

PRESS RELEASE

Abu Dhabi Art 2021 to Feature Impressive Roster of 50 Local, Regional and International Galleries

Fair's 13th edition will take place from 17-21 November at Manarat Al Saadiyat

New works by Olga de Amaral, Seher Naveed and Zarina confirmed for the event's 'In and Around' section

Abu Dhabi, UAE, 03 November 2021: Abu Dhabi Art has announced the lineup of 50 local, regional, and international galleries participating in the fair's 13th edition. Artworks from 19 countries will be presented by 14 new galleries and 36 returning galleries, convening at Manarat Al Saadiyat in Abu Dhabi from 17 – 21 November 2021.

Dyala Nusseibeh, Director, Abu Dhabi Art, said: "We are delighted to welcome a diverse lineup of new participating galleries alongside many of our regular exhibitors at the fair this November. After a year of forced hiatus, it comes as no surprise that participating galleries have brought together exceptional presentations in their booths, which range from solo shows that reposition Modern art masters from the region to young galleries who are bold enough to show exciting emerging artists. We can't wait for our collectors and visitors to discover these works and reconnect with galleries at the fair."

Simon Njami is curating *Kind of Blue*, an exploration of the many varied perspectives of artists working today through the language of jazz. *Kind of Blue* will be presenting works from four participating galleries: **Afriart Gallery** (Kampala, Uganda), representing Richard Atugonza and Charlene Komuntale, **Galerie MAM** (Douala, Cameroon), representing Bili Bidjocka and Joël Yonkeu, **Primo Marella Gallery** (Milan, Italy), representing Abdoulaye Konaté, and **Sabrina Amrani** (Madrid, Spain), representing Nicène Kossentini and Joël Andrianomearisoa.

Simon Njami, curator of *Kind of Blue*, said, "What interests me when working with artists is that they are not creating art under the influence of their immediate surroundings, rather telling the world's story from a specific point of view. It is important for me to simultaneously bridge generation gaps and tap into the diversity of the art world, engage in discourse, and initiate a new form of inclusive dialogue in Abu Dhabi. Abu Dhabi Art as a platform speaks to the contemporary art world from the Global South, and this location is important to me as a curator, as much as artist technique is. Last year, I underlined African contemporary art through *The Day After*, which was about the future; this year, *Kind of Blue* is about mood – an illustration of the times we are facing through Jazz as a universal language of music."

Daudi Karungi, Director, Afriart Gallery, said, "Last year, our gallery participated at the fair for the first time, in an online show, and we did very well with the artists we presented even when the artworks were only virtual. I look forward to our participation in this in-person fair where we shall be able to show the works of our artists in real life to visitors at the event."

The Modern & Contemporary section of the fair will feature 26 participating galleries presenting a wide range of works by different artists. The participating galleries include **Agial Art Gallery** (Beirut, Lebanon), **Artside Gallery** (Seoul, South Korea), **Baró Galeria** (Palma, Spain), **Custot Gallery** (Dubai, UAE), **Galeria La Cometa** (Bogotá, Colombia), **Galerie Elmarsa Gallery** (Dubai, UAE), **GALLERIA CONTINUA** (San Gimignano, Italy), **Gallery Lee & Bae** (Busan, South Korea), **Gallery Tableau** (Seoul, South Korea), **Giorgio Persano** (Turin, Italy), **Green Art Gallery** (Dubai, UAE), **Hafez Gallery** (Jeddah, KSA), **Hunar Gallery** (Dubai, UAE), **Le Violon Bleu** (Carthage, Tunisia), **Leehwaik Gallery** (Seoul,

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South Korea), **Leila Heller Gallery** (Dubai, UAE), **Martch Art Project** (Istanbul, Turkey), **Mono Gallery** (Riyadh, KSA), **Perrotin** (Paris, France), **Rossi & Rossi** (Hong Kong), **Sapar Contemporary** (New York, USA), **Shirin Art Gallery** (Tehran, Iran), **Tabari Artspace** (Dubai, UAE), **Wadi Finan Art Gallery** (Amman, Jordan), **Yavuz Gallery** (Singapore), and **Zawyeh Gallery** (Dubai, UAE).

Alongside galleries from the Modern & Contemporary section, 22 galleries will be presenting curated booths by one, two or three artists each as part of the fair's Special Projects sector. The list includes, **1x1 Art Gallery** (Dubai, UAE), **Aicon Contemporary** (New York, USA), **Aisha Alabbar Gallery** (Dubai, UAE), **Art Alive Gallery** (New Delhi, India), **ATHR** (Jeddah, KSA), **Carbon12** (Dubai, UAE), **Colnaghi Gallery** (New York, USA), **Etihad Modern Art Gallery** (Abu Dhabi, UAE), **Exhibit320** (New Delhi, India), **Galerie Isa** (Mumbai, India), **Gallery Espace** (New Delhi, India), **Gallery Isabelle van den Eynde** (Dubai, UAE), **Grosvenor Gallery** (London, UK), **Khak Gallery** (Tehran, Iran), **Lawrie Shabibi** (Dubai, UAE), **Leila Heller Gallery** (Dubai, UAE), **Salwa Zeidan Gallery** (Abu Dhabi, UAE), **SARADIPOUR Art | SARAI Gallery** (Los Angeles, USA), **Tabari Artspace** (Dubai, UAE), **The Guild** (Mumbai, India), **The Third Line** (Dubai, UAE), and **Threshold Art Gallery** (New Delhi, India).

Abu Dhabi Art has also announced three new works as part of the fair's special installation section, 'In and Around'. Works by Olga de Amaral, represented by Galeria La Cometa (Bogotá, Colombia), Seher Naveed, represented by Aicon Contemporary (New York, USA), and Zarina, represented by Gallery Espace (New Delhi, India), will be shown alongside four previously confirmed works by Alfredo Jaar, represented by Giorgio Persano Gallery (Turin, Italy), Hera Büyüktaşçıyan, represented by Green Art Gallery (Dubai, UAE), Siah Armajani, represented by Rossi & Rossi (Hong Kong), and Zineb Sedira, represented by The Third Line (Dubai, UAE).

Abu Dhabi Art's 13th edition will see the first-time participation of 14 new galleries at the fair this year, including London's Rossi & Rossi. **Fabio Rossi, Owner of Rossi & Rossi**, said, "We are excited to participate in our first edition of Abu Dhabi Art. I have been following the fair from the very beginning but, due to conflicting schedules, have not been able to apply before. I visited Abu Dhabi Art two years ago and was impressed by the overall quality and the atmosphere. We will be showing a selection of early works by legendary Iranian-born American artist Siah Armajani who passed away last year. We are looking forward to connect with the local audience, both private collectors and institutions."

Representing works by Zarina at the fair this year, **Renu Modi of Gallery Espace** said, "I am very happy to be returning to Abu Dhabi. Our gallery programme was very well received last time, and I feel optimistic about our booth this year too. It's an elegant and intimate fair, and we felt very much at home. We are very honoured to represent Zarina and excited to know that her works will be part of the 'In and Around' project."

Sunny Rahbar, Co-founder of The Third Line Gallery, commented, "We are very excited to be participating at Abu Dhabi Art this year, which is an important opportunity for us to connect with our local, regional and international audiences. We look forward to safely welcoming visitors at our booth and anticipate another successful year at the fair."

Abu Dhabi Art announced earlier this month its *Beyond: Artist Commissions* programme, featuring new art commissions by five artists including Aya Haidar, Hazem Harb, Dr. Najat Makki, Rasheed Araeen and Richard Atugonza.

The 2021 fair will also host its annual public Performing Arts Programme, curated by Rose Lejeune, featuring four commissioned artists including Louise Hervé & Clovis Maillat, Mays Albaik, Rand Abdul Jabbar and Super Taus.

Abu Dhabi Art's *Beyond: Emerging Artists*, curated by Sam Bardaouil and Till Fellrath, co-founders of multidisciplinary curatorial platform *Art Reoriented* and co-directors of Hamburger Bahnhof, will present new works by three UAE-based emerging artists – Hashel Al Lamki, Maitha Abdalla and Christopher

Benton. Their exhibition will be on show at Manarat Al Saadiyat from 17 November 2021 until 4 December 2021.

This year's programme also sees the inaugural appearance of Abu Dhabi Art's newly launched initiative, *Friends of Abu Dhabi Art*.

The fair's upcoming edition will be open to the public at Manarat Al Saadiyat from Wednesday 17 November to Sunday 21 November 2021.

Strict precautionary and hygiene measures will be enforced at Abu Dhabi Art Fair 2021 to ensure the safety and wellbeing of all participants and visitors. Details of these measures will be announced in due course.

For more information about Abu Dhabi Art 2021 and its year-round programmes, visit abudhabiart.ae and follow Abu Dhabi Art on social media: [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), [Instagram](#) and [YouTube](#).

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Notes to Editors:

ABU DHABI ART

About Abu Dhabi Art

Abu Dhabi Art expands beyond the notion of a traditional art fair, in placing strong emphasis on a diverse public engagement programme, including art installations and exhibitions, talks and events that take place in different locations throughout the year. The culmination of this year-long programme is the Abu Dhabi Art event in November, which provides an important sales platform for participating galleries whilst also offering these galleries an opportunity to showcase ambitious installations and site-specific works by their artists to a wide audience.

About the Department of Culture and Tourism – Abu Dhabi

The Department of Culture and Tourism – Abu Dhabi (DCT Abu Dhabi) drives the sustainable growth of Abu Dhabi's culture and tourism sectors and its creative industries, fueling economic progress and helping to achieve Abu Dhabi's wider global ambitions. By working in partnership with the organisations that define the DCT Abu Dhabi's position as a leading international destination, DCT Abu Dhabi strives to unite the ecosystem around a shared vision of the DCT Abu Dhabi's potential, coordinate effort and investment, deliver innovative solutions, and use the best tools, policies, and systems to support the culture, tourism and creative industries.

DCT Abu Dhabi's vision is defined by the emirate's people, heritage and landscape. We work to enhance Abu Dhabi's status as a place of authenticity, innovation, and unparalleled experiences, represented by its living traditions of hospitality, pioneering initiatives and creative thought.

About Dyala Nusseibeh

Dyala Nusseibeh has been the Director of Abu Dhabi Art since 2016. Having graduated with a BA from Cambridge University and an MLitt (with Distinction) from Glasgow University, she spent a year at the Cultural Foundation in Abu Dhabi followed by four years at the Saatchi Gallery in London as Head of Education. In this capacity she organised annual student shows, the education programme at the gallery and a travelling exhibition of works from the Saatchi collection to Ipswich in order to broaden outreach. In 2013, Nusseibeh became founding Director of ArtInternational Istanbul, managed by leading fair organisers Angus Montgomery, a position she held until 2016 when she joined the Department of Culture and Tourism - Abu Dhabi.

CURATORS

About Simon Njami

Simon Njami is a Paris-based independent curator, lecturer, art critic and novelist. Njami was the co-founder and Editor-in-Chief of *Revue Noire*, a journal of contemporary African and extra-occidental art. He has served as the Artistic Director of the first Johannesburg art fair in 2008, the Bamako photography biennale for 10 years, and the Dak'art Biennale (2016/2018). He also co-curated the first African pavilion at the 52nd Venice Biennale in 2007.

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Njami has curated numerous exhibitions of contemporary art and photography, including Africa Remix (2004/2007) and the first African Art Fair, held in Johannesburg in 2008; The Divine Comedy (2013), at the MMK (Museum fur Moderne Kunst) in Frankfurt; SCAD, Savannah (2014) and The Smithsonian in Washington DC (2015); Xenopolis in Berlin (2015); Afriques Capitales in Paris and Lille (2017); and Metropolis Maxxi (2018).

He was member of the scientific boards of numerous museums and a visiting professor at the University of California San Diego (UCSD).

In 1998, he created the Pan-African master classes in photography, with the Goethe Institut, which he then directed for more than 12 years. Njami also set up the collection of contemporary art for the Memorial Acte museum in Guadeloupe. He has published and edited numerous books, with the latest being Stories Histories: The Story of Revue Noire (2020). Njami studied literature, law and philosophy at the Sorbonne in Paris.

Simon Njami is the Curator for the gallery sector *Kind of Blue*, Abu Dhabi Art 2021.

About Rose Lejeune

Rose Lejeune is a curator and researcher with a specific interest in commissioning and collecting context-based, social and performative practices. She has built a reputation for strategic overview and curatorial innovation and in 2020 was named in ArtNet's Intelligence Report as a "global innovator" for her work on expanding collections.

Rose is the Director of Performance Exchange, a UK-wide project working to embed performance within collections. Rose is also the Associate Curator for the Delfina Foundation's Collecting as Practice programme where she developed the groundbreaking programme that looks at the politics and economics of global collections.

Rose's current curatorial activities have developed following a decade of working with public organisations throughout the UK to commission for non-gallery situations. This includes as Curator at Art on the Underground, and Education Projects Curator at the Serpentine Gallery. Rose holds a BA in Philosophy and Art History, and an MA in Curating Contemporary Art from the Royal College of Art. Finally, Rose is currently a PhD candidate in Curating at Goldsmiths College, University of London, where her research focuses on curatorial frameworks for performance art in, and out, of the art market.

Rose Lejeune is the Curator for the Performing Arts Programme, Abu Dhabi Art 2021.

PROGRAMMES

About Performing Arts Programme

Abu Dhabi Art works with a number of artists and curators to provide a strong performance component at the fair, with site-specific performances commissioned in different locations throughout the city, or experienced through the virtual platform.

About Beyond: Artist Commissions

Launched in 2017. Each year, Abu Dhabi Art invites established and well-known artists to create site-specific works in historic sites in Al Ain and the wider Abu Dhabi emirate, to activate these sites and draw new audiences to them. The works created by the commissioned artists are revealed during Abu Dhabi Art and remain on show to the public for several months afterwards.

About In and Around

Space for the fair's participating galleries to show large-scale installations outside their booth space within the fair venue during the fair.

Beyond: Emerging Artists

An annual initiative that launched in 2017. The programme provides three emerging artists in the UAE with a platform from which to develop their practice and realise ambitious art projects. The selected artists are chosen by a guest curator each year. They undertake a year-long programme of workshops and studio visits initiated by the guest curator which leads toward the realisation of a project for the Abu Dhabi Art fair in November. The works remain on exhibition to the public for several months beyond the fair dates.