

– PRESS RELEASE –

**GLOBAL WARMING**  
**A multimedia exhibition by Faisal Samra**



©Faisal Samra, stills from video installation *Hatred* (2010)

**The Shaikh Ebrahim bin Mohammed Al Khalifa Center for Culture and Research** is pleased to announce the exhibition *Global Warming*, a solo exhibition by the artist **Faisal Samra**. The exhibition will open at the Bin Matar House on Sunday, 8 March 2015, at 7pm.

**Short form text:**

***Global Warming*** is a multimedia exhibition combining recent projects by Saudi artist Faisal Samra. The three projects consisting of painting, installation and video provoke individual reflection and engagement by contrasting the phenomenon of global warming with recent regional events.

**Long form text:**

“Scientific understanding of the cause of global warming has been increasing. In its fourth assessment of the relevant scientific literature, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) reported that scientists were more than 90% certain that most of global warming was being caused by increasing concentrations of greenhouse gases produced by human activities. In 2010 that finding was recognized by the national science academies of all major industrialized nations.” (excerpt from Wikipedia)

As defined by Wikipedia, global warming is caused by human activities, including economic, political as well as psychological and social actions. These actions in turn have been affected by global warming and contributed to a sense of uncertainty so characteristic of our times. The exhibition uses the phenomenon of global warming metaphorically to ask the pointed question whether awareness of the negative impact of human actions can lead to a change in our course or whether, in fact, we are fatally driven to perpetuate our cycle leading to self destruction.

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**About the artist**

Long considered one of the Arab Gulf’s leading artists and a pioneer of conceptual art in the Middle East, Bahraini-born Saudi national Faisal Samra incorporates digital photography, painting, sculpture, video, and performance into a creative repertoire that explores existentialist themes with the figure at its centre. Since the mid 1970s, Samra has tested the prescribed functions of media through meticulously structured works.

Faisal Samra graduated from the École nationale supérieure des Beaux-Arts in Paris.

Prior to becoming a full-time artist, Samra worked as a stage designer for Saudi television and a fine arts and graphics consultant for the Institut du Monde Arabe in Paris; he has carried out research on Islamic design and artisan works throughout Morocco.

Samra's work has been exhibited widely since 1974 throughout Saudi Arabia, the U.K France, Bahrain, Lebanon, the United Arab Emirates, Kuwait, USA, South Korea and Jordan. Major exhibitions include the recent solo shows Faisal Samra 39, a retrospective at Ayyam Gallery, Dubai, CDR a solo at Ayyam Gallery, London,. *Majazz [Metaphor]* (2013), Ayyam Gallery, Jeddah, Saudi Arabia; *Shanty* (2012), HD Galerie, Casablanca, Morocco; and *Resistance* (2011), Traffic, Dubai, U.A.E. Samra's work has also appeared in group shows, including Word into Art: Artists of the Modern Middle East (2006), British Museum, London, traveled to Dubai; Languages of the Desert: Contemporary Arab Art from the Gulf States, at Kunstmuseum Bonn, Germany, in 2005, Institute du Monde Arabe, Paris, in 2006, and Abu Dhabi Cultural Centre, U.A.E., in 2007; as well as Traversées, art Paris 08, Grand Palais, traveling to DARB 1718, Cairo, and Gallery Bab Rouah/Bab El Kebir, Rabat, Morocco, in 2009.

His work is in the collections of the British Museum, London; Museo Nacional de Arte, Mexico City; Egyptian Modern Art Museum, Cairo; and the private collections of Enrico Navarra, Paris; Saeb Eigner, London; Almansouria Foundation, Jeddah, Saudi Arabia. Sheikha Paula Al Sabah, Kuwait; and others.

A monograph, An Image of Faisal Samra, edited by Roxana Azimi and Gilles De Bure, was published by Skira Editore, Milan, in 2012.

### **Exhibition venue, dates and timings**

The exhibition ***Global Warming*** will be held at the Bin Matar House in Muharraq. The exhibition opening is on Sunday, 8 March 2015, at 7pm. The exhibition will run until 26 April 2015.

The opening hours of the Bin Matar House are Saturday to Thursday from 9am to 1pm and 4 to 7pm. For further information on the Shaikh Ebrahim Center and the Bin Matar House, please visit our website, [www.shaikhebrahimcenter.org](http://www.shaikhebrahimcenter.org).