



SHARJAH ART FOUNDATION

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Tarek Atoui, *La Suite*, 2012. Performance view: The Serpentine Gallery, London, 2012. Commissioned by Sharjah Art Foundation. Supported by Badr Jafar. Photo: Sharjah Art Foundation

Sharjah Art Foundation Launches Three International Open Calls for Artists, Curators and Musicians

Sharjah Art Foundation (SAF) invites artists, curators, musicians and performers from around the region and the world to apply to three open calls: the **Production Programme**, the **Air Arabia Curator in Residence** programme, and the **Residency Programme for Music, Sound and Performance**, which is linked to an upcoming exhibition of works by artist Tarek Atoui at SAF. The exhibition will open on 21 March 2020 and run through 21 June 2020.

The programmes offer grants and professional support to local, regional and international artists and art practitioners, furthering the foundation's mission to provide a platform and opportunities for the production and presentation of contemporary art.

Further information regarding each of the three open calls follows below.

Open Call: Residency Programme for Music, Sound and Performance

Submission deadline: 30 November 2019

In conjunction with the upcoming exhibition of works by artist Tarek Atoui, SAF invites practitioners and artists working in music, sound and performance to apply to this residency programme, which will be an integral part of the exhibition. The exhibition will mark 11 years of collaboration between Atoui, SAF and Sharjah audiences.

Centring around experimental and innovative musical forms, the upcoming exhibition will explore instrument making, composition and collaboration.

During the residency, participating musicians, composers and artists will interact with different audiences and experiment with a range of exhibition spaces, listening situations and instruments in order to develop or produce new work. There may be opportunities to perform in Sharjah.

The foundation will offer a number of residencies during the exhibition period, each lasting from one to two weeks.

Musicians or composers working with electronic, experimental or improvised musical forms and artists working in sound and/or performance are welcome to apply. Knowledge of and experience with sound are mandatory.

Applicants should send their CV and samples of their work to residencies@sharjahart.org by 30 November 2019.

Open Call: Air Arabia Curator in Residence

Submission deadline: 15 December 2019

Expanding on its support of curatorial research and exhibition making, Sharjah Art Foundation in partnership with Air Arabia announces its annual open call for the Air Arabia Curator in Residence programme.

Through an international open call, this programme offers curators the opportunity to undertake a residency in Sharjah and organise an exhibition to be presented at Sharjah Art Foundation. During the residency, the selected curators conduct research and receive support for travel to destinations within Air Arabia's flight network (operating from Sharjah to 70 cities around the world) to further their research.

The selected curators will benefit from the foundation's institutional support and technical expertise while enriching the local, regional and international context in which the foundation works through their research, travel and exhibition curating.

Although the specific aims of each curatorial residency may vary, the foundation seeks proposals that demonstrate a genuine interest in engaging with the regional context and highlighting connections between Sharjah and the greater region Air Arabia serves.

Candidates should complete the application form for this programme, available on the foundation's website, and send it to residencies@sharjahart.org by 15 December 2019.

Open Call: Production Programme

Submission deadline: 10 January 2020

Returning for its 11th year, the Production Programme open call invites artists and art practitioners from across the MENASA region to propose imaginative, ambitious and inspirational projects that will transform our understanding of what art is and how it can be experienced.

This programme offers production grants to artists working in a range of media, including sculpture, installation, time-based media, artist's books and performance. A total of \$200,000 is available in this application cycle. The submission deadline is 10 January 2020, and selections will be announced in March. The selected projects will be developed and produced by the artist and the foundation.

The Sharjah Art Foundation Production Programme broadens the possibilities for the production of art in the MENASA region by supporting innovation and excellence in artistic practice through the encouragement of experimentation and risk-taking.

The Production Programme was launched in 2008. Over 1000 submissions have been received, 500 applications considered and 45 projects selected for production.

Candidates should complete the application form for this programme, available on the foundation's website, and send it to productionprogramme@sharjahart.org by 10 January 2020.

To learn more and apply, 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.

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