

1.1 a distinction between performance art and

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1. 1 INTRODUCTION” The arts are an essential element of education, just like reading, writing, and arithmetic...music, dance, painting, and theater are all keys that unlock profound human understanding and accomplishment.”

William Bennett, Former US Secretary of Education” I realize the power of art that does not hang on the walls of galleries.” MARINA

ABRAMOVIC, The Guardian, October 2, 2010 Why do we need to deal with arts? How can arts, performing arts precisely affects intellectual and social developments of people? Can the special layout and the design language of performing arts centers seeks to have a different new methodology, behavior and blend with the social fabric of the country? Can the urban spaces act as creativity spaces as well? Well, too many practical and theoretical questions were raised but in order to answer these questions we need first to understand the type of the project and how it's related to the social content of Bahrain. 1.

2 BACKGROUND TO THE STUDY To start with, we need first to answer a very important question; what is performing arts? The definition of performing arts is broad and could be confusing, but it usually referred to the type of art that presented “ live”. It is mainly presented by an artist or group of performers. Performing Art depends simply on the presence (and absence) of the body. The body, site, audience and time are its four pillars, with corporeal action the central axis. Artists turned to the physical body and brought an ‘ aliveness’, a temporality and instability to artworks. (Rose Lee Goldberg, 2001) There were some thoughts to distinguish performing arts from performance arts which may we think it is the same. Some opinions say that the Performing Arts refers to theatre, dance, opera and the circus. Cultural

anthropologist 'Victor Turner' made a distinction between Performance Art and the Performing Arts when he defined Performance Art as: 'making, not faking'.

The performance artist is not acting in the theatrical sense because every action is real. In the 1970s, Performance Art stood in direct opposition to performing arts or theatre especially. As the form has developed they considered them the same due to many similarities. (Victor Turner, 1984) According to UNESCO, performing arts are a sustainable branch of culture. "The performing arts range from vocal and instrumental music, dance and theatre to pantomime, sung verse and beyond.

They include numerous cultural expressions that reflect human creativity and that are also found, to some extent, in many other intangible cultural heritage domains". Music, for example is the most universal type of the performing arts and it is found in every society. It is found as an integral part of other performing art forms and other fields of intangible cultural heritage like rituals and festive events. Performing arts are more than simply 'performances' for an audience; they also play important roles in culture and society. (UNESCO, 2014) I think the most important part of the performing arts is being beneficial and meaningful.

Performing arts like theatre for example deals with different types of arts, different categories in the society and send different messages; social, political and religious issues. It is an art for everyone." What specializes theatre is the live human interaction between the performer and the

audience. This space that is minimizing because of the truth; the truth of the feelings and the emotions.

In my opinion, theatre is the firstplace that create the person awareness. Theatre deals with most of the social, political and religious issues. Of course, many changes happened to theatrebecause of the new technology, but whenever theatre is close to the truth andthe human, it is more effective." HASHIM ALAWAI/LOCALARTIST 1. 2.

1 HISTORICAL BACKGROUND TO THE STUDYPerforming arts were found in the oldest communities focusing onnature before they had scientific knowledge. They explained the relationship ofthemselves to the world around them through the arts. Historians believe thatearly people used dance both as a religious ritual and for social expression. Thedrama was also found in old communities. The origins of the early theatre werefound as storytelling and in ritual dances and ceremonies.

(SharonWuorenmaa, 2005) Performing arts flourished as a type of art following the movementsof modernism in the 1960s, and it extended across the world.