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MF Husain, Adel El Siwi works highlight of Art Dubai 2010

By Staff Writer

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More than 70 galleries will attend this year's art festival. (SUPPLIED)

Organisers of Art Dubai 2010 has announced this year's programme of events, which is set to launch on March 17 and continue until March 20.

More than 70 galleries from 30 countries will participate at the annual art event, now in its third year.

Additionally, a series of special events will take place, including the Global Art Forum, the Abraaj Capital Art Prize, special projects curated by Bidoun Projects and The Poetry of Time presented by Van Cleef & Arpels.

Of the galleries participating in Art Dubai 2010, up to a quarter are innovating by creating Artist Focus Stands which feature the work of only one or two artists.

These new stands at Art Dubai will enable collectors and visitors to see a progress in a specific artist's work over time, rather than a quick snapshot of several artists represented by the gallery. Single or dual-focused galleries at Art Dubai will include pieces from modern Indian and Egyptian masters such as MF Husain and Adel El Siwi, as well as more up-and-coming artists from South Korea, Chile, Peru, Spain and the Sudan.

Meanwhile, several galleries participating in Art Dubai 2010 will champion emerging regional talent, including Lebanon's Ayman Baalbaki and Iraqi painter Mahmoud Obaidi, both from Agial Art Gallery in Beirut.

Bahrain's Albareh Art Gallery will feature a focus on works by Sudanese artist Mohammed Omer Khalil and Faisal Laibi Sahi from Iraq. Rossi & Rossi from London is exclusively showcasing work by Pakistani

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Vice President, Prime Minister and Ruler of Dubai, His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, attended this

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artist Naiza Khan.

Locally, Dubai-based Green Art Gallery will feature the work of Turkish artist Nazif Topcuoglu.

While the photographer has been shown widely across Europe, this will be his first exhibition in a regional art fair.

With regards to event highlights, the Global Art Forum, known as the Middle East's most influential platform for cultural discussion, will feature a wide range of discussions, from "Modernism in Iran" to the shifting paradigms of public and private art patronage.

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