



المكتب الثقافي لسمو الشيخة منال بنت محمد بن راشد آل مكتوم
THE CULTURAL OFFICE OF HH SHEIKHA MANAL BINT MOHAMMED BIN RASHID AL MAKTUUM

For Immediate Release

THE CULTURAL OFFICE OF HH SHEIKHA MANAL AND ART DUBAI ANNOUNCE THE 2016 SHEIKHA MANAL LITTLE ARTISTS PROGRAM

The Sheikhha Manal Little Artist Program kicks off its fourth consecutive year and largest edition since its inception at Art Dubai from March 16-19 2016

MARCH 9, 2016, DUBAI, UNITED ARAB EMIRATES: Under the patronage of Sheikhha Manal bint Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, President of the UAE Gender Balance Council, President of Dubai Women Establishment and wife of Sheikh Mansour Bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Presidential Affairs of the UAE, The Sheikhha Manal Little Artists Program kicks off its fourth consecutive year at Art Dubai, March 16 – 19 2016.

The program, designed for children and teenagers aged 5 – 17 years, encourages them to get involved and excel in the field of the arts.

The Program includes on-site workshops that will stimulate artistic creativity within participants, and discovery tours for children and teenagers that will allow them to discover the fair and meet the participating artists. The program also includes school visits through the “Artists in Schools” Program with the purpose of offering selected schools an exclusive opportunity to host workshops to encourage art skills amongst the students.

The Sheikhha Manal Little Artists Program commissioned London-based artist and educator Polly Brannan to lead the onsite workshops. Brannan’s “Mobile Variety Club” focuses on participants creating their own performances such as songs, comedy sketches, poetry readings, puppet shows, dances and theatre – using sets, props and visuals they have created themselves. Workshops consist of six zones where participants create their own theatrical production with the help of the lead and apprentice artists.

Brannan will be joined by UAE-based artists and designers with a background in dealing with children through the arts. The apprentice artists are: Asmaa El Afifi, Alia Lootah, Isabella E. Toledo, Zahia Abdul and Maryam Saffarini. The program is a step forward for these selected artists in their career and an opportunity to work under and learn from an international artist.

Discovery Tours will also be guided by UAE-based artists, including Melissa Paul, Saif Mhaisen and Sara Masinaei.

“The partnership with Art Dubai and the Sheikhha Manal Little Artists Program for a fourth consecutive year, which is considered the largest edition since its inception, is a key initiative for Her Highness Sheikhha Manal to further develop and encourage early arts education for



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children,” said Mona Bin Kalli, Director of The Cultural Office. “Along with the increasing number of workshops and Discovery Tours, Her Highness’s on-going commitment to support the Program also gives the participating local artists an exposure and a learning opportunity from the international artists.”

Bin Kalli also comments that having international artist Polly Brannan as a leader for the apprentices is a valuable addition to the program due to her extensive work with children in the performing arts and her fresh approach that encompasses art, theatre and education. Bin Kalli also assures that the Program, under Her Highness Sheikha Manal bint Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, strongly emphasizes cross-cultural learning and encourages the community’s interaction with the art scene. Her Highness also pays a great deal of attention to the idea of expression through art to raise awareness about the importance of artistic talent in society.

“It is our pleasure to continue our partnership between Art Dubai and the Sheikha Manal Little Artists Program,” said Antonia Carver, Director of Art Dubai. “The Program is unique in its focus on young artists through exhibitions, multiple workshops and many discovery tours, led by UAE-based and international artists that aim to stimulate the spirit of innovation and creativity.”

Carver also pointed that Art Dubai is the leading international art fair in the Middle East, North Africa and South Asia, gathering more than 500 artists representing 70 nationalities, and 94 galleries hailing from 40 countries.

“I am excited about the opportunity of working with children as collaborators on the Sheikha Manal Little Artists Program,” says lead artist Polly Brannan. “Working with the approach of learning through play, children will have the opportunity to build their own productions and performances for the ‘Mobile Variety Club’. I am interested in the notion that through play and experimenting children can make their own rules and ideas come to life which helps them gain confidence in new experiences and environments.”

Part of the Cultural Office of Sheikha Manal’s & Art Dubai longstanding commitment to local arts education as an integral part of one of the largest not-for-profit programs of any art fair worldwide, the Sheikha Manal Little Artists Program is free and open to all; it takes place throughout the tenth edition of Art Dubai, from 16 to 19 March, 2016.



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NOTES TO EDITORS

About The Cultural Office:

The Cultural Office of Her Highness Sheikhha Manal bint Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum was established in 2013 to serve as the official platform to develop and activate substantial art movements as milestones within the region. Many existing art related projects have now been directly placed under the cultural office and a lot more of future planned programs will help raise the profile of the pool of talents existing in the region. The Cultural Office combines the best art practices and concepts from around the world and tailors it to respect and preserve our legacy and culture in the Arab world for International recognition.

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 program.

Art Dubai 2016 includes 94 galleries, presented across three program – Contemporary, Modern and Marker. Art Dubai's extensive not-for-profit program includes Art Dubai Projects; an exhibition of works by winners of the annual Abraaj Group Art Prize; a range of educational program including the Sheikhha 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.

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