



SHARJAH ART FOUNDATION

Hoor Al Qasimi, President and founding Director of Sharjah Art Foundation, is a practicing artist and curator, who launched Sharjah Art Foundation in 2009 as a catalyst and advocate for the role of art in Sharjah, the UAE, regionally and internationally. With a passion for supporting experimentation and innovation in the arts, Al Qasimi has continuously expanded the scope of the Foundation over its nearly ten-year history to include major exhibitions that have toured internationally, artist and curator residencies in visual art, film, and music, commissions and production grants for emerging artists, and a wide range of educational programming for children and adults in Sharjah.

In 2003, Al Qasimi was appointed curator of Sharjah Biennial 6, and has since continued as Biennial Director. Under Al Qasimi's leadership, the Sharjah Biennial has continued to grow as an internationally recognised platform for contemporary artists, curators, and cultural producers. Her leadership in the field led to her election as the new president of the International Biennial Association (IBA) in 2017, an appointment that transferred IBA's headquarters to Sharjah. Complimenting her role at SAF, Al Qasimi also serves as the President of the Africa Institute as well as on the Board of Directors for the Sharjah Architecture Triennial which will debut its inaugural edition in November 2019.

An accomplished curator, Al Qasimi has curated several major exhibitions mounted by Sharjah Art Foundation including the major retrospective *Hassan Sharif: I Am The Single Work Artist* (2017), *Yayoi Kusama, Dots Obsession* (2016–17) and *Robert Breer: Time Flies* (2016–17). Other notable projects include *1980 – Today: Exhibitions in the United Arab Emirates*, the UAE Pavilion at the 56th Venice Biennale (2015), *Rasheed Araeen: Before and After Minimalism*, Sharjah (2014), solo exhibitions for Simone Fattal (2016) and Farideh Lashai (2016), and *Susan Hefuna: Another Place*, Sharjah (2014). Al Qasimi co-curated the landmark exhibition *Joana Hadjithomas and Khalil Joreige: Two Suns in a Sunset* (2016), which debuted in Sharjah and travelled to Jeu de Paume in Paris, France, Haus der Kunst in Munich, Germany and IVAM in Valencia, Spain. She also co-curated major survey shows *When Art Becomes Liberty: The Egyptian Surrealists (1938 – 1965)* in Cairo, Egypt (2016) and *The Khartoum School: The Making of the Modern Art Movement in Sudan (1945 – Present)* in Sharjah (2016–17).

Al Qasimi serves on the Board of Directors for MoMA PS1 in New York, USA; KW Institute for Contemporary Art in Berlin, Germany; Ashkal Alwan in Beirut, Lebanon; and Darat Al Funun in Amman, Jordan. She is the Chair of the Advisory Board for the College of Art in Design at the University of Sharjah; member of the Advisory Board for Khoj International Artists' Association in New Delhi, India. Currently, she serves as a member of the Prince Claus Award Committee (2016–current), and a juror for the PinchukArtCentre's 5th edition of the Future Generation Art Prize. She has previously served on the juries and prize panels for the Bonnefanten Award for Contemporary Art (2018), Maria Lassnig Prize (2017), Mediacity Seoul Prize (2016), Hepworth Wakefield Prize for Sculpture (2016), Prince Claus Awards (2016), Berlin International Film Festival – Berlinale Shorts (2016), Videobrasil (2015), Dubai International Film Festival (2014) and Benesse Prize (2013).

Al Qasimi has an MA in curating contemporary art from the Royal College of Art in London (2008). She holds a diploma in painting from the Royal Academy of Arts in London (2005) and received her BFA from the Slade School of Fine Art in London (2002).