



**ART DUBAI**  
1-5.3.2023

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH  
**A.R.M.**  
HOLDING

## **Press Release**

**Date of issue:** 1 March 2023

### **ART DUBAI OPENS ITS MOST EXTENSIVE AND AMBITIOUS EDITION TODAY, WEDNESDAY 1ST MARCH 2023**

- Art Dubai 2023 opens to the public 3rd to 5th March at Madinat Jumeirah, Dubai (previews on 1st and 2nd March)
- The Middle East's leading international art fair's most ambitious edition to date featuring over 130 contemporary, modern and digital gallery presentations from six continents, including over 30 first-time participants
- Focus on Global South, including new commissioned performance programme in partnership with leading South Asian galleries and institutions
- Expanded education, conference and events programme across five days, including the 16th edition of flagship summit the Global Art Forum and the inaugural Middle East editions of Christie's Art+Tech conference, and the Art Business Conference
- Second year of Art Dubai Digital, focusing on artists and organisations working at the cutting edge of new technologies
- A.R.M. Holding and Julius Baer have both renewed their commitments to supporting Art Dubai for a further five years
- Largest-ever representation of Dubai-based artists and galleries

**Dubai, United Arab Emirates – 1st March 2023** – 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 3rd to 5th March 2023 (previews 1st and 2nd March). Over 130 Contemporary and Modern galleries from more than 40 countries across four main gallery sections: Contemporary, Modern, Bawwaba and Art Dubai Digital will be complemented by an ambitious partner and non-profit programme, including newly commissioned artworks and premieres by internationally renowned artists. With an expanded education and thought leadership programme, Art Dubai's 16th edition will be the fair's largest and most extensive to date.

#### **Art Dubai's Executive Director Benedetta Ghione commented:**

*"Art Dubai has always tried to reframe what an art fair can be, and this year's expanded programme fully reflects our role as a meeting point for the region's creative industries, across the commercial and not-for-profit sectors. As an independent organisation, we pride ourselves on being more than an art fair – we are an incubator of talent, a catalyst for the creative economy here in Dubai, a convener of great minds, and an entry point to this vibrant ecosystem for the wider cultural sector."*

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

*"For nearly two decades, Art Dubai has been a place to discover and celebrate new trends, creating and facilitating conversations, and celebrating the strength of creative output across*

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*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 once again 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."*

**On renewing their partnership with Art Dubai, Mohammad Saeed Al Shehhi, CEO of A.R.M. Holding said:**

*"We are delighted to renew and expand our partnership with Art Dubai for a further five years. Art Dubai is one of the most important institutions in the region's cultural landscape, incubating and supporting innovation and creativity in all its forms and at all ages. Through this partnership we aim to reinforce Dubai's position as a global centre of culture and to continue empowering the next generation through innovative programmes like the A.R.M. Children's Programme, which will expand this year to more than 9,000 students."*

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 A.R.M. Holding. The fair is sponsored by Swiss Wealth Management Group Julius Baer. Culturally rich developer HUNA is a partner of Art Dubai. The Dubai Culture & Arts Authority (Dubai Culture) is the fair's strategic partner. Madinat Jumeirah is the home of Art Dubai. Art Dubai is part of Dubai Art Season that runs from 1st February to 20th March.

View the full list of galleries participating in Art Dubai 2023 here

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

## **Gallery Programme**

The 2023 fair will include over 30 first-time participants and more than 60% of the gallery programme is drawn from the Global South, reaffirming Art Dubai's position as the leading marketplace for art from this rapidly developing region.

**Art Dubai Contemporary** presents the very best in cutting-edge contemporary art from 76 galleries and 34 countries, with particular focus on art and artists from the Global South. For our 16th edition, we are pleased to welcome 14 first-time exhibitors, and 12 galleries who are returning to Art Dubai after a hiatus. The 2023 edition of Art Dubai will feature 24 Dubai-based galleries, more than ever before, reflecting the continued growth of Dubai's artistic ecosystem and the emirate's increasing importance as a global creative and cultural hub.

Art Dubai 2023 also sees the return of **Art Dubai Digital**, which launched to critical and commercial success at the 2022 fair. This physical section of Art Dubai provides an annual 360-degree snapshot of the digital art landscape, building bridges between the art and technology worlds, and exploring how artists are utilising new, immersive technologies to collapse the boundaries of the traditional art world. The selection is drawn from across 6 continents, reinforcing Art Dubai's commitment to presenting global perspectives and diversity, inviting audiences to look beyond traditional art centres, and mapping out the key agents and platforms leading the way. Curated by Singapore-based educator and arts writer **Clara Che Wei Peh**, the expanded 2023 edition will focus on the artists, galleries and institutions who are driving this fast-developing arena.

Bangkok-based **Vipash Purichanont** curates the 2023 edition of Art Dubai's **Bawwaba** section. Meaning 'gateway' in Arabic, Bawwaba exclusively features artworks made in the past year or specifically for Art Dubai, and comprises solo presentations by 11 artists hailing from across the Global South. Across a variety of mediums, from painting and tapestry to filmmaking and performance, this section explores how contemporary artists from the Global South bring forth concerns within their worlds, from socio-cultural issues such as the

tension between rapid urban development and traditional values, the legacy of colonisation on environment, human relationships in the age of hyperconnectivity, or personal concerns around the meaning of language and void.

The 2023 edition of **Art Dubai Modern** is curated by Paris-based critic and curator **Mouna Mekouar** and Italian art historian **Lorenzo Giusti** (director, GAMeC, Bergamo) and features solo presentations by the region's modern masters, reinforcing Art Dubai's commitment to curatorial scholarship and art historical research. The selection focuses on the pioneers of contemporary art in the MENASA area, whose works are retrospectively playing a key role in today's art and, by extension, in art history and reflecting the cultural richness and diversity of the region.

### **Art Dubai Commissions**

*Chaupal*: A Journey through South Asia is a series of site-specific performances and activations by ten leading artists from South Asia that explore the power of food, ritual, and gathering. Inspired by the *chaupal*, a public space that encourages community building in rural areas, where people gather to discuss their problems, celebrate pleasures, and share their pains, it is the hub of community life in villages around South Asia. The programme is produced in partnership with Art Dubai's galleries and several leading South Asian cultural organisations, and comprises a diverse lineup of daily live performances and food-based experiences by artists whose work explores themes of community, celebration, hope, and connection.

### **Conferences and Talks Programme**

Art Dubai's artistic programme is complemented by the fair's largest ever thought-leadership programme, convening a broad cross-section of the brightest cultural and creative minds. Continuing the fair's long-standing commitments to dialogue, diverse voices and the development of Dubai's cultural infrastructure, the 2023 programme will feature more than 50 sessions in an ambitious daily conference, talks and education programme. Highlights include the 16th edition of Art Dubai's flagship **Global Art Forum**, the first Middle East edition of **Christie's Art+Tech** summit, a series of **Modern and Collector** talks developed in partnership with Dubai Collection, and a new event in partnership with the **Art Business Conference**.

### **Partner Programme Highlights**

We are delighted to announce that A.R.M. Holding has renewed its support of Art Dubai for a further five years, demonstrating the organisation's commitment to enabling talent and enriching the communities within which they operate. The third edition of the **A.R.M Holding Children's Programme** has been developed by Swedish artist Jacob Dahlgren. Entitled The Flag Project and suitable for children of all ages, this programme of immersive workshops will commence at Art Dubai before expanding to over 90 schools and 8,000 children over two months in what is the UAE's largest cultural education programme. Using everyday craft materials and scrap fabrics, participating children will be invited to think creatively about their environments, collaging together designs that will later be transformed into flags in an extension of the artist's ongoing project *Signs of Abstraction*.

The leading Swiss wealth management group **Julius Baer** has renewed its long-standing partnership with Art Dubai for a further five years, until 2027, and are premiering a major new commission by internationally acclaimed new media artist, director and pioneer in the aesthetics of data and machine intelligence, Refik Anadol. *Glacier Dreams* is inspired by the beauty and fragility of the world's glaciers and will be unveiled as a series of multisensory artworks over multiple chapters. The work will debut in the Julius Baer lounge at Art Dubai

and is the first activation of Julius Baer's new NEXT initiative, which is designed to foster collaboration between forward-thinking artists and institutions committed to new forms of cultural production.

Abu Dhabi's independent platform for emerging artists 421 who, in the second year of collaboration with Art Dubai, will present a group exhibition curated by UAE-based artist and researcher Dania Al Tamimi. Featuring artworks that pose the question: 'does time move through you, or do you move through time?', the exhibition will explore time as "the binding element of the biography of objects, the active archive of lives, and the solidifying catalyst of experiences".

## 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. Across its 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.

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

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### Tickets

Tickets are available to purchase online or via the Art Dubai app.

1-Day Ticket: AED 90

3-Day Ticket: AED 150

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 1st and Thursday 2nd March (by invitation only): 2 – 9pm

Friday 3rd and Saturday 4th March: 2 – 9pm

Sunday 5th March: 12 – 6pm