

**Press Release**

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**ART DUBAI OPENS LARGEST EDITION TO DATE  
TODAY, WEDNESDAY 9 MARCH 2022**

- *Art Dubai 2022 opens to the public March 11-13, 2022 at Madinat Jumeirah, Dubai*
- *The fair's most extensive edition to date features over 100 contemporary, modern and digital galleries from 44 countries*
- *Art Dubai features a broad programme of commissions, exhibitions and an ambitious education and events programme*
- *New section Art Dubai Digital focuses on the development of art in the digital space, including galleries digitally native art and NFT platforms from around the world*
- *The 15<sup>th</sup> edition of Global Art Forum brings together leading creators and thinkers to examine the worlds of digital artefacts and crypto economies*

**Dubai, United Arab Emirates – 9 March 2022** – Art Dubai, held under the patronage of HH Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President and Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai, is the leading global platform for art and artists from the Middle East and Global South, returns to Madinat Jumeirah Dubai from 11-13 March 2022 (previews 9 and 10 March). Featuring over 100 Contemporary and Modern galleries from more than 40 countries across four main gallery sections: Contemporary, Modern, Bawwaba and Art Dubai Digital; a series of ambitious new commissions by internationally renowned artists, ground-breaking group exhibitions and world-class education and talks programmes, Art Dubai's 15<sup>th</sup> edition will be the fair's most ambitious and extensive to date.

Art Dubai 2022 includes more than 30 first-time participants, and over 50% of the gallery programme is drawn from the Global South, reaffirming the fair's position as the leading marketplace and meeting point for art and artists from this region. New for 2022 is the debut of Art Dubai Digital, an innovative new digital art and NFT section that provides a comprehensive, 360-degree introduction to this fast-developing landscape, examining the context out of which NFTs, cryptocurrency, video art and virtual reality (VR) have grown since the rise of digital art in the 1980s.

Art Dubai is held in partnership with A.R.M. Holding. The lead partner of the fair is Swiss Wealth Management Group Julius Baer. The Dubai Culture & Arts Authority (Dubai Culture) is the fair's strategic partner. Bybit is the lead partner of Art Dubai Digital.

View the list of galleries participating in Art Dubai 2022 [here](#)

**Art Dubai's Artistic Director Pablo del Val commented:**

*“For 15 years, Art Dubai has been a place to discover and celebrate new trends, creating and facilitating conversations, and celebrating the strength of creative output across the Global South. Art Dubai is a truly global art fair, and this is reflected in both the quality and geographic spread of the galleries participating this year. That so much of the programme is drawn from the Global South highlights the increased interest in and appetite for collecting non-Western art, the strengthening of the gallery scene beyond the traditional centres of the art world, and the role Art Dubai plays as a platform for regions that are under-represented in international collections. This year's programme places particular emphasis on where the physical and digital realms intersect, and we are particularly pleased to present Art Dubai Digital to our visitors, which will be an important bridge between the rapidly-developing crypto-sphere and the international art market.”*

Art Dubai Contemporary 2022 features 77 galleries from 33 countries, and welcomes 15 first-time exhibitors ranging from emerging art scenes to established international centres. Art Dubai Modern 2022 is curated by Sam Bardaouil and Till Fellrath and will feature solo presentations of museum-quality works by eleven 20<sup>th</sup> Century masters from across the Middle East, North Africa and South Asia (MENASA). Bawwaba – meaning *gateway* in Arabic and exclusively featuring works made in the past year or specifically for Art Dubai 2022 – is curated by Nancy Adajania and will feature ten solo presentations, including six first-time exhibitors.

As the art world continues to adapt and evolve in the digital and NFT realms, new communities are emerging to support these worlds, involving new creators and stakeholders. Art Dubai Digital is a new dedicated gallery section that seeks to provide a 360-degree overview of the digital art landscape right now. Art Dubai Digital features 17 presentations, representing a broad geographic base and includes both traditional galleries and digitally native platforms and collectives, many participating in an art fair for the first time.

Art Dubai's commissioned artist for 2022 is INLAND, represented by Fernando Garcia-Dory, who presents a new multi-site installation at the fair and in locations around Dubai. *Sand Flow* combines visions of Dubai's past, present and future and examines the range of cultures and communities that inhabit the city and their contributions to it. Other newly created works debuting at the fair include *Cloud Seed* by Filipino-American light and media artist James Clar, commissioned by Julius Baer as well as important film work by Martha Fiennes, entitled *Yugen*. In addition, 15 artworks from galleries participating in Art Dubai Digital will be dropped on the Bybit platform on the opening day of the fair in the Bybit X Art Dubai Drop.

Curated by Maryam Al Dabbagh and Mays Albaik, a new exhibition, titled “Speculative Links” commissioned by **Warehouse421** in collaboration with **The Salama Bint Hamdan Emerging Artist Fellowship (SEAF)** and Art Dubai, will present a selection of works drawing on threads

and recurring research themes that persist across the fellowship's different cohorts of UAE-based artists. The artists' work spans a wide range of practices, including painting, drawing, engraving, mixed media, and embroidery, exploring from personal memories, to social commentaries, as well highlighting the intense homing desire.

Art Dubai's ambitious thought leadership programme continues the fair's commitment to developing and supporting the next generation of cultural leaders. The 2022 programme includes the 15<sup>th</sup> edition of Art Dubai's celebrated Global Art Forum, commissioned by Shumon Basar; an eclectically curated series of Bybit Talks, a new addition to the fair, presented by the leading cryptocurrency exchange - providing a bridge between the crypto and art worlds, and Art Dubai Modern Talks, this year held in collaboration with the Dubai Collection, that will examine the life, work and influences of 20<sup>th</sup> Century Modern masters from the Middle East and North Africa.

This year's A.R.M. Holding Children's Programme features artist-led workshops for children aged 5-17 years. With a focus on sustainability, the programme will be led by Kenyan artist Cyrus Kabiru, who will work with participants to retrieve and repurpose everyday materials from their homes, challenging children to alter their perspective and re-examine how they see everyday objects and their wider surroundings. The programme will first take place at Art Dubai before expanding to 80 schools - reaching more than 5,000 children across Dubai.

With a focus on the next generation of artists, Art Dubai 2022 marks the culmination of Campus Art Dubai's Blockchain Edition, an eight-week development and mentorship programme for 12 UAE and international artists, held in partnership with Dubai Culture. Led by a host of local and global leading experts in the blockchain and NFT art sector, there will be a special presentation of these works at the fair.

Art Dubai Week takes place during the final month of Dubai Expo 2020 with a range of solo and group exhibitions taking place across the city. Highlights include: *Jitish Kallat: Order of Magnitude* at Ishara Foundation; *A Slightly Curving Place*, curated by Nina Ghose, at Concrete, Alserkal Avenue; two important solo shows: *Taus Makhacheva: A Space of Celebration* and *Fahd Burki: Daydreams* at Jameel Arts Centre. Sharjah Art Foundation will present *Lawrence Abu Hamdan: The Sonic*, the largest solo exhibition of the artist's works to date, including a major new commission *Air Conditioning* and a site-specific performance. *When Images Speak: Highlights from the Dubai Collection* continues at the Etihad Museum, featuring a selection of nearly 70 modern and contemporary art works drawn from the collections of 11 patrons of Dubai Collection, the first institutional art collection of its kind. Further highlights include the newly opened Museum of the Future and their inaugural exhibitions; the tenth edition of Sikka Art and Design Festival which returns to Al Fahidi Historical Neighbourhood.

## **NOTES TO EDITORS**

### **About Art Dubai**

Founded in 2007, Art Dubai is the premier platform to see and buy modern and contemporary art from the Global South. Featuring Contemporary, Modern and Digital gallery sections, annual artist commissions and year-round collector and education programmes, Art Dubai champions art and artists from across the Global South, providing a relevant and increasingly important alternative to mainstream, largely Western-led narratives.

Art Dubai is held in partnership with A.R.M. Holding. The fair is sponsored by leading Swiss wealth management group, Julius Baer. The Dubai Culture & Arts Authority (Dubai Culture) is the fair's strategic partner. Bybit is the lead partner of Art Dubai Digital.

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

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#ArtDubai #ArtDubai2022

### **Tickets**

The new Art Dubai app is available to download on the App Store and Google Play.

Tickets are available to purchase [online](#) or via the Art Dubai app.

1-Day Ticket: AED 60

3-Day Ticket: AED 100

Free entry for children (aged 18 and under) and university students.

### **Location:**

Art Dubai is held at Madinat Jumeirah, Al Sufouh 1, Dubai, United Arab Emirates

### **Opening Hours**

Wednesday 9 and Thursday 10 March (by invitation only): 2 – 9pm

Friday 11 and Saturday 12 March: 2 – 9pm

Sunday 13 March: 12 – 6pm

## **MEDIA CONTACTS**

**Digital Press Pack and Images:** <https://bit.ly/35VFvA4>

### **International:**

David Field | Art Dubai | [david@davidbfield.com](mailto:david@davidbfield.com) | +44(0)7843673393

### **UAE / MENA:**

Sheila Tobias | Twister Middle East | [stobias@twisterme.ae](mailto:stobias@twisterme.ae)