



SHARJAH ART FOUNDATION

For Immediate Release
22 October 2020



Third Annual Film Festival, Sharjah Film Platform, Returns Featuring 60+ Films Screened in Cinemas and Online

2020 Edition Includes Middle East Premieres and Critically Acclaimed
Films, Awards Presented by Distinguished Jury and New Initiative
Supporting Film in the MENASA Region

Tickets Available Starting Today 22 October 2020

Sharjah Film Platform 3 (SFP3)

Film screenings: 14–21 November 2020

Tickets can be booked online [here](#) and at SFP venues starting today, 22 October 2020

Talks and workshops: 14–21 November 2020

Registration will be available on sharjahart.org closer to the festival opening

Industry Hub: 25 October 2020–16 January 2021

Learn more [here](#)

For more information, visit sharjahart.org.

Sharjah Art Foundation (SAF) today announced an expanded programme for the third edition of its annual film festival, **Sharjah Film Platform** (SFP), which provides a vital platform for emerging and established filmmakers from across the United Arab Emirates (UAE) and around the world. The 2020 edition of SFP presents a robust line-up of film screenings online and in cinemas, including award-winning films as well as new and never-before-seen films. Alongside these screenings, SFP features public talks on contemporary topics in film and awards for the best documentary, experimental and narrative films. Screenings will take place at the Foundation's contemporary open-air Mirage City Cinema, the recently renovated iconic Flying Saucer and CINEMACITY IMAX at Zero 6 Mall in Sharjah, UAE, from 14 to 21 November 2020. Online screenings will be hosted on the Foundation's dedicated [virtual festival platform](#), which will also present the extensive talks and workshops programme. This year, the Foundation is broadening Sharjah Film Platform programming with the launch of the Industry Hub, a new initiative that aims to support film production and distribution in the MENASA region.

'There is an exceptional community of filmmakers in the UAE and the surrounding region, and through the establishment of Sharjah Film Platform in 2018, we aimed to build on SAF's longstanding support for filmmakers and help bring their work to wider international audiences,' said **SAF Director Hoor Al Qasimi**. 'The substantial developments happening this year—the inclusion of an online screening component for the festival and the launch of the SFP Industry Hub—allow us to build on our commitment to film by bringing the work of incredible filmmakers from the region straight into the homes of viewers around the world and by creating new infrastructure to support emerging filmmakers and lay the groundwork for more risk-taking, experimental and exceptional films in the years to come.'

This year's advisory committee to the festival are **Sandra den Hamer** (Eye Film Institute Director), **Maïke Mia Höhne** (Artistic Director, Hamburg International Short Film Festival), and **Richie Mehta** (filmmaker).

Film Screenings and Public Programmes 14–21 November 2020

The festival's film screening programme opens with the premiere of **Soha Shukayr's** *In the Time of Revolution*, an original short film supported by the Foundation's Short Film Production Grant 2020. Works-in-progress by the other 2020 grantees, **Nadia Amrani**, **Pelin Tan** and **Anton Vidokle**, will also be presented on opening night. Featuring more than 60 films from around the world, SFP3 includes the Middle East premieres of the acclaimed films *The Shepherdess and The Seven Songs* (2020) by Pushpendra Singh, winner of Best Director in the Young Cinema Competition, Hong Kong International Film Festival (2020); *Eyimofe* [This is My Desire] (2020) by Arie and Chuko Esiri, which earned a Best First Feature nomination at the Berlin International Film Festival (2020); and *Epicentro* (2020) by Hubert Sauper, winner of the Grand Jury Prize at the Sundance Film Festival (2020).

At the conclusion of the festival, SAF will present awards to outstanding films in the experimental, documentary and narrative categories. The jury members include **John Akomfrah** (filmmaker), **Kerem Ayan** (Director, Istanbul International Film Festival), **Iftikhar Dadi** (teacher and researcher), **Mounir Fatmi** (artist), **Eve Gabereau** (Founder and CEO, Modern Films Entertainment), **Delphine Garde-Mroueh** (film programmer), **Alice Kahroubi** (Cannes Film Corner), **Viola Shafik** (film theorist) and **Apichatpong Weerasethakul** (filmmaker).

In addition to the screenings, SFP offers a rich online programme of talks, panel discussions and conversations led by renowned filmmakers, artists and film industry professionals—all of which

are free to the public—as well as an exciting programme of entertaining workshops aimed at children interested in motion picture and moving-image arts.

Industry Hub

25 October 2020–16 January 2021

The SFP Industry Hub, a new professional programme being launched as part of Sharjah Film Platform, aims to support film production and distribution in the MENASA region. The programme consists of four initiatives: **Script Lab**, an immersive online scriptwriting course; **Pre-Production Strategies**, a professional training course on how to prepare for a film shoot; **Pitching Forum**, a coaching and pitching event for Emirati scriptwriters, who will have an opportunity to compete for 100,000 AED to turn a script into a feature film; and **Virtual Film Distribution Market**, a new online initiative in which SFP filmmakers can showcase their films to prospective buyers, distributors and programmers. Running from 25 October 2020 to 16 January 2021, the Industry Hub is supported by SFP3 industry partner Sharjah Media City (Shams).

Further information on registration for the Industry Hub is available [here](#).

Ticketing information

In-cinema screenings

Tickets for SFP3 screenings at the festival venues are available starting today, 22 October 2020, on the festival's [online platform](#) and at the box office in all the screening venues. Festival tickets are 20 AED per film screening.

Box office hours:

Visitors can purchase tickets from 9:00 am to 9:00 pm, Saturday to Thursday, and from 4:00 pm to 9:00 pm, Friday, at the Information Centre, Al Mureijah Art Spaces, and The Flying Saucer. Tickets for films screening in CINEMACITY IMAX, Zero 6 Mall, are sold at the mall's reception desk which is open from 9:00 am to 10:00 pm daily.

Tickets can be purchased at these venues throughout the festival period.

Online screenings

SFP3 film screenings can be enjoyed from home on the festival's online platform [here](#). The films will be available to stream on demand the day after they are screened in cinemas. Free to attend, talks and workshops can also be accessed through the same virtual platform; however, advance registration is required.

Online festival tickets are 10 AED per film screening. The online all-access festival pass is 50 AED for unlimited film screenings throughout the festival period.

Tickets can be booked online and at the venues starting today, 22 October 2020.

For more information, visit sharjahart.org.

About Sharjah Film Platform

Sharjah Film Platform is an annual Sharjah Art Foundation initiative launched in 2018 as a resource to support emerging and established filmmakers. SFP encompasses four core

components: a programme of film screenings; a series of talks, workshops and discussions; the annual Short Film Production Grant; and the newly launched Industry Hub initiative, which supports film production and distribution in the MENASA region. Together, the platform continues the Foundation's longstanding commitment to film programming and commissions as well as emerging and established filmmakers, film producers, critics and students.

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 nonprofit and cultural organisations, corporate sponsors and individual patrons. All events 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 was designated the UNESCO 'World Book Capital' for the year 2019.

Media Contacts

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