



PRESS RELEASE

Art Projects at Art Dubai: Pakistan Pavilion and Art Park to feature at Art Dubai 2008

Art Dubai 19-22 March 2008

Madinat Arena, Madinat Jumeirah

www.artdubai.ae

Art Dubai's 2008 art projects will feature new projects from leading international artists such as **Wim Delvoye**, **Tarek Zaki**, **Amir H. Fallah**, **Sunil Gawde** and **Marwan Rechmaoui** as well as a special exhibition of contemporary art from Pakistan curated by **Salima Hashmi**: "Desperately Seeking Paradise" which will take place in the **Pakistan Pavilion**.

"Desperately Seeking Paradise" features eleven artists from Pakistan whose work circumscribes the many pathways and many notions of paradise that possess us today. Amongst the participants are artists such as Rashid Rana, Naiza Khan, Farida Batool, Imran Qureshi and Mohammad Ali Talpur.

John Martin, Fair Director comments:

"We are pleased that amongst this year's highlights is a curated show of Pakistani contemporary art. Sixty years of turbulent history have only served to challenge the creative energies of artists who are now emerging on the international art scene as an innovative and creative group. This exhibition is the first in a series of annual projects that will focus on artists from across the region."

Art Dubai is also pleased to announce a new project space for the Middle East's first contemporary art fair. **Art Park**, situated in the underground car park at the Madinat Arena is a space devoted to experimental and site-specific works with a particular emphasis on video.

Art Park includes projects by Idris Khan (Yvon Lambert, Paris/New York), Jittish Kallat (Albion Gallery, London) and Mohammed Zeeshan and Khalil Chishtee (Green Cardamom, London) will be on display. Video work by Susy Gomez (Horrach Moya), Lida Abdul (Giorgio Persano), and Kader Attia (Albion Gallery). The Art Park will also include the Bidoun Cinema, featuring curated video programmes with a Middle Eastern focus. The Bidoun Lounge, designed by Dubai design company Traffic, will also host a 'video bar' with continuous screenings.

"Art Projects are an integral part of the development of Art Dubai and offer visitors the chance to experience major works by international artists. As part of the on-going commitment to innovative regional art, we are pleased to inaugurate the first Art Park project space that this year focuses on video work from the Middle East curated by Bidoun, alongside other international video works", says Martin.

Exhibition sites are located at the Madinat Arena, situated within the Madinat Jumeirah Resort, walking distance from the beach and many hotels.

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Official Media Partner of the Pakistan Pavilion

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Notes to Editors:

Participant Artists (Pakistan Pavilion)

Naiza Khan: Artist and curator – Recipient of the Suzarro Prize in Italy Naiza Khan's practice has dwelt on the human body exploring the sensuality and rebellion. Her most recent solo exhibition was in Canvas Gallery, Karachi in 2007.

Rashid Rana: Internationally, one of Pakistan's most high profile artists. Rashid Rana's museum Exhibitions in 2005, 2006 included the 5th Asia Pacific Triennale, Brisbane, the 1st Singapore Biennale, and the 3rd Asian Art Triennale.

Ali Raza: Ali Raza has exhibited in the U.S, UK, Pakistan and India. Moving with ease between painting, printmaking and sculpture, Ali Raza's vast canvases are didactic explorations of traditional imagery and contemporary icon.

Huma Mulji: Trained as a sculptor Mulji has blurred boundaries in her art; moving into photographic, video and installation. Her shows in 2005, 2006 in Fondazione Sandretto Re Rebaudengo in Torino and in Hong Kong have reflected her humorous 'take' on notions of Islamic identities.

Durriya Qazi: Artist, curator and lecturer, Qazi established the Department of Visual Studies for the University of Karachi in 1998. She is exhibited worldwide notably the 1st Fukuoka Asian Art Triennale, Japan, the Third Asia Pacific Triennale of Contemporary Art, Australia and has co-curated the touring 'Truck Art Exhibition.'

Faiza Butt: Butt left her native Lahore in 1999 to take up her masters at the Slade School of Art in London. The narrative in Faiza's work is derived often from journalistic photographs of celebrities. She fuses these with images of everyday characters from ethnic minorities, to create pictures of awkward utopias.

Mohammad Ali Talpur: Mohammad Ali graduated from Lahore's National College of Arts in 1998. His work has been exhibited in the subcontinent and the UK and he has been selected for inclusion in the Best of Discovery exhibition at the inaugural Shanghai Contemporary Art Fair, 2007.

Anwar Saeed: Saeed, an Associate Professor at the National College of Arts, Lahore uses Christian, Hindu and Buddhist iconography, has an exhilarating capacity to grasp unfamiliar imagery to serve his own ends. He has exhibited widely in Pakistan and has participated in group shows in USA, Australia, Norway, Egypt, Jordan and India.

Sophie Ernst: Ernst grew up in Holland. In 2006 she was awarded the UNESCO Aschberg bursary. She uses video to explore themes of belonging, displacement and cultural relativity in her work. Her work has been exhibited in Europe, India and Pakistan.

Farida Batool: Currently an Assistant Professor at the Beaconhouse National University, Lahore, Batool is an artist, published author and curator and winner of the Jang Talent Award. She has participated in the Cairo Biennale, and in her current work at the Rohtas 2 Art Gallery, Lahore, she experiments with lenticular graphics.

Imran Qureshi: Qureshi works from the Mughal heritage of Miniature painting, with its emphasis on draughtsmanship and the delicate repetition of decorative motifs and layers of colour, redefining this tradition in contemporary terms. His exhibitions to date include: Modern art Oxford, Oxford, Corvi-Mora Gallery, London, Singapore Biennale 2006, Singapore, Asia House, London, National Gallery of Modern Art, Mumbai, the Whitney Museum of Modern Art as well as widely in his native Pakistan.

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