

# Visual treat

## Total Arts Gallery at the Courtyard

It's not often that Dubai sees such an eclectic mixture of art at once. This month, more than 18 artists from countries including Iran, Italy and the US are coming to the UAE, and the resulting exhibition at the Total Arts Gallery looks set to be a bit of an eye-opener.

Each artist will bring between four and 12 pieces of work, and as Dariush Zandi from Total Arts says, 'this makes for a lot of artwork'. The gallery has been planning the exhibition for the past eight months, and since very few of the artists have displayed their work here before, the exhibition promises to be groundbreaking.

The work is predominantly photography. There are powerful black and white images by American, Robert Leutheuser, which capture the welcome he received on his visit to Iran in 2002. In contrast to these are the equally strong photographs by Pakistani, Mansoor Hassan, who portrays herself in her burqa in front of famous American monuments, such as the White House and the Lincoln Memorial, in a bid to address Muslim stereotypes in the aftermath of September 11. Andreas Zipperle's 'Colours Of Peace' are hugely magnified photos of fruit, their vivid splash of colour an invitation to appreciate the beauty of these everyday objects. Frenchman, Michel Eisenlohr, snaps passers-by, begging the viewer to ask who they are and what they are leaving behind (pictured).

Paintings on display include the surreal work of Belgian philosopher and artist, Guido Legrand, and the abstract work of Iranian, Shaqayeq Arabi. There is also a video show by Marika Seidler, exploring the imagination of Lebanese students. Workshops in photography, painting and video will also take place for those inspired by the work on display. *Camilla Gee*

*Total Arts Gallery at the Courtyard, Jan 7-19. For more information, see Listings.*

