

PRESS RELEASE

Under the patronage of HH Sheikh Khaled bin Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan The 13th edition of Abu Dhabi Art Fair opens to the public

Abu Dhabi Art 2021 returns to Manarat Al Saadiyat from 17 – 21 November 2021

Featuring 49 galleries from 19 countries, the 13th edition of Abu Dhabi Art is hosting new curatorial frameworks by renowned curators and new commissioned artworks

Tickets are available for purchase [here](#)

Abu Dhabi, UAE, 15 November 2021: Held under the patronage of HH Sheikh Khaled bin Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Member of the Abu Dhabi Executive Council and Chairman of Abu Dhabi Executive Office, the 13th edition of Abu Dhabi Art Fair will open to the public on Wednesday 17th November at 4 PM GST at Manarat Al Saadiyat, Abu Dhabi. Tickets are available for purchase on the Abu Dhabi Art [website](#).

Organised by the Department of Culture and Tourism – Abu Dhabi (DCT - Abu Dhabi), the fair returning in its physical form will feature a diverse line-up of **49 galleries** from **19 countries**, who are representing more than **190 artists** from around the globe and presenting over **600 artworks** - bringing exceptional presentations to their booths. This year's edition will feature **14 new galleries** joining from Colombia, France, Hong Kong, India, Iran, Italy, Jordan, Saudi Arabia, South Korea, Singapore, Spain, Turkey and the United Arab Emirates, as well as a rich curated fair programme experience, including *Kind of Blue*, a curated sector for the art fair by Simon Njami; the Performing Arts Programme, curated by Rose Lejeune; and the *Beyond: Emerging Artists* programme, curated by Sam Bardaouil and Till Fellrath.

Commenting on this year's Abu Dhabi Art Fair, **HE Mohamed Khalifa Al Mubarak, Chairman of the Department of Culture and Tourism – Abu Dhabi** said, "Gathering safely in-person for this 13th edition of Abu Dhabi Art in Manarat Al Saadiyat is a testament to the collective efforts of those across the arts and culture sector of Abu Dhabi and beyond. Our thanks to the many distinguished guests, partners, exhibitors, curators and artists who are joining us in Abu Dhabi, a nexus of multinational talent where the next generation of emerging artistic voices are given a crucial platform to contribute to a sustainable arts and culture ecosystem."

Building on the success of the fair's first virtual edition in 2020, Abu Dhabi Art, has invited last year's [guest curators](#), Simon Njami and Rose Lejeune, to offer them the opportunity to bring their new curatorial frameworks and research to Abu Dhabi Art in its physical format.

Dyala Nusseibeh, Director, Abu Dhabi Art, said, "Abu Dhabi Art has officially opened with a near record number of 49 galleries presenting exceptional booths, which speaks to the thriving art community in the UAE and the support shown here in Abu Dhabi for artists and galleries during the pandemic, through our online edition last year and throughout the year. Returning galleries can't wait to reconnect with members of the public and collectors in person once again and first-time exhibitors look forward to meeting all the supporters, visitors and patrons that shape the fair each year."

For more information on Abu Dhabi Art's 2021 programme and tickets, please visit tickets.abudhabiart.ae. Tickets to Abu Dhabi Art Fair 2021 are AED55 for adults, covering all five days of the fair, and complimentary for children below seven years of age, students, People of Determination, and senior citizens.

Abu Dhabi Art is open to the public from the 17 – 21 November 2021. Visitors can attend the art fair from 4-9 PM GST on 17 November and from 1-9 PM GST from 18 – 21 November.

Abu Dhabi Art Fair 2021 highlights include:

- The **Modern & Contemporary** gallery sector of the fair will feature 26 galleries from 15 countries around the world, presenting a wide range of works by different artists.
- The **Special Projects** gallery sector will feature 21 galleries from 6 countries, presenting curated booths by one, two or three artists.
- **Kind of Blue: Simon Njami** spotlights artists and galleries under a new curatorial framework, *Kind of Blue*, a curated gallery sector that positions jazz music as a metaphor for the open-ended parameters of the exhibition. *Kind of Blue*, will present 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.
- **Performing Arts Programme:** Curated by **Rose Lejeune**, the programme will bring together four new performance commissions by **Louise Hervé & Clovis Maillet**, **Mays Albaik**, **Rand Abdul Jabbar** and **Super Taus**, who are each offering an abstract and poetic experience this year.
- **Gateway:** Abu Dhabi Art in partnership with Abu Dhabi Music and Arts Foundation (ADMAF) and the National Pavilion UAE – La Biennale di Venezia will be showcasing *Passage*, an immersive video and sound installation created by artist **Nujoom Alghanem** for the National Pavilion UAE's 2019 exhibition at the Venice Biennale. *Passage* will premiere in the UAE as part of Abu Dhabi Art's annual Gateway sector, which highlights local and international artists through globally relevant curatorial framework. The exhibition will then be on show as part of and ADMAF's 2022 flagship exhibition, *Portrait of a Nation II*.

Placing a strong emphasis on a diverse and accessible **public engagement programme**, Abu Dhabi Art plays an important role in nurturing up-and-coming talent and offers an annual meeting point for galleries to connect with the UAE art scene and the wider global art world. Highlights include:

- **Beyond: Emerging Artists 2021:** Curated by **Sam Bardaouil** and **Till Fellrath**, co-founders of multidisciplinary curatorial platform *Art Reoriented* and co-directors of the Hamburger Bahnhof museum, the programme will present new works by three UAE-based emerging artists – **Hashel Al Lamki** presenting *Neptune*, **Maitha Abdalla** presenting *Too Close to the Sun*, and **Christopher Joshua Benton** presenting *The World was my Garden*. Their exhibition will be on show at Manarat Al Saadiyat from 17 November 2021 until 4 December 2021. This year's programme is also the inaugural commission of Abu Dhabi Art's newly launched initiative, [Friends of Abu Dhabi Art](#).
- **Beyond: Artist Commissions:** This year's ambitious programme will see five new art commissions, with works being shown in cultural sites throughout the capital by artists **Aya Haidar** presenting *Dwelling On The Past*, is on display in Al Jahili Fort in Al Ain, **Hazem Harb** presenting *Between Earth and Heaven: Borders are Only in our Minds*, at Manarat Al Saadiyat and **Jebel Hafeet Desert Park** in Al Ain, **Dr. Najat Makki** presenting *Ya Marhaba Al Saa'*, at the

entrance to Manarat Al Saadiyat and at the Al Ain Oasis, **Rasheed Araeen** presenting a **communal café** made of eight gazebos which are joined together in a square, titled, *Food for Thought – Thought for Change*, will be open to the public at the entrance of Abu Dhabi's Cultural Foundation between 12 – 2PM GST as of 15 November and throughout the duration of the fair. and **Richard Atugonza** presenting *At Heart but Far*, is on display at Manarat Al Saadiyat and Jebel Hafeet Desert Park. The artists' works will be revealed during the fair and will remain on view to the public until 22 January 2022.

- **In & Around:** The commissioned artists for *Beyond: Artist Commissions* will also be showing large-scale artworks at the fair as part of Abu Dhabi Art's on-site programme, *In and Around*, to connect fairgoers to the off-site projects. Other artists whose works will be presented as part of *In and Around* include **Alfredo Jaar, Hera Büyüktaşçıyan, Olga de Amaral, Seher Naveed, Siah Armajani, Zarina and Zineb Sedira.**
- **Educational Programme:** Abu Dhabi Art is also offering stimulating art workshops, artist-led masterclasses, tours in English and Arabic and competitions for the community for all ages. Please visit our [website](#) to learn more about this year's schedule.

Abu Dhabi Art 2021 workshops:

- **School workshops** (tours) will take place between 9AM – 1PM GST on 17, 18 and 21 November. The session duration is 30min with three activities inspired by artists participating in the fair. Through the workshops, students can discover print making or abstract assemblage. The cost per session is AED25.
- **3 – 5yrs old Drop-in workshops** 1pm – 8pm are open on 17 November through 21 November, for children and adults to conduct a series of self-led art activities inspired by artworks at the fair. The cost per session is AED30.
- **6 – 12 yrs. old: Hands-on art activities workshops** daily during the fair for 1.5hrs per session. Workshops are open between 1PM – 8PM GST on 17 November through 21 November.
- **Artist-led masterclasses** are available for both adults and teens (ages 13+). All art activities and masterclasses take inspiration from works seen at Abu Dhabi Art. The cost per session for both virtual and in person participations is AED150.

Masterclasses at Manarat Al Saadiyat

- Wednesday 17 November 2021, 5 – 7PM GST, Wardha Shabbir will host Miniature Painting
- Friday 19 November 2021, 5 – 7PM GST, Hazem Harb will present Collaging Memory
- Tuesday 23 November 2021, 5 – 7PM Hashel Al Lamki and Maita Abdalla will present Figure and Abstraction: Art In Dialogue
- Wednesday 24 November 2021, 3 – 5PM GST, Sarah Al Mehairi will present Sensory Mapping and Found Tools

Masterclasses at Umm Al Emarat Park

- Sunday 5 December 2021, 3 – 5PM, Rand Abdul Jabbar will present Objects of Memory: Drawing Walk

Abu Dhabi Art 2021 tours:

- **Complimentary 45-minute educational and interactive guided tours** of the Abu Dhabi Art fair and exhibitions led by a Visitor Experience Specialist. Available both virtually and in-person in either Arabic or English.
 - In person tours runs daily during the fair, every hour, for 1 hour between 1 – 8PM GST.

- Virtual tours of the exhibitions and installations will run from 17 November to 22 January 2022.

Abu Dhabi Art and **Factory People** are collaborating this year to bring **2ND SUN** to Abu Dhabi. 2ND SUN will host regional and global music artists within its club nights. Expect a large number of LIVE performances, DJ sets and futuristic productions lined up on 18 and 19 November 2021 from 6PM – 3AM GST at Manarat Al Saadiyat. Book your Abu Dhabi Art Fair ticket here to get complimentary access to 2ND SUN events at the fair. Due to limited capacity permitted, access to 2ND SUN events at the fair will be on a first come, first serve basis.

Abu Dhabi Art kicks off the art season in the capital alongside major events at Abu Dhabi's cultural district on Saadiyat Island with new exhibitions opening at both Louvre Abu Dhabi and New York University Abu Dhabi Art Gallery.

Precautionary and hygiene measures will be enforced at Abu Dhabi Art Fair 2021 to ensure the safety and wellbeing of all participants and visitors. Following Abu Dhabi Emergency, Crisis and Disasters Committee's (NCEMA) latest regulations and requirements for attending events and exhibitions, visitors will need to have AlHosn, and a negative PCR test taken within 96 hours. **Visitors who are 16 years and above require a green status on the COVID-19 tracking app, ALHOSN and a 96hr negative PCR test.**

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](#).

Organised by Abu Dhabi Culture and the Department of Culture and Tourism – Abu Dhabi, Abu Dhabi Art 2021 partners include First Abu Dhabi Bank, Manarat Al Saadiyat, Al Ain Oasis, Al Jahili Fort, Khalifa University, Annex Abu Dhabi, 2ND SUN, The Edit by Zahrat Al Khaleej, Etihad Airways, St. Regis Hotel and EDITION Hotel Group; with Mouwad as the Education Programme sponsor.

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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.

Media partners

Abu Dhabi Art 2021 media partners include Abu Dhabi Media Group, Selections Magazine, Canvas Magazine and Mousse Magazine.

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.

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.

About Sam Bardaouil and Till Fellrath

Sam Bardaouil and Till Fellrath are Founders of Art Reoriented, a multidisciplinary curatorial platform launched in 2009 in New York and Munich. They are Curators of the Lyon Biennale in 2022, and Affiliate Curators at Gropius Bau in Berlin.

As an independent voice, Bardaouil and Fellrath have collaborated with more than 70 institutions worldwide, including Centre Pompidou, Mathaf: Arab Museum of Modern Art, Tate Liverpool, Moderna Museet, Reina Sofia, ARTER, and the Montblanc Cultural Foundation. They are internationally recognized curators and award-winning authors whose practice is rooted in global contemporary art, as well as in the field of modernist studies.

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In 2016 they were part of the team of curatorial attachés of the 20th Biennale of Sydney. At the Venice Biennale, they were curators of the National Pavilions of Lebanon in 2013 and the United Arab Emirates in 2019, and they are Curators of the French Pavilion in 2022.

Sam Bardaouil and Till Fellrath are co-curators for *Beyond: Emerging Artists*, 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.

About 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.

About Gateway

An annual art exhibition, in Manarat Al Saadiyat, that highlights local and international artists through a unique curatorial perspective. Each year a guest curator is invited to curate the exhibition.