



PRESS RELEASE
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ART DUBAI 2010 PRESENTS ITS STRONGEST PROGRAMME TO DATE

This year, Art Dubai (17-20 March) will host its strongest programme of collateral events to date. It will include the Global Art Forum, the unveiling of the Abraaj Capital Art Prize, special projects curated by Bidoun Projects and the exhibition *The Poetry of Time* presented by Van Cleef & Arpels. Art Dubai, which welcomes over 70 galleries from 30 countries, has become the essential gathering place for art professionals, collectors and artists from across the Middle East, South Asia and beyond, setting the business of art within a context that is intelligent, stimulating and relevant.

Art Dubai 2010 will also debut single artist-focused stands highlighting current and future masters providing both established and novice collectors a broader and deeper understanding of how an artist's work has progressed.

GLOBAL ART FORUM

The Global Art Forum is the Middle East's most influential platform for cultural discussion. Under the banner "**Crucial Moments**", key episodes in the evolution of contemporary art practice in the Middle East will be scrutinized throughout a four-day symposium of debates, discussions and workshops.

A wide range of topics drive the discussions, from **Modernism in Iran to the recent influx of transient institutions**. Art education also proves a key topic and is explored in the notion of the **Future Art School**. Further subjects address shifting paradigms of public and private patronage, as well as trends in the collectors' markets. In addition, a series of one-on-one conversations with some of the world's most renowned artists will offer a fascinating insight into the mystery and mechanics of the creative process.

The Global Art Forum is generously supported by the Dubai Culture and Arts Authority (DCAA).

LONDON
37 Albemarle Street
London W1S 4JF
T +44 (0)20 7499 6427
F +44 (0)20 7491 7559

DUBAI
PO Box 72645 Dubai UAE
T +971 (0)4 323 3434
F +971 (0)4 323 3129
www.artdubai.ae

BIDOUN PROJECTS

Bidoun Projects, the not-for-profit curatorial wing of arts organisation and publisher *Bidoun*, will continue its partnership with Art Dubai with a comprehensive programme of events, including a group exhibition of upcoming Middle Eastern artists, commissions exploring the spectacle of an art fair, artist-led tours of Art Dubai and a the **Bidoun Library**, featuring a nomadic archive of books, catalogues, journals and ephemera.

Art Park is once again host to a range of film screenings, innovative talks and performances that look at the relationship between archives, art, music and film in collaboration with avant-garde archiving site UbuWeb.

A key feature will be the **Bidoun Projects exhibition: *A New Formalism***, which takes as its starting point the subtle articulation of four works that share a space. “The exhibition will complement the rest of the programme, which looks at the spectacular and temporal nature of art fairs. A New Formalism brings together a precise selection of works by Hazem El Mestikawy, Iman Issa, Mahmoud Khaled and the collective U5 that together pose an expanded understanding of formalism,” said Antonia Carver, Director, Bidoun Projects.

UAE artist Ebtisam Abdul-Aziz will display a new work, specially commissioned for the fair in which she will re-imagine a map of the Arab world according to a set of numerical codes. Abdul-Aziz is a multidisciplinary artist and writer based in Sharjah, UAE, working in installation, performance, photography and on paper. Her recent exhibitions include the UAE and ADACH Pavilions at 53rd Venice Biennale; Sharjah Biennial 7; and Languages of the Desert, at the Kunst Museum, Bonn, Germany.

To demystify the art fair experience, Bidoun Projects has commissioned artists to act as Art Dubai tour guides. Taking the fair-as-stage-set as inspiration, artists including Daniel Bokhkov, Sophia Al Maria, and Khalil Rabah will conduct daily tours, devising their own narratives through the galleries and the grounds, in an exploration of the pure subjectivity of interpretation. These tours will be offered to all visitors to the fair.

The special projects at Art Dubai will also feature new installations including ice sculptures designed by world-renowned artist Farhad Moshiri and *Sand/Fans*, a restaging of Alice Aycock’s conceptual kinetic sculptural installation that was first exhibited at 112 Greene Street, Soho, New York, in the early 1970s.

The unique ‘pop up’ Bidoun Library will give visitors access to a wealth of materials created by and for artists, as well as those published by independent organisations based in the region. This will allow visitors to explore, research, and create wide-ranging connections through materials that are generally unavailable in the Gulf.



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ARTIST FOCUS STANDS

Of the galleries participating in Art Dubai 2010, up to a quarter are innovating by creating Artist Focus Stands which feature the work of only one or two artists. These new stands at Art Dubai will enable collectors and visitors to see a progression in a specific artist's work over time, generating a greater sense of depth, involvement and understanding of an artist's oeuvre, rather than a quick snapshot of several artists represented by the gallery. Single or dual-focused galleries at Art Dubai will include pieces from modern Indian and Egyptian masters such as M.F. Husain and Adel El Siwi as well as more up-and-coming artists from Korea, Chile, Peru, Spain and the Sudan.

Among the artists being showcased in the Artist Focus Stands is legendary Indian painter and filmmaker, M.F. Husain. Represented by Grosvenor Vadhera Gallery, London, Husain's paintings have played a key role in bringing artwork from the Middle East, North Africa and South Asia (MENASA) region to the international spotlight. A number of his works will be on display, showing a progression of Husain's work throughout his more than six decades as an artist.

Art Dubai will also feature single-focus highlights from two Egyptian contemporary masters - Adel El Siwi represented by Artspace, Dubai, and Chant Avedissian, represented by Rose Issa Projects, London. A renowned painter, El Siwi has showcased his work through group and solo exhibitions throughout the world. He had emigrated to North America and Europe but returned to Egypt favouring his motherland for its deep roots in the arts. Chant Avedissian in his colorful stenciled images, deftly explores the boundaries between "high" and "low" art, politics and pop. Avedissian refined his techniques in Western art schools, but draws inspiration from Egypt's modern Golden Age, with its glamorous divas and mustachioed movie stars. His iconic figures include legendary singers Om Kulthoum and Asmahan; screen sirens Shadia and Hind Rostom; heartthrobs Farid al-Atrash and Abdel Halim Hafez; and once-adored statesmen like Gamal Abdel Nasser.

Several galleries participating in Art Dubai 2010 will champion emerging regional talent, including Lebanon's Ayman Baalbaki and Iraqi painter Mahmoud Obaidi, both from Agial Art Gallery in Beirut. Bahrain's Albareh Art Gallery will feature a focus on works by Sudanese artist Mohammed Omer Khalil and Faisel Laibi Sahi from Iraq. Rossi & Rossi from London is exclusively showcasing work by Pakistani artist Naiza Khan.

Locally, Dubai-based Green Art Gallery will feature the work of Turkish artist Nazif Topcuoglu. While the photographer has been shown widely across Europe, this will be his first exhibition in a regional art fair.



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ABRAAJ CAPITAL ART PRIZE

The 2010 winning artworks of the Abraaj Capital Art Prize will be unveiled at a special ceremony in advance of the Jumeirah Patron's Preview at Art Dubai on 16th March. Kader Attia (Algeria) working with curator Laurie Ann Farrell (US), Hala Elkoussy (Egypt) working with curator Jelle Bouwhuis (The Netherlands) and Marwan Sahmarani (Lebanon) with curator Mahita El Bacha Urieta (Spain/Lebanon) have been working in secret since they won the prize in September based on the proposals they submitted. www.abraaj.com/acap

THE POETRY OF TIME by VAN CLEEF & ARPELS

For the first time, Van Cleef & Arpels is organising a prestigious exhibition covering almost a century of watch making creations dedicated to the Poetry of Time, exclusively for Art Dubai. An interactive workshop area will feature famed watchmaker Jean-Marc Wiederrecht and enameling artist Dominique Baron.

ENQUIRIES

Stephanie Sykes, Art Dubai

T +971 (0)4 323 3434

press@artdubai.ae

International:

Nicolas Smirnoff, Brunswick Arts

T +44 (0) 207 936 1291

nsmirnoff@brunswickgroup.com

Regional:

Maha Obeid, The Portsmouth Group

T +971 (0)4 369 3575

maha.obeid@theportsmouthgroup.com

Images and interviews are available upon request. Please visit www.artdubai.ae for further information, or join our facebook (<http://www.facebook.com/pages/Dubai/Art-Dubai/204689898395?ref=ts>) and twitter (<http://twitter.com/artdubai>) groups to get regular updates during the final weeks before the fair.



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NOTES TO EDITORS:

Art Dubai is a subsidiary of the Dubai International Financial Centre and is held in partnership with Abraaj Capital and sponsored by Van Cleef & Arpels. Jumeirah (www.jumeirah.com) is the exclusive hotel partner for the event and HSBC is the official banking partner of Art Dubai.



To discover the world of Van Cleef & Arpels, visit <http://www.vancleef-arpels.com/en/>

Contemporabilia offers a two-week itinerary that includes architectural tours, historical excursions, performances, and visits to contemporary artist studios, fashion designers' showrooms, museums, non-profit organizations, private collectors' homes and much more.

START is the official CSR programme of Art Dubai. For more information, visit www.startworld.org.

Canvas magazine will produce *Canvas Daily*, the official daily supplement for Art Dubai 2010, available for download from <http://www.canvasonline.com>



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EXHIBITORS 2010

Aaran Gallery, Tehran
Agathon Galleries, Sydney
Agial Art Gallery, Beirut*
Aicon Gallery, London
Aidan Gallery, Moscow
Albareh Gallery, Manama *
Almine Rech Gallery, Brussels/Paris
Art Lounge Gallery, Lisbon
Artspace LLC, Dubai
Assar Art Gallery, Tehran
Atassi Gallery, Damascus*
Athr Gallery, Jeddah
Ayyam Gallery, Damascus
Bait Muzna Gallery, Muscat
Barbarian Art Gallery, Zürich
Bolsa de Arte, Porto Alegre
Carbon 12, Dubai
Cardi Black Box, Milan
Chemould Prescott Road, Mumbai*
Continua, San Gimignano/Beijing/Le
Moulin
Contrasts Gallery, Shanghai
Dea Orh Gallery, Prague
Dirimart, Istanbul
Distrito 4, Madrid
Filomena Soares, Lisbon
Frey Norris Gallery, San Francisco*
Galería ANIMAL, Santiago*
Galería JM, Malaga*
Galeria Murilo Castro, Nova Lima
Galerie Caprice Horn, Berlin
Galerie Chantal Crousel, Paris
Galerie Christian Hosp, Berlin
Galerie Dorothea van der Koelen, Mainz
Galerie El Marsa, Tunis
Galerie Janine Rubeiz, Beirut
Galerie Kashya Hildebrand, Zurich
Galerie Krinzinger, Vienna
Galerie Piece Unique, Paris
Galerie Tanit, Munich
GALLERY ISABELLE VAN DEN EYNDE, Dubai
Gallery SUN Contemporary, Seoul
Gandhara-art, Hong Kong
Giorgio Persano, Turin
Green Art Gallery, Dubai*
Grey Noise, Lahore
Grosvenor Vadhera, London*
Hakgojae, Seoul
Horrach Moya, Palma de Mallorca
Hunar Gallery, Dubai
Kalfayan Galleries, Athens/Thessaloniki
Kamel Mennour, Paris
Koraalberg, Antwerp
La B.A.N.K, Paris
Laleh June Galerie, Basel
Lee Hwaik Gallery, Seoul
Leila Taghinia-Milani Heller Gallery, New York
NESSIM Gallery, Budapest
October Gallery, London
OMR Gallery, Mexico City*
Paradise Row, London
Peres Projects, Berlin / Los Angeles
Priska C. Juschka Fine Art, New York*
Rose Issa Projects, London*
Rossi & Rossi, London*
Selma Feriani Gallery, London
Sfeir-Semler, Hamburg/Beirut
The Guild, Mumbai
The Third Line, Dubai
traffic, Dubai
Viltin, Budapest

* Galleries participating in the Artist Focus Stands



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