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## **BurJuman art and music fest starts**

*By a staff reporter*

OVER 150 local and international artistes will perform at BurJuman's annual Art and Musical Festival from today till October 31. The 10-day event was introduced two years ago by BurJuman offering artistes an opportunity to showcase their innovative works and exceptional talent.

The exhibits will include all forms of paintings from around the world, sculptures, pottery, carving, Islamic calligraphy and handicrafts. The mall will also come alive to the melodic sounds of strolling players as they tour the mall dressed in period costumes.

Virgin Megastore, main partner of BurJuman, has arranged for a special visit to the mall by the World Class Rockers - a collection of legendary international rock stars including former members of the Moody Blues, Steppenwolf, Foreigner, Toto and the Spencer Davis band. They will be making a personal appearance in the Mall and signing autographs at 6.30pm on Wednesday evening at the Virgin store.

Excerpts from the new television series Akhir Al Fursan, to be broadcast during Ramadan, will feature personal appearances of three stars of the production including Miss Lebanon's Joelle Bouhlok and Jordanian actress Nadia Oud. Lebanese singer Nelly Makdessi will also be making a personal appearance.

Other highlights include display of Islamic calligraphy by Iraqi artists, Bengali art exhibition, young artistes like exhibition by Priyanka Verma, crafts exhibition by Usha Thampi, handmade terracotta pottery by Meenakshi Bhasin, leather handicrafts and handmade jewellery from Lebanon, display of Ukrainian art, "Middle Eastern Women" impressionism featuring 30 paintings of Maya Al Omari, **painting exhibition by Abeer Ayash**, Musical Village by famous Arab TV and radio singer Ghassan Abbasi, and flower painting exhibition by Iranian artist Simin Tagik.

