



SHARJAH ART FOUNDATION

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Annemarie Jacir, *Wajib*, 2017. Screening at Mirage City Cinema, Sharjah Art Foundation, 2018. Photo: Sharjah Art Foundation

## **Sharjah Art Foundation Now Accepting Open Call Applications for Sharjah Film Platform Film Programme**

**Second Annual Sharjah Film Platform to Run From  
11 to 21 December 2019**

**Open Call Submission Deadline Closes 1 June 2019**

Sharjah Art Foundation has launched the open call for film submissions for the second edition of the annual Sharjah Film Platform (SFP). Films selected for this edition of SFP will be included in the platform's film programme from 11 to 21 December 2019 at Sharjah Art Foundation's open-air Mirage City Cinema and the nearby Al Hamra Cinema, Sharjah.

Sharjah Film Platform is an annual Sharjah Art Foundation initiative launched in 2018 as a resource to support filmmaking in the United Arab Emirates and the surrounding region. In addition to the film programme, SFP supports two other core components: a public programme featuring workshops and discussions, and the premieres of the Short Film Production Grant recipients' films. Together, the tripartite platform continues the foundation's longstanding commitment to film programming and commissions, and to emerging and established filmmakers, film producers, critics and students.

The inaugural SFP featured screenings of over 140 short and feature-length narrative, documentary and experimental films made by local, regional and international filmmakers hailing from over 40 countries and representing more than 30 languages. The programming also included juried awards, talks and workshops on a wide-array of topics, such as the latest techniques and theories in film, VR, and funding opportunities for artists in the field.

Prize-winning films from the first edition of SFP include Dubravka Turic's *Cherries* (Best Narrative Film); Mohamed Zedan's *I Have a Picture: Film No. 1001 in the Life of the Oldest Extra in the World* (Best Documentary Film); and Mayye Zayed's *A Stroll Down Sunflower Lane* (Best Experimental Film).

Filmmakers interested in screening their films during the second edition of SFP's curated film programme are invited to submit an original film by **1 June 2019**. All films, regardless of artistic approach, format, or themes, will be accepted for consideration. All open call film submissions will also be considered for a juried prize.

For more information and to apply, visit [sharjahart.org](http://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 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 has been designated the UNESCO 'World Book Capital' for the year 2019.

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