

Qatar Museums opens four major exhibitions

Qatar Museums (QM) yesterday launched major exhibitions at the Mathaf: Arab Museum of Modern Art and the Museum of Islamic Art (MIA).

As part of Mathaf's 10th anniversary programme, the museum unveiled three exhibitions including two major monograph exhibitions by leading women artists and an extensive survey of art and culture in Doha spanning more than half a century.

Marking her first major solo museum exhibition in the Gulf region, Moroccan-French artist Yto Barrada showcases photographs, films, videos, sculptures, prints and fabric works that focus on threads of regeneration and growth in social and geological transformation in "Yto Barrada: My Very Educated Mother Just Served Us Nougat." Barrada is known for her work which engages with self-education, architecture, palaeontology, botany and modernist histories in order to explore forms of knowledge production.

Also making her museum exhibition debut in the Arab region is Huguette Caland, daughter of the first president of the independent Republic of Lebanon. Named "Huguette Caland: Faces and Places," the exhibition features six decades of Caland's paintings, drawings, caftans, smocks and sculptures, including a selection of never before exhibited works. It is organised around three different geographical locations that define Caland's personal and professional journey namely Beirut, Paris and

California.

“Lived Forward: Art and Culture in Doha from 1960–2020” focuses on Mathaf collection and expands on research and local collaborations. It looks at reference points of generations of artists, intellectuals and cultural activists who played a major role in activating the cultural scene in Doha for the past 60 years through a display of paintings, archival materials, photography, video, and installation.

The exhibitions are part of the extensive programme of exhibitions, artists residencies, research projects, discussions, workshops and community events taking place in Mathaf’s 10th anniversary year.

“This is a momentous time in the world’s history. As we start to re-open our cultural institutions, we want to bring the museum closer to the issues of our societies and contribute to amplifying the voices of art at a global scale. Mathaf is conceived as a place of production and debate of ideas for the co-presences of multiple cultures and perceptions of the world. We are a young organisation. And we still have a lot to learn. But we aim to amplify the voices of art from our part of the world and contribute to the international discourse about the role of culture in a fractured time,” said Abdellah Karroum, Director of Mathaf.

The much anticipated “A Falcon’s Eye: Tribute to Sheikh Saoud Al Thani” opened yesterday at MIA. This exhibition which runs until April 10 next year celebrates the outstanding accomplishments of one of Qatar’s greatest collectors, who was largely responsible for laying the foundation for Qatar Museums’ world-class collections.

The exhibition showcases more than 300 outstanding art works from prehistoric fossils and Egyptian antiquities to Orientalist paintings and masterpieces of the history of photography in a spectacular display following the concept of Renaissance “cabinets of curiosities,” reflecting Sheikh Saoud’s fascination with both natural history and the world of art.

Visitors planning to see the exhibitions must purchase tickets in advance on QM’s website. During their visit, they must present a “green” health status on the Ehteraz virus-tracing app and wear face masks for the duration of their visit.



