



SHARJAH ART FOUNDATION

For Immediate Release
25 April 2019



FOCAL POINT art book fair, 2018. Bait Obaid Al Shamsi. Courtesy of Sharjah Art Foundation

Sharjah Art Foundation Launches USD 30,000 Publishing Grant for Second Annual Edition of FOCAL POINT Art Book Fair

FOCAL POINT Returns to Sharjah Art Foundation from 14 - 16 November 2019
Open Call Closes 8 June 2019

Sharjah Art Foundation (SAF) announces the launch of the **FOCAL POINT Publishing Grant**, offering two or more grants totaling USD 30,000 in support of individual book and print projects, as well as independent publishing platforms with long-term plans for publishing books and other printed matter. Grantees will have the opportunity to present their work at **FOCAL POINT 2019**, Sharjah Art Foundation's annual art book fair is devoted to presenting varied printed matter and products by publishers across the UAE, the MENASA region and the world.

Running from **14 to 16 November 2019**, the second edition of FOCAL POINT invites regional and international artists and publishers to present their work individually or within



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curated sections, accompanied by a public programme of talks, screenings, book launches, open studios and themed educational workshops. Catering to the interdisciplinary nature of publishing, FOCAL POINT fills a gap by offering a broad perspective on art publishing, with independent and alternative publishing practices featured alongside a select number of established publishing houses.

FOCAL POINT continues Sharjah Art Foundation's commitment to the medium of print. Since its establishment in 2009, the foundation has published a variety of books on modern and contemporary art, including artist books, catalogues and scholarly volumes. The foundation supports the research-based efforts of visiting artists, curators and scholars and publishes catalogues for all biennials and curated exhibitions, which are made available to local, regional and international audiences interested in contemporary art and publishing.

The 2019 edition of FOCAL POINT will take place in the intimate setting of the heritage building Bait Obaid Al Shamsi in Sharjah's Arts Square. Originally built in 1845 as a residential house, its two levels and courtyard space were renovated in the late 1990's and then again in 2017 to be used for artist studios and exhibition spaces. The location has often served as a venue for past Sharjah Biennials and SAF exhibitions. A detailed schedule of FOCAL POINT events will be available later in 2019.

The submission deadline for the FOCAL POINT Publishing Grant applications is **8 June 2019**. For more information and to apply, please 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



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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.

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