



PRESS RELEASE:

Third edition of Art Dubai sustains expanding trend

Held under the patronage of His Royal Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President and Prime Minister of the UAE, Ruler of Dubai, Art Dubai has rounded off its third edition with results confirming the quality and vibrancy of this important new art market. With 14,000 visitors from all over the world, 68 participating galleries from 26 countries, more than 60 visiting museum and collectors groups and a corps of nearly 350 media attending, Art Dubai has now confirmed itself as one of the premier art fairs for Asia. Besides exploring the parallel events such as Mapping Palestine, the Global Art Forum, Art Park, performances, book launches and *The Art of Magical Jewels* by Van Cleef & Arpels, a large international audience of collectors and arts professionals attended the unveiling of the three works which had been awarded the 2009 Abraaj Capital Art Prize.

'The galleries responded to the challenges of the world economy with well considered exhibitions of exceptional quality confirming the resilience and adaptability of the contemporary art market both internationally as well as in the Middle East,' said John Martin, Director and Co-Founder of Art Dubai. 'Discovery was a crucial theme of this year's fair – galleries brought a wide range of new artists into the market and collectors reacted extremely positively to this mix of new names and new works.'

'Art Dubai's third edition was a major contribution to furthering Dubai's global positioning as a resilient and modern city,' said Frederic Sicre, Executive Director of Abraaj Capital. 'What we saw were collectors from all over the world arriving, admiring and buying. Art Dubai continues to capture the intense heartbeat of this energizing region and as a sponsor we are proud of its steady growth and immense potential.'

'The success of Art Dubai in terms of the quality and breadth of attendance, the scope of complementary activities that have taken place across the region and Dubai alongside Art Dubai,

and the continued momentum of Dubai as a cultural hub is extremely encouraging for the long-term prospect of arts development in the Gulf,' said His Excellency Dr. Omar bin Sulaiman, Governor of the Dubai International Financial Centre (DIFC) and Chairman of Art Dubai. 'Art Dubai 2009 emerged as a truly international fair, with two-thirds of galleries coming from abroad, several thousand international visitors, and more than 60 museum groups attending, all offset by collaboration with regional art centers such as Doha, Sharjah, and Abu Dhabi. At the same time, we've seen the celebration of art right across Dubai this week, from the heritage area of Bastakiya to DIFC to the Madinat Jumeirah,' added Dr. Omar.

'One of the more intriguing sides of this global world comes into play as western galleries bring works by Middle Eastern artists who are then discovered by their compatriots here at Art Dubai,' said the Director of Galerie Kashya Hildebrand, Zurich. 'This is the first time we participated at Art Dubai and it has enlarged our list of contacts and as well as our vision profoundly. We are very pleased with the result of this fair.'

Elementa from Dubai participated for the first time ever in an art fair. 'We are impressed by the fact that so many international collectors bought from us, we could have done with a few more sales but considering the current climate, the result was good. We made wonderful contacts at this perfectly run art fair.'

'It could always be better, it could always be worse,' knows Galerie Emmanuel Perrotin from Paris. 'We are very happy by the way we have been treated by the organizers, this fair has a great level of galleries and stands.' The gallery also mentions the incredible quality of local collectors who came to the fair and especially pointed out also the huge number of museum groups that traveled to Art Dubai from all over the world.

The Global Art Forum, an indispensable component of the fair, attracted hundreds of visitors eager to hear the views and opinions of the doyens of the art world including Daniel Birnbaum; Mikhail Piotrovsky; Tirdad Zolghadr; Jerome Sans and Catherine David. The Global Art Forum started off on 16 March in Doha, and then moved on to Dubai where consecutive days were supported by the Dubai Culture & Arts Authority (DCAA) and hosted by the Abu Dhabi Authority for Culture & Heritage (ADACH).

The winners of the Abraaj Capital Art Prize; Kutluğ Ataman with curator Cristiana Perrella, Nazgol Anzarinia with curator Leyla Fakhr and Zoulikha Bouabdellah with curator Carol Solomon, saw their works unveiled by His Highness Sheikh Maktoum bin Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Deputy Ruler of Dubai and His Highness Sheikh Majid bin Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum,

Chairman of Dubai Culture and Arts Authority (DCAA) with an audience of private collectors, museum directors, international curators and media from around the world in attendance on March 17. His Excellency Dr. Omar Bin Sulaiman, Governor of DIFC, Arif Naqvi, Founder and Group Chief Executive Officer of Abraaj Capital and Hans Ulrich Obrist, Co-Director of the Serpentine Gallery also participated in the unveiling. The Abraaj Capital Art Prize focuses on artists from the MENASA region (Middle East, North Africa and South Asia) and strives to enable the creation, realization and international promotion of their works.

The dynamics of Art Dubai is shown with a wide range of additional programme, such as the hugely successful Art Park, with the Talks and Book Launches, as well as Mapping Palestine and the diverse Art Performances.

In partnership with:



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

Deyaar ensures Dubai's patronage of cultural heritage by further enriching it through promoting partnership between art, culture and the community. With this perspective Deyaar is sponsoring an internship Scheme for students in UAE to gain experience from Art Dubai.

Notes to Editors:

The 2010 application and fair dates will be announced in April 2009.

For international press enquiries, please contact **Laura Piscaer at Brunswick Arts Consulting** LLP, 16 Lincoln's Inn Fields, London WC2A 3ED,
E-mail: lpiscaer@brunswickgroup.com, Phone: +44 (0) 20 7936 1290

For regional press enquiries, please contact **Eileen Wallis/Courtney Stuart at The Portsmouth Group**, P.O. Box 71765, Dubai, United Arab Emirates,
E-mail: eileen.wallis@theportsmouthgroup.com, courtney.stuart@theportsmouthgroup.com
Phone: +971 4 369 3575

For images please go to the Art Dubai Website:

www.artdubai.ae / press / press images

Or: <ftp://customer-storage.xcalibre.co.uk>

Username: Venice

Password: venpress1

ADDITIONAL IMAGES AND INTERVIEWS AVAILABLE UPON REQUEST