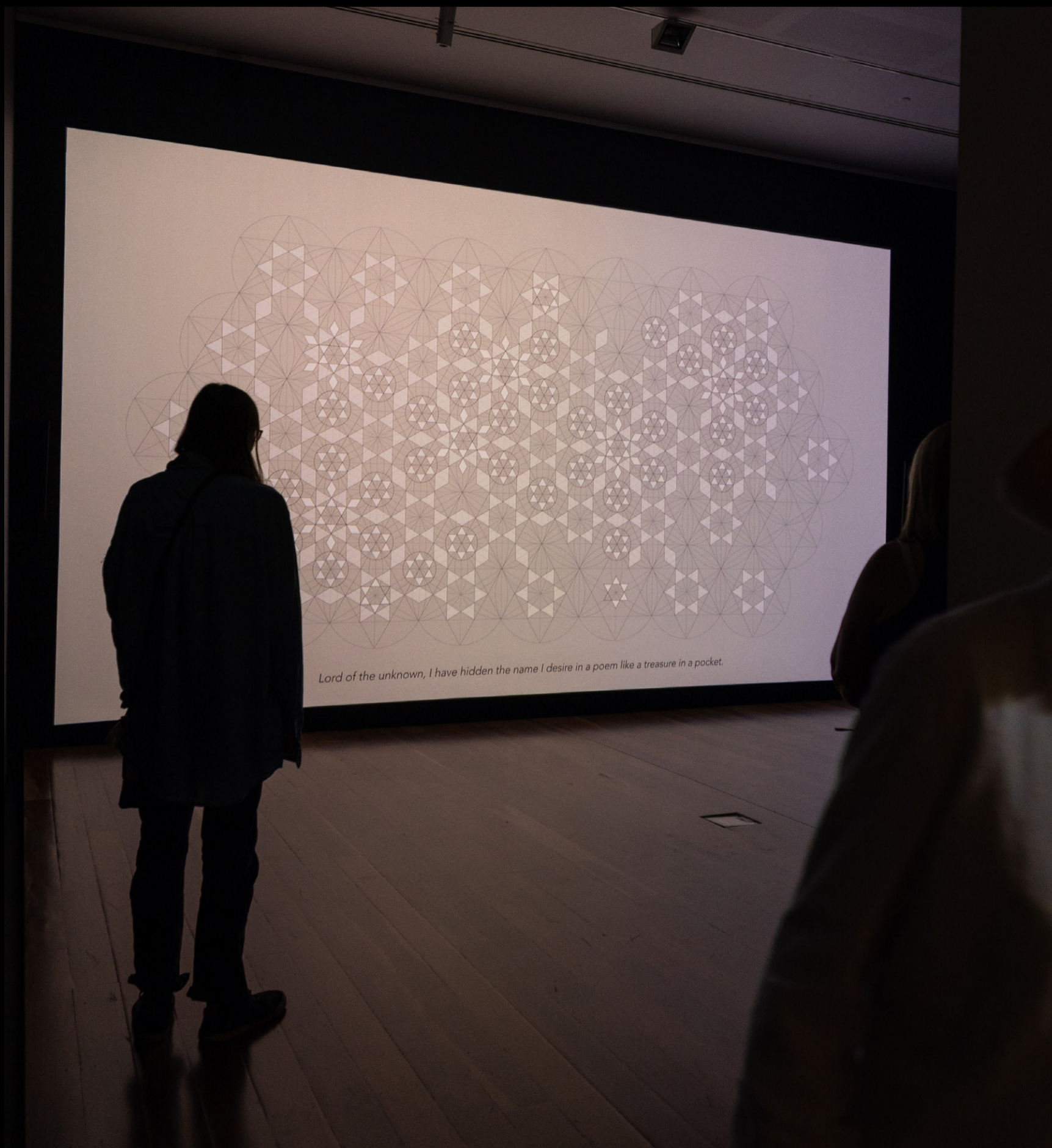


DANA AWARTANI



Dana AWARTANI, *I Went Away and Forgot You. A While Ago I Remembered. I Remembered I'd Forgotten You. I Was Dreaming*, 2017, installation view, Samstag Museum of Art, 2024 Adelaide Festival. Photograph by Sia Duff.

DANA AWARTANI



Dana AWARTANI, *Listen to my words*, 2020, installation view, Samstag Museum of Art, 2024 Adelaide Festival. Photograph by Sia Duff.

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DANA AWARTANI

Seeking to reconsider the forms, techniques and spatial constructs that define Arab visual culture, in Saudi-Palestinian artist Dana Awartani's practice the wisdom and poetics embedded in traditional crafts are harnessed to tackle a range of contemporary issues.

For Samstag's Parnati 2024 season, two works incorporating moving image were exhibited as examples of her varied artistic practice, in which Islamic geometric patterns are interpreted as a highly codified and philosophical language. In Gallery 3, *Listen to My Words*, 2020 used elaborate screening, a traditional element of Arabic architecture, to quietly examine the status of women in contemporary society interlacing the geometric symbolism with poetic dialogue across generations. Erasure was again highlighted in *I Went Away and Forgot You. A While Ago I Remembered. I Remembered I'd Forgotten You. I Was Dreaming* (2017). This work brought together video and installation in an act of construction and destruction, an elegy for the cultural importance of vernacular architecture. Spanning two stories, it was viewable from the Museum's upper level balcony as we finalised our gallery repairs after 2023's flooding.

Presented for the 2024 Adelaide Festival, Arwatani's exhibition balanced upon the tensions between craft, tradition, and contemporary art. Probing the complexity and politics woven through material culture, her work made a case for beauty in the things we create and more specifically, the ability of beauty to transcend time and attitude, to contain and endure.

Gillian Brown, Curator, Samstag Museum of Art.

DANA AWARTANI

Dana AWARTANI, *I Went Away and Forgot You. A While Ago I Remembered. I Remembered I'd Forgotten You. I Was Dreaming*, 2017, mixed media installation with sand and natural pigments, single-channel video, with no sound, 22 mins.

Dana AWARTANI, *Listen to my words*, 2020, single-channel digital animation, colour, sound (recordings of historical poems), 12 min 57 sec.

DANA AWARTANI

SAMSTAG PARNATI SEASON

Dana Awartani is a Samstag Museum of Art, exhibition for the 2024 Adelaide Festival.
1 March — 10 May 2024

Exhibition Curator: Gillian Brown
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