

Media Alert

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Date: Feb 26, 2014

Brief Description:

The National Pavilion United Arab Emirates (UAE) la Biennale di Venezia, commissioned by the Salama bint Hamdan Al Nahyan Foundation, and under the support of the Ministry of Culture, Youth and Community Development, is pleased to announce a call for material for its upcoming exhibition at the 14th International Architecture Exhibition. The exhibition is curated by Dr Michele Bambling, Creative Director of the Lest We Forget initiative. It will be held from June 7 – November 23, 2014, in the National Pavilion's new permanent pavilion located in the Arsenale - **Sale d'Armi**.

Lest We Forget: Structures of Memory in the UAE is curated by Dr. Michele Bambling in collaboration with the research team of Adina Hemple, Marco Sosa and Hanan Sayed Worrell. Examining the architectural history of 1914-2014, this exhibition focuses on the early years of nation building and the initial encounter with modernism during the 1970's to the 1980's. Through empirical records from architects and engineers as well as the voices and photographs of residents, the exhibition aims to contextualize the modernist architecture of the UAE within a global framework, while showing its adaptation to the culture and climactic conditions of the region.

Functioning as a provisional laboratory of archival research and drawing upon primary material, the project seeks the stories, photographs and memories of the people who experienced these spaces during the hyper-pace of development.

Photo Caption (L to R):

1. National House, My father's friend Ahmed Abdulla Al Jassasi, Al Shahama, 1980 (photograph provided by Houreya Naser Musabah Khamis Al Kalbani)
2. Al Shahama shopping arcade along Sheikh Zayed Rd, 2014 (photograph by Marco Sosa)
3. Sheikh Rashid Tower, Dubai, 1983, FRONT of Postcard, Postcard labeled WTC, written by Dutch expat written in Dutch, sent from Dubai to Holland
4. Sheikh Rashid Tower, 1983 (BACK of Postcard) Postcard labeled WTC, written by Dutch expat written in Dutch, sent from Dubai to Holland
5. Dr. Michele Bambling, Curator, (photograph by Juliette Bisset)
6. Adina Hempel, Hanan Sayed Worrell, Dr. Michele Bambling, Marco Sosa



Media Requests:

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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 art exhibition was organized. The International Architecture Exhibition dates back to 1975 and was formalized for biannual exhibitions in 1980. Currently in its 14th iteration, Rem Koolhaas has been appointed overall curator. Additionally, la Biennale hosts the International Art Exhibition, the Venice Film Festival, and Dance, Music and Theater Festivals.

2. Commissioner: The Salama bint Hamdan Al Nahyan Foundation

The Salama bint Hamdan Al Nahyan Foundation's mission is "to invest in the future of the United Arab Emirates by investing in its people." To that end, it develops and supports strategic initiatives in the areas of education; arts, culture, heritage; and health. The Foundation is the family foundation of Sheikha Salama bint Hamdan Al Nahyan and was founded by Her Highness 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. 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 (permanent pavilion) 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.

