the Apple logo and button on the shoulder.

Beyonce
Doll # 083

Rachel Berting & Mouza Al Mazrouei

The doll is based on a motherboard. At the back you can clearly see how east meets west. There is a green line like the color of a motherboard.
We wanted to bring technology to life. We used the remote controller button as a heat, and wires as veins coming from the heart. The eyes, nose and mouth used with lights, and bits of circuit boards.
Photoshooting Session - 1
The world of technology has changed our principles and changed our identities. The world built masks that take us away from real life or under the guise of modernity, plunging us into a virtual life (where everyone is friends and where everyone like you!). Who will we be in the near future: will we, humans, connected with advanced technological developments that are part of us? Or will we become Robots with a part of humanity? Berber Motifs recall my origins. The Doll is called Ber Micha (Ber stands for Berber / Micha for Engineering / Technology).

Hamza Essalouh
My doll is a reflection of myself; a young Moroccan in 2014 and my addiction to technology. What if we do not take care, to replace humans with the machine. If we try, for example, to imagine life without electricity, we could only see ourselves with total dependence, since it has become for many of us, has become a vital need. With technology, we have turned away from the relationship with nature. I created a doll TECHNODEPENDANCE double-faced that reflects our dependence on technology.

Technodependance
Doll # 086

Salah Bellizi
The world of technology has changed our principles and changed our identities. The world built masks that take us away from real life or under the guise of modernity, plunging us into a virtual life (where everyone is friends and where everyone like you!). Who will we be in the near future: will we, humans, connected with advanced technological developments that are part of us? Or will we become Robots with a part of humanity? Berber Motifs recall my origins. The Doll is called Ber Micha (Ber stands for Berber / Micha for Engineering / Technology).

BER Micha
Doll # 088
Andre Gide said, “Since and technology have succeeded and failed at the same time.” Today, technology is essential to my daily life; it is a body of knowledge and practices that facilitate my travels, my communication and my work.

However, technology also makes me more dependent on tools around me and can only underline my laziness, limit my creativity and make static my ideas. My dolls will reflect this excessive dependence on technology: one doll (#087) is at my image: a blend of Moroccan tradition (the fez) and technological transplants. The Second (#094) refers to a body connected, plugged into the virtual world.
For this, I imagined a robot prototype made from recycling plastic waste. This will consume the waste to operate and serve the city maintenance. Humanity produces about 245 billion pounds of plastic a year. The issues of waste plastics have become environmental, societal and economic factors that need to be mastered. Plastic waste becomes an opportunity (of raw materials used to infinity - circular economy) and not a constraint.
Sbell’ Grafika

Flobert Paris

Sbell’ Grafika is a doll that plays with elements of recovery. It symbolizes all the nitty-gritty of the African continent that knows so well recreated from waste and moved by his inventiveness in giving new life to scrap (Amazing cover, spine porcupine, pearl buttons, run down switch, batteries, transmitter, resistance, lamp, electric thread).
Filaine
Doll # 091

Sarah Sellami

Having spent my Wednesday afternoon with my father in a workshop of screenprinting and industrial embroidery, I HAVE have always been influenced by this meeting between crafts and technology.

But before they meet, they were opponents and enemies. Crafts defended itself with great difficulty to keep its place in front of technology, which submerged all our universe.

Arkeo’ Loggia Numerica
Doll # 092

Aniko Boehler

Exploring the world of dolls after the Valey of the Dolls/Morocco series & Indian series, here is an orphan doll exploring her/our electronic past.
Robollinat

Doll # 093

Salima El Assali

For this project I tried to show how this figurine reflects me or reflects my thought. It shows a soft side and a gory one at the same time, it’s like a cyber robotic ballerina. I tried to show how technology affect even the classic art and old traditions but ballet. Ballet is a very strict are of dance, it has a lot of discipline, and yet it’s touched by the tech virus, and that is just an example of how wide technology is, where will it’s going to lead us then?

We are one heart, one body

Doll # 095

Ghita Ait Bensalh

I built my doll under the theme of Connecting Worlds. I expressed this connection from colourful cotton thread and I imagined icons for each continent in the five parts of the doll (2 arms, 2 legs, one head). All lead to the heart son of the headstock to express the humanity that we share and who we met. That’s why I named my doll “We are one heart, one body.”
Photoshooting Session - 2
GEMS Wellington International School
A Journey Worthwhile

Yasmin Talbi

I wanted to show the journey that my doll took around Dubai and adding quotes on how adventure is worthwhile.

Jimmy’s Journey

Timur Umarov

In my opinion my artwork is “East meets West”, since it has a picture with an eastern man and the pictures were shot in middle east. The clothes and the name make it kind of western.

Sheikh Steve

Gibor Van Zyl

My piece (Sheikh Steve) is a very good example of “East Meets West”. By making his face, that of an Emirati man and dressing him up in western attire, it brings the title of “East Meets West” through very well. Also, on his left arm, the Eastern Hemisphere is printed and on his right arm, the Western Hemisphere. Overall, Sheikh Steve is a great example of “East Meets West”.

Holiday in the ME

Shania Denise Dias

Zohra is a girl that lives with her family in Italy. She decides to take a trip to Dubai for a holiday. When she arrives to Dubai she goes sightseeing and loves the city. She misses her family and sends them postcards on what she does everyday.
Meg & Superman’s Holiday
Claudia Carrera & Salma Maroof
We decided to work together because we liked the idea of our dolls being friends and going on a holiday together.

Letters with Dave
Doll # 101
Akkhiel Nambbiar
Dave (the doll) goes to places in the UAE, ironic to the Middle East, Dave represents the West, or my personality and presentation of the West, so Dave the West, is in ironic Middle East.

Cultural Me
Doll # 103
Chathmal De Silva
My doll/alter ego is based on my countries (Sri Lanka) culture and its love towards nature, that is shown by the feathers, the bracelet and the sarong. This alter ego of me is all about culture. The doll represents that anywhere and anything is multicultural.
My Best Friend
Tyra Holmes

My artist statement is showing my best friend (doll) and I going around Dubai together.

Opposites Attract - Hermoine & Charles
Lizzy Lowe & Fatima Hassan

Our vision is to show the difference from opposite cultures and people. Our dolls represent two types of people, one is someone that is just a tourist she is new to this country, and the other person is someone who is “rich” and handles life differently.

Social Media
Connecting the World
Manal Muhammed

East meets West makes me think of a tourist visiting the Middle East. I made my pictures related to Snapchat as she is sending it to people all over the world.
A Foreigner at Home
Doll # 023

Fatima Farah

Experiencing a deaf person’s life for a day was overwhelming… I wondered what it was like to be deaf, so I pretended at the mall. The man at the restaurant was not pleased to take my order and I was rushed. I felt I was considered a burden, that I was an alien in my own home. I was uncomfortable, and so I portrayed my feelings in this doll.

Angry Alien
Doll # 114

Raysa Al Ketbi

The design of the doll was inspired by alien cartoon shows I used to watch as a kid. The alien doll gets mad every time you hold his hand. I have built the doll using an Arduino which is visible to the audience because I wanted internal parts to show and the color I have chosen is based on the first thing that pops in our mind when we think of aliens as green.
Fatima Al Hameli

I programmed an Arduino chip to interact with the person who will touch the doll, so that whoever touches the doll will trigger the sound and make it vibrate.

Inter Galactic

Rawda Al Qubaisi

Inter Galactic is a representation of a doll that visually looks like the galaxy, with electronic blinking stars. Rhinestones to give it some light reflection and more of a three dimensional look.
Fatma Hasan

In one of my classes in ZU, we had to make a stuffed doll into an electric one using Arduino Lily Pad. I made mine to be interactive (censored to light) and made it look like an electronic doll by using the same material that I programmed in its face and its body. The doll keeps blinking LEDs until you put your hand to cover the sensor then it lights up all at once with the buzzer and the vibrate board.

Shaikha Al Zaabi

I crocheted the doll, and made the lights blink to show that this doll is “alive” via Lily Pad Arduino and my program.
Zayed University
Dubai
Every Place in the World

It is about how every single place in the world has its own history and culture. The wing represents the world’s ideas and freedom, and how the world must be our top priority so we have to save it to keep our stories. The pins represent random places and anyone can pin their own country.

Grunt

Grunt is based on a horror game play named “Amnesia: The Dark Descent” where he acts as the grunting villain that patrols different areas and chases people without stopping after noticing them to inflect them with pain.

As an intern in ISEA2014 since July, I have experienced days when feeling like a walking dead was taking over. Not only have I experienced it, but I’ve seen the results of hectic working hours on the entire ISEA2014 crew, where many in my view were looking a lot like grunting zombies, which made joining them in such similar state as mine was particularly bonding.

Khulood AlRais

Doll # 031

Mitha Khalil

Doll # 027
The lone wolf, the nomad of the animal kingdom, the terror of children's stories. The wolf as the survivor, the devious, the time bomb in us all. Time plays its part as an inevitable collision of circumstance. Here the wolf is governed by the cyclic nature of the clock, awaiting the moment to awake... what's the time Mister Wolf?
Shaikha Al Awadhi

I am very interested in pattern drawings and am influenced when I see a drawing about patterns. The main reason that makes me interested in pattern drawings is because I realize that every person looks at pattern drawings in different ways and understands them differently. Moreover, I know that drawing a pattern style may take a lot of time from the painter, and also he/she needs to be a very patient person. Finally, I made this Doll as a pattern to explain my point of view about that each and every person will see, imagine, understand it differently.

Ms. Dolly

Moza AlSuwaidi

The sub theme I decided to follow was interlacing worlds, specifically fabric, so I decided to make a female doll. I named her "Ms. Dolly", because it match her feminine look a lot. I used different fabric color for the bottom part of the dress with red acrylic color for the top, pink wool yarn for the hair, and different shape and types of accessories for the rest of the design.

Asma Khoory

I wanted to paint like an impressionist to show people that we are still humans with feelings, although the world has developed into a technological one, at the end of the day we are still humans with feelings and emotions, not electronics and robots.

I chose Vincent Van Gogh because he inspired me, & he always painted with emotion & let his feelings get into his art, that’s why I chose some aspects of his self portrait; bandaged ear to show emotion, & that we are still humans.
Dana
Doll # 049

Dana, which means Pearl in Arabic (Emirati Dialect) is also one of the most revered and treasured in the UAE culture. I chose to merge the circuit board and pearls to create the traditional necklace and earrings because the circuit board has intricate details which symbolize how interactive the elements of technology and tradition are.
Trapped in 0’s and 1’s

Doll # 050

Sana Almaktoum

This nomadic doll represents the relationship between technology and human beings. People nowadays rely so much on the internet and they let it do most of the work for them, it does not allow people to think creatively for themselves, it just delivers the answers to them. I used metal wire to create a sphere that surrounds the doll’s hands, this symbolizes how with technology people have the whole world in the palm of their hands but they are trapped by it as well.

The use of binary code on the doll shows how people seem to be possessed by technology and it is hard for them to trust and rely on their common sense.

West Pop Meets East Pops

Doll # 077

Daniel Echeverri

It’s not about two sides of the planet meeting each other but more like appreciate themselves into the popular culture: The Beatles in India, China and the US staging world economy, a soft drink in multiple languages. It’s all about the pop.
Native Identity

Doll # 078

Lina Suarez

The piece was inspired by different Colombian native clothes. The nomadic shifts occur between regions and mixes the sylvatic and pre-Columbian to urban and global.
Glitch

Doll # 085

Glitch (noun.) - a sudden, usually temporary malfunction or re-regulating of equipment.

Abelia

Doll # 079

The sub theme: decided to follow was interacting worlds and when I looked at examples it showed plants, so I decided to make petals and so on as shown in the doll and curved it, overlapping and changing colors to make it fit my style.

The doll has the letters ‘EA’ to represent electronic arts.

Alia Adnan

Eman

Al Eghfeli
Dr. Synergy
Doll # 108

Dr. Synergy represents the creativity and the hard work that each of The East and The West do together. He represents the power and the unity of both sides combined. Without him each side is weak, so what he does is lighten up each side's thoughts to share and unite.

He simply light up their path towards each other. Synergy in the Oxford Dictionary is the interaction or cooperation of two or more organizations, substances, or other agents to produce a combined effect greater than the sum of their separate effects.

Maryam Bin Humidan
Epoch

Doll # 109

Maha Yousif

Epoch (A period of time in history or a person’s life, typically one marked by notable events or particular characteristics). I created this doll to show that every minute of someone’s life is counted and recorded. That what “Epoch’s” eyes says. So start making notable records!
Feelings Within

Amel Almazem

It represent the feelings we feel deep inside our skin and no matter how bad and good we still hold on to “HOPE”.

My Electro Doll

Doll # 110

Aisha Khalid

Nomadic no longer exist! We are “hanged” by technology and electricity.

Doll # 111
Fear of Small Numbers invites reflection on minorities in a globalized world. It is intended to pose the question of why minorities – which by definition are small in number and by extension weak, if not powerless – have been, and continue to be, the object of fear, exclusion, and even rage.

My representative of Small Numbers is vaguely human. His/her shape is like a human fantasy of a non-human alien and has a large single eye, which suggests that it sees all. On close inspection, viewers will discover their own eye reflected back to them.
Morph III

Morph III is the third brother of Morph I & II, who were made in 2013. As the years passed by since his brothers’ births, times have changed to becoming more technological. This Morph III is more like a machine than his brothers. In feeling a sense of lost identity, and a disconnection to the land, Morph III seeks to reconnect with native; placing branches into his body from the lands surrounding him. Slowly his semi-mechanic and metal interior starts to morph together with nature, and life starts growing from his joints, connecting him to the land he has always loved.
Scan the QR code to watch the process of installing the Nomadic Dolls Exhibition.