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## INVESTIGATE THE LEVEL OF AWARENESS AND ACCEPTANCE OF SOCIAL COMMENTARY ART AMONG THE PUBLIC IN THE ARAB REGION

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### ABSTRACT

This study aims to investigate the extent of acceptance and awareness of the social commentary art through printmaking among public. Social commentary is a function of art toward people, and artworks can carry messages and change public opinions and expose the reality of such a social, cultural or political issue. A Convergent Parallel Design mixed method is used as the study methodology to measure the public acceptance and understanding of social commentary and printmaking. The statistical data proved that there is significant influence of acceptance and awareness of social commentary has reflected Arab public perception of a certain issue which is also supported by qualitative findings. But also, findings showed that there is a significant confusion between social and cultural themes and political artworks are the most understandable. That significantly important to line up Arab social commentary printmaking for future reference and, to facilitate the formulating guidelines towards creating successful art exhibitions that can nurture general respect for the Arab art galleries and ultimately a harmonious relationship between the public and the social commentary art. As for conclusion, social commentary through printmaking can influence public towards social, cultural or political issue which indirectly develop their understanding and awareness.

**Keywords:** Social commentary, Printmaking Art, public acceptance and understanding, Arab Art

### INTRODUCTION

Social commentary art is an alternative way of media to convey messages to the public with the expectation to change peoples' attitudes and opinions toward certain issue (Yaacob et al., 2013). Printmaking (hand-made) are an effective influence and intensify the human touch (Triantafillou, 2010). The findings mainly contributed to expanding the current public understanding of social commentary and acknowledging the relationship between social commentary art and printmaking in the Arab region. 'In the context of the Arab region, art is rarely criticized in detail but is rather presented to audiences as general surveys' (Lutfi, 2019). This study will embark to identify the strong relationship between printmaking and social commentary. Being aware about social commentary will help people to avoid being blind consumers and become habitual analytical thinkers (Fuller, 2011). The objective of this study is to investigate the level of awareness and acceptance towards the social commentary through printmaking among the public by using convergent parallel mixed design method. This study intends to analyze the perception of Arab people about the social commentary art through printmaking.

## **Social Commentary Art**

Social commentary entails using rhetorical techniques to provide comments on significant societal issues. It is conducted using a variety of communication formats, from printing to discussions to electronic communication. This seeks to implement or encourage change by informing the public about issues in a way that appeals to people's ideas of justice (Kleinsmith, 2014; Sangeetha et al., 2018). Social commentary through printmaking increases possibilities for involvement, expression, and communication between artists and public. For example, many of Mexico's 19th-century printmakers were part of a group of radical dissidents. Rather than verbally criticizing the government's political actions, they provided visual images of corrupt leaders who have lost interest in the nation's well-being (Clark, 1997; Pickett, 2009). During the period of the Mexican Revolution (1910-1920), printmaker Jose Posada (1852- 1913) was one of the most important illustrators who used his artworks as a weapon against government injustice and public apathy, as shown in Figure (Pickett, 2009). In the Arab region, politics has always been a concern for artists. According to (Almusaly, 2017), art is employed in a political conflict to produce publicity for serving one specific party or another over others. However, there were many extensive conflicts and violent incidents in the Middle East due to the struggle between politicians. Therefore, artists are obligated to raise awareness of painful tragedies in their artworks to communicate with public and spread messages of hope and resilience.

## **Themes in Social Commentary Art**

The completed artworks of artists represent their thoughts and feelings about social issues. The research focuses on three main themes in printmaking artworks at the Barjeel Art Foundation: social, cultural, and political aspects. Past literature review supports the identification of these themes, validated through an expert survey. The artworks serve as mediators, reflectors, and translators of social issues in society (Badghaish & Mohamed Saat, 2022). Social art in Western countries (Kinch-Thomas, 2020) addresses social issues and reflects on society and people's way of life. According to (Batmah, 2020; Shbeita, 2021), based on Ibn Khaldoun thought, the social means the life of human beings in all its forms, whether in the form of groups or societies. Social means process of interpersonal communications. It is the movement of man in all stages of his life. Cultural art creatively enhances our surroundings and it is a product of artistic engagement. According to (Alsalawi, 2018), Many Arab thinkers see that culture is whatever grows up around us, and whenever creative people decide to artistically enhance what is around them. Political art, reveals current political concerns and addresses public issues (Simoniti, 2021). according to Dr. Abeer Al ghanim, (2019), political art is supporting a particular issue, or protest against rigid governments. Help the public understand, clarify and addresses their concern toward political issues.

## **METHODOLOGY**

'Formal for measuring public opinion are usually classified into quantitative and qualitative approaches' (Brooker et al., 2015). This study adapted the Convergent Parallel Design to obtain different but complementary data on the effects of social commentary art through printmaking among Arab people in terms of understanding and acceptance. This design directly compared and contrasted the quantitative results with qualitative findings for corroboration and validation purposes.

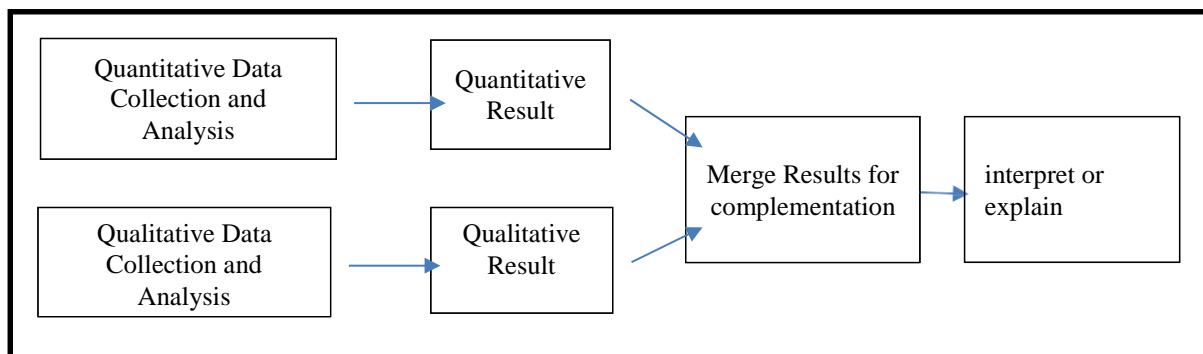


Figure 1. Research design

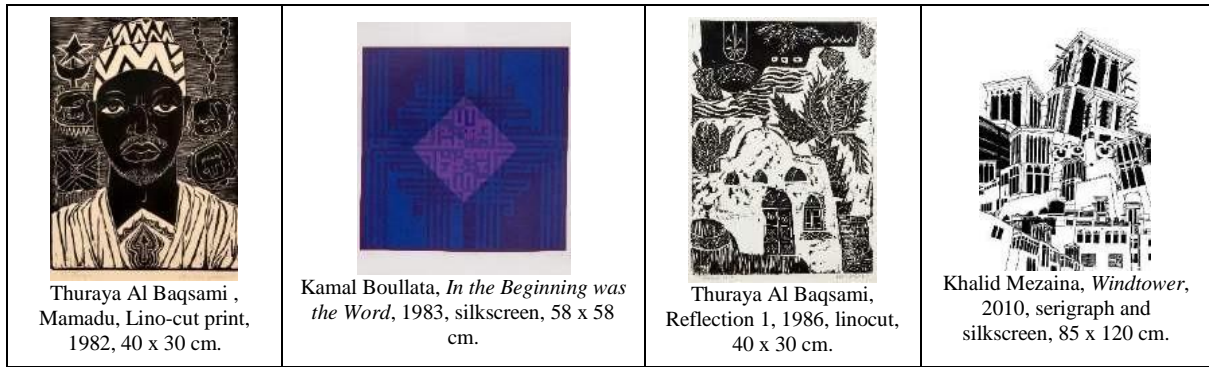
### Data Collection and Analysis

The respondents were given an online questionnaire once contact. below are the categories of printmaking artworks (Images courtesy of Barjeel Art Foundation, Sharjah) involved in the study. The categorization of printmaking artworks based on experts opinions towards printmaking artworks under Barjeel Art Foundation. The data analysis includes quantitative and qualitative data analysis. The quantitative data collected through survey and analyzed using SPSS. The qualitative data collected through focus group sessions is primarily in the form of narrative responses and direct quotes about the respondents' experiences, opinions, knowledge, and feelings.

SOCIAL THEME				
				
Munira Al Kazi, <i>Untitled</i> , 1962, monotype, 38 x 34 cm.	Jafar Islah, <i>The Caravan</i> (set of 5), 1976, silkscreen, 83 x 66 cm.	Thuraya Al Baqsami, <i>Lonely Women</i> , 1997, linocut, 40 x 30 cm.	Nasser Al Youssef, <i>The Wait</i> , 1999, linocut print, 62 x 52 cm.	Ahmed Mater, <i>Evolution Of Man</i> , 2010, Silkscreen prints (set of 5), 80 x 60 cm each.

Figure 2. Printmaking artworks under Barjeel Art Foundation

CULTURAL THEME				
				
Fouad Al Futaih, 1948-2018, Graphic print, 54 x 39 cm, undated.	Hussein Madi, <i>Alphabet</i> , 1973, 30 etchings on cotton paper, each 30 x 24.4 cm.	Dia Al Azzawi, <i>Al Mua'alaqat</i> (set of 8), 1978, lithograph, 105 x 73 cm.	Thuraya Al Baqsami, <i>Badr Al Budoor</i> , Lino-cut print, 1980, 50 x 40 cm.	Thuraya Al Baqsami, <i>Fatu</i> , Lino-cut print, 1982, 40 x 30 cm.



**Figure 3.** Printmaking artworks under Barjeel Art Foundation



**Figure 4.** Printmaking artworks under Barjeel Art Foundation

### Quantitative Data

The quantitative data was collected from individuals in the Arab region who participated in this study using structured questionnaires adapted from Yaacob (2015). The questionnaires were based on four dimensions: understanding the artwork, the message conveyed, communication value, and reaction. A total of 301 questionnaires were distributed to Arab adults to fulfill the research criteria for the Arab population, focusing on three factors: social, cultural, and political. To ensure a random sample, the study employed random sampling, which is considered unbiased and provides each member of the population with an equal chance of being chosen as a respondent (Thomas, 2020).

## Public Survey Respondents' Demographic Information

**Table 1.** Respondents Demographic

Gender	Count.	Country	Count	Country	Count
Male	139 (46.2)	UAE	1	Tunisia	10
Female	162 (53.8)	Bahrain	4	Syria	13
Total	301	Jordan	19	Oman	3
Age	Count.	Algeria	6	Palestine	5
21-30	62 (20.6)	Saudi Arabia	110	Lebanon	6
31-40	154 (51.2)	Sudan	25	Libya	3
41-50	52 (18.9)	Iraq	15	Egypt	44
51-60	23 (7.6)	Yemen	37		
Above 60	5 (1.7)	Total	301		
Total	301				
Field of work or study	Count.				
Related to the arts	47 (15.6)				
Unrelated to the arts	254 (84.4)				
Total	301				

## Qualitative Data

The qualitative data collection approach focused on conducting focus group discussions using semi-structured questions. For the qualitative sample, three focus groups were selected, each consisting of ten participants, resulting in a total of 30 individuals. The inclusion criteria for recruiting respondents were as follow: having good communication skills and the ability to express their feelings, being 18 years old or above, being of any gender, and being originally from an Arab country. Conversely, the exclusion criteria included individuals with hearing or speaking impairments, those unwilling to participate, and those unable to express their feelings.

## Public Focus Group Discussion' Demographic Information:

**Table 4.** Focus Group Discussion' participants Demographic

Gender	Count of Gender
Male	11
Female	19
Total	30
Field of work or study	Field of work or study
Related to the arts	4
Unrelated to the arts	26
Total	30

## RESULTS

The researcher began by analyzing the quantitative and qualitative data independently as consistent with parallel design. The results of quantitative data of the three factors (Social, Cultural and Political) are shown in the tables.

## Social Elements of Social Commentary Artworks

**Table 5.** Quantitative Results of social elements of social commentary artworks

Code	Items	SD	D	N	A	SA	Mean
1.1	This work has a message.	1.8	9.3	21.0	40.2	27.8	3.83
2.1	The subject of this work is social.	2.1	8.5	24.9	38.4	26.0	3.78
3.1	This work has a high communication value, meaning that it has different elements (colour, text and/or symbol) to communicate the message better.	2.1	17.4	27.4	32.4	20.6	3.52
4.1	This artwork affects my opinion towards its subject.	11.7	31.3	34.9	14.2	7.8	2.75
1.2	This work has a message.	1.8	8.2	12.5	42.7	34.9	4.01
2.2	The subject of this work is social.	1.4	7.1	14.6	43.1	33.8	4.01
3.2	This work has a high communication value, meaning that it has different elements (colour, text and/or symbol) to communicate the message better.	2.5	7.8	16.4	41.6	31.7	3.92
4.2	This artwork affects my opinion towards its subject.	5.0	24.6	28.1	30.6	11.7	3.20
1.3	This work has a message.	1.1	3.9	9.6	43.1	42.3	4.22
2.3	The subject of this work is social.	1.1	4.3	13.2	43.8	37.7	4.13
3.3	This work has a high communication value, meaning that it has different elements (colour, text and/or symbol) to communicate the message better.	5.0	6.8	21.4	42.3	24.6	3.75
4.3	This art work affects my opinion towards its subject.	9.3	24.9	24.2	28.1	13.5	3.12
1.4	This work has a message.	1.1	2.8	10.0	40.9	45.2	4.26
2.4	The subject of this work is social.	1.4	2.8	7.8	44.1	43.8	4.26
3.4	This work has a high communication value, meaning that it has different elements (colour, text and/or symbol) to communicate the message better.	2.8	7.8	19.9	42.0	27.4	3.83
4.4	This artwork affects my opinion towards its subject.	7.8	23.1	27.0	28.1	13.9	3.17
1.5	This work has a message.	1.8	2.1	8.5	29.2	58.4	4.40
2.5	The subject of this work is social.	1.8	6.0	10.3	29.5	52.3	4.25
3.5	This work has a high communication value, meaning that it has different elements (colour, text and/or symbol) to communicate the message better.	2.1	7.1	15.3	31.3	44.1	4.08
4.5	This artwork affects my opinion towards its subject.	2.8	7.8	18.5	29.2	41.6	3.99
Total mean value							3.82

## Cultural Elements of Social Commentary Artworks

**Table 6.** Quantitative Results of cultural elements of social commentary artworks

Code	Items	SD	D	N	A	SA	Mean
1.1	This work has a message.	.7	8.2	18.1	18.1	37.7	4.01
2.1	The subject of this work is cultural.	.7	7.8	20.6	36.7	34.2	3.96
3.1	This work has a high communication value, meaning that it has different elements (colour, text and/or symbol) to communicate the message better.	1.8	8.2	27.4	40.6	22.1	3.73
4.1	This artwork affects my opinion towards its subject.	9.3	28.1	32.7	21.0	8.9	2.92
1.2	This work has a message.	8.9	17.1	20.3	29.9	23.8	3.43
2.2	The subject of this work is cultural.	2.8	11.7	23.8	30.2	31.3	3.75
3.2	This work has a high communication value, meaning that it has different elements (colour, text and/or symbol) to communicate the message better.	8.2	18.5	31.0	28.5	13.9	3.21
4.2	This art work affects my opinion towards its subject.	12.5	34.5	30.6	17.8	4.6	2.68
1.3	This work has a message.	2.5	3.6	14.6	32.0	47.3	4.18
2.3	The subject of this work is cultural.	2.5	3.6	13.9	33.8	46.3	4.18
3.3	This work has a high communication value, meaning that it has different elements (colour, text and/or symbol) to communicate the message better.	2.5	3.9	18.9	37.4	37.4	4.03
4.3	This art work affects my opinion towards its subject.	3.2	23.5	25.6	27.8	19.9	3.38

1.4	This work has a message.	3.2	13.9	17.4	30.2	35.2	3.80
2.4	The subject of this work is cultural.	2.5	9.6	17.4	32.4	38.1	3.94
3.4	This work has a high communication value, meaning that it has different elements (colour, text and/or symbol) to communicate the message better.	2.5	7.1	20.3	40.2	29.9	3.88
4.4	This art work affects my opinion towards its subject.	6.4	24.6	31.7	23.5	13.9	3.14
1.5	This work has a message.	1.8	13.5	18.5	28.5	37.7	3.87
2.5	The subject of this work is cultural.	2.1	10.3	16.0	33.5	38.1	3.95
3.5	This work has a high communication value, meaning that it has different elements (colour, text and/or symbol) to communicate the message better.	2.8	9.3	25.3	34.2	28.5	3.76
4.5	This artwork affects my opinion towards its subject.	3.6	26.7	31.7	23.1	14.9	3.19
1.6	This work has a message.	2.1	6.4	16.7	33.1	41.6	4.06
2.6	The subject of this work is cultural.	1.8	7.1	17.1	35.2	38.8	4.02
3.6	This work has a high communication value, meaning that it has different elements (colour, text and/or symbol) to communicate the message better.	2.5	7.8	24.6	36.3	28.8	3.81
4.6	This artwork affects my opinion towards its subject.	4.3	24.6	32.4	22.8	16.0	3.22
1.7	This work has a message.	7.8	11.7	23.5	26.3	30.6	3.60
2.7	The subject of this work is cultural.	2.5	7.5	22.8	32.0	35.2	3.90
3.7	This work has a high communication value, meaning that it has different elements (colour, text and/or symbol) to communicate the message better.	7.5	11.4	28.8	33.1	19.2	3.45
4.7	This art work affects my opinion towards its subject.	9.3	30.2	34.2	16.4	10.0	2.88
1.8	This work has a message.	2.1	9.3	14.9	33.8	39.9	4.00
2.8	The subject of this work is cultural.	2.1	8.2	15.3	36.3	38.1	4.00
3.8	This work has a high communication value, meaning that it has different elements (colour, text and/or symbol) to communicate the message better.	3.9	11.0	22.8	36.3	26.0	3.69
4.8	This artwork affects my opinion towards its subject.	8.2	26.0	29.5	22.1	14.2	3.08
1.9	This work has a message.	2.5	9.6	14.6	29.5	43.8	4.02
2.9	The subject of this work is cultural.	3.2	5.0	15.7	35.9	40.2	4.05
3.9	This work has a high communication value, meaning that it has different elements (colour, text and/or symbol) to communicate the message better.	4.6	10.7	18.1	38.1	28.5	3.75
4.9	This artwork affects my opinion towards its subject.	3.9	14.6	29.9	29.9	21.7	3.51
Total mean value							3.66

## Political Elements of Social Commentary Artworks

**Table 7.** Quantitative Results of political elements of social commentary artworks

Code	Items	SD	D	N	A	SA	Mean
1.1	This work has a message.	1.4	6.0	15.7	30.2	46.6	4.15
2.1	The subject of this work is political.	1.4	8.9	20.6	28.1	40.9	3.98
3.1	This work has a high communication value, meaning that it has different elements (colour, text and/or symbol) to communicate the message better.	1.8	6.4	18.9	36.3	36.7	4.00
4.1	This artwork affects my opinion towards its subject.	2.5	20.3	28.5	26.3	22.4	3.46
1.2	This work has a message.	1.1	.7	5.3	26.3	66.5	4.57
2.2	The subject of this work is political.	1.1	1.4	6.4	25.3	65.8	4.53
3.2	This work has a high communication value, meaning that it has different elements (colour, text and/or symbol) to communicate the message better.	1.1	4.6	12.1	29.9	52.3	4.28
4.2	This art work affects my opinion towards its subject.	2.8	9.6	15.7	26.7	45.2	4.02
1.3	This work has a message.	7.5	6.4	14.9	31.7	39.5	3.89
2.3	The subject of this work is political.	3.2	11.7	19.2	26.7	39.1	3.87
3.3	This work has a high communication value, meaning that it has different elements (colour, text and/or symbol) to communicate the message better.	10.0	12.5	21.7	33.5	22.4	3.46
4.3	This artwork affects my opinion towards its subject.	11.0	22.4	30.2	19.9	16.4	3.08
1.4	This work has a message.	2.1	5.0	7.5	28.8	56.6	4.33
2.4	The subject of this work is political.	2.8	4.6	10.0	27.0	55.5	4.28
3.4	This work has a high communication value, meaning that it has different elements (colour, text and/or symbol) to communicate	2.1	5.0	11.4	30.6	50.9	4.23

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4.4	the message better. This artwork affects my opinion towards its subject.	2.8	7.8	24.2	22.4	42.7	3.94
1.5	This work has a message.	1.1	2.1	6.4	28.8	61.6	4.48
2.5	The subject of this work is political.	2.1	2.1	7.5	28.5	59.8	4.42
3.5	This work has a high communication value, meaning that it has different elements (colour, text and/or symbol) to communicate the message better.	1.4	3.2	10.7	32.0	52.7	4.31
4.5	This artwork affects my opinion towards its subject.	2.5	6.0	21.4	26.7	43.4	4.02
1.6	This work has a message.	.4	1.1	5.3	26.3	66.9	4.58
2.6	The subject of this work is political.	.4	2.1	7.8	28.1	61.6	4.48
3.6	This work has a high communication value, meaning that it has different elements (colour, text and/or symbol) to communicate the message better.	.4	1.8	7.8	33.5	56.6	4.44
4.6	This artwork affects my opinion towards its subject.	1.1	3.6	19.6	27.8	48.0	4.18
1.7	This work has a message.	.4	1.4	5.0	29.2	64.1	4.55
2.7	The subject of this work is political.	.4	1.8	7.8	25.6	64.4	4.52
3.7	This work has a high communication value, meaning that it has different elements (colour, text and/or symbol) to communicate the message better.	.4	1.8	11.0	34.2	52.7	4.37
4.7	This art work affects my opinion towards its subject.	.7	4.3	23.1	29.2	42.7	4.09
1.8	This work has a message.	1.4	3.9	13.5	27.4	53.7	4.28
2.8	The subject of this work is political.	1.1	3.2	16.4	22.4	56.9	4.31
3.8	This work has a high communication value, meaning that it has different elements (colour, text and/or symbol) to communicate the message better.	.7	4.6	18.9	28.1	47.7	4.17
4.8	This artwork affects my opinion towards its subject.	2.5	9.6	29.9	19.2	38.8	3.82
Total mean value							4.22

### Key Findings of Public Perception Toward Social Theme

In this section, will present artworks related to social theme in order to understand how social commentary art being accepted by public and, respondents have different social perception toward the social commentary artworks under social theme.

No.	Quantitative	Qualitative
1 <sup>st</sup> Artwork	The mean value of the four elements (message - theme - communication value - interaction) between 2.75 and 3.83, which tends to be high.	1- The majority of Arab public approved that this artwork has message but ambiguous and not clear. 2- Most of the respondents stated that the artwork not clear, lacked of details and features. 3- P1 and P2 mentioned that this artwork hold Pharaonic and ancient themes. 4- Only P1, P2, P5, P6, P7, P12, P13 and P16 which represent less than the third of respondents, stated it has social theme.
2 <sup>nd</sup> Artwork	The mean value of the four elements (message - theme - communication value - interaction) between 3.20 and 4.01, which ranged from moderate to high.	1- The majority of respondents approved that this artwork has message. 2- some respondents mentioned this artwork has different social themes such as family relations, companionship, and relationships between countries. 3- The Majority stated that they understood the artwork as a collection of personal things by a person. 4- Most of the respondents stated that the artwork related to the society and it has social theme.
3 <sup>rd</sup> Artwork	The mean value of the four elements (message - theme - communication value - interaction) from 3.12 to 4.22, ranged from moderate to very high.	1- The majority of respondents approved that this artwork contains various elements such as color, text, and symbols that are used to convey the message in a better way. 2- P11, P12, P16 and P22 mentioned the artwork generated some feeling confused and unable to understand the message. 3- Most of the respondents stated that the artwork related to social life.
4 <sup>th</sup> Artwork	The mean value of the four elements (message - theme - communication value - interaction) ranged from 3.17 to 4.26, and these mean values ranged from moderate to very high.	1- P19 and P2 see the artwork as depicting a scene from the Arab Gulf region. However, some are unsure of the message or purpose of the artwork. 2- P2, P5, P9 and P19 believe that the artwork has a social theme related to Arab customs, togetherness, waiting, and separation.



<b>5<sup>th</sup> Artwork</b>	The mean value of the four elements (message - theme - communication value - interaction) between 3.99 and 4.40, which are interpreted from high to very high.	1- The respondents stated that the message conveyed by the artwork is both positive and negative. 2- P1, P5, P8, P15, P16, P17, P18 and P21 seeing it as a symbol of self-development (Positive), however, P2, P3, P4, P6, P7, P10, P12, P14 and P19 seeing it as a symbol of self-harm and destruction. 3- Related to interaction: most participants consider their own lives and the impact of oil and technology on their well-being.
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### Key Findings of Public Perception Toward Cultural Theme

In this section, will present artworks related to cultural theme in order to understand how social commentary art being accepted by public and, respondents have different cultural perception toward the social commentary artworks under cultural theme.

No.	Quantitative	Qualitative
<b>6<sup>th</sup> Artwork</b>	The mean value of the four elements (message - theme - communication value - interaction) between 2.92 and 4.01 mean values, which ranged from moderate to high.	1- All participants stated that the artwork carried culture theme with regards to Yemeni customs. 2- Some individuals feel that the artwork carries a message, while others are unsure. 3- The symbols and different religions present in the artwork are distracting to some individuals, while others find them mysterious and intriguing.
<b>7<sup>th</sup> Artwork</b>	The mean value of the four elements (message - theme - communication value - interaction) between 2.68 to 3.75, which are interpreted as ranging from moderate to high.	1- Most respondents do believe that the artwork carries a cultural theme, but not all are sure about the message. 2- P5, P9, P10, P11, P12, P14, P15 and P18 think the artwork represents the Arabic language and appreciate the artistic representation of the letters in the artwork. 3- P4 couldn't understand the arrangement of the letters. 4- None of the participants express a desire to act or do something after seeing it.
<b>8<sup>th</sup> Artwork</b>	The mean value of the four elements (message - theme - communication value - interaction) between 3.38 and 4.18, which are interpreted as ranging from moderate to high.	1- Participants P4, P7, P10, P11, P12, and P16 noticed the overlapping graphics and words in the paintings that tell an outstanding story and contains phrases and symbols related to it. 2- P5 mentioned red color symbolize the wars and P4,P5, P7,P9, P10, P11, P12, P16, P19 and P29 believed that the artwork has a message, although some found it mysterious. Also, they agreed that the artwork has a cultural theme by using various elements related to Arabic poetry specifically the Muallaqat. 3- The majority agreed that the artwork has a high level of communication value for Arab people ,understand the language. 4- Regarding the interaction: P16 thought that the artist wants to draw people's attention to these odes and revive ancient Islamic history, while P4 and P6 expressed their interest in reading more about it.
<b>9<sup>th</sup> Artwork</b>	The mean value of the four elements (message - theme - communication value - interaction) between 3.14 to 3.88, which are interpreted as ranging from moderate to high.	1- All participants agreed that the artwork has a cultural theme, specifically Islamic culture. 2- Most of the respondents reported that the artwork portrays a woman from ancient times named Badr al-Bdur (a fictional character from The Book of One Thousand Nights), while others believe she is from a prestigious class in the Ottoman era. 3- Some participants mention the details of the woman's adornment, the eye symbols, the crescent, and the fact that it portrays the ideal woman while others suggest that the symbols in the background could have a meaning that is not clear. 4- Some participants did not have a reaction.
<b>10<sup>th</sup> Artwork</b>	The mean value of the four elements (message - theme - communication value - interaction) between 3.19 and 3.95, which are interpreted as moderate to high mean values.	1- Most of participants stated that the artwork has a message related to women's issues, Islam in Africa, or racism towards of African. 2- The majority of participants reported that the artwork represent an African woman with cultural symbols in the background, moreover, elements such as color, text, and symbols in the artwork is perceived to effectively convey the message. 3- Participants do not reported any reactions towards the artwork.

*Investigate The Level of Awareness and Acceptance of Social Commentary Art Among the Public in The Arab Region*

<b>11<sup>th</sup> Artwork</b>	The mean value of the four elements (message - theme - communication value - interaction) between 3.22 to 4.06, which are moderate to high mean values.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1- The Majority of respondents reported that the artwork has a message.</li> <li>2- The majority of respondents recognized the Islamic cultural theme while few respondents noted the African cultural theme.</li> <li>3- Some respondents appreciated the use of different elements like color, text, and symbols (he crescent and star, the rosary, and Islamic phrases like 'In the name of God' and 'Praise be to God.')</li> <li>4- For interaction: The majority of respondents did not indicate that the artwork had a significant impact on them or that it changed their opinions or behavior in any way.</li> </ol>
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No.	Quantitative	Qualitative
<b>12<sup>th</sup> Artwork</b>	The mean value of the four elements (message - theme - communication value - interaction) from 2.88 to 3.90, which are interpreted as ranging between moderate to high	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1- (P1, P2, P6, P9, P10, P15, P16, P17, P18, and P23) which represent third of respondents stated that the message is related to the power of words and their effects on people.</li> <li>2- Most of the respondents mentioned that artwork under cultural theme, moreover the use of Kufic script is because it is one of the oldest scripts.</li> <li>3- Only P4 has no idea about the artwork, and tha artwork has no message.</li> </ol>
<b>13<sup>th</sup> Artwork</b>	The mean value of the four elements (message - theme - communication value - interaction) from 3.08 to 4.00, which are moderate to high mean values.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1- Some participants reported that the artwork has a message, while the others said is not clear.</li> <li>2- All respondents have varying interpretations of the artwork and its message while the majority agree that the artwork has a cultural theme as it includes mosques and houses that reflect the heritage and culture of the place.</li> <li>3- Some participant stated the sub theme under religion because of religious symbols.</li> </ol>
<b>14<sup>th</sup> Artwork</b>	The mean value of the four elements (message - theme - communication value - interaction) between 3.51 and 4.05, and these mean values high mean values.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1- All participants agree that the artwork carries a message and has a cultural theme related to ancient urbanism and Islamic architecture.</li> <li>2- P5 and P9 both mention the importance of preserving heritage and identity.</li> <li>3- Some participants mention the black and white colors and the technique used as attractive elements.</li> <li>4- P16 is the only participant who mentions being inspired to read more about Islamic urbanism.</li> </ol>

**Key Findings of Public Perception Toward Political Theme**

In this section, will present artworks related to political theme in order to understand how artworks being accepted by public in the context of social commentary and, respondents have different political perception toward the social commentary artworks.

No.	Quantitative	Qualitative
<b>15<sup>th</sup> Artwork</b>	The mean value of the four elements (message - theme - communication value - interaction) between 3.46 and 4.15, which are interpreted as high mean values.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1- The majority mentioned that the artwork under political theme and related to Palestinian struggles against the occupation.</li> <li>2- Majority of Arab public stated that the artwork can provide a high value of communication through its use of colors (red), text, and symbols like thyme leaves.</li> <li>3- Strong reactions from the participants, and many of them are against the occupation.</li> </ol>
<b>16<sup>th</sup> Artwork</b>	The mean value of the four elements (message - theme - communication value - interaction) between 4.02 and 4.57, which are interpreted as high to very high mean values.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1- All participant agree that the artwork has a political theme.</li> <li>2- The majority of participant mentioned the artwork to be clear and easy to understand, and they consider it to have a high value of communication.</li> <li>3- participants have a similar understanding of the artwork's meaning and political message due to clear text and symbols.</li> </ol>
<b>17<sup>th</sup> Artwork</b>	The mean value of the four elements (message - theme - communication value - interaction) between 3.08 and 3.89, which are moderate to high mean values.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1- General agreement among the participants that the artwork is related to a political issue because of the title only (Some participants found the artwork ambiguous and lacking in elements while others believed that the name of the artwork alone indicates its political nature).</li> <li>2- P4, P15 and P16 did not find anything attractive or noticeable in the artwork.</li> </ol>

<b>18<sup>th</sup> Artwork</b>	The mean value of the four elements (message - theme - communication value - interaction) between 3.94 and 4.33, and these mean values are interpreted as high to very high mean values.	1- P2, P3, P4, P5, P9, P10, P11, P12, P16, P18, P19, P21, P23, P24 and P26 which represent the majority highlight the presence of political symbols, such as the dollar sign, American flags, and the word 'deal,' lead to categorize it under political theme, also, they agree that the artwork has a clear and explicit political message related to the occupation of Palestine. 2- Some participants state the artwork evokes a reaction among them, expressing their solidarity with the Palestinian and a desire to defend Palestine.
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No.	Quantitative	Qualitative
<b>19<sup>th</sup> Artwork</b>	The mean value of the four elements (message - theme - communication value - interaction) between 4.02 and 4.48, which are interpreted as high to very high mean values.	1- All participants agreed that the artwork carries a message, with some emphasizing the connection between politics and the loss of childhood joy. 2- P18, P20, P21 and P25 mentioned that the use of a game as a metaphor for politics and the choice of bright, cheerful colors in contrast to the underlying themes of violence and bitterness. 3- P18, P20 and P25 report the artwork consider to effectively communicate its message through the use of various elements such as colors, symbols, and the depiction of a game turning into a violent conflict. 4- P5, P7, P9, P21, P18 and P25 express reactions to the artwork, including reflections on the impact of politics on individuals and societies, the need for wisdom in decision-making, and the recognition of children as the first victims of war.
<b>20<sup>th</sup> Artwork</b>	The mean value of the four elements (message - theme - communication value - interaction) between 4.18 and 4.58 that are interpreted as high to very high mean values.	1- The majority of participant acknowledge that the artwork has a political theme. 2- Some participants mentioned the use of various elements such as the UNICEF emblem, the stop sign, and the map of Syria enhanced the communication value of the artwork. 3- Some participants P1, P2, P5, P10, P17, P20, P21 and P24 report that the artwork evoked reactions and reflections about the ongoing conflicts and the need for justice and the importance of stopping the war and protecting human rights.
<b>21<sup>st</sup> Artwork</b>	The mean value of the four elements (message - theme - communication value - interaction) from 4.09 to 4.55, which are high to very high mean values.	1- The majority of participants acknowledged that the artwork had a strong political theme. 2- P5, P7, P9, P10, P12 and P16 perceived the artwork as delivering a clear and explicit message. 3- P1, P5, P7, P9, P10 and P16 mentioned that the artwork is capable of providing a high value of communication, because it contained different elements such as colors, phrases, and the depiction of President Bashar al-Assad, which helped convey the message in a better way. 4- Some participants mention that the artwork sparked their curiosity and prompted them to learn more about the context and the content of the fifth speech.
<b>22<sup>nd</sup> Artwork</b>	The mean value of the four elements (message - theme - communication value - interaction) between 3.82 and 4.28, which are interpreted as high to very high mean values.	1- All participants recognized the political nature of the artwork. 2- Participants agreed that the artwork conveyed a clear and explicit message. 3- The majority of participants recognized the use of various elements in the artwork, such as colors, text, and symbols, to enhance communication and convey the message effectively. 4- Most of participants agree that the artwork had an impact on them, provoking thoughts and reactions related to the political situation and their personal opinions. 5- Some participant mention that the artwork has a high level of communication value due to colors, flags, symbols, and the facial expressions and seriousness depicted.

## DISCUSSION AND IMPLICATION

The research findings show that participants responded positively to social, cultural, and political artworks, with strong engagement and understanding of the political themes. They recognized messages and themes well but faced challenges in effectively communicating and interacting with the artworks. Printmaking artworks with abstract elements, like (Sabra and Shatila, 1993), were less understood and preferred by the public. Subjective interpretation of printmaking artworks varied among individuals, highlighting the importance and challenges of understanding abstract art. Social, cultural, and political themes emerged as crucial constructs in the social commentary through printmaking by Arab artists

under the Barjeel Art Foundation. Implications of the findings suggest the need for improved engagement strategies to bridge the communication gap. Enhancing public understanding of abstract artworks and ensuring effective message conveyance is crucial. Promoting subjective interpretation can deepen the connection between artists, artworks, and the public. Overall, the research supports the significance of themes in understanding social commentary through printmaking art.

## CONCLUSION

In conclusion, through this study and the literature review, the combination of social, cultural, and political themes has been the best elements contained in a social commentary art through printmaking study. Each of these elements has integrated to make a significant contribution in assessing social commentary issues. The research findings shed light on the level of awareness and acceptance of social commentary printmaking art by Arab people. The participants' responses revealed a moderate to high level of engagement with social and cultural artworks, as well as a strong engagement with political artworks. The study highlighted that the participants were able to recognize messages and themes in the artworks, but their ability to effectively communicate and interact with the artworks was comparatively lower. Additionally, the research has identified challenges in understanding printmaking art pieces that incorporated abstract figures, indicating a potential disconnect between the artist's intended message and the public's interpretation.

The findings emphasize the importance of subjective interpretation and the complexities involved in comprehending abstract art. Overall, the study underscores the significance of social, cultural, and political factors as key constructs in analyzing and appreciating social commentary printmaking art created by Arab artists under the Barjeel Art Foundation. Moreover, the study is significantly important to promote Arab social commentary artworks nationally and internationally.

To further corroborate these findings, researchers interested in the field of social commentary and printmaking art should conduct further studies in the Arab region, focusing on populations within different regions, with the aim to explore perceptions, recognition, and potential of printmaking art as a tool for social change. Additionally, future studies in this domain may consider diverse perspectives within the Arab region and conduct comparative studies between different regions or cultures, as well as foster collaboration between artists and researchers. These recommendations aim to deepen the understanding of awareness and acceptance of social commentary printmaking art, promote cross-cultural insights, and foster collaboration for a more comprehensive exploration of the topic.

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