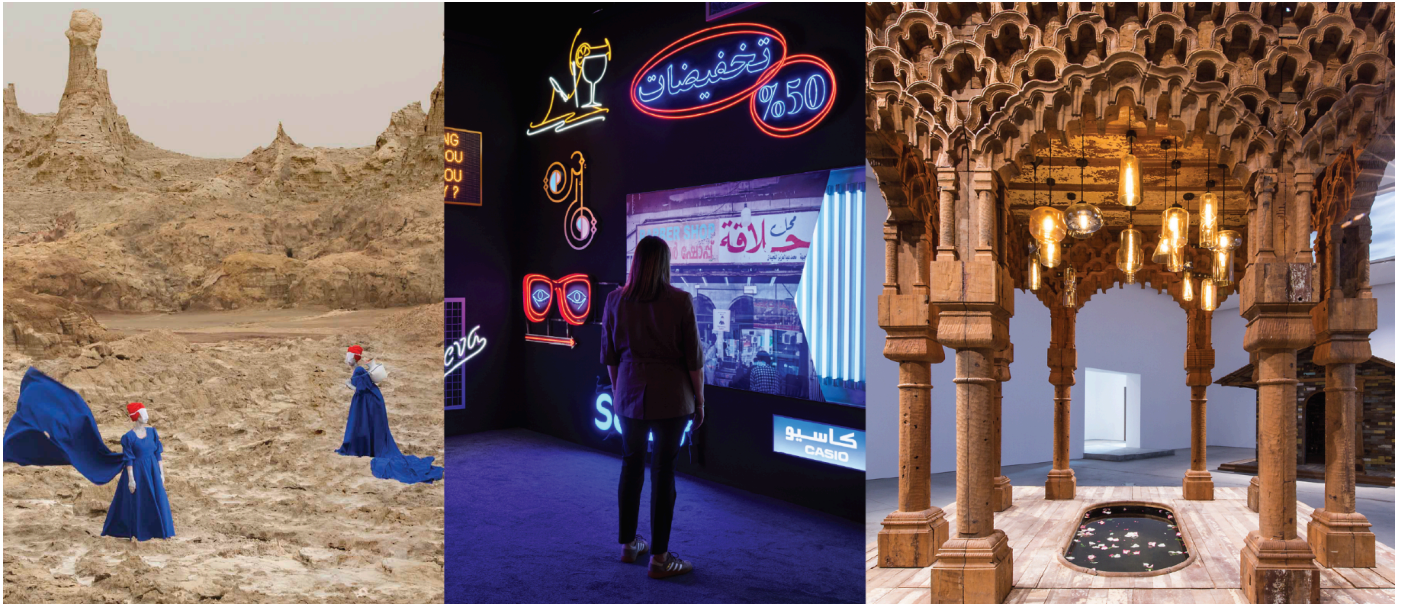


PRESS RELEASE



From left: Aida Muluneh, *Distant Echoes of Dreams*, 2018, Efié Gallery; Installation view, Art Dubai 2025, Bawwaba; Sudarshan Shetty, *A Song, A Story | Sculpture I – A Public Space*, 2016, Leila Heller Gallery. Images courtesy Art Dubai.

ART DUBAI ANNOUNCES FIRST DETAILS OF MODIFIED SPECIAL EDITION, TAKING PLACE 15-17 MAY 2026

A special edition of Art Dubai will take place at Madinat Jumeirah, Dubai from 15 - 17 May 2026, with VIP preview on 14 May. This special edition is presented in partnership with A.R.M. Holding and Dubai Culture is the Strategic Partner.

Highlights will include:

- Contemporary, modern and digital gallery presentations reflecting Art Dubai's 20-year history
- International galleries who have been committed to the region for decades and those who have been instrumental in shaping the region's cultural landscape, and strength of Dubai gallery scene

- **Expanded institutional partner programme developed in collaboration with the UAE's leading cultural institutions, including Alserkal Avenue, Art Jameel, Barjeel Art Foundation, Dubai Collection, and Sharjah Art Foundation**
- **Special programmes of exhibitions, large-scale installations, performances, talks and screenings**
- **Free entry for all visitors**

Dubai, UAE: 15 April 2026 – Art Dubai today announces the first participants for its 2026 special edition taking place at Madinat Jumeirah from 15-17 May (preview on 14 May).

For 20 years, Art Dubai has championed the artists, galleries and collectors whose voices, ideas and practices have built and sustained the region's cultural landscape. This special edition reflects both that history and the present moment, bringing together a focused programme that builds on the fair's core strengths of independence, deep local and regional roots and diverse global perspectives.

Taking place in a modified format at Madinat Jumeirah, the 2026 programme will foreground the galleries, institutions and communities that have shaped the region's art scene and market, and will feature around 75 presentations from commercial galleries, institutional participants and partners.

Art Dubai is held under the patronage of His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President and Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai. The fair is presented in partnership with A.R.M. Holding. Culturally driven lifestyle developer HUNA is a partner of Art Dubai. The Dubai Culture & Arts Authority (Dubai Culture) is the strategic partner of Art Dubai. Madinat Jumeirah is the home of Art Dubai.

Benedetta Ghione, Executive Director, Art Dubai Group:

"Art Dubai has always been more than a conventional art fair, developing into an international platform for this region's cultural scene as it matures. This special edition will demonstrate the resilience of the UAE's cultural scene as well as the power of collaboration, bringing together galleries, artists and institutions at a time when that role of convening feels more important than ever. Art Dubai's story is Dubai's story, and producing this special edition would only be possible in Dubai, for an organisation that has grown hand-in-hand with the city, and with the support of our long-term partners. Current circumstances mean that this may not be what we had planned to mark our 20th edition, but the galleries and wider programmes represent what makes Art Dubai both unique and special."

Dunja Gottweis, Director, Art Dubai Fair:

“This special edition of Art Dubai brings together galleries from nearly 20 countries with strong representation from the region and internationally. This is testament to the unique role Art Dubai has played over two decades in supporting and sustaining Dubai as the centre of the region’s art market. Spanning contemporary, modern and digital practices, the gallery programme offers a breadth of perspectives, from emerging artists to more established names alongside significant historical presentations. What stands out is the strength and intent of these presentations: galleries are showing ambitious, considered work, reflecting both the depth of the region and its connections across a wider set of cultural contexts.”

Alexie Glass-Kantor, Executive Director, Curatorial, Art Dubai Group:

“‘Things we do together’ has been a guiding thread in shaping the programme—thinking about how artists, galleries, institutions and audiences come into relationship across the fair. From large-scale installations to talks, performances and more informal moments of gathering, the focus is on creating an experience that feels connected and open. Developed in collaboration with leading cultural institutions across the UAE and the region, the programme brings different forms of practice into dialogue, and invites audiences to spend time, engage, and encounter work in unexpected ways.”

Gallery Presentations

Rooted in Dubai and deeply connected across the extended region, this special edition of Art Dubai continues to highlight Dubai’s status as the region’s commercial art hub and reflects the fair’s importance in the cultural ecosystem. Spanning a range of contemporary, modern and digital practices, and reflecting Art Dubai’s continued commitment to bridging regional practices with global contexts, this edition will feature over 45 gallery presentations, with around 60% drawn from the region.

Participants include international galleries who have been committed to the region for decades alongside those who have been instrumental in shaping the region’s cultural landscape. This edition will spotlight the Dubai galleries who have grown alongside the fair and welcome several first-time exhibitors - including international and regional newcomers - into the Art Dubai family. Responding to the challenges that many galleries are currently facing, this edition marks the launch of an innovative risk-sharing model whereby galleries’ booth costs are payable based on success.

Programming

Through its partnerships with government, the private sector and cultural partners, Art Dubai is deeply embedded in the city's creative ecology, and is committed to developing long-term initiatives that reflect Dubai's cultural ambitions and diverse communities.

Complementing the gallery presentations, this special edition of Art Dubai will present a programme of exhibitions, large-scale installations, commissions, performances and screenings alongside a daily programme of talks and conversations.

Presented in partnership with the UAE's leading institutions, programme highlights will include:

- *Made Forward*, a major presentation from the Dubai Collection - the city's first institutional collection of modern and contemporary art
- The 20th edition of Art Dubai's flagship Global Art Forum, commissioned by Shumon Basar titled 'Before and After Everything'
- An exhibition of modern Arab art from the Barjeel Art Foundation, featuring highlights from the collection
- A performance-led programme with Sharjah Art Foundation
- A programme of large-scale installations, new commissions and site-responsive artworks integrated across the fair including works by Khalid Al Banna, Hashel Al Lamki, Rashid Bin Shabib and Ahmed Bin Shabib, Rami Farook, Kevork Mourad, Yaw Owusu, Neda Razavipour, and Sudarshan Shetty
- A programme of moving image works co-curated with Alserkal Avenue, screened at both venues
- Further collaborations with Art Jameel, National Pavilion UAE - La Biennale di Venezia, Ministry of Culture and House of Arts
- Daily talks, activations and live moments across the site

A full list of participants in Art Dubai's special edition is available [here](#)

— Ends —

Notes to Editors:

Location: Madinat Jumeirah, Dubai, UAE

Public Dates: 15-17 May 2026. Preview day (by invitation only) 14 May 2026

ABOUT ART DUBAI

Art Dubai is a cultural platform that connects artists, galleries and institutions while contributing to the long-term growth of the region's creative ecosystem. It operates through two complementary pillars: Art Dubai Fair and Art Dubai Projects.

Founded in 2007, Art Dubai is the pre-eminent art fair for the Middle East, recognised for its focus on discovery and dialogue and a focus on contemporary, modern, and digital practices. Alongside a unique gallery programme, Art Dubai supports artist commissions, education, and public programming, helping to develop the region's cultural infrastructure and talent through sustainable, long-term models. By bridging regional practices with global contexts, Art Dubai reinforces the UAE's role as a vital and global meeting point for creativity and cultural exchange and the fair reflects the character of its city; global, evolving, and culturally rooted.

Art Dubai Projects is the organisation's year-round cultural platform. Operating across public and private sectors, it brings curatorial leadership and long-term vision to ambitious initiatives that strengthen creative infrastructure across the UAE and internationally. From public art, collections and commissioning to institutional development, digital platforms and cross-disciplinary programmes, it works with partners to deliver public impact and sustained growth for artists and audiences. Grounded in two decades of experience, it extends Art Dubai's commitment to art through initiatives designed to endure.

ABOUT ART DUBAI GROUP

Art Dubai Group is a commercial public/private partnership established in 2007. The company owns and delivers the Middle East's leading creative fairs and festivals, convening audiences from across the globe, providing platforms for social and cultural connections, and contributing to the growth and prosperity of the local creative economy. Art Dubai Group's mission is to build thriving ecosystems that have a global impact through initiatives that include world class events, commissioning creative talent and innovative professional development programmes, alongside offering industry expertise to private and government institutions. The group now comprises over 30 initiatives. These include Art Dubai, Dubai Design Week, the region's largest creative festival and Prototypes for Humanity.

MEDIA CONTACTS:

UAE and GCC: SEC Newgate

Daniela Gorini | daniela.gorini@secnewgate.com | +971 58 129 3083

Ihab Yousef | ihab.yousef@secnewgate.com | +971 55 768 4150

Serena Djamous | serena.djamous@secnewgate.com | +971 58 890 7811

International: Art Dubai

David Field | Dave@artdubai.ae