

January 12, 2012

**ART DUBAI'S GLOBAL ART FORUM_6 EXPANDS TO SIX DAYS:
MARCH 18-19 IN DOHA AND MARCH 21-24 IN DUBAI**

**2012 TO FOCUS ON MULTIPLE MEANINGS OF MEDIA IN THE ART
WORLD AND BEYOND**

The Global Art Forum, the Middle East, North Africa and South Asia (MENASA) region's leading platform for cultural debate and discussion, expands to six days in 2012, and features commissioned projects and research, as well as live debates and presentations.

Now in its sixth year, the Global Art Forum is directed by writer **Shumon Basar** and is characterized by a particularly innovative and dynamic approach.

Art Dubai's Global Art Forum_6, presented by the **Dubai Culture & Arts Authority (Dubai Culture)** and in partnership with **Mathaf: Arab Museum of Modern Art (Qatar Museums Authority)**, starts in Doha March 18-19 before continuing to Art Dubai, Madinat Jumeirah, March 21-24.

Salem Belyouha, Projects & Events Director, Dubai Culture & Arts Authority, said: "Over the past five years, the Global Art Forum has served as a substantial platform to encourage intercultural dialogue between artists and art-enthusiasts, bringing together those that contribute to the growing cultural and artistic fabric of the city. As the only conference that debates topics surrounding the arts industry, Global Art Forum has become an integral event in Dubai's cultural calendar. The Dubai Culture & Arts Authority is delighted to once again extend its support to the Forum."

Entitled '**The Medium of Media**', the Forum is re-inventing itself this year. Along with the familiar array of lectures, conversations, discussions, and workshops, it includes a new roster of commissioned projects that precede and succeed the live days. Thematically, GAF_6 looks at the double meaning of the term 'media', both within the art world and referring to the world of publishing and reportage. Underpinning this is a look back at the past year in the Arab world, and how fundamental events have been both produced and consumed as media. GAF_6 is, effectively, a media production about media.

Over 50 contributors to Global Art Forum_6 include: LACMA director **Michael Govan**; Serpentine Gallery co-director of exhibitions and programmes and director of international projects **Hans Ulrich Obrist**; novelist and artist **Douglas Coupland**; writer/critic **Sukhdev Sandhu**; art market reporter **Georgina Adam**; film-producer **Anna Lena Vaney**; artists **Wael Shawky**, **Shezad Dawood** and **Michael Rakowitz**; curators **Jack Persekian** and **Nat Muller**; Demotix founder **Turi Munthe**; commentators **Sultan Suood Al Qassemi** and **Yasmine El Rashidi**; blogger **Hind Mezaina**; as well as filmmaker **Sophie Fiennes** with a special screening of 'Over Your Cities the Grass will Grow'.

Commissioned projects include a series of PowerPoints™ by writers and artists, curated by **Victoria Camblin**, including **Goldin & Senneby** and **Alexander Provan/Triple Canopy**; a *Dictionary of the Mediatized Gulf* by Qatari artist-writer

Sophia Al Maria; a series of publications entitled *Some Medium Stories*, edited by **Michael Vazquez** featuring **Emily Dische-Becker**, **Tom Francis**, **Kristine Khouri**; and a Media Archiving blog by **Mariam Wissam Al Dabbagh**. Two new collaborations between Art Dubai and Mathaf will be announced: an interactive *Arabic Art Glossary*, led by curator **Lara Khaldi**, and an Artist's Residency at Al Jazeera news network, Doha. These works will be made available, in both Doha and Dubai, at the new **Forum Forum** resource space, which will include UAE research by **Brusselssprout**.

“Over the past five years, the Global Art Forum has become a major, collaborative event in the art world calendar. This year, it reinvents itself in terms of format and subject and while rooted in the art world, delves into other disciplines,” said Antonia Carver, Art Dubai Fair Director. “The Forum is illustrative of Dubai’s propensity for debate, and the Gulf’s collaborative spirit; in 2012, it includes an array of fascinating regional and international voices from the worlds of film, journalism, economics, social media, publishing, and of course art. Most are speaking in the Gulf for the first time.”

The programme begins in Doha with presentations of the new commissioned projects as well as discussions on the relationship between news-makers and history-making in the Arab world, and the increasing phenomena of artists turning to the medium of feature film making.

The Forum subsequently moves on to Art Dubai, March 21-24. Here, continuing the theme of ‘The Medium of Media’, GAF_6 invites critics, historians and experts to discuss Marshall McLuhan’s legacy; the Beatles’ last ever concert; the past and future of ‘Net Art’; how news shapes art and financial markets; the Crusades told through the medium of puppetry; archiving Emirati TV; and much more.

The Global Art Forum is also continuing **Forum Fellows** for the second year. Led by art-critic **Kaelen Wilson-Goldie**, the programme invites exceptional young writers from the Middle East, Asia and the UAE to interact with the rich themes, personalities and subtexts of the Fair and the region.

The Global Art Forum is part of Art Dubai’s discussion programme that includes **Terrace Talks**, a series of conversations on the relationship between the Gulf and wider Asia, and the fourth edition of **The Big Idea**, a dynamic, fast-paced forum for young UAE-based artists and designers.

For more information and the latest updates, please visit www.artdubai.ae, become a Fan of Art Dubai on Facebook and follow us on Twitter at @artdubai

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Notes to Editors:

Art Dubai

Held under the patronage of H.H. Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice-President and Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai.

Over the last five years, Art Dubai, the leading contemporary art fair in MENASA (Middle East/North Africa/South Asia), has become a cornerstone of the region's booming contemporary art community. In 2011, Art Dubai welcomed 20,000 visitors – including 60 international museums representatives - and hosted over 70 galleries from 30 countries, together showing the work of more than 500 artists.

The sixth edition of Art Dubai takes place March 21-24, 2012, at Madinat Jumeirah, and features 74 galleries from 31 countries, in addition to a new programme of artists' and curators' residencies, commissioned projects, performative tours, workshops, the unveiling of the works by Abraaj Capital Art Prize winners and the critically acclaimed Global Art Forum.

Art Dubai is held in partnership with Abraaj Capital and sponsored by Cartier. Madinat Jumeirah, on Dubai's beachfront, is home to the event.

Art Week

Art Dubai is part of Art Week, the umbrella initiative that includes Art Dubai (March 21-24) and Sikka Art Fair (organized by the Dubai Culture & Arts Authority, and taking place in Al Bastakiya, March 15-25), and a range of contemporary art and design events, major museum shows, and new gallery exhibitions and artists' projects, taking place each March. Art Week positions the Gulf as a place of artistic production and home to multiple cultural centres.

The Dubai Culture & Arts Authority

The Dubai Culture & Arts Authority (Dubai Culture) was launched on March 8, 2008 by His Highness Sheikh Mohammed Bin Rashid Al Maktoum, UAE Vice President & Prime Minister and Ruler of Dubai. Dubai Culture plays a critical part in achieving the vision of the Dubai Strategic Plan 2015 of establishing the city as vibrant, global Arabian metropolis that shapes culture and arts in the region and the world. The organisation has announced several initiatives that strengthen the historic and modern cultural fabric of Dubai