



SHARJAH ART FOUNDATION

For Immediate Release
17 June 2019



Mohammad Al Faraj, *Sophia* (still), 2018. Video, 20 monitors, sound. Courtesy of the artist and Athr Gallery, Jeddah.

Sharjah Art Foundation Announces Summer 2019 Programmes

Sharjah Art Foundation today announces its summer 2019 exhibition programme, featuring the first solo exhibition of painter Andrew Stahl in the region, including an intensive community painting workshop with the artist; the seventh iteration of SAF's annual photography open call exhibition, recently expanded to include international applicants; and an exhibition exploring 'surface' as an interface between artists and their surroundings; all opening 6 July 2019.

Additional information on the summer 2019 exhibitions and programmes follows below.

Surface Tension

6 July–7 September 2019

Surface Tension features works in video, painting, drawing and sculpture that explore 'surface' as a dynamic interface between artists and their surroundings. Although the notion of surface can conjure associations with the inconsequential or the everyday, the slick or the superficial, the works in this exhibition play on these associations in order to elaborate on knowledge, relationships and informal gestures that yield aesthetic insight

or meaningful social innovation. The artists foreground synthetic materials and formal artifice in order to engage deeply with their surroundings and model social complexity that evolves from new understanding of collective experience.

Surface Tension includes works by Mohammad Al Faraj, Minam Apang, Dale Harding, Mire Lee, Randa Maroufi and Dala Nasser.

Andrew Stahl

6 July–10 September 2019

Sharjah Art Foundation presents the first solo exhibition of the work of Andrew Stahl in the Middle East, curated by SAF director Hoor Al Qasimi. Shown previously in numerous exhibitions across Europe, Asia and America, his work explores notions of transcultural interaction. The exhibition will include a selection of Stahl's large-scale figurative paintings dating back to the 1970s as well as a sculpture made in situ and commissioned by the foundation. During the exhibition, Stahl will lead an intensive painting workshop aimed at teenagers and adults.

The exhibition will open on 6 July 2019 in Al Hamriyah Studios, Sharjah, one of Sharjah Art Foundation's off-site venues.

Vantage Point Sharjah 7 (VPS7)

6 July–6 October 2019

Vantage Point Sharjah 7 (VPS7) is the seventh iteration of Sharjah Art Foundation's annual photography initiative. This year for the first time, VPS7 is offering both local and international photographers the opportunity to participate in the exhibition. This initiative aims to foster photographers' development and creativity and encourage their engagement with the wider cultural community. A large number of applicants, with a variety of professional backgrounds, skill sets and interests, respond to the open call each year, offering audiences a wide selection of photographic approaches, from documentary research to artistic experimentation.

The foundation announced its first open call for submissions during the summer of 2013, inviting UAE-based photographers to submit works that fell under the theme 'Life and Landscapes of Sharjah'. Themes of other *Vantage Point* exhibitions over the last six years have included 'Self-Portraiture', 'Performance' and 'Architecture and Urban Landscape'.

Further Information

All Sharjah Art Foundation exhibitions are free and open to the public. For more information, visit sharjahart.org.

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 exhibitions are free and open to the public.

About Sharjah

Sharjah is the third-largest of the seven United Arab Emirates and the only one bridging the Arabian Gulf and 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.

Media Contacts

Local media:

Alyazeyah Al Reyaysa
+971(0)65444113
alyazeyah@sharjahart.org

International media:

Sarah Morris
Resnicow and Associates
+1 212 671 5165
smorris@resnicow.com

Delaney Smith
Resnicow and Associates
+1 212 671 5160
dsmith@resnicow.com