For immediate release

ART DUBAI ANNOUNCES MARCH PROGRAMME FOR THE TENTH EDITION OF THE GLOBAL ART FORUM, TITLED

‘THE FUTURE WAS’

The critically acclaimed annual arts conference takes place March 16 to 18, 2016 during the tenth edition of Art Dubai, and is free and open to the public

* The tenth edition of Art Dubai’s Global Art Forum sees 50 international and regional thought-leaders explore how the future has been imagined and shaped through a series of 32 live talks, panels and performances
* The diverse roster of contributors participating in the March programme – announced here for the first time – includes, among others, artists Christine Sun Kim, Monira Al Qadiri, Sophia Al Maria, eL Seed, Hito Steyerl and Francesco Vezzoli; curators Glenn D. Lowry (director of New York’s Museum of Modern Art), the Serpentine’s Hans Ulrich Obrist**,** Prada Foundation director Germano Celant and **João Ribas** of the Serralves Museum of Contemporary Art in Porto**;** Emirati science fiction writers Noura Al Noman and Mohammad Al Hammadi
* The Global Art Forum is Asia’s largest annual arts conference; this year’s edition began in January with sessions at Dubai Design District (d3) and London’s Institute of Contemporary Arts (ICA)
* Titled ‘The Future Was’, the 2016 Forum is commissioned by writer **Shumon Basar,** with **Amal Khalaf**and **Uzma Z. Rizvi**as co-directors. The full programme and list of contributors can be found [here](http://artdubai.ae/global-art-forum-10-march#overlay-context=global-art-forum-10-march)

FEBRUARY 17, 2016, DUBAI UAE – Art Dubai announced today the full March 2016 programme and list of contributors for the tenth edition of the Global Art Forum – the annual five-day arts conference known internationally as a particularly innovative platform for contemporary cultural debate.

Art Dubai's Global Art Forum is presented by the Dubai Culture and Arts Authority (Dubai Culture) and supported by Dubai Design District (d3). All Global Art Forum programming is free and open to the public. The full programme can be found [here](http://www.artdubai.ae/global-art-forum-10-march). The list of contributors can be found [here](http://www.artdubai.ae/global-art-forum-10-contributors).

Titled ‘The Future Was’, the 2016 Global Art Forum explores the ways in which artists, writers, technologists, historians, musicians and thinkers have imagined – and are shaping – the future, with its customary series of live talks, panels, performances and commissioned projects.

Of the Forum’s theme, Commissioner Shumon Basar said, “The future isn't what it used to be, which is why the tenth edition of the Global Art Forum is called ‘The Future Was’. How did different parts of the world imagine their future fates? Technologically? Culturally? Creatively? Ideas can be time machines – so we're inviting some of the brightest minds to share their ideas and take us backwards and forwards through time and place."

Taking place on Madinat Jumeirah’s newly expanded Fort Island during Art Dubai, the Global Art Forum’s March series of live talks examines subjects as various as how museums and artists are working with “the future of the past”; why deserts are the typical landscapes of fictional futures; the archaeology of space; the relationship between the futures and art markets; Brazilian architectural legend Oscar Niemeyer’s forgotten masterplan for Dubai; our relationship with technology and the cloud; and much more.

Antonia Carver, director of Art Dubai, said, “Over the past decade, the Global Art Forum has gained a reputation for a particular warm, innovative and investigative spirit, and it’s certainly one of liveliest and broadest of talks programmes. This year’s speakers range from space scientists to world-renowned artists, and the presentations take in performance, sound, film, as well as ideas. To debate the future, and what it means to us, through past and present, seems particularly appropriate here in the UAE.”

Artists play a particular role in the tenth Global Art Forum, and the programme features new commissions, including short films by Qatari writer and artist Sophia Al Maria that speculate on the future of our environment, and a new performance work by Monira Al Qadiri dwelling on the role of oil in all of our futures.

A further new Global Art Forum commission sees the UAE collective WTD reproduce a slideshow of real estate advertisements from Dubai in 2006-7, when Art Dubai and the Global Art Forum began. Christine Sun Kim will present a special performance, while artist eL Seed discusses his new project, exploring the topic of perception in Cairo’s Zabaleen community, with MoMA Director Glenn D. Lowry.

Other contributors, illustrative of the Forum’s typical eclecticism and its capacity to take a “helicopter view” of the arts, include the economist (and co-founder of ITO 33) Elie Ayache giving a talk on ‘The Future Was The Market’; urbanists and Brownbook founders Ahmed and Rashid bin Shabib; space archaeologist Alice Gorman; writer Sohrab Mahdavi; plus the award-winning South African novelist Lauren Beukes.

The 2016 Global Art Forum launched in January with heavily over-subscribed events at Dubai Design District (d3) and in London in partnership with the Institute of Contemporary Arts (ICA), with 16 speakers – from the Emirati scientists leading the UAE 2020 mission to Mars, to renowned artist John Gerrard, and musicians Hasan Hujairi and André Vida.

The Forum takes place at its home at the tenth edition of Art Dubai, March 16-19, 2016.

The full programme and list of contributors can be found [here](http://www.artdubai.ae/global-art-forum-10-march).

For the press gallery, click [here](http://www.artdubai.ae/press-images?subjectId=125&year=2016).

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NOTES TO EDITORS

ABOUT THE GLOBAL ART FORUM

Each year, the **Global Art Forum** brings together a diverse line-up of artists, curators, musicians, strategists, thinkers and writers to present and debate ideas around a curated theme. Typically featuring around 50 speakers, and running over five days, the Global Art Forum has become known as one of the largest and most significant annual arts conferences in the Middle East and Asia.

Art Dubai's Global Art Forum is presented by the Dubai Culture and Arts Authority (Dubai Culture) and supported by Dubai Design District (d3).

The Forum is also recognised for its particularly collaborative, innovative approach, drawing on other disciplines and experiences to take a broad ‘helicopter view’ of the art world; the programme typically includes performance, music, commissioned research and projects alongside the live talks. Over the years, the Forum has toured to Qatar, Kuwait, France and the UK, and grown to include publications, workshops and other educational initiatives. For details about the tenth edition of the Global Art Forum, ‘**The Future Was’** in January and March 2016 click [here](http://www.artdubai.ae/global-art-forum-10-march).

The British Council has kindly supported the appearance of UK-based speakers at the 2016 Forum.

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 and Arts Authority 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 includes 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 tenth edition of Art Dubai takes place March 16-19, 2016.

[artdubai.ae](http://www.artdubai.ae)

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ABOUT 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 2021 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. These include: The Sheikh Mohammed Bin Rashid Al Maktoum Patrons of the Arts Awards: The first of its kind initiative in the Arab world honouring individuals and organisations who have made financial or in kind contributions through sustained support to visual arts, performing arts, literature and film in the region; Dubai Art Season: The city’s premier umbrella arts initiatives which encompasses of Art Week (Art Dubai, Design Days Dubai, and SIKKA Art Fair), Middle East Film & Comic Con, to highlight the Emirate’s growing creative landscape within the international circuit; SIKKA Art Fair: An annual art fair aimed at promoting Emirati and local artists in the UAE; and Dubai Festival for Youth Theatre: An annual festival that celebrates and fosters the art of theatre in the UAE. [dubaiculture.gov.ae](http://www.dubaiculture.gov.ae)

ABOUT DUBAI DESIGN DISTRICT

Dubai Design District, better known as d3, is a home for the region’s growing community of creative thinkers. It plays a key element in Dubai’s vision to transform into an innovation-led economy, and it aims to engage, inspire and enable emerging talent, as well as providing a platform to showcase Arab creativity to a larger, global audience.

As a dedicated creative destination, d3 answers a growing need for the regional design industry, ensuring that this important sector is able to develop and thrive. It provides businesses, entrepreneurs and creatives from across the design value chain with an ideally located, purpose built and sustainable ecosystem, which leverages technology to integrate ‘smart’ solutions throughout the development.

d3 is the newest of TECOM Group’s communities, with 11 buildings making up the core of the site already delivered and being handed over to tenants. To support its many creative partners, d3 offers individuals and businesses the choice of operating either as a free zone entity or as an on-shore business, each with its own merits.

By 2018, d3 will feature a one million square foot Creative Community, which will act as the site’s cultural epicentre, inspiring emerging designers and artists, and attracting tourists to the area. By 2019, d3 will also boast a bustling Waterfront, a 1.8km esplanade running alongside the Dubai Creek, with international and design-led hotels, boutique retail concept stores and an outdoor events space, as well as a host of hospitality and leisure facilities.

All of these various elements have been carefully designed to ensure that the creative thinkers using and visiting d3 every day have an energised and culture rich environment where they can coexist. [dubaidesigndistrict.com](http://www.dubaidesigndistrict.com)

ABOUT THE BRITISH COUNCIL

The British Council creates international opportunities for the people of the UK and other countries and builds trust between them worldwide. We are a Royal Charter charity, established as the UK’s international organisation for educational opportunities and cultural relations.

Our 7000 staff in over 100 countries work with thousands of professionals and policy makers and millions of young people every year through English, arts, education and society programmes.  We have been in the Gulf for 60 years and in the UAE our arts work stretches across visual arts, literature, theatre, architecture, design, fashion and the creative economy. We create networks that foster collaboration and share knowledge for the long term benefit of individuals and communities where we work.

The British Council has kindly supported the appearance of UK-based speakers at the 2016 Forum and a research trip for British curators to [Art Week 2016](http://www.artweek.ae/).

[britishcouncil.ae](http://www.britishcouncil.ae)