

LOOK!

DISCUSS!

CREATE!

FARAH AL QASIMI:

General Behaviour

Emirati artist Farah Al Qasimi was born in 1991 in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates. She studied photography and music in the United States and currently divides her time between the UAE and New York. Her artistic practice includes photography, video, and performance, where she is interested in portraying various subjects in a playful, and satirical way.

Farah's bold and colourful photographs and films often represent ordinary aspects of daily life, overlooked places, and moments, as well as the vibrant and multicultural landscapes in which she grew up. While figurative subjects, such as family members and friends, are frequently present in her work she often conceals their identity by capturing them from behind or placing them beyond the frame.

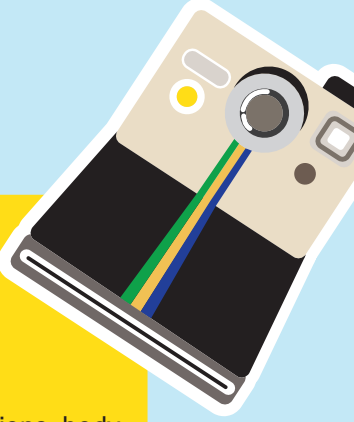
Farah's photographs and films challenge our understanding and perception of what we see and how we see it, blurring the lines between fantasy and reality and the seen and unseen, demonstrating the power of photography and its ability to transform the ordinary.

Observe & Discuss

Explore the works in the exhibition, what catches your eye?

Choose a photograph that includes a figure in a setting...

- Examine the figure in the image, describe their features and characteristics in detail.
- Although their identity may be concealed, what can you tell by reading their expressions, body language, and pose or stance? What are they doing?
- Describe the setting or location pictured in the image. Use as much detail as you can.
- Is the location familiar to you? Does it remind you of somewhere you have been before?
- What other details can you pull from the setting? What objects or props can you find?
- Based on your observations; what stories do you think might be being told here?



Create

Create your own artwork:

- Choose a subject or a person of interest that you would like to photograph.
- Discuss the options for a location to photograph them in – it could be in their home, their place of work, or somewhere they like to spend their free time.
- Discuss the details of the setting, perhaps it is the décor and furniture, or it could be a selection of objects that say something about your sitter's personality or hobbies.
- Consider your lighting, will you use natural light, a flash, low light, or backlighting? Experiment to see how different lighting can have a dramatic effect.
- Think about the **composition** of your photograph and the **framing** of your subject. Experiment by taking photographs of your subject in their setting from different angles and viewpoints.
- Select your best photograph, assess the **cropping** of your image and whether you need to reduce information around the edges of the picture that you feel may be distracting or that might weaken your framing and composition.
- Finally, think of a title for your artwork, date it, and sign it.
- Well done! You have just created your own Farah Al Qasimi inspired artwork!



For this activity
you will need:

- A camera, smartphone, or a tablet to take pictures
- A subject or person
- An interior or location
- Lighting (optional)

You can use any combination of the suggestions above.



Composition: The placement or arrangement of visual elements in a work of art.

Cropping: The removal of the outer parts of an image to improve framing.

Frame/framing: The technique used to bring focus to a subject in a work of art.