



الإمارات العربية المتحدة  
جناح بينالي البندقية  
United Arab Emirates  
Venice Biennale Pavilion

**New Release**

**May 2011**

**For Immediate Release**

THE OFFICE OF THE UAE PAVILION ANNOUNCES THE RECIPIENTS OF THE **VENICE INTERNSHIP** FOR THE 54<sup>TH</sup> INTERNATIONAL ART EXHIBITION – la BIENNALE di VENEZIA 2011

Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates, 8 May 2011 – Following a nation-wide recruitment and screening process, twenty Emiratis and long-term residents have been chosen to represent the United Arab Emirates by manning the national pavilion at the 54<sup>th</sup> International Art Exhibition in Venice, Italy.

The Venice Internship is a specialized program launched to recruit Emiratis and long-term residents of the UAE to manage the UAE's national pavilion at the Venice Biennale from 28 May to 28 November 2011. The program has been developed by the office of the UAE Pavilion and is generously supported by the Emirates Foundation for Philanthropy, the Tourism Investment and Development Company (TDIC), and the Ministry of Culture, Youth and Community Development.

Interns will work alongside distinguished curator Vasif Kortun and the team of the UAE Pavilion office prior to their stay in Venice where they will serve in the national pavilion as Exhibition Managers. They will engage in a comprehensive art educational program based on the extraordinary art and cultural institutions in Venice and the temporary exhibits at the Biennale.

The interns will undergo a month of in-depth training in the UAE under the guidance of the country's top cultural authorities from the Sharjah Art Foundation, TDIC, UAE galleries and the wider arts community, including the Italian Embassy.

The principal objective of the Venice Internship is to groom the next generation of UAE arts practitioners and managers with the skills needed to place national cultural initiatives at the forefront of the global art scene.

"The Venice Internship will allow interns a unique opportunity and unrivaled experience in the making of, and caring for, an international exhibition." Vasif Kortun, Curator of the UAE Pavilion at the Venice Biennale, 2011.

On the back of the success of the UAE Pavilion Volunteer Program in 2009, which saw almost 50 volunteers sent to Venice in partnership with Takatof and Emirates Airline, the program for 2011 will see a smaller number of candidates deployed with an increased focus on specialization in contemporary arts training.

"The Venice Internship is designed to demonstrate to parents, teachers and the public that art is a serious career vocation," said Dr. Lamees Hamdan, Commissioner of the UAE Pavilion at the Venice Biennale. "The program requires a minimum of arts related experience, fluency in written and spoken English and Arabic, and either UAE citizenship or long-term residency in the UAE."

The recipients of the 2011 Venice Internship are:

Ali	Abu Amer
Afra	Al Dhaheri
Faisal Abdalla	Al Dhahri
Mona Faisal	Al Gurg
Alanood Abdul Rahman	Al Hammadi
Afra Abdulla Juma	Al Kaabi
May Rashed Al Hosan	Al Shamsi
Amal	Al Shehhi
Sarah	Alagroobi
Hessa Ali	AlJoker
Raisa Obaid	AlMansoori
Hamed Ali Hamed	Alqamshouai
Habiba Nader	Azab
Firas Saeed	Bardan
AlAnood	Bin AlShaikh

Manal Bin Obood  
Nada Salem Bin Thabet  
Mitra Birgani  
Yosra El Hassan  
Fatima Saif Ahmad Ghazal  
Sharifa Horaiz

“The Venice Internship Program is one of several opportunities that Emirates Foundation offers to empower highly motivated Emirati young people. Internships and residencies provide practical experience in a new environment offering interns an opportunity to achieve their intellectual and personal potential,” said Salwa Mikdadi, Head of Arts and Culture Program at the Emirates Foundation.

Rita Aoun-Abdo, Director, Cultural Department, TDIC said; “TDIC is pleased that this year, our involvement in the UAE Pavilion extends to providing training opportunities for young Emiratis at the Venice Biennale, to allow for artistic and cultural exchange, as well as learning opportunities, in this international platform. This initiative is one of many set to prepare the future Emirati work force for the Saadiyat Island cultural institutions.”

The UAE's second national pavilion at the 54<sup>th</sup> International Art Exhibition – la Biennale di Venezia has been initiated by the UAE Ministry of Culture, Youth and Community Development, and is supported by the Emirates Foundation for Philanthropy TDIC.

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#### **NOTES TO EDITORS:**

1. **UAE Pavilion at the 54<sup>th</sup> International Art Exhibition – la Biennale di Venezia** Universally recognized as the world's most prestigious contemporary art event, la Biennale di Venezia will present its 54th International Art Exhibition from June through November 2011. The UAE National Pavilion, curated by Vasif Kortun and headed by Commissioner Lamees Hamdan, will showcase the works of three Emirati artists; Reem Al Ghaith, Abdulla al Saadi and Lateefa bint Maktoum, under the title **“Second Time Around / للمرة الثانية**”. The UAE Pavilion is supported by The Ministry of Culture, Youth and Community Development, Emirates Foundation for Philanthropy and Tourism Development and Investment Company.
2. **Ministry of Culture, Youth & Community Development** The Ministry of Culture, Youth and Community Development was launched in 2006 to highlight the UAE's fast-growing community and thriving youths while not losing sight of its heritage and cultural scene. (Previously cultural activities fell under the 2006-dissolved Ministry of Information and Culture).

The Ministry aims to revive the UAE's heritage by inspiring and encouraging the creative talents abundant among the youths of today. It is responsible for promoting and investing in the energies of young people, inspiring them and adding to their artistic abilities. In doing so, the Ministry has raised much awareness towards the community's cultural practices and in turn, has promoted innovation and enrichment of cultural communication. It is constantly working at creating an integral framework for providing detailed information regarding the country's culture, youth and community development. In addition, the Ministry also organizes ongoing activities and develops mechanisms to secure the necessary support required to achieve its goals.

3. **About the Emirates Foundation for Philanthropy** The Emirates Foundation is one of the UAE's foremost philanthropic organizations. It offers financial and technical support to projects that enrich the lives of people in the Emirates, particularly in the areas of youth development, knowledge creation, and society and culture.

The Foundation facilitates links between commercial businesses and the public sector to devise new projects and strengthen existing nonprofit initiatives throughout the country. Its funding comes from program-rated contributions and a capital reserve supported by the Abu Dhabi government and private companies.

Launched on April 12, 2005 by H.H Sheikh Mohammed Bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi, its Board of Directors is chaired by Sheikh Abdullah Bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Minister of Foreign Affairs. Further information from: [www.emiratesfoundation.ae](http://www.emiratesfoundation.ae)

4. **About TDIC** Tourism Development & Investment Company (TDIC) is a master developer of key cultural, residential and tourism destinations in Abu Dhabi. The principal goal of its cultural program, including the creation of the Saadiyat Cultural District - the world's largest single concentration of premier cultural institutions - is to establish an international platform in the UAE for arts and culture. Unprecedented in scale and scope, the Saadiyat Cultural District will include museums such as Zayed National Museum, Louvre Abu Dhabi and the Guggenheim Abu Dhabi.

One of TDIC's missions is to engage the community in the capital's urban, cultural and artistic development and help build professional skills and knowledge in the community through a dialogue with representatives from the world's leading cultural organisations.

Alongside this, TDIC presents a diverse series of art exhibitions and public programs to further engage audiences in the Saadiyat Cultural District institutions, vision and concept.

5. **About Möbius Design** Möbius Design Studio was founded in 2010 by a group of female designers, all graduates from the American University of Sharjah, UAE, from different parts of the Middle East, whose expertise range from visual communication, multimedia design, and architecture.

The studio is based in Tashkeel, Dubai - an independent resource for artists and designers living in the UAE.

Their interest in the design field encompasses research, concept development, mapping information, typology, identity, spatial and structural design for exhibitions, in addition to multimedia and time-based design. The main approach they use to tackle design projects is based on the notion of experimental processes, conceptual and formal investigations.