



**NATIONAL PAVILION UNITED ARAB EMIRATES LA BIENNALE DI VENEZIA ANNOUNCES
THE APPOINTMENT OF SHEIKHA HOOR BINT SULTAN AL-QASIMI AS THE CURATOR FOR
THE 2015
56TH INTERNATIONAL ART EXHIBITION – LA BIENNALE DI VENEZIA**

*Commissioned by the Salama bint Hamdan Al Nahyan Foundation with the support of the
UAE Ministry of Culture, Youth and Community Development*

10 March – Abu Dhabi, UAE, The National Pavilion United Arab Emirates (UAE) la Biennale di Venezia, commissioned by the Salama bint Hamdan Al Nahyan Foundation, and under the Ministry of Culture, Youth and Community Development, is very pleased to announce the appointment of Sheikha Hoor bint Sultan Al-Qasimi, President and Director of the Sharjah Art Foundation, as the curator for the 56th International Art Exhibition – la Biennale di Venezia to be held in 2015.

Sheikha Hoor has contributed immeasurably to the growth of the critically renowned and respected Sharjah Biennial, and has helped expand the region's art and culture outreach to a wide audience through her work at the Sharjah Art Foundation. Her experience and ambitious vision have helped to realize milestone projects and exhibitions, placing the UAE firmly on the international art map. The National Pavilion UAE is honored to have Sheikha Hoor on board, and is confident that she will help to take the organization's academic and cultural programming to new heights.

"We are proud Her Excellency Sheikha Hoor Al-Qasimi will curate our 2015 exhibition in Venice. The National Pavilion will greatly benefit from her expertise and vision," says Her Highness Sheikha Mariam bint Mohamed Al Nahyan, Chair of the Salama bint Hamdan Al Nahyan Foundation.

"I am honored to serve in the role of curator for the National Pavilion for the UAE la Biennale di Venezia. I believe it is important to recognize the great depth of artistic talent in the UAE and to acknowledge the history of art and cultural production in this country," said Her Excellency Sheikha Hoor Al-Qasimi.

About Sheikha Hoor Al-Qasimi

Hoor Al-Qasimi, President and Director of the Sharjah Art Foundation, is a practicing artist who received her BFA from the Slade School of Fine Art, London (2002), a Diploma in Painting from the Royal Academy of Arts (2005) and an MA in Curating Contemporary Art from the Royal College of Art, London (2008). In 2003 she was appointed curator of Sharjah Biennial 6 and has continued as the Biennial's Director since that time.



She is Chair of the Advisory Board for the College of Art and Design, University of Sharjah, Member of the Advisory Board, Khoj International Artists' Association, India, and Ullens Center for Contemporary Art, Beijing, and serves on the Board of Directors for MoMA PS1, New York, KW Institute for Contemporary Art, Berlin, the International Biennial Association, Gwangju and Ashkal Alwan, Beirut. Al-Qasimi is a Visiting Lecturer at Slade School of Fine Art, London and is currently a Scholar-in-Residence with The Institute for Comparative Modernities (ICM) at Cornell University. She has served on the juries for the Dubai International Film Festival (2014), the Benesse Prize (2013), the Sheikha Manal Young Artist Award (2012) and the selection panel for the Berlin Biennial (2012).

Her recent and upcoming curatorial projects at SAF include *In Spite of it All* (2012) and *Ilya and Emilia Kabakov: A Collective Memory* (2013), and in 2014 *Ahmed Mater: 100 Found Objects*, *Abdullah Al Saadi: Al-Toubay*, *Rasheed Araeen: Before and After Minimalism*, *Wael Shawky: Horsemen Adore Perfumes and other stories*, and *Susan Hefuna: Another Place*.

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NOTES TO EDITORS:

1. The 56th International Art Exhibition - la Biennale di Venezia

Universally recognized as the world's most prestigious contemporary art event, la Biennale di Venezia (the Venice Biennale) dates back to 1895 when the first art exhibition was organized. It is the oldest non-commercial art exhibition devoted to contemporary art in the world. It will present its 56th iteration in 2015. In addition to the International Art Exhibition, la Biennale hosts the International Architecture Biennale, Film Festival, Music, Theater and Dance Festivals.

In recognition of the emergence of the UAE as a cultural hub, the Biennale signed a long-term hospitality agreement with the UAE providing a highly visible site in the Arsenale – Sale d'Armi for the National Pavilion of the UAE to present its exhibitions through 2034.

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

4. National Pavilion United Arab Emirates

Initiated in 2008 National Pavilion United Arab Emirates la Biennale Di Venezia manages the UAE's participation in various offerings of la Biennale di Venezia. Currently, the National Pavilion engages the International Architecture exhibition with a debut pavilion in 2014, curated by Michelle Bambling, and the International Art Exhibition with participation in 2009, 2011 and 2013.

The office also organizes the Venice Internship, offering a range of opportunities to young Emiratis keen to engage with culture and arts at the highest international level through a 1 month internship on-site in Venice acting as custodians of the National Pavilion. These interns manage the exhibition and participate in a rigorous educational program.

