

For immediate release  
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## **ART DUBAI AND DELFINA FOUNDATION REVEAL DETAILS OF 'THE WEDDING PROJECT'**

**The new site-specific, immersive project and café space features performances and an eleven-course menu created entirely by artists, taking place during the tenth edition of Art Dubai, March 16-19 2016**

**FEBRUARY 24, 2016 DUBAI UAE** – **Art Dubai** and **Delfina Foundation** revealed details today of **The Wedding Project**, a new performative project that will playfully transform two rooms at Madinat Jumeirah into an artist-created wedding hall for the tenth edition of Art Dubai, March 16-19 2016. The experience is open to all, throughout the fair, and also features a series of eleven-course gala dinners. The project is supported by **Absolut Elyx** with further support by **ROI Land Investments, Ltd** and **The White Boutique**.

Curated by **Delfina Foundation Director Aaron Cezar** as the latest iteration of the popular ['Politics of Food'](#) series, The Wedding Project combines novel drinks and food dishes, commissions and interventions by artists including **Sunoj D, Larissa Sansour, Candice Lin, Manal Al Dowayan, Taus Makhacheva, Nile Sunset Annex, Hind Mezaina** and the **Centre for Genomic Gastronomy**.

**Aaron Cezar, Director, Delfina Foundation**, said, "The theme of the 'wedding' plays on the marriage of food and art while also considering the context of the venue at Mina A'Salam in rooms where weddings are typically held. We will forage for food with Sunoj D, eat dishes on the verge of extinction with Larissa Sansour, consume heads of art world power produced by Candice Lin, calm our nerves with Manal Al Dowayan's special tea blends and have our cake - and perhaps eat it too - with Taus Makhacheva's twist on the traditional wedding cake. These are just a few of the experiences for the project and performative dinner."

Participating artist **Taus Makhacheva** said, "I have been fascinated with the way contemporary cakes reflect our desires, hopes and dreams and how the wedding industry invents various temporary traditions. At Delfina Foundation, I have discovered how a dinner can become an art experience, pleasurable and conceptual at the same time. I look forward to the celebration at Art Dubai."

Participating artist **Manal Al Dowayan** added, "I'm excited to work with Delfina Foundation again after my residency in 2009, which was a pivotal turning point in my career. The Wedding Project is a perfect example of the family atmosphere of Delfina, as well as Art Dubai."

Inspired by a tenth century Arabic text that describes eleven different words that define 'love' and wider meanings, each concept will be embodied in a subtle and sensational performance, provocation, food or drink. Beginning with *hawa* (attraction) and

progressing through *alaqah* (attachment) to *kalaf* (infatuation) to *huyum* (insanity), each dish – produced in collaboration with chefs from **Madinat Jumeirah** – will explore the notion of food, recipes and cookbooks as markers of cultural memory that can be just as easily erased as they are preserved.

Guests are welcomed into an edible garden created by the artist **Sunoj D**, which acts as a source of ingredients for the bar, where lemons, lime, mint, and other garnishes are picked for drinks, served to fair audiences throughout the week. Cairo-based collective **Nile Sunset Annex**, working with **Absolut Elyx mixologists**, are among other artists creating specially commissioned cocktails, coffees and teas exploring the various notions of love.

Alongside the bar, an artist-designed banquet hall hosts a series of seated, time-based performative meals during Art Dubai; these extraordinary gala events, hosted and created by artists, are limited capacity, with tickets available to purchase for Art Dubai guests.

“Playing on the rituals we associate with social get-togethers, *The Wedding Project* is the perfect commission to create a tongue-in-cheek commentary on our tenth anniversary,” said **Antonia Carver, Director, Art Dubai**. “We’re delighted to produce this highly original and creative project with Delfina Foundation, a longstanding partner and collaborator of Art Dubai Projects.”

### **THE WEDDING PROJECT**

Presented by Delfina Foundation and Art Dubai

Supported by Absolut Elyx and ROI

At Art Dubai, March 16-19, 2016

Gala Dinner Events: March 16,17and 18, 8pm (Limited availability; more information [here](#))

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### **NOTES TO EDITORS**

#### 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://artdubai.ae)

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### ABOUT DELFINA FOUNDATION

Founded in 2007, **Delfina Foundation** creates opportunities for emerging and established artists, curators and writers to reflect on what they do, position their practice within relevant global discourse, create career-defining research and commissions, and network with colleagues. The Foundation forges international collaborations that extend beyond their geographical remit of MENA in order to build shared platforms to present and discuss common practices and themes. [delfinafoundation.com](http://delfinafoundation.com)

### ABOUT THE POLITICS OF FOOD PROGRAMME

The Wedding Project is the latest iteration of Delfina Foundation's popular ***Politics of Food*** dinner performances. For the last two years, Delfina Foundation's Politics of Food programme has brought together leading artists, celebrity chefs and scientists to explore food as a medium for understanding complex histories and questioning current issues, from globalisation to waste. The notion of cooking and eating as performative acts has been an underlying aspect of the programme. The Politics of Food has engaged over 70 artists, activists, anthropologists, agronomists, chefs, curators, scientists and writers from 32 countries, reaching an audience of more than 45,000 people to date.

### ABOUT ABSOLUT ELYX

**Absolut** was the first spirit brand to forge genuinely close ties with art and artists. Absolut has been active in the art world since 1985, when it invited Andy Warhol to create the first in a series of iconic advertisements inspired by the Absolut bottle. Since then, Absolut has collaborated with more than 550 artists on over 850 commissioned projects. Today, Absolut supports acclaimed artists, art writers and institutions in their efforts to present new works, stimulate ideas, bring people together and broaden access to creativity.

**Absolut Elyx** is the ultimate luxury expression of Absolut. This luxury brand is produced using only winter wheat harvested in one single state located in the region of Skåne in southern Sweden. Absolut Elyx is actually made from over 50% water and its liquid touches copper in every single step of the production process to produce its distinctive liquid. Absolut Elyx stands for integrity and authenticity in a world of bling and excess. It is all about being who you say you are. There is a cultural shift towards substance and style over excess, and Absolut Elyx is pleased to be at the forefront of this trend, enabling and celebrating acts of integrity everywhere with a dash of playfulness and fun. [absolutelyx.com](http://absolutelyx.com)