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ART DUBAI INVITES BIDOUN PROJECTS TO DEVISE CURATORIAL PROGRAMME
Curating a series of non-commercial exhibitions, commissions, screenings and educational events, Bidoun Projects give artists a voice

Bidoun Projects, the not-for-profit curatorial wing of arts organisation and publisher *Bidoun*, will continue its partnership with Art Dubai with an extensive line-up of art events and exhibitions at the 2010 fair to support the region's artists.

"Bidoun Projects have established a critically acclaimed, independent platform within Art Dubai for upcoming artists and curators to profile the most significant new work coming out of the region," said John Martin, Director and Co-Founder of Art Dubai.

The four days of Art Dubai, 17-20 March 2010, will present a range of activities offering something to suit all age groups. 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.

Art Park, the converted car park underneath the galleries at Madinat Jumeirah, returns for the third year at Art Dubai and will foster discussion during the fair, with a range of talks and performances. Film programmes curated by Bidoun Projects and guest curators Masoud Amralla Al Ali, Aram Moshayedi, and duo Özge Ersoy and Sohrab Mohebbi will be screened. Art Park is also home to the Bidoun Lounge, which will host to a set of innovative talks and performances looking at the relationship between archives, film, music and art, presented with UbuWeb, the avant-garde archiving site.

UAE artist Ebtisam Abdul-Aziz will display a new work, specially commissioned by Bidoun Projects for the fair, outdoors at Art Dubai 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 of the fair.

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Featured alongside Art Dubai's line-up of galleries, Bidoun Projects has commissioned new installations and projects including ice sculptures designed by world-renowned artist Farhad Moshiri and *Sand/Fans*, a restaging of Alice Aycock's conceptual installation that was first exhibited at 112 Greene Street, Soho, New York, in the early 1970s.

The Bidoun Library, also located at Art Dubai, 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. The unique 'pop-up' space allows visitors to explore, research, and create wide-ranging connections through materials that are generally unavailable in the Gulf.

The library houses a collection of books, catalogues, journals, and ephemera that traces contemporary art practises as well as the evolution of the various art scenes of the Middle East. A new section includes books, music and films published by Kanoon, Iran's Centre for the Intellectual Development of Children and Young Adults, founded in 1961, which was an incubator for some of the country's most celebrated artists and filmmakers, including Abbas Kiarostami, Ebrahim Forouzesh, Amir Naderi and Farshid Mesghali.

Tickets are now on sale for Art Dubai through www.timeouttickets.com. They are priced at AED 50 each and entry for children 12 and under is free. They will also be available at the door during Art Dubai.

Art Dubai 2010 is held in partnership with private equity group Abraaj Capital and enjoys support from its sponsors Van Cleef & Arpels, Jumeirah Hotels & Resorts and HSBC. *Canvas* magazine will produce *Canvas Daily*, the official daily supplement for Art Dubai 2010.

Bidoun Projects' programmes at the fair are generously supported by the Emirates Foundation.

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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. Madinat Jumeirah (www.jumeirah.com) is the exclusive hotel partner for the event and HSBC is the official banking partner of Art Dubai.



In Partnership With



Winners of the 2010 Abraaj Capital Art Prize are Egyptian artist Hala Elkoussy with curator Jelle Bouwhuis; Lebanese artist Marwan Sahmarani with curator Mahita El Bacha Urieta; and Algerian artist Kader Attia with curator Laurie Ann Farrell. For further information about the Abraaj Capital Art Prize please visit www.abraaj.com/acap

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Contemparabia 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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