

ART DUBAI 2009

REVIEW



ART DUBAI

Held under the patronage of His Royal Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President and Prime Minister of the UAE, Ruler of Dubai, Art Dubai has rounded off its third edition with results confirming the quality and vibrancy of this important new art market. With 14,000 visitors from all over the world, 68 participating galleries from 26 countries, more than 60 visiting museum and collectors groups and a corps of nearly 350 media attending, Art Dubai has now confirmed itself as one of the premier art fairs for Asia. Besides exploring the parallel events such as Mapping Palestine, the Global Art Forum, Art Park, performances, book launches and *The Art of Magical Jewels* by Van Cleef & Arpels, a large international audience of collectors and arts professionals attended the unveiling of the three works which had been awarded the 2009 Abraaj Capital Art Prize.

This review summarizes the various aspects of Art Dubai 2009 in both text and image, including the participating galleries, Global Art Forum, Abraaj Capital Art Prize, Van Cleef & Arpels exhibition, performances, talks, and more.

ART DUBAI 2010
17 – 20 March
Madinat Jumeirah, Dubai
www.artdubai.ae

GALLERIES 2009

Agial Art Gallery, Beirut
Aicon Gallery, London / New York / Palo Alto
Aidan Gallery, Moscow
Albareh Art Gallery, Bahrain
Almine Rech Gallery, Brussels
Anant Art Gallery, New Delhi
Artspace, Dubai
Atassi Gallery, Damascus
Athr Gallery, Saudi Arabia
Ayyam Gallery, Damascus / Dubai
B21, Dubai
BISCHOFF/WEISS, London
bitforms gallery nyc, New York
BREENSPACE, Sydney
Bodhi Art, Mumbai
Bolsa de Arte, Porto Alegre
Galerie Caprice Horn, Berlin
Chemould Prescott Road, Mumbai
Continua, San Gimignano / Beijing / Le Moulin
Dirimart, Istanbul
Distrito 4, Madrid
Edwynn Houk Gallery, New York
Elementa, Dubai
Filomena Soares Gallery, Lisbon
Francesca Minini, Milan
Frey Norris Gallery, San Francisco
Galerie El Marsa, La Marsa
Galerie Emmanuel Perrotin, Paris
Galerie Janine Rubeiz, Beirut
Galerie Kashya Hildebrand, Zurich
Galerie Krinzinger, Vienna
Galerie Michael Schultz, Berlin
Galerie Piece Unique, Paris
Galerie Tanit, Munich
Galerie Thomas, Munich
Galerie Volker Diehl/ Diehl + Gallery One, Berlin / Moscow

Gimpel Fils, London
Giorgio Persano, Torino
Goff + Rosenthal, New York
Green Cardamom, London
Grosvenor Vadehra, London / New Delhi
Hakgojae, Seoul
Haunch of Venison, London
Horrach Moya, Palma de Mallorca
Hunar Gallery, Dubai
Kalfayan Galleries, Athens + Thessaloniki
Kamel Mennour, Paris
L&M Arts, New York
LA B.A.N.K., Paris
Leila Taghinia-Milani Heller Gallery, New York
Lisson Gallery, London
MAM Mario Mauroner, Vienna
Max Protetch, New York
October Gallery, London
Project 88, Mumbai
PYO Gallery, Seoul
Rossi & Rossi, London
Sakshi Gallery, Mumbai
Salon 94, New York
SCAI, Tokyo
Selma Feriani Gallery, London
Sfeir-Semler, Hamburg / Beirut
Silk Road Gallery, Tehran
SUN Gallery & Gallery SUN Contemporary, Seoul
The Third Line, Dubai
Townhouse Gallery of Contemporary Art, Cairo
Triumph Gallery, Moscow
Waterhouse & Dodd, London



GLOBAL ART FORUM

DAY 1

Creating Spaces, Creating Audiences

Welcome Roger Mandle

Creating an Audience: Museums and Art Institutions and the Public | Max Hollein | Mikhail Borisovich Piotrovsky | Oliver Watson | Marc Olivier Whaler

Building Museums | Gail Dexter Lord |

Creating Spaces: Cultural Development and Art Practices | Dr. Abdulla Al-Thani | Moataz Nasr | Dr. Nada Shabout | Gilane Tawadros | Wassan Al-Khudhairi

The Museum of the future | Hans Ulrich Obrist

DAY 2

Artists / Collectors: Brave New World | Supported by the DCAA

Good Morning Russia | Maria Baibakova | Yuri Avvakumov | Olga Sviblova | Fioydeor Boehme | Joseph Backstein

Artist Interview Hans Ulrich Obrist | Susan Hefuna | Daniel Birnbaum

Is Collecting a Statement or a Cause? Richard Flood | Lekha Poddar | Maja Hoffmann | Sultan Al-Qassemi | Farid Sarroukh

A Brief History of Curating | Hans Ulrich Obrist | Daniel Birnbaum

Discussing Museums | Shumon Basar | Mikhail Piotrovsky | Hassan Subhi | Thomas Krens

Legends Interview | Hans Ulrich Obrist | Abbas Kiarostami

Press Announcement "Opening" by the UAE Pavilion for the 53rd Venice Biennale | Tirdad Zolghadr | Dr. Lamees Hamdan

Legends Interview Hans Ulrich Obrist | Marwan Kassab Bachi

The Art of the Party | Bob Colacello | Jerome Sans | Simon de Pury | Hilwé Hilwé

The Party as Performance Curated by Jerome Sans | Le Baron – André, Benjamin and Samuel

DAY 3

The Arts and Cultural Heritage: A Contemporary View | Hosted by ADACH

Short introduction | Andras Szántó

ADACH Contemporary Culture and Living Tradition | H.E. Zaki Nuseibeh | Dr Sami El-Masri | Andras Szántó

Cultural Diplomacy from the Perspective of the Arab World: A Constructive Conversation with the West | Andras Szántó | Ambassador Cynthia P. Schneider | H.E. Zaki Nuseibeh | Dr Sami El-Masri

The Heritage Museum in a Modern Age | Dr. Sami El-Masri | Richard West, Jr | Elizabeth Duggal

Cultural strategies for the Arab World: After and Beyond the Museum | Catherine David | Abdulla Al-Amri | Nasrin Seraji | Christine Tohmé | Omar Mrad

ADACH Platform for Venice | Catherine David

Building on collecting | Judith Greer | Louisa Buck | Abdulla Al-Amri

Art City: Tehran | Independent and artist-run initiatives in Tehran | Fereydoun Ave | Amirali Ghasemi | Sohrab Mahdavi | Shahab Fotouhi | Henri Shabistari | Negar Azimi

DAY 4

Rules of Attraction: Cultural Destinations & Audiences

Brave New World: The new deal in the Art World | Josh Baer | Richard Flood | Alexandros Stanas | Paolo Colombo | Miguel Agueli | Katherine Gass

Building on and building with Biennials | Xenia Kalpaktsoglou | Poka-Yio | Dr. Lamees Hamdan | Suha Ahmed

Historical Sites and New Art Cities | Derya Bigalı | Katerina Koskina | Manal Ataya | Janah Saadeh



PERFORMANCES

In keeping with the burgeoning presence of performance art in the Middle East, Art Dubai 2009 provided a relevant platform for an international range of artists working within this expanding medium.

RABIH MROUE:

The Inhabitants of Images

Bidoun Projects presented a new lecture-performance

Through projected images and performance, renowned Beirut-based artist Rabih Mroué's new work explores the currency of images in the context of Lebanon's recent political history through three case studies.

English translation by Ziad Nawfal. Co-produced by Bidoun, Ashkal Alwan and Tanzquartier Wien



Art Dubai 09
Photo © Vipul Sangol. Photograph to be used in reference to Art Dubai 09 only. vipul@raindesign.info



Art Dubai 09
Photo © Vipul Sangol. Photograph to be used in reference to Art Dubai 09 only. vipul@raindesign.info

JOUMANA MOURAD & IJAD DANCE COMPANY:

[traces...]

Commissioned for Art Dubai 2009

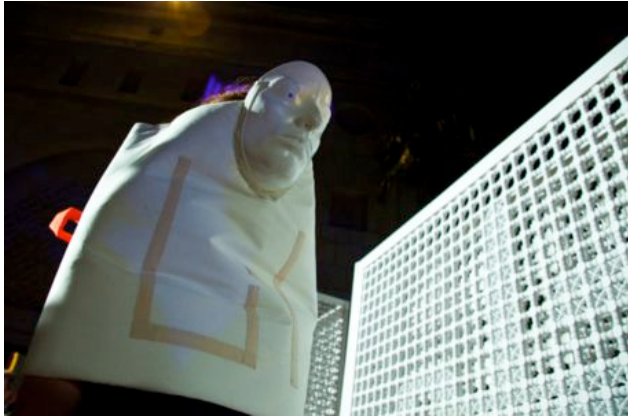
[traces...] A surreal world where projected truths confront fantasies [traces...] is a narrative dance piece. This series of stories is full of energy and emotion, be ready to share yours..



SUSAN HEFUNA:

Costume Drawings

The performance narrated stories, myths and pieces of wisdom from the German and the Egyptian heritage. Mixing intercultural codes, her costumes and masks mingle with abstract molecular forms that make up the structures of life.



SHILPA GUPTA

Don't See Don't Hear Don't Speak

Supported by ArtAsiaPacific

During the week of Art Dubai 2009, Mumbai-based Shilpa Gupta staged an event beginning at a café in a souk near the fair, set against the quickly changing horizon of Dubai. Supported by ArtAsiaPacific magazine, Gupta's performance is one in a series of works inspired by Mahatma Gandhi's belief in "see no evil, hear no evil, speak no evil."



ROULA HAJ-ISMAIL

The Tabouli Performer

Supported by Maya and Ramzy Rasamny

The Tabouli Performer has retired for the year and probably for good. She is nowhere in sight and neither is any very tasty tabouli! Her next venture will not involve any tabouli either although she will always be called the The Tabouli Performer in one way or another. Then there is Jenecia her previous live-in maid who she cannot escape even if she wanted to. I, not her, would love to be her even if its just for one day! Meanwhile, I will keep cooking eggplant dip and french fries until I can get my hands on some really fresh Tabouli!



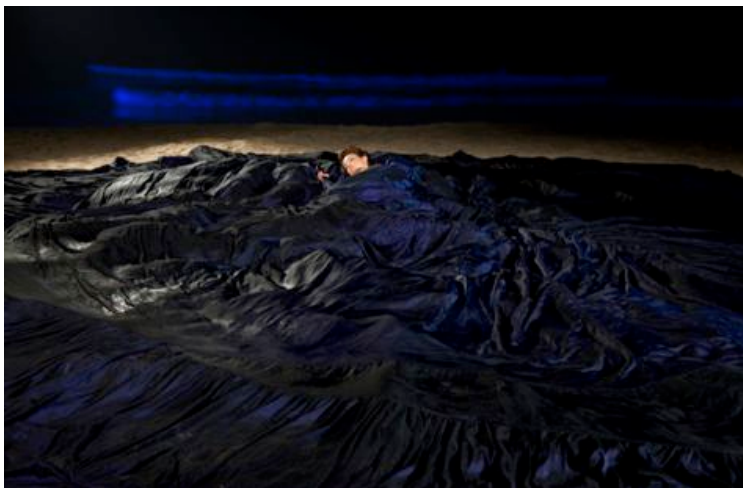
KIRSTIE MACLEOD

Emelan and Barocco

Supported by British Council

Emelan

Tread softly because you tread on my dreams. W.B. Yeats.
A dreaming dress that articulates the inner emotions of a sleeping performer. A skirt, enlarged to gigantic proportions, fills and overflows the space into the surrounding area.



Barocco [A rough or imperfect pearl]

Commissioned for Art Dubai 2009

A series of dialogues between East and West, the piece makes tangible the interplay between a variety of cultures, each with their own identity, expressing themselves in stitch for the performer to apply the final layer of the story.



MONALI MEHER

In Determination

— Commissioned for Art Dubai 2009

Supported by Mondriaan Foundation

The recent horrifying events in her home city, Mumbai, forced Meher to manifest the action of determination. This action is one of cleaning and of peace. This performance & installation holds a poignant plea for change and transformation.



BIDOUN: (supported by Emirates Foundation)

Bidoun has been a projects partner of Art Dubai since the first year of the fair. A nonprofit-making curatorial organisation based in Dubai, Cairo, Beirut and New York, Bidoun Projects supports and promotes Middle Eastern artists, commissioning new work and curating exhibitions and events.

At Art Dubai 2009, Bidoun Projects will further its work in this area, again collaborating with Art Dubai to present three curated video programmes, curated by the Lebanese curator Christine Tohme (Founder of Ashkal Alwan, Beirut), and by upcoming Turkish gallerist Sylvia Kouvali (Director of Rodeo Space, Istanbul).

ARTEEAST:

The New York-based international nonprofit organization curated and showcased an engaging selection of feature films, shorts and documentaries at Art Dubai 2009, approaching social, cultural and political themes from the Middle East and their diaspora. The 3 new programmes focus on the concept of 'Rogue Nations', incorporating artists from the Middle East, Iran and Turkey.

ART SCHOOL PALESTINE:

This nonprofit organization looks to increase opportunities and develop skills for contemporary artists living and working in the Palestinian Territories. For Art Dubai 2009 Art School Palestine presented 3 curated programmes of young Palestinian artists: Tamam, Shu Fee and Mashi.

CONTEMPORARY PRACTICES:

ASPIRATIONS: The Dream, The Fable and the One Thousandth and One Night

Contemporary Practices curated a series of video projects from regional and international perspectives criticizing the fictionalisation of facts and their encounters with reality.

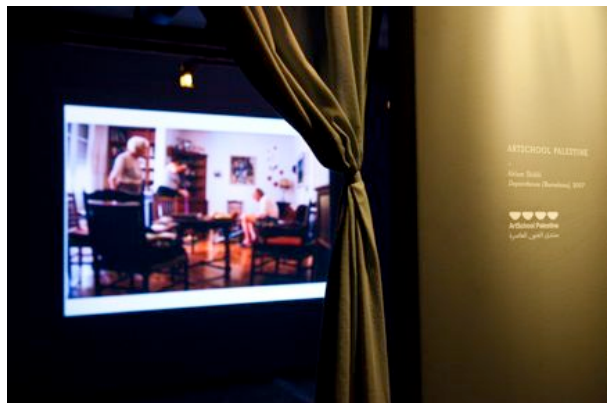
GHAZEL:

In her ongoing 'Me' series, Iranian artist Ghazel re-enacts moments from her life and observations with the chador as her ever-present costume. A caption in English or French, her second and third tongues, accompanies each scene, further developing the universal aspect of her stories. Full of irony and surreal humour, Ghazel's performances highlight her position as an outsider both in the West and in Iran.

Presented by B21 Gallery

ART PARK TALKS

Art Park Talks offers an unprecedented platform for discussion, dialogue and exchange. Set within an informal atmosphere, Art Park Talks is an educational initiative that aims to provide a forum for relevant issues which included curatorial practice within the Middle East, new forms of support available to artists producing work in the Middle East, online art journalism, architectural initiatives and design as well as corporate initiatives such as the Abraaj Capital Art Prize.



Mapping Palestine

Curated by Samar Martha, ArtSchool Palestine

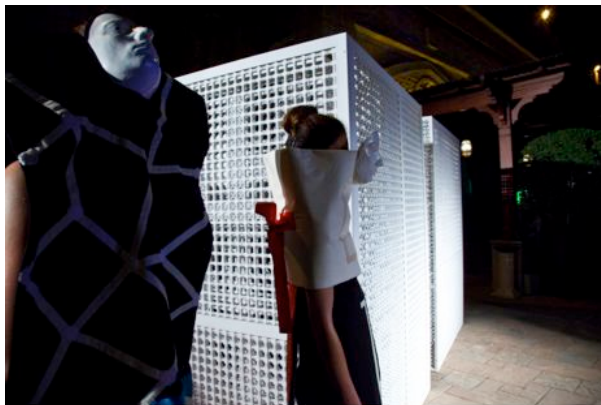
Mapping Palestine, an initiative of ArtSchool Palestine, was composed of three autonomous projects: a series of video programmes entitled *Tamam* “everything is fine”, the Art School Palestine Pavilion *Akhir al Layl* “at the end of the night” and thirdly, presentations by Palestinian art organisations. Together, they worked synergistically to expose the harsh reality of occupation and dispossession; the struggles, desires and paradoxes that convey the actualities of daily life in Palestine.



INSTALLATION

SUSAN HEFUNA

Dream



BAHK SEON GHI

AN AGGREGATE

Supported by SUN Gallery & Gallery SUN
Contemporary, Seoul



CHA MIN-YOUNG

LIFE IS MONO

Supported by PYO Gallery, Seoul



BARI KUMAR

CREATOR, DESTROYER, PRESERVER

Supported by Grosvenor Gallery, London



ABRAAJ CAPITAL ART PRIZE 2009

The winners of the Abraaj Capital Art Prize; Kutluğ Ataman with curator Cristiana Perrella, Nazgol Ansarinia with curator Leyla Fakhr and Zoulikha Bouabdellah with curator Carol Solomon, saw their works unveiled by His Highness Sheikh Maktoum bin Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Deputy Ruler of Dubai and His Highness Sheikh Majid bin Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Chairman of Dubai Culture and Arts Authority (DCAA) with an audience of private collectors, museum directors, international curators and media from around the world in attendance on March 17. His Excellency Dr. Omar Bin Sulaiman, Governor of DIFC, Arif Naqvi, Founder and Group Chief Executive Officer of Abraaj Capital and Hans Ulrich Obrist, Co-Director of the Serpentine Gallery also participated in the unveiling. The Abraaj Capital Art Prize focuses on artists from the MENASA region (Middle East, North Africa and South Asia) and strives to enable the creation, realization and international promotion of their works.

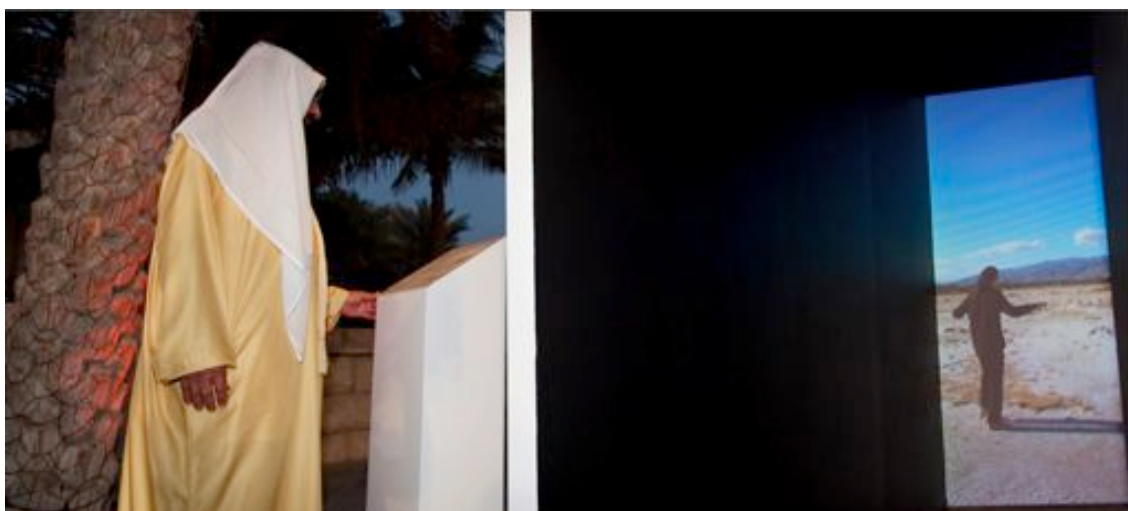


Artist - Zoulikha Bouabdellah
Curator - Carol Solomon
Walk on the Sky. Pisces

Artist - Nazgol Ansarinia
Curator - Leyla Fakhr
Rhyme and Reason



Artist - Kutlug Ataman
Curator - Cristiana Perrella
Strange Spaces



START

START, which the Al Madad Foundation, The Prince's Drawing School and Art Dubai launched uses art as a means to heal, educate and empower the younger generation in disadvantaged areas in the Middle East.

START's presence at Art Dubai 2009 saw over 200 children joining workshops on-site with artists Sacha Jafri and Elhum Shakerifar, who volunteered painting and film-making sessions.



VAN CLEEF & ARPELS *The Art of Magical Jewels*

This exhibition showcased treasures from Van Cleef & Arpels' archives with a full spectrum of remarkable masterpieces from its private collection that incarnates each era and each style, from Nature and Couture jewellery, to eclectic pieces, from precious Mystery Setting jewels to fashion accessories as minaudieres and vanity cases.



QUOTES

“With Art Dubai, Dubai will position itself alongside Paris, London and New York as a world art centre”. **BBC World**

“Dubai plays an important role in turning the Middle East region into a key art market.Art Dubai has become a highlight of the global art world”. **Art Collection + Design, March 2009**

“In the coming years art and culture are meant to gain in importance in the United Arab Emirates. Art Dubai has established itself as the flagship.” **Die Zeit Online, 24 March 2009**

“The exhibitors from Asia in particular are amongst the best from their continent.” **Die Welt**

“We come to Dubai, for its [the fair's] perfect timing, and in order to meet interesting collectors and curators we'd never be able to meet anywhere else in the world', says Jörg Paal from Munich based gallery Thomas”. **Die Welt, 21 March 2009**

“We made amazing contacts. What I liked is that it was consistently busy and the calibre of person coming through was even quite high on the last day of the fair. We met a nice mix of regional and international people.”

Robert Goff, Goff + Rosenthal

“The quantity of visitors was great and there was an active energy to fairgoers through much of Art Dubai. Most seemed to be only looking of course, but that curiosity has value as well. We made some excellent contacts and new clientele, both with local collectors and collectors from elsewhere (our first sale was to a couple from Miami, Florida), as well as connections with other gallerists and artists. Sales through follow up have been good.”

Raman Frey, Frey Norris Gallery

“Opening night saw what felt like the whole of the international art contingent bear down on the Madinat venue in an effusive display that could have come with the strapline, ‘What credit crunch?’”

Time Out Dubai

“Galerie Kashya Hildebrand, Zurich, says: “It’s a wonderful platform to reach collectors and curators from the Middle East. The fair is meticulously managed”. **Gribacheva Art Connect, March 2009**

“Even if scepticism is always in place in the face of the notoriously favourable résumés that the organizers of such events draw up, it is definitely believable that the Art Dubai 2009 exceeds expectations. The works shown, the auxiliary program, the many parallel events in the city, and the intriguing talks in a mostly optimistic mood give the visitor the feeling of attending an international art event.” **On Culture, February 2009**

“Art Dubai and Sharjah Biennale represent a more considered bid to provide a stimulating hub for cultural activity, drawing together artists, collectors and art lovers from throughout the Middle East, South Asia, Africa and the West for debate and the exchange of ideas, as well as commerce”. **Hedge, March 2009**

“Art Dubai creates cultural bridges and without a doubt this unique event owes its continual success to the participation of high quality art galleries and artists.” **HH Sheikha Manal bint Mohammad bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Sayidaty 11th April, 2009**

APPENDIX I VISITORS

Art Dubai's Royal guests:

HH Sheikh Mohammad Bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President and Prime Minister of the UAE Ruler of Dubai
HH Sheikh Maktoum Bin Mohammad Bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Deputy Ruler of Dubai
HH Sheikh Majed bin Mohammed Bin Rashid Al Maktoum,
HH Sheikh Latifa bint Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum
HH Sheikh Mansour Bin Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum
HH Sheikh Manal bint Mohammad bin Rashid Al Maktoum
HH Sheikh Lateefa Bint Maktoum
HH Sheikh Nahyan Mubarak Al Nahyan, UAE Minister of Higher Education
HH Sheikh Shamsa Bint Hamdan Al Nahyan

Museums and Museum Directors:

Cultures France, Jean Marc Prevost
Gemak, the Hague, Robert Kluijver - Head Curator
Artes Mundi / Iniva, Tessa Jackson,
Visiting Arts, London, Adam Knights
Fumio Nanjo - Director Mori Museum, Tokyo
Red Art Projects, USA, Maureen Sullivan
Jerusalem Capital of Arab Culture 2009, Dr. Rafiq Al Hussein, Secretary General
Damascus Capital of Culture 2008, Dr. Hanan Kassab Hassan, Secretary General
MOMA, New York, Feri Daftari
Culture Fund of the Netherlands, Christine Wagner
MOMA – Junior Associates, New York
Serpentine Gallery Council, London
Museum of the Americas, Raul Oyuela, Director
Denver Museum, Director Frederic Hamilton
Pompidou Centre, France, Philippe Dian
MAD Museum, New York, Director Ben Hartley
Vitra Design Museum, Italy, Maria Cristina Didero
Rubin Museum, Rachel Weingeist
Guggenheim Young Collectors Council, USA
Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum, Hilary Giffen
Museum Frieder Burda, Patricia Kamp
National Museum of Yemen, Haitam Alaini
Istanbul Art Museum Foundation, Yesim Turanli
The State Hermitage Museum, Dr. Dimitri Ozerkov
Agence France-Museums, Mr Bruno Maquart, CEO
Multimedia Art Museum, Russia, Olga Sviblova, Director
Patrons of the Guggenheim, New York, Leena Nath
Museum of Modern and Contemporary Art, Croatia Nataša Ivan evi , Senior Curator
Kunsthalle Basel, Contemporary Art Museum, Martin Hatebur, Chairman
The Foundation For Museum of Modern Art, Pakistan
Victoria and Albert Museum, Tim Stanley, Senior Curator
Nam June Paik Art Center, Korea, Tobias Berger, Chief Curator
Museum of Tiburon, CA, Dr. Allan Rappaport
Tate Museum, London, Sir Nicholas Serota
MOMA, New York, Glenn Lowry, Director
Hermitage Museum. St. Petersburg, Mikhail Borisovich Piotrovsky
Guggenheim Museum, Thomas Krens
Guggenheim Museum, Nancy Spector, Chief Curator
Guggenheim Museum, Alexandra Munroe, Chief Curator of Asian Art
Guggenheim Museum, Juan Ignacio Vidarte, Chief Officer for Global Strategies
Guggenheim Museum, Sandhini Poddar, Assistant Curator for Asian Art
Guggenheim Museum, Dana Farouki, Council Member
New Museum in New York, Richard Flood, Chief Curator and Lisa Phillips, Director

Museums and Museum Directors continued:

Arab Museum of Modern Art, Qatar His Excellency Sheikh & Sheikha Al-Thani, Qatar
Städel Museum, Max Hollein
Kunstmuseum Wolfsburg, Germany Prof. Markus Brüderlin, Museum Director
Ludwig Museum Budapest, Dianne Brown, Board Member of Museum
The Barbican, UK, Neil McConnon
Mori Art Museum, Fumio Nanjo, Director
MOMA, New York Klaus Biesenbach, Chief Curator
P.S. 1 Contemporary Art Centre, New York Alanna Heiss, Founder and Director
Gemak, The Hague, Robert Kluijver, Head Curator
Solomon R.Guggenheim Foundation Mrs.Janna Bullock, Trustee
Collector Groups
Maison Rouge, France
GE Artesia Bank
UBS Art Banking
Art Forum Berlin
Young President Organisation, UAE
Young Arab Leaders, UAE
Collectors Club, Hong Kong
Art Dealers Association of America
Serpentine Future Contemporaries
ADDAX bank, Bahrain
Foundation Arte Viva, Spain
UniCredit & Art, Milan
Los Angeles Art Show
The Art Fund, UK
Art Advisory Services
Sh - Contemporary
Outset Contemporary Art Fund
Contemporary Istanbul
Contemporary Arts Society
DTCM Itay
Future Contemporaries, UK
Akbank Art Center in Istanbul
The Art Society, Belgium
Chief Executives Organization (CEO)
YPO (Young Presidents' Organization)
Citi Private Bank
Classicus Private Insurance
Culture House
World Leader Symposium
Sothebys Insitute of Art
Dresdner Bank
Netherlands Architecture Institute

APPENDIX II

58 Global Art Forum Speakers 2009 broken up by fields of expertise

Geographic breakdown:

Middle East & Iran: 21

Europe: 23

Americas & Asia: 14

International Museum Directors: 17

Max Hollein	Director Kunsthalle, Stadel Museum and Sculpture Collection at the Liebighausm, Frankfurt
Mikhail Borisovich Piotrovsky	Hermitage Museum, St Petersburg
Oliver Watson	Chief Curator, Museum of Islamic Arts, Doha
Marc Olivier Whaler	Director, Palais de Tokyo, Paris
Gilane Tawadros	Independent curator and writer, former Director of inIVA, London
Wassan Al-Khudhairi	Collections Curator at the Arab Museum of Modern Art, Doha
Olga Sviblova	Head of the House of Photography in Moscow and Curator, Moscow
Hans Ulrich Obrist	Co-Director, Exhibitions and Programmes and Director of International Projects, Serpentine Gallery, London
Richard Flood	Chief Curator, New Museum, New York
Thomas Krens	Senior Advisor for International Affairs, Solomon R. Guggenheim Foundation, New York
Jerome Sans	Director, UCCA, Beijing, Paris
Richard West, Jr.	Former Director and Founder of the National Museum of the American Indian and prominent ICOM member, Washington D.C.
Elizabeth Duggal	Associate Director of the Natural History Museum – The Smithsonian Institution, Washington D.C.
Derya Bigali	Manager, Akbank Art Centre, Istanbul
Katerina Koskina	President of the Board of Trustees, State Museum of Contemporary Art, Thessaloniki
Manal Ataya	Director General, Sharjah Museums Department, Sharjah
Paolo Colombo	Curator, Advisor Modern Istanbul, Rome

Government officials: 6

Roger Mandle	Director, Qatar Authority, Doha
Gail Dexter Lord	Co-President, Lord Cultural Resources, Toronto
His Excellency Sheikh Abdulla Al-Thani	Vice President of Education at Qatar Foundation, Founder of Al Markhiy Gallery, Doha
Sami Al Masri	Director of Strategic Planning Office, ADACH, Abu Dhabi
Zaki Nusseibeh	Advisor Ministry Presidential Affairs – Deputy Chairman ADACH, Abu Dhabi
Abdullah Al Amri	Director of the Department of Arts and Culture, ADACH, Abu Dhabi

Commercial art world & Collectors: 4

Simon De Pury	Chairman, Philips de Pury & Company, London
Lekha Poddar	Art Collector, New Delhi
Maja Hoffman	Collector, LUMA Foundation, Zurich
Sultan Al Qassemi	Art Collector, Sharjah
Katherine Gass	Curator, Jumeirah Essex House, New York

Directors of Biennials & Art Fairs: 5

Dr. Lamees Hamdan	Commissioner to the Office of the UAE Pavilion, Dubai
Daniel Birnbaum	Director 53rd Venice Biennale of Visual Arts, Frankfurt
Alexandros Stanas	Director, Art Athina, Athens

Xenia Kalpaktsoglou
Joseph Backstein

Artistic Director, Athens Biennale, Athens
Founding Director of the Moscow Biennale, Moscow

International Media: 6

Negar Azimi
Josh Baer
Judith Greer
Louisa Buck
Sohrab Mahdavi

Senior Editor at Bidoun, New York
Writer and publisher, The Baer Faxt, New York
Writer, collector, London
Writer, art critic, London
Writer/editor, Tehranavenue.com, Tehran

Bob Colacello

Writer, Columnist, New York

Artists: 12

Moataz Nasr
Abbas Kiarostami
Marwan Kassab Bachi
Susan Hefuna
Shahab Fotouhi
Fereydoun Ave
Amirali Ghasemi

Artist, Founder of Darb 1718 in Egypt, Cairo
Filmmaker, Tehran
Artist, Berlin
Artist, Berlin
Artist, Tehran
Artist and curator, 13 Vanak Street, Tehran & Paris
Artist and curator, Parkingallery and the Roaming Biennial of Tehran, Tehran
Architect and Designer, Moscow
Architect, Urbanist & Professor of Architecture, Paris
Musicians, Paris

Yuri Avvakumov
Nasrin Seraji
Le Baron

Academics & Curators: 7

Dr Nada Shabout

Associate Professor at the University of North Texas, author of Modern Arab Art: Formation of Arab Aesthetics
PhD, Expert in cultural diplomacy, Arts and Culture Initiative, Saban Center for Middle Eastern policy, Brookings Institute, Professor Diplomacy and Culture, Georgetown University, Washington D.C.

Cynthia Schneider

Curator, Berlin
Curator, Artistic Director ADACH, Platform Venice, Paris
Curator, Founding Member Ashkal Alwan, Beirut
Senior Faculty, Sotheby's Institute of Art, Director NEA Arts Journalism Institute, Columbia University, New York
Cultural critic & professor at Birzeit University, West Bank

Tirdad Zolghadr
Catherine David
Christine Tohme
Andras Szanto

Adila Laidi-Hanieh