



ARTBAB

NEWSLETTER

ART BAHRAIN ACROSS BORDERS





Under the Patronage of

Her Royal Highness Princess Sabeeka Bint Ibrahim Al Khalifa, wife of His Majesty the King of Bahrain and President of the Supreme Council for Women, 'Art Bahrain Across Borders' (ArtBAB), is a visionary initiative of Tamkeen

Bahrain. The ambitious project, now in its second year, aims at solidifying Bahrain's position as a regional arts and education hub whilst stimulating investment and economic activity in the arts and cultural sector.



The Kingdom of Bahrain has a long history of arts and culture, stretching back thousands of years and which make the islands unique in the region. What has made Bahrain unique is the commitment of those invested in the future of Bahrain's arts to maintain its Bahraini foundations and influences.

The indigenous contemporary and modern art market has really started to grow and flourish in recent years. A number of public museums, private galleries and leading artists have created a rich creative environment. ArtBAB and Tamkeen aim to act as a catalyst for the art market, supporting local Bahraini artists to prosper whilst connecting Bahrain to the international market and bringing galleries, collectors and visitors to experience Bahrain's cultural offerings.

As part of ArtBAB 2017 commitment to promoting local artists will be the presentation of the inaugural Tamkeen Art Prize for Emerging Artists which will recognize the fundamental contribution made by Bahraini artists to the Bahraini arts scene, and internationally.

As part of Tamkeen's efforts to develop the private sector and grow the national economy, Tamkeen believes that the art sector has gained importance as an engine of economic growth, not only locally but across the region. We want to support this sector through initiatives such as ArtBAB, and we hope to steer the arts sector into new levels. The aim is to inspire the local and regional talent and promote art education and skills development by bridging our local artists with their regional and international counterparts, encourage collaborations and foster learning and development from the exchange of ideas with renowned names in the art field."

Dr. Ebrahim Mohammed Janahi, Chief Executive - Tamkeen





Art Bahrain Across Borders

ArtBAB, Art Bahrain Across Borders, is Bahrain's foremost contemporary art fair with the mission to attract leading international galleries to the Kingdom,

So powering the expansion of the art market in the country whilst facilitating the development of local Bahraini artists.

ArtBAB is a bridge between Bahrain and the world.

At ArtBAB 2017, our international selection committee will choose the galleries and artists participating in the fair and give shape to the curatorial direction.

This will complement the education and event programming and the VIP and patrons events being planned with international thought-leaders approached.

35 international and local galleries will participate whilst select Bahraini artists will have their own ArtBAB pavilion and international artists will also be able to apply direct.

The first Bahraini Art Fair in 2015 saw 48 participants from 17 different countries participate - Austria, Egypt, France, Germany, India, Italy, Kenya, Lebanon, Oman, Palestine Saudi Arabia, Syria, Thailand, Tunisia, UAE, the UK, and Bahrain itself.

ArtBAB is a Tamkeen initiative managed by Art Select Bahrain



"ArtBAB is a catalyst to stimulating the local arts scene, encouraging investment and most importantly, helping nurture the next generation of Bahraini artists to take the industry forward,"

Kaneka Subberwal, Fair Director

International Selection Committee

COMMITTEE



Jonathan Watkins
International and Bahraini
artist-focused selection

Jonathan Watkins has been Director of Ikon Gallery since 1999. Previously he worked for a number of years in London, as Curator of the Serpentine Gallery (1995-1997) and Director of Chisenhale Gallery (1990-1995).

He has written extensively on contemporary art. Recent essays by him have focused on the work of Giuseppe Penone, Martin Creed, Semyon Faibisovich, Yang Zhenzhong, Noguchi Rika, Caro Niederer, Beat Streuli and Cornelia Parker. He was the author of the Phaidon monograph on Japanese artist On Kawara.

He has curated a number of large international exhibitions including the Biennale of Sydney (1998), Facts of Life: Contemporary Japanese Art (Hayward Gallery, London 2001), Quotidiana (Castello di Rivoli, Turin 1999, Tate Triennial (2003), Shanghai Biennale (2006), Sharjah Biennial (2007), Negotiations (Today Art Museum, Beijing 2010) and the Guangzhou Triennial (2012). He was on the curatorial team for Europarte (Venice Biennale, 1997), Milano Europa 2000, (Palazzo di Triennale, Milan 2000), and Riwaq (Palestinian Biennial 2007). He curated the Iraqi Pavilion for the Venice Biennale 2013.



Janet Rady,
Head of Development

Janet Rady is Head of Development for ArtBAB and is a Specialist in Contemporary Art from the Middle East, with over twenty five years' experience of the International Art Market including Leading Auction Houses and Major Commercial Galleries.

Janet Rady holds a Masters Degree in Islamic Art History from the University of Melbourne and a BA from the School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London. She is a member of the Arab British Chamber of Commerce and sits on the Advisory Council of Caravan Arts. Janet is on the Editorial Board of the Middle East in London magazine. She is an Expert for Auctionata and was Head of Development at Art Bahrain, the pilot to ArtBAB. Janet has recently edited the book "33 Artists... 33 Islands... A Kingdom of Art" - a comprehensive survey of the artists of Bahrain.



David Hawkins
Head of Outreach and VIP
Relations

David Hawkins (ArtBAB Head of Outreach and VIP Relations) is the former Executive Director for Arts for India, the Modi family of India's art foundation.

Arts for India developed the Delhi-based International Institute of Fine Arts (IIFA) and worked towards supporting it to become the first private university of the arts in India whilst growing the scholarship fund which supported local Indian aspiring artists through the Institute.

David devised Indian Art Week in London in 2014 and worked with major auction houses, colleges of art and UK galleries including Blain | Southern, Francesca Galloway and Albemarle galleries. He has worked with major international institutions such as the Guggenheim Museum New York.

David has also promoted the development of the creative economy - consulting to Arts & Business the UK Art's Council's agency for promoting private sector involvement in the creative industries whilst advising UK decision-makers and politicians via the boards of think-tanks ResPublica and the New Culture Forum, both of which had a focus on the arts.

David continues to work with a number of Indo-British artists in the UK and is preparing a number of events for the UK-India Year of Culture 2017 taking place across both countries.



Manama, 27th September 2016 saw the launch of ArtBAB 2017

Art Bahrain Across Borders (Art BAB) is a culmination of the Kingdom's recent success stories in the realm of the arts, and builds on the momentum of the last years' international art exhibition held in October 2015 as well as the success of the more recent 'Bahraini Artists Across Borders' (BAAB) initiative which was launched at the reputed Victoria and Albert Museum in London in May 2016 and continued at Gallery 8 in London. A collection of 50 pieces from 17 artists were on display for the first time.

www.artbab.com

01 ArtBAB Fact:

Bahrain is positioned in the Gulf as the centre for contemporary art made by regional and local artists – by 2014 Bahraini artists were selling over 3.3 million BHD

02 ArtBAB Fact:

Bahrain participated for the first time in the Venice Biennale in 2013 and now is the time to engage with Bahraini artists



Nabeela Al Khayer



ArtBAB Project Director Kaneka Subberwal with representatives of Gazeli Art House London, Gazeli Baku gallery, the Victoria and Albert Museum and artist Faiza Butt

ArtBAB 2017 London launch - Arts Club, London

Two weeks following the launch of ArtBAB in Manama, Art BAB had an official launch at the Arts Club, London where the arts media, gallerists, artists and curators came together to learn how they can partner with ArtBAB.

Representatives from the Art Newspaper, Arab News, the Mayfair Times, Epicurean Life as well as galleries Gazeli Art House, Gazeli Baku Gallery, Andipa Gallery, curators Carolyn Miner and Stephanie Seungmin Kim and Salma Tuqan of the Victoria & Albert Museum's Contemporary Arab Art department

03 ArtBAB Fact:

In terms of collectors, Bahrain has an internationally-focused indigenous collector base which travels to art fairs around the world eg Art Basel Miami

04 ArtBAB Fact:

Bahrain attracts international collectors: "I believe Bahrain has a very interesting art movement and the art scene in Bahrain is very mature with its early '60s artists", Tariq Al Jai-dah, attended Art Bahrain 2015

05 ArtBAB Fact:

The immediate collector base is wider than Bahrain it travels easily from Saudi Arabia and the wider GCC area



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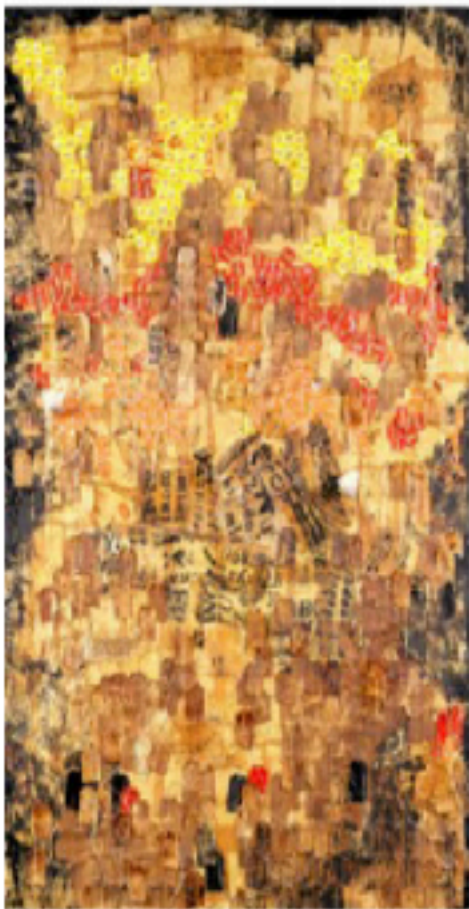
art & culture

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Group photo with the artists.

Bahrain's ArtBAB fair builds creative bridges across the world



Mayana Al-Sowaidi art piece.

Denise Marney
LifeStyle@arabnews.com

ART Bahrain Across Borders (ArtBAB) will present art from across the world at its second international art fair to be held next March. At a breakfast meeting hosted by Kambis Soltanlou, co-founder of Art Bahrain, in the historic Arts Club in Manama, the plans were unveiled.

Soltanlou, who began working in Bahrain in 2008 with her art consultancy firm, Art Select, is passionately committed to promoting contemporary artists from Bahrain and neighboring Arab states.

Speaking to Arab News she said: "Ever since arriving in Bahrain I have been fascinated by the country's artists and their work. I now concentrate on the artists and their development with the aim of reaching a mass global platform. The fair last year under the patronage of Her Royal Highness Princess Sabeka Bint Ibrahim Al-Khalifa, wife of His Majesty the King of Bahrain, was the first step and now we are looking forward to the second. The Bahraini leadership is invested in its people. They support everyone who is participating in building Bahrain."

Tankers, Bahrain's economic development agency, has appointed Art Select to organize and manage the fair to be held between March 22-26, 2017 at the Bahrain International Exhibition & Convention Center.

Amal Al-Khatib, Tankers' chief operating officer said: "We want to position Bahrain as a prime hub for art and education."

"Bahrain's art sector is emerging into a viable industry with great potential to become an engine of economic growth. Until recently this



Art Bahrain installation.

sector did not receive the required attention and through initiatives such as ArtBAB we hope to steer it to new heights, inspiring entrepreneurship, art education and local skills development."

ArtBAB will build on the momentum of last year's international art exhibition as well as the success of the Bahraini Artists Across Borders initiative launched at the Victoria and Albert Museum and exhibited in Gallery 3, in Manama.



Art Bahrain installation.

director and curator, Janet Raby, a specialist in contemporary art from the Middle East and ArtBAB's Head of Events and Educational Programming, said the 17 Bahraini artists who exhibited at the V&A launch showed the range and depth of talent in the country. She noted that one of the artists, Mayana Al-Sowaidi, has been nominated for The

Sovereign Middle East and North Africa Art Prize (MENA Prize).

David Hawkins, head of outreach and VIP relations for ArtPSA explained that the fair will include a DABF Pavilion exclusive to 30 Bahraini artists to be selected by an international jury following submissions; a Gallery Area to host up to 35 international and Bahraini galleries; an international artists' Pavilion to display the works of participating artists from around the world and an art book shop and merchandising and design section. A specially designed art and education program featuring key artists titled "Take@Art BAB" will also run parallel to the exhibition.

Soltanlou was asked what criteria she used in judging the success and impact of an art fair. She replied: "I would consider the following: Did the fair connect with the people? That is an important measure for us of its success. Did artists from different communities and genres interact? Was there an interaction between the galleries and the collectors? Was there a festival — did the galleries get a return on their investment in participating in the fair? That is how I would measure success."

Denize Marray

Life.style@arabnews.com

ART Bahrain Across Borders (ArtBAB) will present art from across the world at its second international art fair to be held next March. At a breakfast meeting hosted by Kareka Subbervai, co-founder of Art Bahrain, in the historic Arts Club in Mayfair, the plans were unveiled.

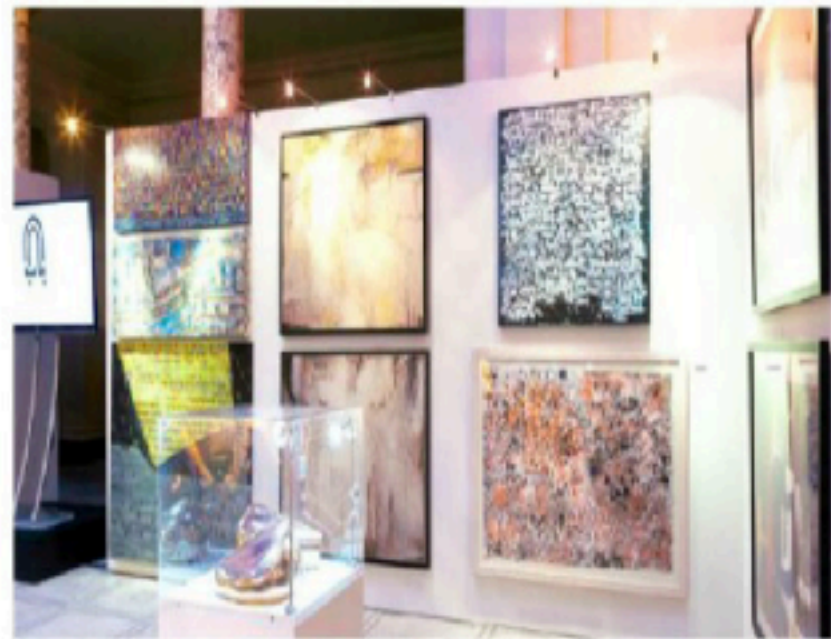
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Speaking to Arab News she said: "Ever since arriving in Bahrain I have been fascinated by the country, its artists and their work. I now concentrate on the artists and their development with the aim of reaching a mass global platform. The fair last year under the patronage of Her Royal Highness Princess Sabeka Bint Ibrahim Al-Khalifa, wife of His Majesty the King of Bahrain, was the first step and now we are looking forward to the second. The Bahraini leadership is invested in its people. They support everyone who is participating in building Bahrain."

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Art Bahrain installation.

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ArtBAB will build on the momentum of last year's international art exhibition as well as the success of the Bahraini Artists Across Borders initiative launched at the Victoria and Albert Museum and exhibited in Gallery 8 in May. Gallery director and curator, Janet Rady, a specialist in contemporary art from the Middle East and ArtBAB's Head of Events and Educational Programming, said the 17 Bahraini artists who exhibited at the V&A launch showed the range and depth of talent in the country. She noted that one of the artists, Mayasa Al-Sowaidi, has been nominated for The

Sovereign Middle East and North Africa Art Prize (MENA Prize).

David Hawkins, head of outreach and VIP relations for ArtBAB explained that the fair will include a BAAB Pavilion exclusive to 30 Bahraini artists to be selected by an international jury following submissions; a Gallery Arena to host up to 35 international and Bahraini galleries; an international Artists' Pavilion to display the works of participating artists from around the world and an art book shop and merchandising and design section. A specially designed art and education program featuring key artists titled 'Talks@ArtBAB' will also run parallel to the exhibition.

Subbervai was asked what criteria she used in judging the success and impact of an art fair. She replied: "I would consider the following: Did the fair connect with the people? That is an important measure for us of its success. Did artists from different communities and genres interact? Was there an interaction between the galleries and the collectors? Was there footfall — did the galleries get a return on their investment in participating in the fair? That is how I would measure success."



Art Bahrain installation.



"Bahraini art fair gets make over..."

BLOUINARTINFO

*"Art Bahrain relaunched as ArtBAB
Art Bahrain Across Borders"*

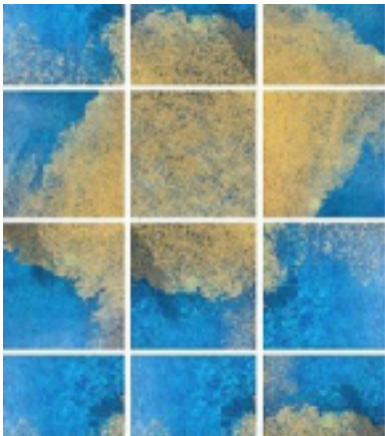
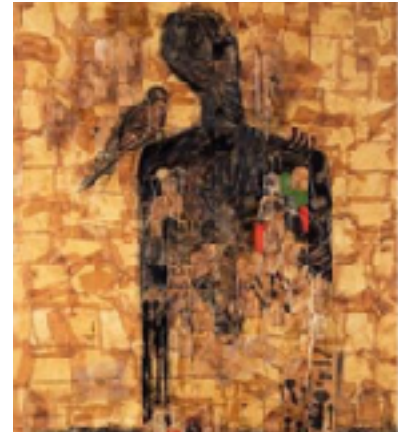


*"Art Bahrain Across Border...Bahrain...
Shelters a flourishing cultural scene."*

BAHRAINI ARTIST SUCCESSES:

The Sovereign Middle East and North Africa Art Prize (MENA Prize) aims to benefit mid-career artists by increasing their international profile and by providing income for short-listed finalists.

Winning the hearts, and importantly, the votes of the public was 'Tea Whisper' by Mayasa Al Sowaidi - the very first Public Vote Prize Winner of The Sovereign MENA Prize.



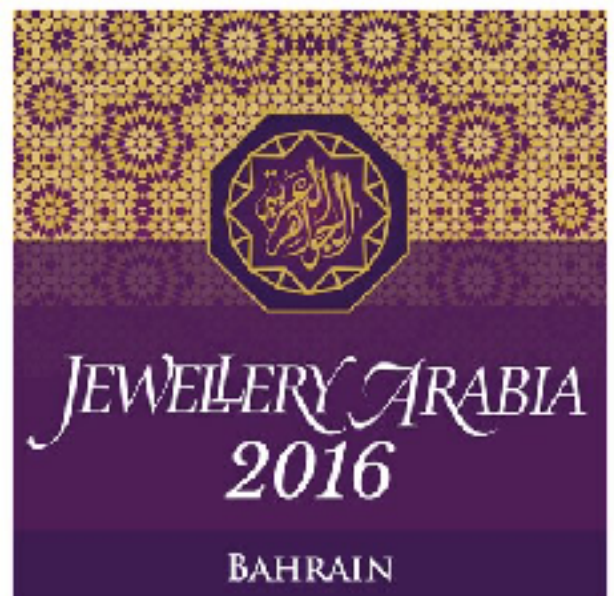
The Sovereign Art Foundation MENA Art Prize grand gala and auction was held October 19th in Dubai, with the auction led by Christie's.

One of the works sold on the evening was by Marwa Al Khalifa Yellow & Blue (3 x 4) Plexiglass face mounting with aluminium composite panel backing and hanging system with Kodak print.

Visit us at Jewellery Arabia!

Jewellery Arabia will take place from Tuesday, 22. November to Saturday, 26. November 2016 at the International Exhibition and Convention Centre.

ArtBAB will be hosting a booth at Jewellery Arabia—come and see us and learn more about our work in bridging Bahrain to the global art market.



Contact us:

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KINGDOM OF BAHRAIN
