

4  **11** Listen to the first part of the interview again. Which word best completes the sentence?

- 1 Alison had informal exhibitions in her home with visiting _____ before it opened as the Majlis Gallery.
- a** painters
b artists
c galleries

Presenter: Excellent! So first of all, can I ask, am I right in saying you opened the gallery in 1989 and in a building that was previously your home?

Alison: Ah, yes, it's sort of true, but although it officially opened in 1989, I'd been doing what you would call, I suppose, impromptu soirees prior to that for about ten years – exhibitions for visiting artists and things, and that was just sort of very informally in my home. That was sort of where the concept came from.

Presenter: How exciting. So, how come you chose this particular building?

Alison: Err, the building chose me, actually. When I first came here it was to work as an interior designer and I used to walk down through this area, which is now called Al Fahidi Historic Neighbourhood, to go across to Deira where I had a big project on the abris. I really fell in love with the houses here and very fortunately, through having cups of tea with people in the souk, I managed to get the lease on one of them – that was in 1978.

Presenter: Oh, my goodness! So, what can you tell us about the gallery, what sort of exhibitions do you put on? What sort of art do you try and showcase?

Alison: We're fairly mainstream in lots of ways, although, you know, we, most of our artists are what you would call **contemporary** artists, you know, they're, nearly all of them are alive. A few, very sadly, we've lost along the way, but then when you've been operating for over 35 years, that's bound to happen. It's fairly, I wouldn't say representational, although we do have a reputation for traditional **watercolours** really, as much as anything. But it's a very broad spectrum. As long as I like it then we show it. I'm the kind of conduit that everything channels through.

Presenter: It all comes through you?

6  **12** Listen to another part of the interview. Which word best completes the sentence?

- 1 Alison says that the gallery puts on exhibitions to display mainstream and _____ artists.
- a** contemporary
b traditional
c informal
d national

sculptures?

Alison: Oh, yeah.

Presenter: Would you ever have things like bronze sculptures?

Alison: Yeah, we have sculpture and glass. I adore glass, especially handmade glass. So, there's ceramic, sculpture, glass, a certain amount of textiles too. Well, you know, it sort of, it changes the whole time, I mean the gallery that's static is pretty boring.

7  **13** Listen to the rest of the interview about the Majlis Gallery and complete the sentences.

- 1 Alison talks about the different types of art forms one might see at the gallery, such as glass, ceramic, _____ and textiles.
- 2 The presenter mentions that there are _____ galleries in the same area.
- 3 Alison describes the art gallery as international because it has work from British, French, South American and _____ artists.
- 4 Alison tells us that a lot of the international artists whose work is displayed at the art gallery often visit the UAE. They tend to come for _____ each year.
- 5 Alison says that a lot of people who don't live in the UAE think the country is _____.
- 6 Alison believes that the Internet has made _____ to arrange exhibitions much easier.

Alison: I think people don't realise quite how fascinating this part of the world is to people from around the world.

Presenter: Ok, so, thinking about, what might happen in the future in terms of the art scene. What role do you think the Internet's played, or will play in the future, with regard to

Presenter: So, what do you think sets you apart from **other** galleries? Because I notice if I walk around the neighbourhood now that there seem to be quite a few galleries that are set up in this particular part of town.

Alison: I think the biggest thing is the fact that the artists that we represent are international and we don't really have a strong theme. Quite a lot of galleries concentrate on particular countries or even within the Middle East. But we have painters from England, France, South America, Australia, you name it – we're like the League of Nations, really.

Presenter: Ok, so would you say you've got a reputation for showing art across the spectrum?

Alison: Yes, but the uniting factor is that all of **our artists**, whether they live here or not, and most of them don't, they visit for at least a month every year. So there's a very strong affinity between them and Middle Eastern culture.