



SHARJAH ART FOUNDATION

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Gathering of Sharjah Biennial 11 attendees, 2013. Image courtesy of Sharjah Art Foundation

Sharjah Art Foundation Announces Programme Highlights and Participants for March Meeting 2018: *Active Forms*

Sharjah Art Foundation today announced additional highlights and participants for March Meeting 2018 (MM 2018), an annual convening of local and international artists, curators, scholars and other arts practitioners who explore topical issues in contemporary art through a programme of talks and performances.

Open to the public from March 17 to 19, this year's edition, *Active Forms*, will address issues of resistance through the consideration of organising as a primary act and condition for artistic and cultural production. Examining the relationship between familiar forms, such as projects, exhibitions and conferences, and the informal activity from which these emerge, MM 2018 explores how organising enables us to conceptualise resistance not only as a practice of "standing against" but also one of ongoing exchange and future planning. Further, MM 2018 will reassess notions of authorship and agency through the lens of art, writing, film, music, performance and architecture, which inspire new ways of catalysing thoughts and actions.

"The annual March Meeting provides an opportunity to come together for reflection and to continue this ongoing dialogue on the most pressing issues of our time," said

Hoor Al Qasimi, Director of Sharjah Art Foundation. "We look forward to welcoming audiences and participants to be a part of this robust cultural exchange."

The 2018 edition will present a wide range of programming and feature artists, curators, cultural producers and representatives from major institutions. Highlights of *Active Forms* include:

Performances

A number of performances will take place throughout MM 2018, beginning with the Sharjah debut of **Wael Shawky's** large-scale musical and theatrical performance *The Song of Roland: The Arabic Version* (2017) on March 16 and 17. Based on the French epic poem *La Chanson de Roland*, the work was co-produced by Sharjah Art Foundation and premiered in 2017 at the Theater der Welt Festival in Hamburg, Germany, before touring internationally.

Experimental composer and musician **Neo Muyanga** will present two performances as part of the MM 2018 programme. The first, informed by a week-long workshop, will assemble a multi-lingual chorus to explore "hidden voices" and expressions of hope, fear and longing. The following evening, Muyanga will present a solo performance titled *Tsohle- revolting mass* (2017).

Exhibition: *Active Forms: Works from Sharjah Art Foundation Collection*

In addition to the programme of talks, panel discussions and performances, the 2018 edition of the March Meeting will include an exhibition of works from the Sharjah Art Foundation Collection on view from March 16 to June 16, 2018. Expanding on the meeting's key ideas, the exhibition will feature artists **John Akomfrah, Basma Alsharif, Halil Altindere, Bahar Behbahani, Hazem Harb, Gulnara Kasmalieva and Muratbek Djumaliev, Almagul Menlibayeva, Naeem Mohaiemen and Raeda Saadeh.**

Announcement of production programme grant recipients

The winners of this year's Production Programme grant cycle will be announced on March 16.

Spring 2018 Exhibitions

Concurrent with MM 2018, five exhibitions will also be on view featuring work by Mona Saudi (March 7–June 7); Anna Boghigian, Latif Al Ani, Mohammed Ahmed Ibrahim and Zineb Sedira (March 16–June 16).

March Meeting 2018 and all Sharjah Art Foundation events are free and open to the public.

For more information and to register to attend, click [here](#).

March Meeting 2018 speakers and participants include:

Tarek Abou El Fetouh (curator)

John Akomfrah (artist and filmmaker)

Rheim Alkadhi (artist)

Noora Al Mualla (Curator of Modern Arab Art, Sharjah Art Foundation)

Monira Al Qadiri (artist)

Hoor Al Qasimi (Director, Sharjah Art Foundation)
Saira Ansari (Researcher, Sharjah Art Foundation)
Rasheed Araeen (artist)
Marwa Arsanios (artist)
Mohammad Ali Atassi (Director, Bidayyat)
Sarnath Banerjee (artist, writer and graphic novelist)
Daniel Blanga Gubbay (Researcher and Curator, Aleppo.eu)
Yaminay Chaudhri (artist and Co-founder, Tentative Collective)
Ali Cherri (artist)
Manuel de Rivero (Co-founder, Supersudaca)
Manthia Diawara (University Professor and Director, Institute of African American Affairs, New York University)
Mona El Mousfy (Founder and Managing Director, SpaceContinuum)
Shilpa Gupta (artist)
Ayesha Hameed (artist and Lecturer, Visual Cultures, Goldsmiths College)
Dale Harding (artist)
Salah Hassan (Goldwin Smith Professor and Director, Institute for Comparative Modernities, Cornell University)
Mohamed Ahmed Ibrahim (artist)
Saba Innab (artist and architect)
Eungie Joo (Curator of Contemporary Art, San Francisco Museum of Modern Art)
Butheina Kazim (Co-founder, Cinema Akil)
Maha Maamoun (artist)
Ahmed Mater (artist)
Almagul Menlibayeva (artist)
Sally Mizrachi (Co-founder, lugar a dudas)
Naeem Mohaiemen (artist)
Paribartana Mohanty (artist)
Aram Moshayedi (Curator, Hammer Museum)
Hania Mroué (Founder and Director, Metropolis Art Cinema)
Neo Muyanga (composer and musician)
Zeynep Öz (curator)
Claudia Pagès (artist)
Sharmini Pereira (Founder and Director, Raking Leaves)
Filipa Ramos (Co-curator, Vdrome)
Uzma Rizvi (Associate Professor, Anthropology and Urban Studies, Pratt Institute)
Abir Saksouk (Architect, Public Works)
Larissa Sansour (artist)
Mario Santanilla (artist)
Zineb Sedira (artist)
Wael Shawky (artist)
Reem Shilleh (Co-founder, Subversive Film)
Martine Syms (artist)
Yoshiharu Tsukamoto (Co-founder, Atelier Bow-Wow)
Alper Turan (Co-founder, DAS Art Project)
Deepak Unnikrishnan (writer)
Antonio Vega Macotela (artist)
Hajra Waheed (artist)
Ala Younis (artist and curator)

About Sharjah Art Foundation

Sharjah Art Foundation is an advocate, catalyst and producer of contemporary art within the Emirate of Sharjah and the surrounding region, in dialogue with the international arts community. Under the leadership of founder Hoor Al Qasimi, a curator and artist, the foundation advances an experimental and wide-ranging programmatic model that supports the production and presentation of contemporary art, preserves and celebrates the distinct culture of the region and encourages a shared understanding of the transformational role of art. The foundation's core initiatives include the long-running Sharjah Biennial, featuring contemporary artists from around the world; the annual March Meeting, a convening of international arts professionals and artists; grants and residencies for artists, curators and cultural producers; ambitious and experimental commissions and a range of travelling exhibitions and scholarly publications.

Established in 2009 to expand programmes beyond the Sharjah Biennial, which launched in 1993, the foundation is a critical resource for artists and cultural organisations in the Gulf and a conduit for local, regional and international developments in contemporary art. The foundation's deep commitment to developing and sustaining the cultural life and heritage of Sharjah is reflected through year-round exhibitions, performances, screenings and educational programmes in the city of Sharjah and across the Emirate, often hosted in historic buildings that have been repurposed as cultural and community centres. A growing collection reflects the foundation's support of contemporary artists in the realisation of new work and its recognition of the contributions made by pioneering modern artists from the region and around the world.

Sharjah Art Foundation is a legally independent public body established by Emiri Decree and supported by government funding, grants from national and international nonprofits and cultural organisations, corporate sponsors and individual patrons. All events are free and open to the public.

About Sharjah

Sharjah is the third largest Emirate of the seven United Arab Emirates and the only one spanning from the Arabian Gulf to the Gulf of Oman. Reflecting the deep commitment to the arts, architectural preservation and cultural education embraced by its ruler, Sheikh Dr Sultan bin Mohammad Al-Qasimi, Sharjah is home to more than 20 museums and has long been known as the cultural hub of the United Arab Emirates. In 1998, it was named UNESCO's 'Arab Capital of Culture' and has been designated the UNESCO 'World Book Capital' for the year 2019.

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