



For immediate release
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APPLICATIONS NOW OPEN FOR ARTISTS AND CURATORS TO APPLY FOR THE ABRAAJ GROUP ART PRIZE 2017

- The Abraaj Group Art Prize, now in its ninth year, is the most significant art prize for the Middle East, North Africa and South Asia region
- The winning artist receives \$100,000 to produce a major new work, to be revealed at Art Dubai 2017; three shortlisted artists receive \$10,000 and showcase their work in a thematic exhibition
- The Guest Curator produces an exhibition monograph and curates the Abraaj Group Art Prize Exhibition at Art Dubai 2017

JUNE 7 2016, DUBAI UAE – The Abraaj Group, a leading private equity investor operating in global growth markets, announced today that applications are now open for the **ninth edition of the Abraaj Group Art Prize**.

Artists from the Middle East, North Africa and South Asia region are invited to apply with a proposal for a new, original, unrealised work that will be revealed at Art Dubai 2017, which takes place March 15-18, 2017. Following an intensive jury process, one winning artist will be awarded a **\$100,000 prize** to create a major new commission. Three shortlisted artists will also be chosen to receive a cash prize of \$10,000 and showcase their work alongside the winning work in a thematic exhibition.

Experienced international and regional curators are also invited to apply to become Guest Curator of the Abraaj Group Art Prize 2017, a dynamic role that includes curating the group exhibition at Art Dubai 2017 and producing an accompanying publication.

Following the 2017 exhibition, the winning commissioned work will become part of the **Abraaj Group Art Collection**. In keeping with the aims of the prize, selected AGAP works are toured year-round in exhibitions, museum shows, biennials and other events. Over the past nine years, commissions by artists participating in the Prize have been exhibited across 5 continents, 11 biennales, 31 institutions and 25 countries, including the **Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum** (New York), **Victoria and Albert Museum** (London), **Smithsonian Museum of Asian Art** (Washington D.C), **Sharjah Biennial**, **Kochi-Muziris Biennale** and **Biennale of Sydney**.

The Abraaj Group Art Prize jury 2016-17 is made up of renowned international museum curators and directors. It is Chaired by Dubai-based curator and patron **Dana Farouki** and is comprised

of **Defne Ayas**, Director and Curator of Witte de With, Center for Contemporary Art; **Antonia Carver**, Director of Art Jameel; **Nav Haq**, 2016 Guest Curator of the Prize; **Fayeeza Naqvi**, Founding Trustee, Aman Foundation; **Hans Ulrich Obrist**, Co-Director of Exhibitions and Programmes and Director of International Projects at Serpentine Galleries; **Sandhini Poddar**, Art historian and Adjunct Curator at the Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum; and **Frederic Sicre**, Managing Director, The Abraaj Group.

Curators may apply by July 11, 2016, while artists may apply by August 10, 2016. For more information and to apply: abraajgroupartprize.com/apply

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NOTES TO EDITORS

About the Abraaj Group Art Prize

The Abraaj Group is a leading private equity investor, purpose-built for operating in the growth markets of Africa, Asia, Latin America, the Middle East and Turkey. Through its Stakeholder and Strategic Partnerships programmes, the Group supports art and innovation, entrepreneurship and the next generation, aiming to have a deep rooted and sustainable impact across growth markets.

The Abraaj Group Art Prize was founded in 2008 and is now in its ninth edition. The aim of the prize is to empower potential and give often under-represented contemporary artists the resources to further develop their talent. Following the application and jury process, three artists are shortlisted for the Prize and one artist is awarded a \$100,000 commission for a new, unrealized, original work. The three shortlisted artists receive a cash prize and are represented in a group exhibition at Art Dubai (March 15-18, 2017) through previous works, which are selected by the Guest Curator in liaison with the artists. The Prize reflects Abraaj's own investment philosophy, which is to take viable businesses with great potential, and create regional and global champions. To date, works have been presented at Art Dubai and have gone on loan to exhibitions at the Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum (New York), Jeu de Paume (Paris), Istanbul Modern, Singapore Art Museum, Sharjah Biennale 11, 54th Venice Biennale, 18th Biennale of Sydney, Victoria and Albert Museum (London), Boghossian Foundation (Brussels), Palais de Tokyo (Paris), Kochi-Muziris Biennale, Hangzhou Triennial of Fiber Art (Zhejiang), Kunsthalle Wien (Vienna), Tensta Konstall (Stockholm), Glasgow Sculpture Studios, 10th Gwangju Biennale, and New Museum (New York).

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About Art Dubai

Art Dubai is held under the Patronage of HH Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President and Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai.

Art Dubai is held in partnership with The Abraaj Group and is sponsored by Julius Baer and Piaget. Madinat Jumeirah is home to the event. The Dubai Culture & Arts Authority (Dubai Culture) is a strategic partner of Art Dubai and, along with Dubai Design District (d3), supports the fair's year-round education programme.

Art Dubai 2016 included 94 galleries, presented across three programmes – Contemporary, Modern and Marker. Art Dubai's extensive not-for-profit programme includes Art Dubai Projects; an exhibition of works by winners of the annual Abraaj Group Art Prize; a range of educational programmes including the Sheikha Manal Little Artists Program and the community school Campus Art Dubai, and the critically acclaimed Global Art Forum.

The eleventh edition of Art Dubai takes place March 15-18, 2017.

artdubai.ae

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