

## **SHARJAH ART FOUNDATION**

Sharjah Art Foundation brings a broad range of contemporary art and cultural programmes to the communities of Sharjah, the UAE and the region. Since 2009, SAF has built on the history of cultural collaboration and exchange that began with the first Sharjah Biennial in 1993. Working with local and international partners, SAF creates opportunities for artists and artistic production through its core initiatives, including the Sharjah Biennial, the annual March Meeting, residencies, production grants, commissions, exhibitions, research, publications, and a growing collection. SAF's education and public programmes focus on building recognition of the central role art can play in the life of a community by promoting public learning and a participatory approach to art. Sharjah Art Foundation is funded by the Department of Culture and Information, Government of Sharjah.

### **PROGRAMMES OF THE SHARJAH ART FOUNDATION:**

#### **Sharjah Biennial**

The Sharjah Biennial is one of the most established cultural events in the Arab world. Since its inception in 1993, it has formed a cultural bridge between artists, art institutions and organisations locally, regionally and internationally. The acclaimed, eight-week Biennial consists of various components from its primary exhibitions of visual art, film, music, and performance, to seminars for artists and art professionals and workshops for students and families.

#### **March Meeting**

The March Meeting is an annual gathering of global artists, art professionals and institutions involved in the production and dissemination of art in the MENASA region. The annual event is designed to provide leaders in the art world with an opportunity to connect, share ideas and expertise, network and collaborate on future projects.

#### **Sharjah Art Foundation Production Programme**

The Sharjah Art Foundation Production Programme provides direct support to artists for the production of art as well as funding to art practitioners for projects, research, publications and film. Past recipients of Production Programme grants include Bani Abidi and Camp whose works premiered in Documenta 13.

#### **Artists' Residencies**

The Residency Programme offers opportunities for artists and art practitioners to explore their relationships with the UAE and the region both through an open call for applications and by invitation.

The Witness Programme is an ongoing residency that provides an opportunity for artists to engage, reflect and respond to the Biennial as a global phenomenon and the specific context of

Sharjah. Over the course of the three-week residency participants will witness the Biennial's unfolding, as exhibiting artists install their works, as curators consider the realization of their concept and finally how the public responds to the complex and multi-layered experience of Sharjah Biennial.

## **Education and Participation**

Sharjah Art Foundation fosters various ongoing collaborations with regional educational and cultural institutions through its development of community outreach and specialized programmes such as workshops, seminars, lectures and events designed for a range of age groups, from students to professionals.

## **Exhibitions**

Sharjah Art Foundation presented a range of exhibitions housed in the Arts Area, Sharjah comprising of works from Sharjah Art Foundation's growing collection, as well as curated shows featuring international artists. These exhibitions include *Drift - an exploration of urban & suburban landscapes* (2011) curated by Sharjah Art Foundation's President and Director Hoor Al-Qasimi, *What Should I do to live in your life?* (2012) curated by Claudia Pestana, Research and Experimentation Projects Curator at Sharjah Art Foundation, *Portrait of a Territory* (2012) curated by Christine Macel, Chief Curator at Musée National D'Art Moderne Centre Pompidou, Paris; *Farther Than The Eye Can See* (2012), *Museum of Optography: The Purple Chamber* (2012), *Pilot Micro Multiplex / Mall* (2012) curated by Claudia Pestana, *In Spite of it All* (2012) curated by Hoor Al-Qasimi and *Lara Favaretto: Just Knocked Out* (2012) curated by Peter Eleey, Curator, MoMA PS1.