

Sam Bardaouil and Till Fellrath to curate the National Pavilion UAE at the 2019 Venice Biennale

The internationally recognized independent curators and academics are Founders of the curatorial platform Art Reoriented, Chairmen of the Montblanc Cultural Foundation, and Affiliate Curators at the Martin-Gropius-Bau



Sam Bardaouil (right) and Till Fellrath, curators of the National Pavilion UAE for the 2019 Venice Biennale. Courtesy National Pavilion UAE – La Biennale di Venezia.

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Independent curators and academics Sam Bardaouil and Till Fellrath will curate the UAE's National Pavilion at the 2019 Venice Biennale, marking the UAE's sixth participation in the International Art Exhibition since 2009.

Bardaouil and Fellrath are the Founders of the multidisciplinary curatorial platform Art Reoriented in Munich and New York, Chairmen of the Montblanc Cultural Foundation in Hamburg, and Affiliate Curators at the Martin-Gropius-Bau in Berlin. Bardaouil and Fellrath have jointly curated numerous critically acclaimed exhibitions at renowned museums and institutions worldwide, and have held teaching positions at universities including the London School of Economics and New York University. They are award-winning authors with contributions to academic journals, books, newspapers and art magazines.

"The National Pavilion UAE's exhibition connects local and global cultural conversations. Through their extensive professional experience in the region, Sam Bardaouil and Till Fellrath have already contributed to the nuanced conversations defining the UAE's contemporary art scene. We look

forward to sharing their unique perspective with the Biennale’s global audiences through an engaging, creative and insightful exhibition,” said **Khulood Al Atiyat, Manager of Arts, Culture and Heritage at the Salama bint Hamdan Al Nahyan Foundation**, commissioner of the National Pavilion UAE.

The 58th International Art Exhibition of the Venice Biennale will take place from 11 May to 24 November 2019, and brings together more than 80 National Pavilions.

“The UAE has a distinctive contemporary art scene consisting of a heterogeneous range of artists and cultural practitioners, said the curators, **Sam Bardaouil and Till Fellrath**. “Through our work in the region, we have met some remarkable artists who are responding in intriguing and creative ways to a rapidly evolving multicultural society. For this sixth edition of the Pavilion, we will follow a new curatorial approach that will highlight some previously unexplored multidisciplinary strands within the UAE’s diverse cultural landscape.”

Over the past decade, Bardaouil and Fellrath have curated exhibitions including *Art et Liberté: Rupture, War, and Surrealism in Egypt (1938 – 1948)*, *When Process Becomes Form: Dansaekhwa and Korean Abstraction*, *Staging Film, Tea with Nefertiti* and *Mona Hatoum: Turbulence*, as well as the Lebanese Pavilion for the 55th Venice Biennale in 2013. Their exhibitions have been shown in leading global cultural institutions such as Centre Pompidou in Paris, Reina Sofia in Madrid, IVAM in Valencia, Kunstsammlung K20 in Dusseldorf, the Gwangju and Busan Museums of Art in South Korea, the Tate Liverpool, and the Moderna Museet in Stockholm.

Their most recent exhibition *Ways of Seeing*, which brings together 41 works by 26 artists and collectives, is on display at NYUAD Art Gallery in Abu Dhabi until 17 November 2018. It was previously displayed at ARTER – space for art in Istanbul and the Boghossian Foundation – Villa Empain in Brussels.

The National Pavilion UAE is commissioned by the Salama bint Hamdan Al Nahyan Foundation and supported by the Ministry of Culture and Knowledge Development. The UAE has participated in the International Art Exhibition of the Venice Biennale since 2009 and maintains a permanent pavilion in the Arsenale – Sale d’Armi.

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Notes to Editors

National Pavilion UAE la Biennale di Venezia

Through participation at La Biennale di Venezia (Venice Biennale), the National Pavilion United Arab Emirates - La Biennale di Venezia (NPUAE) supports the arts and architectural practices of the UAE on an international platform, and promotes a cultural dialogue between the UAE and the international community.

The UAE's participation at La Biennale di Venezia commenced in 2009 with a national pavilion at the 53rd International Art Exhibition, and has continued in subsequent editions of the art exhibition. It is currently participating for the third time in the International Architecture Exhibition, which runs until November 25, 2018.

The National Pavilion UAE also organizes the Venice Internship, offering opportunities to young residents of the UAE through a one-month internship on site in Venice acting as custodians and docents of the National Pavilion. Rotated on a monthly basis throughout the six months of the biennale, the different intern groups oversee the daily operations of the exhibition and participate in an educational program, run in partnership with Ca' Foscari University and other cultural institutions in the UAE and Venice.

The National Pavilion UAE - La Biennale di Venezia is commissioned by the Salama bint Hamdan Al Nahyan Foundation, and supported by the UAE Ministry of Culture and Knowledge Development.

Commissioner: The Salama bint Hamdan Al Nahyan Foundation

The Salama bint Hamdan Al Nahyan Foundation (SHF) is a private not-for-profit foundation committed to the cultivation of a more creative, connected and thriving UAE community. Based in Abu Dhabi, SHF oversees a diverse portfolio of not-for-profit programs and initiatives spanning the arts, culture, heritage, human development and early childhood development in the UAE and internationally. Underpinning SHF's activities is a common ambition to invest in the knowledge and capabilities of the UAE people in order to support them to unlock their full potential.

Supporter: UAE Ministry of Culture and Knowledge Development

The Ministry of Culture and Knowledge Development highlights 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 to create 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.