

The Middle East in your inbox

Your Email Address.

Subscribe

AL-MONITOR 

Qatar-based sound artist says it's time to slow down and listen

by **Raphaëlle Peltier**

September 18, 2022 — Doha (AFP)

In a noisy, chaotic and fast-paced world, the Qatar-based sound artist Guillaume Rousere is on a mission: to get people to slow down and listen again.

Birdsong, insects chirping, the sound of wind brushing through tall grass or over sand dunes -- all these form part of what the 44-year-old Frenchman calls his "sound art".

"Sound art is a discipline where the principal medium is sound and where the aim is to listen," said Rousere, who lives in the Gulf state that will soon host the World Cup.





Start your PRO membership today.

Join the Middle East's top business and policy professionals to access exclusive PRO insights today.

Join Al-Monitor PRO

Start with 1-week free trial

For a recent audio project, he set up a microphone at an organic farm in Qatar, where he also recorded man-made sounds such as those of cars, planes and farm machines.

"I walk around the site I want to explore and let my ears guide me if I hear anything that draws me," he said, adding that often "it's a matter of luck".



"I place the microphone and leave," Rousere told AFP. "I don't listen to it before I'm back in my studio."

His sonic artwork is "not to be confused with music" made up of "organised sounds", stressed Rousere, who explained that his passion started in childhood when he would pop balloons to study the noise it made in different environments.

- 'Listen and disconnect' -

His new, water-themed installation, "The World As We Know It Is Changing", aims to "take the audience on a journey, to listen and disconnect from the world,"

Rousere told AFP.

"It's become all the more important to me because... we live in fast-paced societies that have stopped listening."

Visitors sit in a darkened room, surrounded by four loudspeakers, for their experience of "profound listening", at Mathaf, a modern art museum in Doha's university district Education City.

They soon find themselves immersed in an ever-shifting soundscape, with flowing river water and the noise of human activity, but also narrated memories connected to water in different languages, as related images are projected on the wall.

A previous installation, "Fragile Resilience", inspired by the sails of dhows that ply Arabian seas, was shown at the Paris UNESCO headquarters, at an event organised by a Qatari foundation.



Rousere, who in the past managed musicians in Britain and studied sound art in Belgium, has lived in Qatar for nine years and was a resident artist at the contemporary art space Fire Station.

His sculpture "Allow Me" -- this one made of stone -- is displayed at the Msheireb metro station in downtown Doha.

"Ever since I've been here, there has always been support for local and international artists," he said.

The World Cup, which kicks off on November 20, has given the local art scene an additional boost, he told AFP.

"I think there was already a great dynamic, but everyone realised that there was an international opportunity for visibility."



Join hundreds of Middle East professionals with Al-Monitor PRO.

Business and policy professionals use PRO to monitor the regional economy and improve their reports, memos and presentations. Try it for free and cancel anytime.

Expert

Premium Membership

Join the Middle East's most notable experts for premium memos, trend reports, live video Q&A, and intimate in-person events, each detailing exclusive insights on business and geopolitical trends shaping the region.

\$25.00 / month

billed annually

Go annual and save 20%

Become Member

Start with 1-week free trial

We also offer team plans. Please send an email to pro.support@al-monitor.com and we'll onboard your team.

What's included:

Our Expertise

AI-driven

Memos - premium analytical writing: actionable insights on markets and geopolitics.

Live Video Q&A - Hear from our top journalists and regional experts.

Special Events - Intimate in-person events with business & political VIPs.

Trend Reports - Deep dive analysis on market updates.

All premium Industry Newsletters - Monitor the Middle East's most important industries. **Prioritize your target industries for weekly review:**

- Capital Markets & Private Equity
- Venture Capital & Startups
- Green Energy
- Supply Chain
- Sustainable Development
- Leading Edge Technology
- Oil & Gas
- Real Estate & Construction

- Banking

Free

The Middle East's Best Newsletters

Join over 50,000 readers who access our journalists dedicated newsletters, covering the top political, security, business and tech issues across the region each week. Delivered straight to your inbox.

Free

Subscribe for free

What's included:

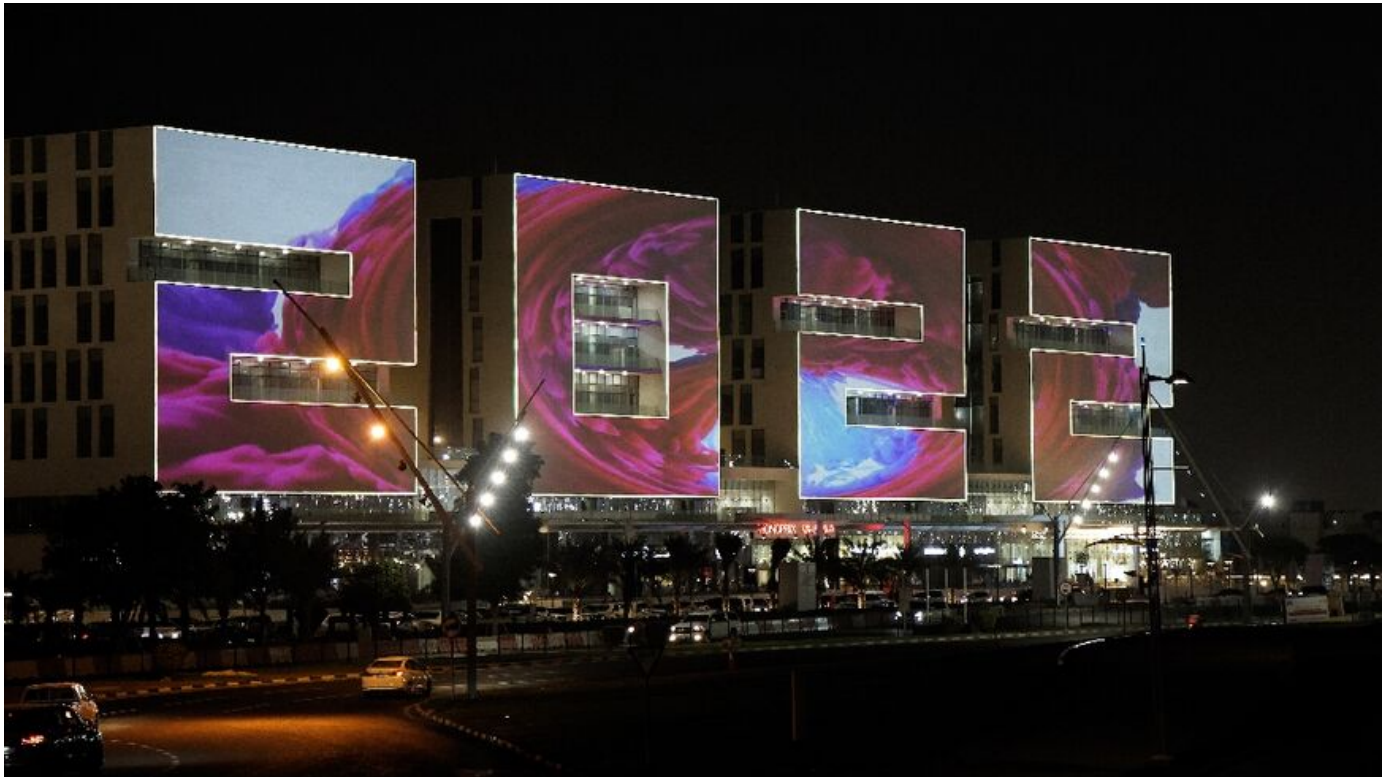
Our Expertise

Free newsletters available:

- The Takeaway & Week in Review
- Middle East Minute (AM)
- Daily Briefing (PM)
- Business & Tech Briefing
- Security Briefing
- Gulf Briefing
- Israel Briefing

- Palestine Briefing
- Turkey Briefing
- Iraq Briefing

Breaking News



Qatar races to ready luxury and budget rooms for World Cup

Agence France-Presse | AFP | Oct 2, 2022



Thousands march in Canada in solidarity with Iran protests

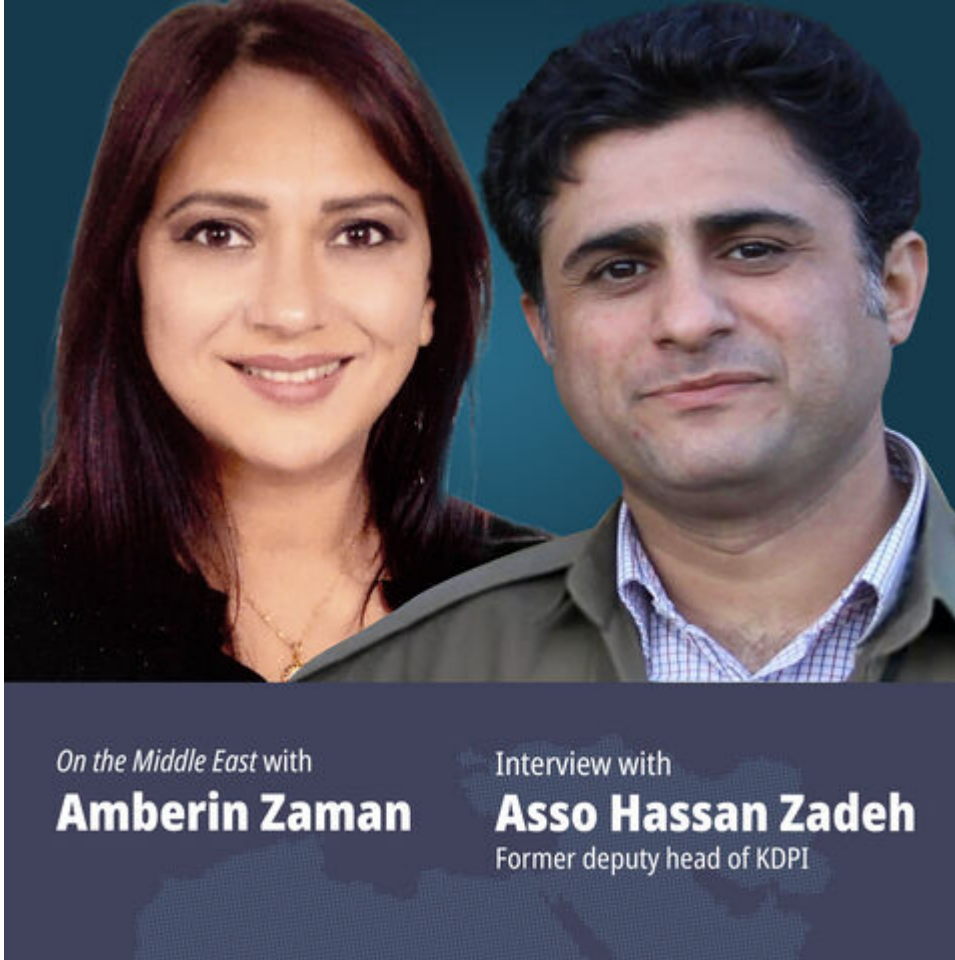
Agence France-Presse | AFP | Oct 2, 2022



Booking.com issues West Bank warning

Agence France-Presse | AFP | Oct 1, 2022

Podcasts



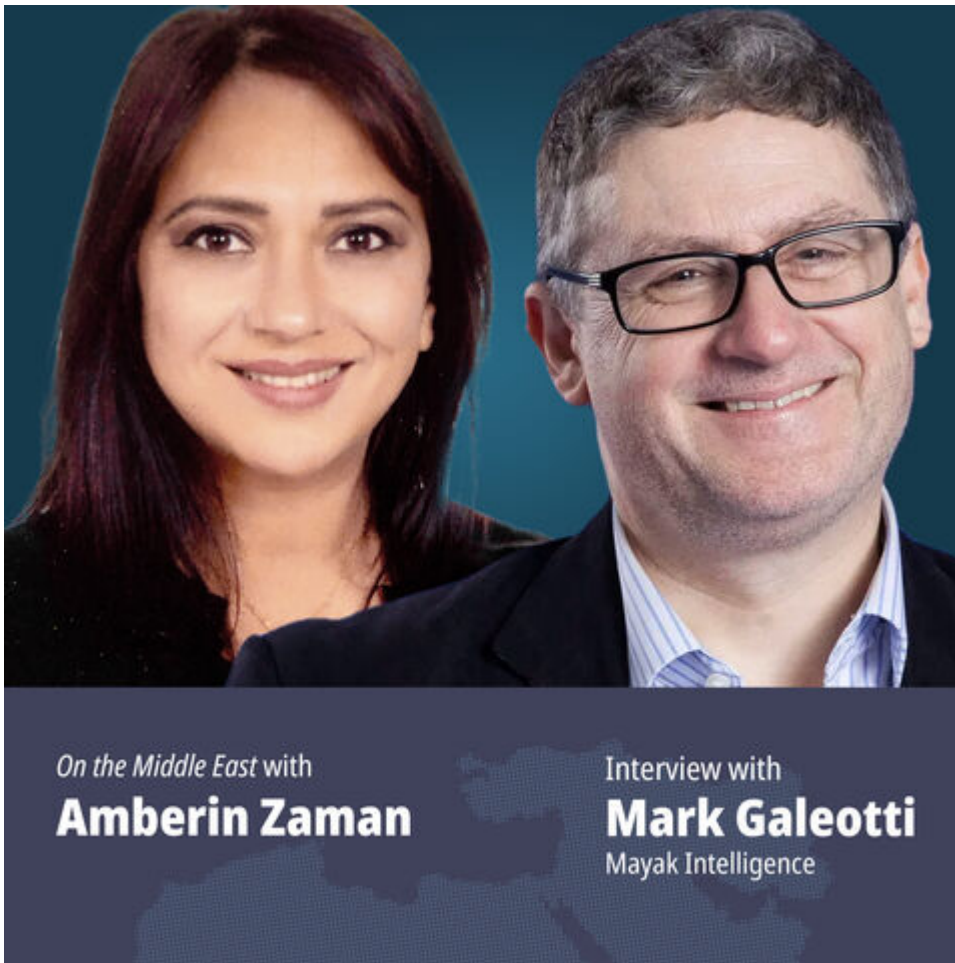
Murder of Mahsa Amini sparks opposition interest, regime wrath for Iran's Kurdish movement, says Kurdish expert Asso Hassan Zadeh





Likud lawmaker Nir Barkat: Iran will continue race towards bomb, with or without deal



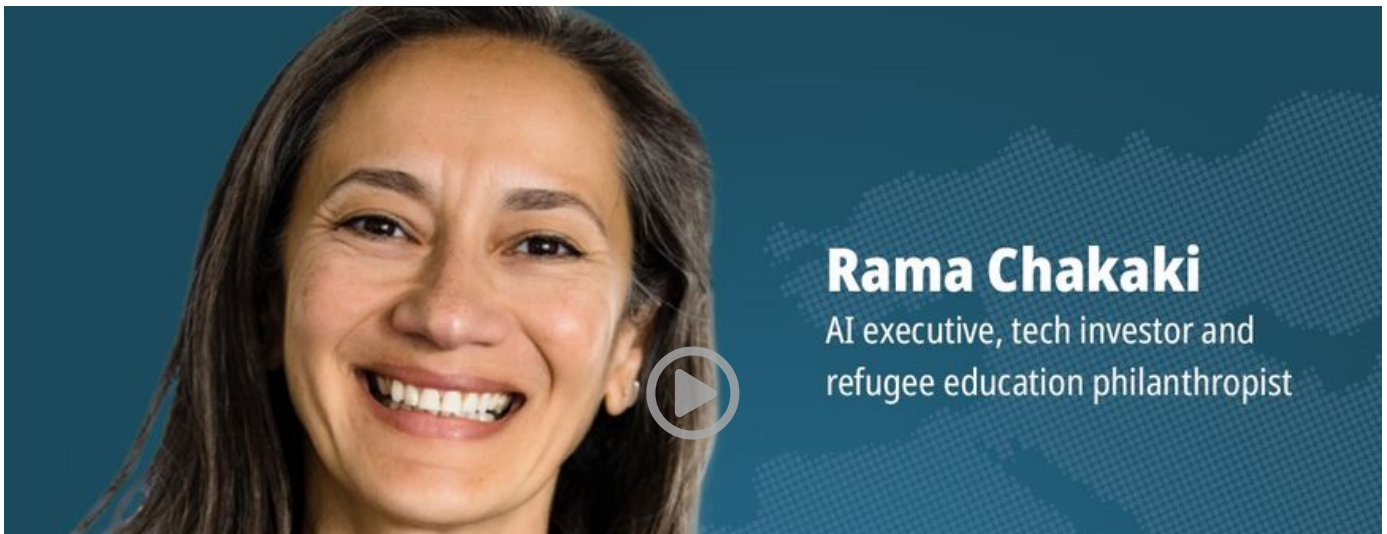


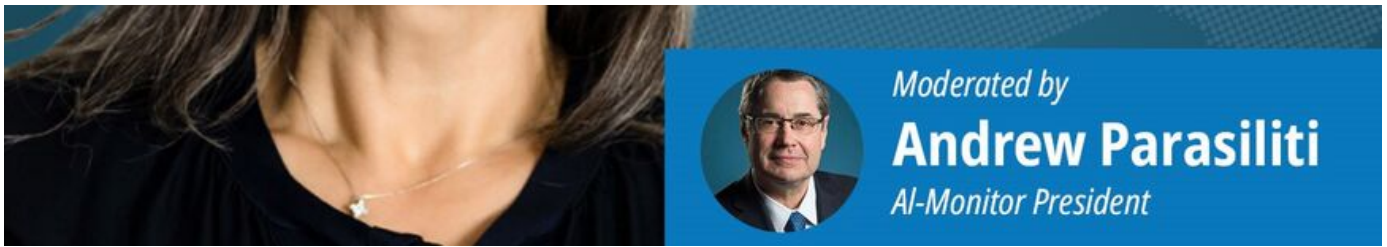
Russia's Vladimir Putin wants fellow strongman Turkey's Recep Tayyip Erdogan to remain in power, says Russia expert Mark Galeotti



[See more](#)

Videos





Q&A with Rama Chakaki: The nexus of innovation, AI and social impact in the Middle East



Zineb Mekouar highlights social, political divisions in Morocco in debut novel



Syria: What are double tap strikes?

[See more](#)

Follow Al-Monitor



TERMS OF USE

[Visitor Agreements](#)

[Privacy Policy](#)

[Submissions and Discussions Policy](#)

[Search our Archives](#)

CONTACT US

[Support and Contact Info](#)

[Advertise](#)

ABOUT US

Al-Monitor.com is a trusted and award-winning independent source of Middle East news and analysis, founded in 2012.

[Our History](#)

[Mission](#)

[Careers](#)

[Team](#)

NEWSLETTERS

[Subscribe](#)

© 2021 Al-Monitor, LLC. All rights reserved.