

Embargoed

The Salama bint Hamdan Al Nahyan Foundation to commission the National Pavilion of the United Arab Emirates at la Biennale di Venezia Under the auspices of the UAE Ministry of Culture, Youth and Community Development.

The UAE participates for the first time in the 14th International Architecture Exhibition, directed by Rem Koolhaas

Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates, [19 November 2013] - His Excellency Sheikh Nahayan bin Mubarak Al Nahayan, Minister of Culture, Youth and Community Development, announced today that the Salama bint Hamdan Al Nahyan Foundation is to assume responsibility as Commissioner for the National Pavilion of the United Arab Emirates at the 14th International Architecture Exhibition - la Biennale di Venezia.

Established to endorse the UAE's art scene on an international platform and provide opportunities for content development from the UAE, the National Pavilion's mission is to engage in a vibrant cultural exchange. The UAE debuted in the 2009's International Art Exhibition at the Venice Biennale and was the first Gulf nation to participate in the history of the Exhibition. It again made history as the first Gulf nation to obtain a permanent pavilion in the Venice Biennale by signing a long-term hospitality agreement in May 2013.

The National Pavilion of the UAE is also pleased to announce its participation for the first time in the 14th Architecture International Exhibition in la Biennale di Venezia, with Michele Bambling, appointed curator for the UAE's exhibition during the Architecture biennale. The International Exhibition will be directed by Rem Koolhaas, and is scheduled to open on June 7, and run till November 23, 2014.

"We are pleased to appoint Michele Bambling as curator for the UAE's first participation in the 14th Architecture International Exhibition - la Biennale di Venezia. Bambling's research on urban development in the UAE will prove to be of great value and benefit to this exhibition, in which the UAE will continue its successful journey as one of the pioneer Gulf nations in la Biennale di Venezia," noted Sheikha Mariam bint Mohammed Al Nahyan, Chair of the Salama bint Hamdan Al Nahyan Foundation.

Sheikha Mariam also added: "The UAE has always been in the center of architecture academic debate and research, being one of the fastest growing countries in the world. Thus our participation this year comes as a natural step for the country's growing architectural and urban scene, and we are certain that our first exhibition will continue the successful legacy of the UAE's role in la Biennale di Venezia."

Paolo Baratta, President of the Venice Biennale commented: "We are very pleased to welcome the United Arab Emirates to its long-term space in the Arsenale, and as first time participants in the 14th Architecture International Exhibition, directed by Rem Koolhaas. The UAE is a country that plays a significant role in the contemporary world of architecture, and it's only natural for it to be part of this important exhibition."



The Curator

Dr. Michele Bambling is Creative Director of the Lest We Forget initiative recently launched under the auspices of the National Center for Documentation and Research, the Salama Bint Hamdan Foundation and Twofour54. She received a Ph.D. from Columbia University in art history and a Postdoctoral Research Fellowship from The Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York. Bambling also taught art history and museum studies at Zayed University in Abu Dhabi, where she has resided for the past six years. She has selected Adina Hemple, Architect and Professor of Interior Design at Zayed University, Dubai as Head of Research and Marco Sosa, Architect and Professor of Interior Design at Zayed University, Abu Dhabi as Head of Design for this project.

Venice Internship: The Future

The Venice Internship has opened for a new round of applicants today continuing in its fourth iteration in 2014, and will run parallel to the architecture exhibition. The specialized training program launched in 2009 in conjunction with the National Pavilion of the UAE at the 53th International Art Exhibition, offers a range of opportunities for young Emiratis keen to engage in culture and arts at the highest international level.

The program for 2014 will offer young Emiratis the opportunity to work in one of the most-acclaimed architecture exhibitions in the world. With the increased interest in architecture studies in local universities, and the emergence of the UAE as an architectural and urban destination, this program will satisfy a much-needed international training scheme for young architects and architecture enthusiasts around the country.

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NOTES TO EDITORS:

1. The 14th International Architecture Exhibition - la Biennale di Venezia

Universally recognized as the world's most prestigious contemporary art institution, la Biennale di Venezia (the Venice Biennale) dates back to 1895 when the first International Art Exhibition was organized. In recognition of the emergence of the UAE as a cultural hub, the Biennale has provided a large and highly visible site in the Arsenale for the UAE Pavilion. Additional to the art exhibition, la Biennale hosts the International Architecture Exhibition, Film Festival, Music, Theater and Dance Festivals.

2. Commissioner : The Salama bint Hamdan Al Nahyan Foundation

The Salama bint Hamdan Al Nahyan Foundation has as its mission "investing in the future of the United Arab Emirates by investing in its people." To that end, it develops and supports charitable initiatives in the areas of education, arts, culture and heritage, and health. In the arts, the Foundation works toward three strategic goals:

- 1) To support emerging and future Emirati artists in developing their talents at the earliest stages of their growth
- 2) To educate and engage the public in art and to build new audiences in the UAE for the arts
- 3) To introduce the international community to Emirati artistic talent

The Foundation is the family foundation of Sheikha Salama bint Hamdan Al Nahyan and was established by her in 2010.

3. 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. 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 organises ongoing activities and develops mechanisms to secure the necessary support required to achieve its goals.

4. Michele Bambling

Dr. Michele Bambling is Creative Director of the Lest We Forget initiative recently launched under the auspices of the National Center for Documentation and Research, the Salama Bint Hamdan Foundation and Twofour54. She received a Ph.D. from Columbia University in art history and a Postdoctoral Research Fellowship from The Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York. Bambling also taught art history and museum studies at Zayed University in Abu Dhabi, where she has resided for the past six years.

5. Venice Internship

Initiated in 2009 in conjunction with the National Pavilion of the UAE at the 53th International Art Exhibition, the Venice Internship Program offers a range of opportunities to young Emiratis keen to engage with culture and arts at the highest international level. The program focuses on a 1 month internship opportunity for an elite group of Emirati nationals based on-site in Venice acting as custodians of the National Pavilion. These interns manage the exhibition and participate in a rigorous educational program utilizing the wealth of museums, galleries and cultural institutions found throughout Venice. The Program runs throughout the 6 month duration of the Art and Architecture Biennale.

6. Location: Sale d'Armi

la Biennale di Venezia has marked an important milestone in its long history by awarding the United Arab Emirates, the first Gulf National to participate in the Art and Architecture Biennale, with a long-term hospitality agreement in the Arsenale - Sale d'Armi. The agreement was finalized through the United Arab Emirates Ministry of Foreign Affairs. la Biennale di Venezia is world-renowned for the biannual International Art and Architecture Exhibitions, as well as the International Film Festival, and continues the great tradition of the Festivals of Contemporary Music and Theatre, now flanked by the Festival of Contemporary Dance. la biennale di Venezia granted the UAE a large prominent positioning within the Arsenale, in recognition of its emergence as a cultural and urban hub.

