

**For Immediate Release**  
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Sharjah Heritage Area. Photo courtesy of Sharjah Art Foundation.

## **SHARJAH ART FOUNDATION ANNOUNCES 5<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL MARCH MEETING, MARCH 17 – 19, 2012**

**3-Day Cultural Symposium Includes Programme of Art Exhibitions and Events Featuring A Performance by Tarek Atoui, Solo Exhibition by Ziad Antar, Installation Project by Basma Alsharif and a Cinematic Project Commissioned by Artangel**

### ***MARCH MEETING 2012: WORKING WITH ARTISTS AND AUDIENCES ON COMMISSIONS AND RESIDENCIES***

**Sharjah, United Arab Emirates (UAE)**—The **Sharjah Art Foundation** announces the fifth annual **March Meeting**, a three-day symposium featuring presentations by artists, art professionals and institutions on the production and dissemination of art in the MENASA (Middle East, North Africa, South Asia) region and internationally. ***March Meeting 2012: Working With Artists and Audiences on Commissions and Residencies*** will take place **March 17 -19, 2012**, in Sharjah's scenic Heritage Area. The three-day forum will be held daily from 10 am – 6 pm and will coincide with a programme of engaging exhibitions and events showcasing work that has been created through commissions and residencies in the spirit of this year's March Meeting theme. Special events will include the opening reception for Ziad Antar's solo exhibition on March 16, followed by the Middle East premiere of a cinematic project commissioned by Artangel, *1395 Days without Red* by Anri Sala and Šejla Kamberić, on March 17 and 18. At the closing reception on March 19, an announcement of the Sharjah Art Foundation's 2012 Production Programme grant awardees will be followed by the Middle East premiere of Tarek Atoui's *Revisiting Tarab*.

Now in its fifth year, ***March Meeting 2012: Working with Artists and Audiences on Commissions and Residencies*** aims to thematically explore the present realities, future outlook and dynamics between artists and institutions in the context of artistic commissions and residencies. Local, regional and international practitioners in this field will present keynote lectures, panel discussions and presentations exploring the topic through questions including: What are the challenges and opportunities for artists and institutions when collaborating on artistic commissions? How do international residencies serve as a vehicle for social change and cultural diplomacy? What is the impact of residencies and artistic commissions on local communities? How effective are residencies in terms of creating environments for artists to take risks?

**Sharjah Art Foundation President Hoor Al Qasimi states**, “The March Meeting serves as an important platform for artists and creative professionals of varying geographical, ideological and artistic backgrounds to come together and explore pressing issues and new avenues for the production and dissemination of arts and culture. The programme was pioneered in 2008 and has since grown under the Sharjah Art Foundation from being a pivotal event in the regional calendar, to a strong international gathering where individuals bring expertise, ideas and a desire to create new relationships and opportunities for artists and artistic exchanges.”

Participants for the 2012 March Meeting were selected both by invitation and through an open call for submissions in December 2011, to which nearly 170 applications by individuals from 45 countries were submitted.

***\*Please see below for a list of select participants. A full roster complete with participants’ bios and additional programme information will be available online in mid-February at [www.sharjahart.org](http://www.sharjahart.org).***

The 2012 March Meeting precedes the 11<sup>th</sup> edition of the **Sharjah Biennial** to take place mid-March 2013. The 2013 Sharjah Biennial will be curated by **Yuko Hasegawa**, Chief Curator of the Museum of Contemporary Art, Tokyo (MOT), and seasoned director, curator and advisor for international biennials. To learn more about the next Sharjah Biennial curator, visit <http://www.sharjahart.org/biennial/sharjah-biennial-11/welcome>

## **SCHEDULE OF CONCURRENT EXHIBITIONS AND EVENTS**

Reflecting this year’s theme for the March Meeting, the Sharjah Art Foundation will host a series of exhibition openings and events showcasing work that has been created through commissions and residencies in conjunction with the three-day symposium.

### **March 16**

#### **Exhibition Opening of *Ziad Antar: Portrait of a Territory***

A solo exhibition of new work by Lebanese photographer Ziad Antar that features photographs of the UAE coastline that were taken between 2004 and 2011. This exhibition is curated by **Christine Macel, Chief Curator at Musée National D’Art Moderne Centre Pompidou Paris.**

The work depicts the traces of history that have been drawn into a landscape as well as the recent history of young countries built upon trade and commerce.

A public reception, supported by the French Embassy and the Institut Français, UAE, will take place at the Sharjah Art Area Collections Building at 7pm on March 16. The exhibition will remain on view through May 16, 2012.

### **Book Launch of Ziad Antar's *Portrait of a Territory***

In addition to the exhibition, Sharjah Art Foundation presents the launch of Antar's new publication ***Portrait of a Territory***. Created as part of his Sharjah Art Foundation Artist Residency, this book includes 267 photographs, some from the exhibition in addition to others from the same series. Co-published by French publishing house Actes Sud and Sharjah Art Foundation in French, English and Arabic, this 304-page book was designed by Marc Tuitoi with text written by Christine Macel.

Ziad Antar and Christine Macel will hold a brief conversation as part of this event at 6:30pm prior to the exhibition opening.

### **March 17**

### ***Middle East Premiere of 1395 Days without Red, a Cinematic Project by Šejla Kamberić and Anri Sala in collaboration with Ari Benjamin Meyers***

*1395 Days without Red* draws on the experience of the siege of Sarajevo between 1992 and 1996 and the trauma of the besieged citizens as they made their way through the city. The title refers to the fact that, during the siege, the Sarajevans were advised not to wear bright colours that might alert the snipers in the hills above to their movements.

*1395 Days without Red* is a cinematic project by Šejla Kamberić and Anri Sala in collaboration with Ari Benjamin Meyers and is commissioned by Artangel. *1395 Days without Red* comprises two separate works made from material developed and filmed together in Sarajevo. This is the Middle East premiere of this cinematic project and Artangel's first project to be hosted in the region. London-based Artangel is internationally recognised for its 20-year history of exceptional commissions and productions with outstanding contemporary artists. The Sharjah presentation of the project is supported by the British Council.

Both Šejla Kamberić and Anri Sala will be present along with Artangel co-director James Lingwood.

*1395 Days without Red* is commissioned by Artangel with Manchester International Festival, Whitworth Art Gallery (Manchester), Fundació Museu D'Art Contemporani de Barcelona (MACBA), Museum Boijmans Van Beuningen (Rotterdam), enabled by Han Nefkens, H+F patronage, Festival d'Automne (Paris), Arts Council England, European Cultural Foundation, Film Fund Sarajevo, Marian Goodman Gallery (New York), Hauser & Wirth (London & Zurich). Co-produced by Artangel and SCCA/pro.ba.

March 17: *1395 Days without Red* (film by Anri Sala)

The screening will take place at 6:30pm at the Sharjah Institute of Theatrical Arts, Heritage Area, Sharjah.

March 18: *1395 Days without Red* (film by Šejla Kamberić)

The screening will take place at 8:30pm in the outdoor courtyard at Bait Al Shamsi, Arts Area, Sharjah.

March 25: *1395 Days without Red* (films by Šejla Kamberić and Anri Sala)

The screening will take place at 6pm at Main Building Auditorium, American University of Sharjah. A talk with Šejla Kamberić will take place as part of this event.

### **March 18**

#### **Opening of Sharjah Art Foundation Residency project *Farther Than the Eye Can See* by Kuwait-born artist Basma Alsharif**

A four-channel video installation, this project explores how we relate to and internalise the geo-political shifts that occur within our lifetimes and those we carry with us from past generations. Basma Alsharif's *Farther than the Eye Can See* engages its viewer in a visceral experience of information through the intersection of image and sound within space. This project was developed during Alsharif's 2011/2010 Residency at the Sharjah Art Foundation and co-produced by the Arab Fund for Arts and Culture.

This exhibition will remain on view at Sharjah Arts Area, Bait Al Shamsi from March 18 – May 18, 2012.

### **March 19**

#### **Announcement of SAF Production Programme Awardees**

Recipients of the Sharjah Art Foundation's Production Programme grants totalling up to \$200,000 will be announced during the March Meeting in a private reception on March 19. The Foundation's Production Programme was established in 2008 and later expanded in 2010 to provide grants to artists working in a wide range of media for the funding of new work. Recipients will be selected by a panel of distinguished jurors from applications submitted through an Open Call through February 24, 2012.

#### **Middle East Premiere of *Revisiting Tarab***

Lebanese sound artist Tarek Atoui returns to Sharjah to present the Middle East premiere of *Revisiting Tarab*, an evening of performances inspired by classical Arab music. *Revisiting Tarab* will incorporate elements of the world's largest collection of Classical Arab music as interpreted by a range of musicians and sound artists.

Produced by Sharjah Art Foundation, this performance follows last autumn's New York premiere of Atoui's *Visiting Tarab* as a Performa Commission with the Sharjah Art Foundation. Conceived as a series of performances, the audience is welcome at any point between 8:15pm and 2:00am.

Conceived and proposed by Tarek Atoui, performers include Tarek Atoui as well as Anti-Pop Consortium (Kyle Austin, Earl Blaize, M Sayyid), Uriel Barthelemy, Jonathan Butcher, Maurice Greene, Susie Ibarra, Kazuyuki Kishino, Lukas Ligeti, Robert Lowe, Raz Mesinai, Ikue Mori, Sara Parkins, Zeena Parkins, Roberto Juan Rodriguez, Mustafa Said, and Elliott Sharp.

*Revisiting Tarab* will take place on March 19, 2012 at Sharjah's Heritage Area, Calligraphy Square from 8:15pm - 2:00am.

***\*For more information on the above exhibitions and events, please visit [www.sharjahart.org](http://www.sharjahart.org)***

The March Meeting along with the parallel shows and events are free to attend and open to the public. Registration is recommended to reserve your seat for the March Meeting. Please register by March 1, 2012 at [marchmeeting@sharjahart.org](mailto:marchmeeting@sharjahart.org)

**About the Sharjah Art Foundation (SAF):**

Sharjah Art Foundation brings a broad range of contemporary art and cultural programmes to the communities of Sharjah, the UAE and the region. Since 2009 SAF has built on the history of cultural collaboration and exchange that began with the first Sharjah Biennial in 1993. Working with local and international partners, we create opportunities for artists and artistic production through our core initiatives that include the Sharjah Biennial, the annual March Meeting, residencies, production grants, commissions, exhibitions, research, publications and a growing collection. Our education and public programmes focus on building recognition of the central role art can play in the life of a community by promoting public learning and a participatory approach to art. Sharjah Art Foundation is funded by the Department of Culture and Information, Government of Sharjah.

For more information on the Sharjah Art Foundation and its programmes, including the March Meeting, please visit [www.sharjahart.org](http://www.sharjahart.org)

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**SELECT 2012 MARCH MEETING SPEAKERS INCLUDE:**

**Abed al Ju'beh**

Director

**Khalil Sakakini Cultural Centre (KSCC)**

Palestine

**Noura Al-Sayeh**

Architect & Curator

Bahrain

**Max Andrews & Mariana Cánepa Luna**

Co-Founder & Co-Director

**Latitudes**

Spain

**Kari Conte**

Director of Programs and Exhibitions

**International Studio & Curatorial Program (ISCP)**

USA

**Palmina D'Ascoli**

Manager

Department of Residencies

**Institut Français**

France

**Paul Domela**

Programme Director

**Liverpool Biennial**

United Kingdom

**Peter Eely**

Curator

**MoMA/PS1**

USA

**Hu Fang**

Founder & Artistic Director

**Vitamin Creative Space**

China

**Janna Graham & Amal Khalaf**

Edgware Road Project: Curator and Assistant Curator

**Serpentine Gallery**

United Kingdom

**Yuko Hasegawa**  
Chief Curator,  
**Museum of Contemporary Art, Tokyo (MOT)**  
Japan

**Louise Hui-Juan Hsu**  
Curator  
**Museum of Contemporary Art Taipei**  
Taiwan

**Danda J**  
Director  
**Kuona Trust Centre for Visual Arts**  
Kenya

**Lu Jie**  
Founder & Director  
**Long March Space**  
China

**Eungie Joo**  
Curator  
**New Museum**  
USA

**Omar Kholeif**  
Curator  
**FACT Foundation for Art and Creative Technology**  
United Kingdom

**Riyas Komu**  
Director of Programmes  
**Kochi-Muziris Biennale**  
India

**James Lingwood**  
Co-Director  
**Artangel**  
United Kingdom

**Samar Martha**  
Director/Curator  
**ArtSchool Palestine**  
Palestine

**Salwa Mikdadi**  
Head of Arts & Cultural Program  
**Emirates Foundation**  
United Arab Emirates

**Ayeh Naraghi**  
Cultural Programmes Specialist  
**UNESCO Doha Office**  
Qatar

**Susan Pfeffer**  
Curator  
**KW Institute for Contemporary Art**  
Berlin, Germany

**Yasmina Reggad**  
Curator  
**/A.R.I.A/ residency project**  
Algeria

**Andrea Rose**  
Head of Visual Arts  
**British Council**  
United Kingdom

**Beatrix Ruf**  
Director/Curator  
**Kunsthalle Zürich**  
Switzerland

**Ramin Salsali**  
Founder  
**Salsali Private Museum**  
United Arab Emirates

**Dr. Cynthia Schneider**  
Distinguished Professor in the Practice of Diplomacy, **Georgetown University**, Co-Director, **MOST Resource (Muslims on Screen and Television)**, Senior Non-Resident Fellow, **Brookings Institution**, **Former U.S. Ambassador to the Netherlands**  
USA

**Sama Al Shaibi**  
Assistant Professor of Photography/Video Art  
**University of Arizona/School of Art**  
USA

**William Wells**  
Director  
**Townhouse Gallery**  
Egypt