

TYARD  
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# سكّة sikka

15-25 | مارس | 2014  
MARCH

مُعاليمة رئيسية في  
Pillar event of

دبي للثقافة  
Dubai Culture

موسم دبي الفني  
DUBAI ART SEASON



سكّة  
sikka

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## DUBAI CULTURE & ARTS AUTHORITY

The dynamic and progressive nature of Dubai required a dedicated governing body that would preserve its values, traditions and heritage while spearheading the Emirate's development as an influential driver of culture and the arts in the region. The Dubai Culture and Arts Authority (Dubai Culture) was established in 2008 by His Highness Sheikh Mohammed Bin Rashid Al Maktoum, UAE Vice President, Prime Minister and Ruler of Dubai, to spearhead and support the development and accelerated growth of the cultural industry in Dubai and position it as the nerve centre that shapes art and culture across the region. Since its inception, Dubai Culture has launched several pioneering initiatives that have enriched the region's cultural scene.

Beyond the stunning facades of its iconic skyscrapers and towers, Dubai is a multidimensional city recognized internationally for its cosmopolitan offerings and premium lifestyle. Home to a unique network of over 200 nationalities, this dynamic society offers global connectivity and world class creativity, making its cultural scene one of the most diverse and colourful in the world.

Dubai Culture is committed to promoting inter-cultural understanding and exchange while building on its rich Arabian identity and preserving its national heritage. Many of our initiatives and projects focus on building a strong creative environment, nurturing and developing talents here and on the international arts scene, as well as strengthening artistic community engagement.

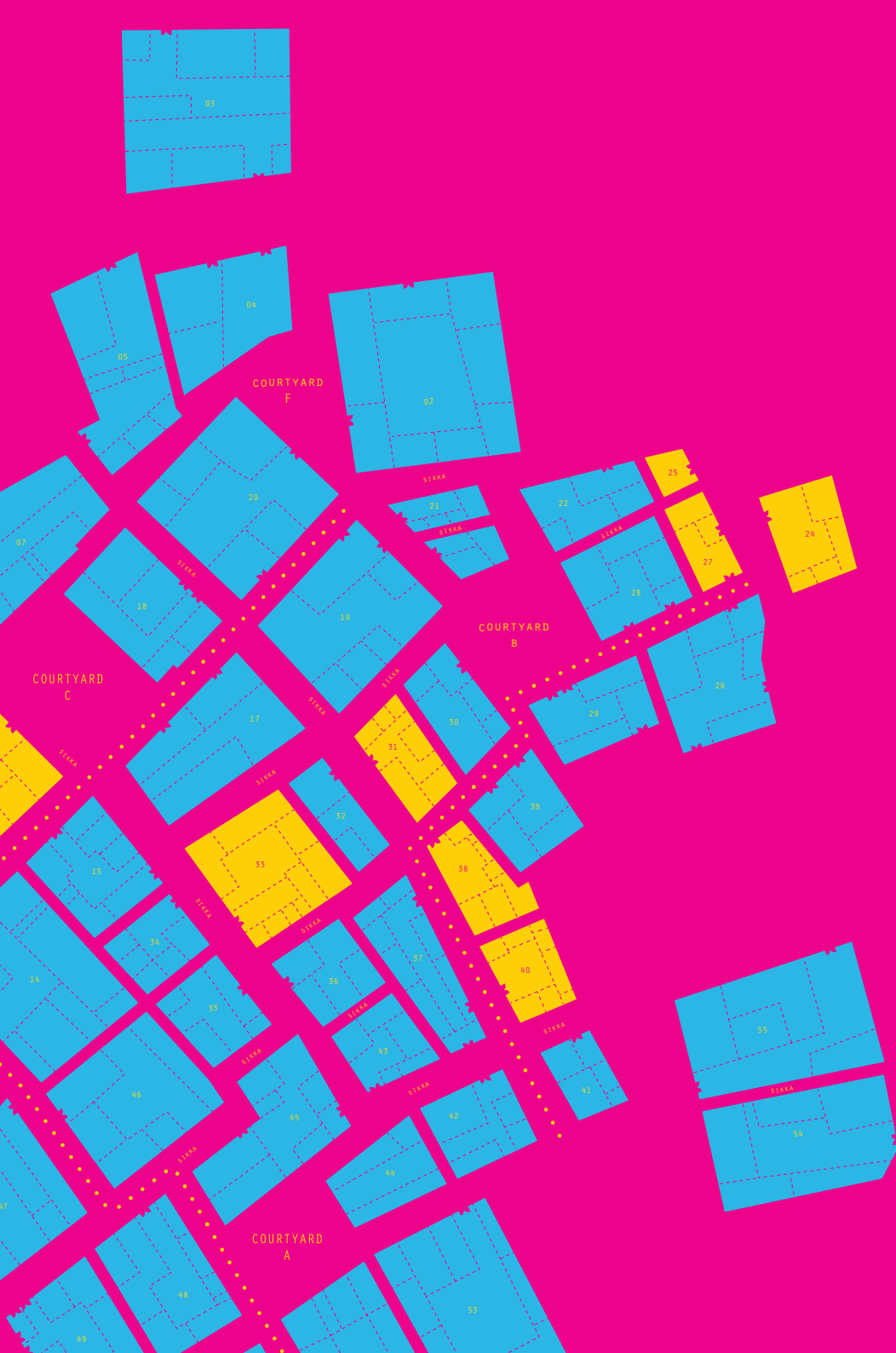
## SIKKA 2014

Produced by the Dubai Culture and Art Authority, SIKKA is an annual exhibition specifically designed to feature UAE contemporary art practices, initiatives and discourse through a diversity of artistic talent and stance, providing opportunity to experience homegrown creativity at its liveliest and best, in the heart of Dubai.

Now in its fourth year, this unique, artist-led fair-cum-festival includes 50 commissions, featuring filmmakers, musicians and performing artists, alongside visual artists, who have created site-specific works that respond to the neighbourhood's network of traditional windtower houses and sikkas (alleyways). Commissioned musicians are set to perform live throughout the ten-day fair, in addition to developing an experimental album.

Committed to being an incubator of ideas, following the overwhelming response to SIKKA's Open Call and an intensive selection process, individual mentorship was offered to emerging artists throughout the production period. The fair's mandate is aligned with the development of the non-commercial arts sector in Dubai; this year's programme features a very diverse roster of established and emerging artists, many of whom are experimenting with both new concepts and new media. The 2014 Jury was chaired by Her Highness Sheikha Wafa Hasher Al Maktoum, Founder and Director of FN Designs, and Japanese architect and programme director Kayoko Iemura, the official curators of 'Dubai Art Season' and SIKKA, and assisted by Yusaka Imamura, the Art Advisor to the fair.

Expanding SIKKA's interactive impact, a diverse selection of UAE-based initiatives also have a presence at the fair. Working across different media, they have taken a lead in programming spaces devoted to design, animation, multimedia, and talks workshops and community events that actively seek to engage families and new audiences.



# COMMISSIONS

## ARTISTS

Abdul Azim Al Ghussein  
Asha Divakaran  
Azza Al Qubaissi  
Elise Vazelakis  
Gary Yong  
German Fernandez  
Haitham Issam  
Hessa Al Awadhi  
Hind Mezaina  
Hyunmin Bae  
Ivan Parati  
Joshua Watts  
Kevin Badni  
Khawla Darwish  
Liz Ramos-Prado  
Maha Shahin  
Maysoon Masalha & Bassam Al Selawi  
Jumairy  
Muhammed Shameel  
Musab Abdulqader Alrais  
Raja'a Khalid  
Reem Saeed  
Sema Orouk  
Sham Enbashi  
Sumaya Abdulqader Alrais  
Vikram Divecha  
Sheikha Wafa Bin Hasher Al Maktoum  
Woodman Lyon Taylor  
Qing Zhu  
Zinka Betjic

## COLLECTIVES

Down North  
Mzungu  
Reiner Erlings  
Lumiere  
Yogiaman Tracy Design  
Design House

## INITIATIVES

ISEA2014 - Zayed University  
Tasmena  
The Animation Chamber  
Abu Dhabi Art Hub

## MUSICIANS

As Per Casper  
Freshly Ground Sounds

# ARTISTS ▶

**ABDUL AZIM AL GHUSSEIN** House 13  
(b. UAE)  
*Three Matchsticks*  
Comic Book

This project is an experiment of a wordless communication. Cutout silhouettes are used to deliver a story that uses no words to include people who speak and read in various languages. The underlying theme of fire relates to the original source of shadow puppetry.

**ASHA DIVAKARAN** House 16  
(b. India)  
*Industrial Glory*  
Graphic design / Digital prints

In this series, the familiar elements of the industrial world are transposed from dusty roads and desolate backdrops onto clean graphic layouts, showing that indeed there lies a simple yet bold beauty within.

**AZZA AL QUBAISSI** Courtyard C  
(b. UAE)  
*Ershan*  
Installation

This project is meant to reconnect the local community of Emiratis and residents with the past by introducing an interactive multi-sensorial public art installation made up of simple natural material that used to be part of the fabric of life five decades ago.

**ELISE VAZELAKIS** House 31  
(b. USA)  
*The Gamcha Project*  
Fibre Art

Elise's current works are weavings that incorporate gamchas (head scarves) and photographs of the Dubai labor force. Her hope is that the viewer of these textile pieces will recognize these hard working men as the "fabric" of the Dubai landscape.

**GARY YONG A.K.A ENFORCE ONE**  
House 16  
(b. Malaysia)  
*Habitat Invasion*  
Spray Paint / Ink / Acrylic

The artist illustrates the beauty of the species discovered in some of the natural habitats within the UAE, using art to communicate the importance of preservation and the conservation our environment.

**GERMAN FERNANDEZ** House 16  
(b. Peru)  
*Labyrinth*  
Installation

Inspired by the Al Fahidi narrow lanes and the crossroad of psychology and urbanism, the artist takes the vision of the urban space as a labyrinth, and of the labyrinth as a discovery path for the construction of your own voice, a search for identity, where you define your place in the world by your own right and imagination.

**HAITHAM ISSAM** House 16  
(b. Abu Dhabi)  
*Letters Free From Dogma*  
Ink on Paper

Words are combinations of sounds  
The same sounds that make up musical notes  
Our words are spoken music  
Letters are combinations of curves  
Curves that, on their own, create beauty  
Letters are in no need for meaning

**HESSA AL AWADHI** House 38  
(b. Dubai)  
*Shaikha in Desert Land*  
Installation

Bringing a bit of Alice in Wonderland to the Arabian Desert, there comes the Arabian Shaikha who's graceful, beautiful & is well placed in her Arabian environment, where her forest, the Sahara is scattered with

our Ghaf trees, reciting Arabic Poetry in the voice of Osha Al Suwaidi, the most famous female Emirati Poet.

**HIND MEZAINA** House 16  
(b. Dubai)  
*Deira Polaroids*  
Photography

*Deira Polaroids* is an ongoing series of images taken during frequent walks and visits to Deira. It's an ode to Deira, to visually showcase the thriving part of "old" Dubai. The exhibition is accompanied by an essay titled "Deira Modern, Notes from Dubai" by Todd Reisz.

**HYUNMIN BAE** House 38  
(b. South Korea)  
*The Dignity*  
Drawing

*The Dignity* is a series of drawings to represent an old Korean Muslim woman's appearances of internal and external. In the Chosun era of Korean history, women must cover their figures when they go out to protect their own and their family's dignity, similarly to Islamic guidance. Bae combines the old Korean folk paintings, cultural objects and clothes with the Islamic culture.

**IVAN PARATI** House 31  
(b. Italy)  
*Papercave*  
Installation

*Papercave* is a metaphoric representation of our sub-consciousness. The more you enter the darker it will be. You can discover a place of quietness from where you clearly find yourself from inside. Other smaller niches cannot be access by adults: only kids are pure enough to enter and get to a deeper consciousness.

**JOSHUA WATTS** House 31  
(b. USA)

*Revealed Dialogue*

*Solar-Powered Lightboxes*

*Revealed Dialogue* is a series of collaborative portraits using solar-powered lightboxes, sharing stories of individuals living and working in the Dubai area. The subjects of these pieces directly influenced the content of each piece by writing about themselves and communicating directly with the viewing audience. Only portions of the finished work are visible during the day, but at night viewers are able to see each work in its entirety.

**KEVIN BADNI** House 16  
(b. United Kingdom)

*'Still'*

*Interactive*

The Al Fahidi Historical Neighbourhood has a significant past relating to Dubai and its development. Even though the artwork uses the latest image analysis and processing software it juxtaposes traditional camel leather as the screen medium whilst a bespoke Bedouin style seat evokes connections to the past. This reflects the essence of Dubai; with its roots firmly placed in the UAE's heritage but also always looking forward with the latest use of technologies.

**KHAWLA DARWISH** House 38  
(b. Dubai)

*Quotes from the Heart*

*Acrylic paint on canvas*

This piece of art takes old Emirati sayings or quotes about different subject matters and transfers them onto the canvas, replacing the word "Heart" with the artist's signature drawing of a cardiovascular heart.

**LIZ RAMOS-PRADO** House 31  
(b. Peru)

*A day*

*Mixed media*

These images are frozen stages that capture the common daily moments of solitude that allow us to get immersed in our inner world; a time of reflection, a time of decisions, and a time for self confrontation. Finally, a time where it is permitted to escape from reality, just for a while.

**MAHA SHAHIN** House 38  
(b. Syria)

*Swing*

*Video Art*

In spite of all this anxiousness, fear and hesitation you remain controlling me, as an endless legend, you and me inside an unbreakable circle, you remain and continue to keep me on this endless journey of solitude, love, nostalgia and pain.

**MAYSOON MASALHA** (b. Jordan) &  
**BASSAM AL SELAWI** (b. Jordan)

House 16

*Shadow Art*

*Mixed Media*

*Shadow Art* is a unique four-dimensional art piece. The artists' unique shadow sculptures combine modern sculpture techniques with Arabic calligraphy. When projecting a spotlight on the three-dimensional sculptures, they interrelate with their respective shadows, creating a visual narrative and illustrating each other in an unparalleled four dimensional way.

**JUMAIRY** House 31

*Ab Ovo*

*Mixed Media - Painting*

From the Beginning / From the Egg

**MUHAMMED SHAMEEL** House 31  
(b. India)

*Fragmented Hives*

*Visual Art Installation*

The installation is conceived as an assemblage of various hives. The hives represent different segments of the society that we live in. Being fragmented need not necessarily reflect the disintegration of it, rather it showcases integrity in a diversified environment.

**MUSAB ABDULQADER ALRAIS**

House 40

(b. Dubai)

*Abstract*

*Oil color and acrylic (mixed color)*

*on canvas*

The past by abstract touches.

**RAJA'A KHALID** House 40

(b. Saudi Arabia)

*Desert Golf*

*Archival Inkjet Print*

These desert divot diggers are playing on a golf course built by the Arabian American Oil Co. for its employees. The players use red balls which stand out against the blankness of the sand fairways and the blackness of the greens. There is no roll on the sand.

**REEM SAEED** House 40

(b. Dubai)

*UAE Villages; A Visual Documentation*

*Photography*

An introduction to a book; a unique visual & sensory presentation of an extensive visual portfolio of hidden and sometimes inaccessible villages around the UAE. Discovering scattered communities within the UAE through numerous adventurous trips and map searching.

**SEMA OROUK** House 16  
(b. Syria)

*Consigned to Oblivion*

*Installation*

*Consigned to Oblivion* is a manifestation of the metaphysical expression of art. The forms in this art piece are created from both constructed and discovered narratives. Through a series of physical and digital experiments, enigmatic images and forms are created to evoke certain spiritual expression. The artwork becomes a reflection of the viewer's subconscious thoughts and ideas creating a clearer image of one's insight.

**SHAM ENBASHI** House 16  
(b. Sharjah)

*Life Out of Balance*

*Digital Photography*

*Life Out of Balance* is a series of portraits depicting an insight into human emotions and allowing the people portrayed to come alive in a physical realisation, providing an insight into the basic quality of this person's struggles in life.

**SUMAYA ABDULQADER ALRAIS** -  
House 40

(b. Dubai)

*Redolent*

*Watercolour*

In her water paintings the artist takes the viewer through a journey to the past by creating classic traditional Emirati scenery with the strokes of her brush.

**VIKRAM DIVECHA**

*Alley behind* House 16

(b. Beirut)

*Differed Cross Section*

*Video*

This video project traces the path of the Historic Bur Dubai Wall through modern day Dubai. *Differed*

*Cross Section*, which is projected within the cross section dimensions of the wall, is an attempt to unspool a sculptural journey, where the present overlaps the past. This project was supported by the Architectural Heritage Department of Dubai Municipality.

**H.H. SHEIKHA WAFI HASHER**  
**AL MAKTOUM** House 38  
(b. UAE)

Artworks by HH Sheikha Wafi Hasher  
Al Maktoum.

**WOODMAN LYON TAYLOR** House 16  
(b. USA)

*Cycling the City*  
Installation

Woodman Taylor uses the experience of cycling in the city to interrogate the role of South Asian workers within the pulse of a growing Dubai. In photographic and video essays, Woodman activates a subaltern worker's view and experience of the city from the moving perspective of an Indian Atlas bicycle. The project also advocates for a greener and healthier Dubai achieved through cycling.

**QING ZHU** House 16  
(b. China)

*Impression, Dubai*  
Watercolor painting

*Impression, Dubai* is a group of impressionist watercolor paintings. The paintings come from the artist's impressions of ordinary life in Dubai. They are records of time and memories.

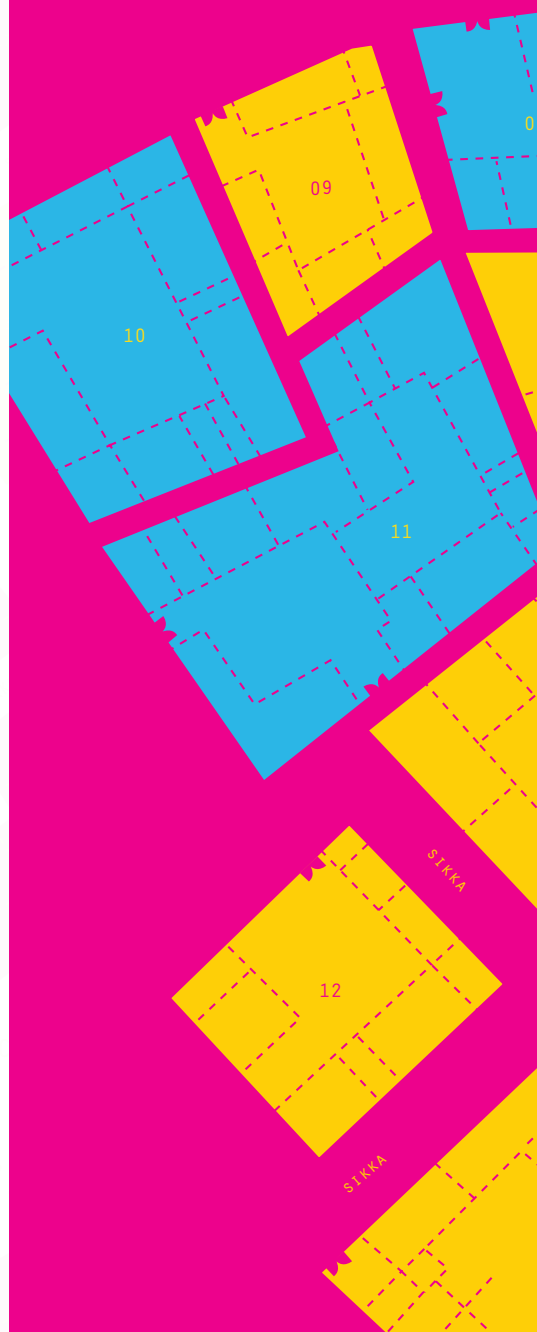
**ZINKA BETJIC** House 16  
(b. Sarajevo)

*Fragments*

Video installation

The project questions the universal challenges and rewards of women who are both mothers and artists. The project aims to start a conversation on how being a mother actually contributes to growing as an artist and how the art profession should be taken more seriously and not be dismissed as a hobby.

## COLLECTIVES ▶



**DESIGN HOUSE** House 33

Design House, founded by Mobius Design Studio in 2013, is a concentrated center for design; a context that showcases a selection of multi-disciplinary design projects within a curated space. It is a platform and catalyst for the public to explore design beyond the confines of the commercial. In its second edition, Design House is co-organized with Faysal Tabbarah, and is exhibiting the work of eighteen locally based designers. The participating designers are encouraged to build an inquiry within this year's proposed theme, Inward Geographies. The house is also hosting a series of talks & workshops informed by the processes investigated in the exhibited work.

**DOWN NORTH** House 31

Margo Tummel, (b. Australia) and  
Nina Hein, (b. Germany)

*Majlis Stories*

Mixed Media, audio

*Majlis Stories* maps Dubai through stories told by the people who live in this city and give it its multinational character. Down North invite you to sit on the majlis, the traditional Emirati sitting place, and listen or contribute to the mapping by telling your own story of unique encounters.

**MZUNGU** House 16

Setareh Ibrahim (b. Dubai), Alanood Bukhammas (b. Dubai), Asma Bukhammas (b. Dubai), Judy Mahfouz (b. Syria), Rama Husamddine (b. Dubai), Nour Abdel Hamid (b. Dubai)

*Ana Mzungu*

*Projection / Installation*

Six different characters coming from different backgrounds came together for a life-changing experience that started with a volunteering programme in Africa. It became a turning point in their lives and an inspiration to create an art installation.

## REINER ERLINGS House 16

Reiner Erlings (b. Netherlands) & Gayathri Krishnan-Erlings (b. India)  
*What Do You Hear?*

Music & Art: Mixed Media, Film, Spoken Word, Contemporary Dance & Fine Art

Award-winning composer Reiner Erlings created one piece of music that traveled to many artists, inspiring each of them to create a work of art that represents their interpretation of the composition in the medium of their choice. 'What Do You Hear?' exhibits these works of art.

## LUMIÈRE House 40

Shereen Saif (b. India) & Swapna Kurup (b. India)  
*The Unmanifested*  
Film

Beyond the physical world, lies the latent world of shadows... *The Unmanifested* is an experimental dance-film project that defines the domain of shadows as a metaphor for unmanifested tendencies, thoughts, desires and struggles. This unexplored world is called to life through three genres of Indian Classical Dance: Kathak, Bharatanatyam and Mohiniyattam.

## YOGIAMAN TRACY DESIGN House 16

Christine Yogiama (b. Indonesia) and Ken Tracy (b. USA)  
*Resonant Surface 01*  
Installation

*Resonant Surface 01* is a series of horns which coalesce to allow a single performer's singing, praying, or talking to be amplified in all directions within a confined space. Inspired from the loudspeakers at the top of minarets and the huge banks of speakers at rock concerts the piece lends spatial and aesthetic character to devices that are typically seen as undesirable but necessary hardware.

## INITIATIVES ▶

## ISEA2014 House 27

The International Symposium on Electronic Art (ISEA) is the world's most important media arts event for the interdisciplinary discussion and showcase of creative productions applying new technologies in interactive and digital media. Presenting a series of programming at SIKKA to highlight and launch ISEA2014 includes the screening of the Mobile Escapades project, regional works, and videos from the Streaming Museum in NYC. Artistic Director, Janet Bellotto, will lead a Round Table Discussion with several local professionals to discuss the relevant topic, *Local and Locality*, highlighting various innovative projects that have been surfacing in the UAE. Three engaging workshops open to the public, will allow participants to explore a diverse range of materials and technology in innovative ways to express and create.

## ZAYED UNIVERSITY House 27

Zayed University College of Art and Creative Enterprises (CACE) will exhibit works by students and faculty that combine artistic approach, design thinking and technology integration. Having been selected to host the 20th International Symposium on Electronic Art (ISEA) taking place from 30 October to 8 November 2014, the institution presents innovative works under the theme of *Location*. The Zayed University House at SIKKA, features projections of digital videos and animation alongside artworks, installations and design work.

### TASMENA House 27

tasmena is an international not-for-profit association providing a link between communities, businesses and governments and aiming to have an impact on contemporary design, research, education and policy-making. tasmena deepens its understanding of spaces in and around Al Khor through an interactive exhibition, walk and talk on social interaction at SIKKA 2014.

### THE ANIMATION CHAMBER House 12

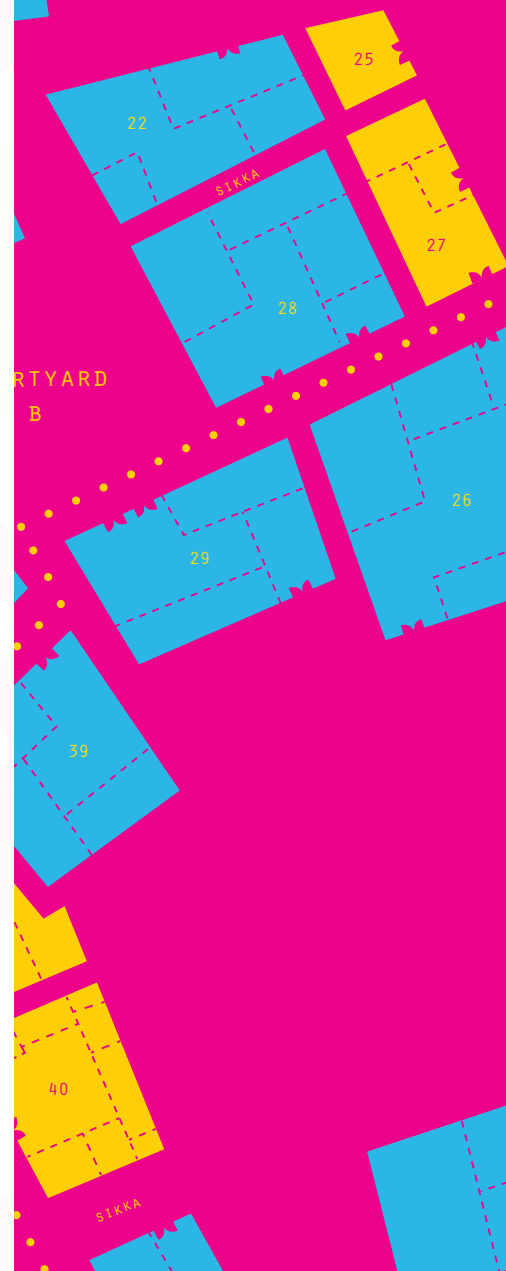
The Animation Chamber is a collective of diverse backgrounds living in Dubai, collaborating, experimenting and working together to produce stop-motion animations, pixilation projects, and light paintings (all quirks included). This year, The Animation Chamber is converting its space into an interactive laboratory; immersing its visitors to experience animation through shadow theatre, optical models, and illusions. It will also offer specialty workshops to create puppets and animation miscellanea, hold discussions and talks, and showcase international animations.

### ABU DHABI ART HUB

#### House 16, Courtyard C and Courtyard D

The Abu Dhabi Art Hub (ADAH), the first artist community to be established in the United Arab Emirates, is focused on emerging and established visual artists from across the world. ADAH serves as a cross-cultural platform for interaction between national, regional and international artists. Most recently, the Art Hub opened a second branch, Art Hub Liwa, located in the Liwa desert.

## SPECIAL FEATURES



## HIGHLIGHTS

### FAKiE House 13

Under the Kind Patronage of H.H. Sheikha Wafa Hasher Al Maktoum FN Designs will showcase the third edition of FAKiE#3 - a skateboard exhibition. The exhibition has always been popular and this time features works of 21 locally-based artists including H.H. Sheikha Wafa Hasher Al Maktoum, who have used new or broken skate decks as their canvas. With a variety of media, the diverse pool of artists have transformed the unconventional objects into striking pieces of art for the exhibition.

### BROWN MONKEYS

(Including Rollan Rodriguez, Mark Ganzon, Joseph Manata, Cholo Juan) Brown Monkeys are a design collective of multi-disciplinary artists based in Dubai, offering an alternative approach to contemporary art and design. During SIKKA 2014 they will be live painting on a skate ramp and wall around the theme of urban art and Dubai as a cultural hub.

### A.i.R DUBAI House 11

Held parallel to SIKKA, A.i.R Dubai 2014 - featuring five artists: Nadia Ayari, Sara Al Haddad, Maryam Al Qassimi, Maitha Demithan and Sunoj D, who are working alongside Dubai-based curator L. Ipek Ulusoy Akgül - will present an Open Studios exhibition at Al Fahidi Historical Neighbourhood. Additionally, site-specific works by the artists-in-residence will be exhibited at Art Dubai, Madinat Jumeirah, from 19 - 22 March, as part of Art Dubai Projects. Celebrating its 4th edition this year, A.i.R Dubai is a joint partnership between The Dubai Culture & Arts Authority (Dubai Culture), Delfina Foundation, Tashkeel and Art Dubai."

### THE MAGAZINE SHOP Courtyard A

The Magazine Shop is a first for Dubai – a café specialising in high quality coffee, and high quality independent magazines. They source only the most thought-provoking, inspiring, unique, and beautifully designed magazines from around the world. For SIKKA 2014, The Magazine Shop will be introducing a pop up shop which represents everything their big shop stands for. They will be selling a wide variety of books, vinyl, CD and of course magazines! They will also be programming events for each day of SIKKA including live musical performances, talks, workshops and vinyl nights to promote creative culture.

### ROCK CAMP FOR GIRLS UAE

Organised by women, for all girls aged from 8 to 18, Rock Camp for Girls UAE (RCFG UAE) is an in-depth, five-day course for wannabe rockers – the first of its kind in the UAE. The premise is simple: pick up an instrument, form a band, write a song and perform it in front of friends, family and screaming fans on the final day of the camp! “This is not just a music camp,” stresses Dubai Eye presenter Zahra Soar, camp organizer and co-founder. “This is a not-for-profit mentoring program that will empower girls and galvanise them into action.”

### GOUMBOOK – GIVE A GHAF

Goumbook leads the conservation of the Ghaf tree by giving the opportunity to plant the wild Ghaf and preserve its aesthetical, cultural and ecological significance. Later, when the trees are older and safe to be planted, Goumbook is committed to give them back to the local community, donating the new trees to parks, schools or urban areas. During SIKKA 2014, Goumbook

invite visitors to plant Ghaf seeds with Give a Ghaf Tree Planting Program.

### GULF PHOTO PLUS

Gulf Photo Plus (GPP) is the heart of the Middle East's photography community. They believe in the art and science of photography as a medium of creative expression, and exist to inform, educate and inspire people across the region. At SIKKA this year they will be presenting their Smartphone Photography Seminar – the best way to learn how to make the most of the camera that's always with you.

### EMIRATES PHOTOGRAPHERS FORUM

The Emirates Photographers forum (EPF) is a 'first of its kind' online Social Media gallery, providing photographers based in the UAE a platform to display their work, get appreciation and be recognized for their talent. This year, the Emirates Photographers Forum is proud to be part of Dubai Art Season, and to capture images that represent the artistic contribution and the overall spirit of this remarkable event.

### THE STATE

Founded in 2011, The State is a publishing practice that addresses pressing matters in society, culture, and technology. Its core interests are language, future technologies, and experimental book making. The founders have previously collaborated on 'Evolving Spaces', a book tracing the cultural history of Al Quoz, and barzakh, an urban research collective. At SIKKA, the talk will trace the evolution of The State as an editorial and design practice, and discuss the book as object.

### WORKSHOPS, TALKS & ACTIVITIES

American University in Dubai  
Architectural Heritage Society  
Art Anastasia  
Chiho Namba  
Dar Al Khatt – Abdel Fatah  
Dominika Durtan  
Elise Vazelakis  
Kayoko Iemura  
Lynette ten Krooden – The Majlis Gallery  
Mariam de Ricaud  
Michelle Harvey  
Omar Sharif & Marwan Al Khaja  
Rabi Georges  
Rayden Kusumo  
Sara Japanwalla  
Yusaku Imamura  
#TheConversationChair by the [sameness] project

## NON- GOVERNMENTAL ORGANISATIONS

### MANSOOR BIN MOHAMMED PHOTOGRAPHY AWARD

House 16

The Mansoor bin Mohammed Photography Award was launched to support and encourage promising and talented photographers in the UAE and the Arab world. With fully-fledged initiatives that span the various aspects of photography, the Award aims to be a platform for the development of the art of photography in the Arab world.

### EMIRATES FINE ARTS SOCIETY

House 9

Emirates Fine Arts Society has become one of the leading public-interest societies in the United Arab Emirates. It was established to care for the fine arts, nurture young talents and fine-tune the training courses and the representation of artists in the UAE in the official forums of local and international jurisdiction, as well as support the local artists and provide them with moral support, information and defending the rights of its members.

### SHARJAH ART FOUNDATION

House 19

The Sharjah Art Foundation was established in 2009 to carry forward the mission of the Sharjah Biennial. One of the most celebrated cultural events in the region, since 1993, the Sharjah Biennial has formed a cultural bridge between artists, art institutions and organisations locally, regionally and internationally. Reflecting the growing interest and enthusiasm for arts within the region, Sharjah Art Foundation works to advance the core initiatives of the Biennial while providing a broad framework of activities that respond to the challenges and opportunities in the art world today.

## STAGE PERFORMANCES

### AS PER CASPER

Music

This duo has roots in 2010 when two football teammates realised they also shared a passion for music. What began as 'jam sessions' quickly turned into casual performances for friends and now in 2014 a fully-fledged stage performance under the name As Per Casper.

### GAYATHRI KRISHNAN

Singer-Songwriter

With songs that range from evocatively low rumbling and moody ambiances to brutal and intense anthemic melodies, Gayathri's voice is her identity. Her debut album 'The Unknown' is the result of a highly successful crowdfunding campaign raising over \$23,000 in ten days. One of the highest rated unsigned artists to date by RollingStone ME, Gayathri's released 'The Unknown' independently in March, 2013.

### SAMAR JAD

Theatre

This theatrical company combines elements of modern western theatre with those of traditional Arabic linguistics for a truly unique, and culturally diverse performance.

### AHMAD HAMEED

Bayt al Oud - Music School

Ahmad Hameed is an Iraqi Oud player. He studied Music at the Faculty of Fine Arts in Baghdad. He then moved to Egypt to study at the Arabic House of Oud under the supervision of the musician Naseer Shamma. He graduated with an honor degree and became a teacher there. In 2008 he moved to teach Oud at the Arabic House of Oud of Abu Dhabi. He has performed across Europe and the Middle East.

## MARIAM YAKAN

### Singer-Songwriter

Mariam Yakan delivers introspective Arabic-infused original songwriting drawn from experiences in her native Lebanon and her travels around the globe. Her softly delivered vocals and unique playing style make her one of the city's more interesting up & coming female singer-songwriters.

## THE FUSION BEAT

### Arabic-Jazz Fusion Band

The Fusion Beat is the region's premiere band mixing traditional Arabic melodies with western and jazz motives. Led by renowned Qanun player and composer Khalil Ghadri, they effortlessly weave together the disparate sounds of their regional musical disciplines.

## KAMAL MUSALLAM

### Arabic Jazz

Fusing the disparate worlds of jazz and traditional Arabic music is not something that should technically be possible, however Jordanian guitarist Kamal Musallam makes it look easy. One of the region's true musical treasures he has travelled countless countries and festivals to bring his new sounds to the world.

## DAVID BEATS GOLIATH

### Indie Folk Band

With a folk-indie vibe reminiscent of the likes of Edward Sharpe and the Magnetic Zeros and Mumford and Sons, this UK/Dubai based band are one of the City's best kept secrets. Quirky, catchy melodies and heartfelt lyrics to make you ponder, David Beats Goliath are poised to take the Dubai music scene by storm in the coming months.

## JOSH MONTEITH

### Singer-Songwriter

A young up & coming troubadour from the wildly rising local singer-songwriter scene, Josh stands head and shoulders above his peers with his mellow musical musings as his popularity steadily grows with each performance.

## CHARLIE AL MAAMERI

### Singer-Songwriter

A young singer-songwriter with a healthy following on YouTube, Charlie sings from the heart about love, friendship and everything else his teenage mind cares to tackle.

## AARON KIM

### Cello Looping

Beautifully mellow electronic beats, live looped cello arrangements and occasional infusions of docile dubstep bursts, Aaron Kim's latest original compositional work combines the aforementioned musical styles.

## NORMAN BATAILLE

### Singer-Songwriter

In 2013 Norman Bataille was invited by Dubai Culture to perform at SIKKA. He took us for a ride through Cuban music, country, jazz, light rock and even funk genres fused in a unique way. Norman Bataille is not only a musician but a communicator who uses his mixed fused jazzy songs to reach people and involve them with the musical wealth of the past and the present.

## ABBO

### Singer-Songwriter

Singer-songwriter Abbo has spent the last few years traveling with his guitar and touring his solo projects from New York's Greenwich Village, heading east playing in Brighton, London, France, Beirut, Qatar, Dubai, Manila, Boracay Island

(Philippines) and ending some years later performing in Sydney and Bondi Beach. Bringing an original and honest set, Abbo is bound to tug at your heartstrings.

## ARWA

### Singer-Songwriter

One of the rare and truly local talents coming out of Dubai, young Arwa is an Emirati singer/songwriter with a sweet, melodic voice and repertoire of original songs.

## REINER ERLINGS

### Sound Installation

Producer, songwriter, multi-instrumentalist, film/TV scorer and orchestral composer, Erlings' dossier is as diverse as his musical ability. His work showcases everything from composition and sound design for award-winning ad campaigns, scores for films, documentaries, features and shorts by acclaimed filmmakers, some of the most creative musicians from the Middle East, composition and arrangements for the UAE Philharmonic Orchestra to a number of internationally acclaimed artists, from Flo Rida & Snoop Dogg, to Lumidee & Sean Kingston.

## KHALID ALBUDOOR

### Folk Music

Khalid Albudoor is considered one of the most important names in the modern poetry movement of the UAE. He began publishing his poetry in 1980 and has been active in his community, as a founder of the Emirati Writers' Union and a participant in several poetry festivals in the UAE and abroad. A winner of Alkhal Poetry Prize in Lebanon in 1992, he has published five volumes of his poetry.

## PAUL BESTER

### Opera

Paul Bester's vocal talents range from classical to commercial and he is a master of many genres and styles, specialising in classical opera. Used to playing the lead in multiple productions both in his home country of South Africa and internationally, this talented tenor has been the musical leader for multiple groups and productions.

## THE POETICIANS

### Poetry Evening

The Poeticians is a group of writers, readers, listeners, lovers and word warriors that have come together to share their work, thoughts, ambitions and fears with small intimate audiences in Beirut, Amman and Dubai. The poets are of all nationalities and read in a varied number of languages.

## MAHER AL HALABI BAND

### Fusion Band

Arabic vocalist has rounded up a selection of the region's prolific musicians to create something truly original combining Arabic, Latin and Western sounds.

## SHAY

### Singer-Songwriter

Shay's performance beginnings were born at Festival City back in 2007. Now with a fully blossomed musical career spanning across some of Dubai's top venues and events, Shay returns to his roots and performs his mature brand of funk and soulful repertoire of original and crowd-pleasing covers.

## TEAGUEN SCOTT

### Harp Looping

Teaguen Scott is a young musician who thinks outside the box. Combining a looping station and

synthesizers with the gracefulness of his harp playing, he turns the conventions of his instrument on their head creating a nu-classical sound that's unheard of in the region.

### CRAIG PERRY

Singer-Songwriter

Dubai's newest rising star, Craig Perry, has been an unstoppable force on the local music scene since his debut as part of The Fridge Singer/Songwriter Showcase in June 2013. Chosen as runner-up in the 2013 Rolling Stone ME Street To Stage competition, and having recently released his debut solo EP "Small Steps, Big Shoes" his now trademarked brand of heartfelt music is making big, big waves.

### DESERT STREAMS

Music

Bulgarian harpist Lidia Stankulova presents her new classical-arabic fusion project, Desert Streams. Culminating in harp, flute, oud and marimba, the group promise a meditative experience.

### FRESHLY GROUND SOUNDS

Music

A non-profit initiative to create a community and platform for spreading independent acoustic sounds across unassuming venues in the UAE. Freshly Ground Sounds will feature the following artists during SIKKA 2014: Moh Flow, Physical Graffiti, Peter Martin, Josh Monteath, Mariam Yakan, Healer Twins, Kudos By Proxy and Soundblock.

### SHORT + SWEET

Theatre performance

Short+Sweet is a global festival brand, presenting highly successful theatre, dance, cabaret and song (musical theatre) festivals around the world. They provide audiences with exciting and contemporary works that challenge and entertain. Short+Sweet's mission is to build theatre-going audiences around the world.

## SCORE ▶ ARTISTS

### GAYATHRI KRISHNAN

With songs that range from evocatively low rumbling and moody ambiances to brutal and intense anthemic melodies, Gayathri's voice is her identity. A champion of the independent movement with a growing and active fan base, her debut album 'The Unknown' is the result of a highly successful crowdfunding campaign raising over \$23,000 in ten days. One of the highest rated unsigned artists to date by Rolling Stone ME, Gayathri released 'The Unknown' independently in March, 2013.

### AHMAD HAMEED

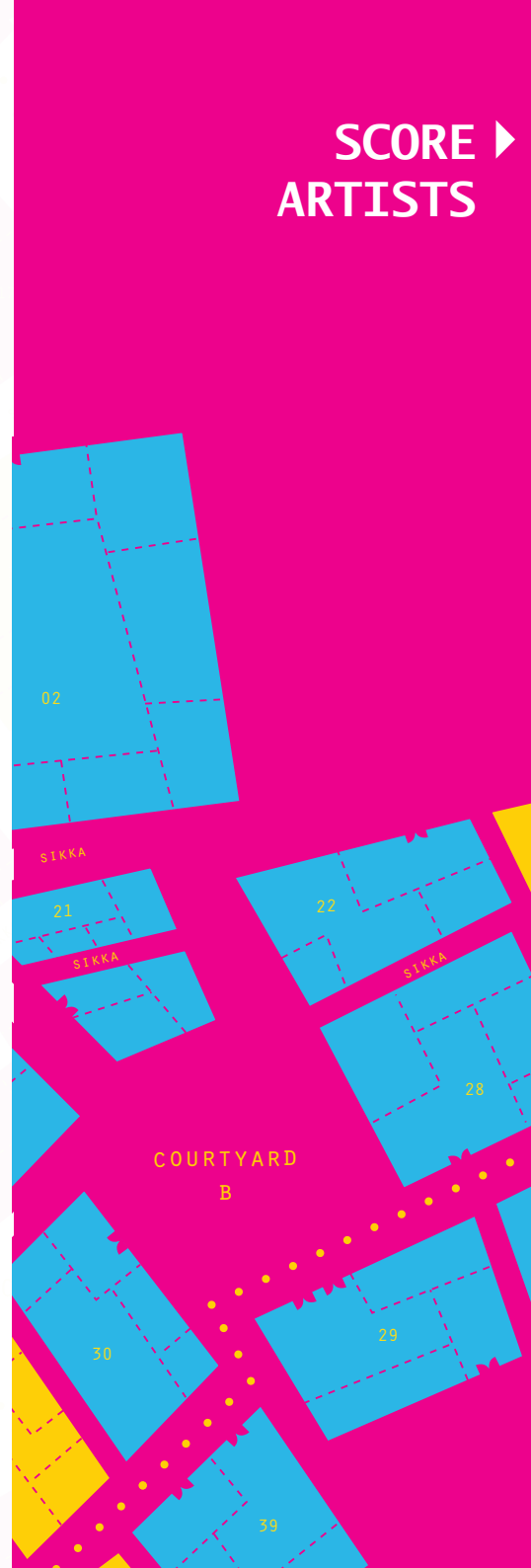
Ahmad Hameed is an Iraqi Oud player. He studied Music at the Faculty of Fine Arts in Baghdad. After that he moved to Egypt to study at the Arabic House of Oud under the supervision of the musician Naseer Shamma. He graduated with an honor degree and became a teacher there. In 2008 he moved to teach Oud at the Arabic House of Oud of Abu Dhabi. He has performed across Europe and the Middle East.

### KAMAL MUSALLAM

Fusing the disparate worlds of jazz and traditional Arabic music is not something that should technically be possible, however Jordanian guitarist Kamal Musallam makes it look easy. One of the region's true musical treasures he has travelled countless countries and festivals to bring his new sounds to the world.

### DAVID BEATS GOLIATH

With a folk-indie vibe reminiscent of the likes of Edward Sharpe and the Magnetic Zeros and Mumford and Sons, this UK/Dubai based band are one of the City's best kept secrets. Quirky, catchy melodies and heartfelt lyrics to make you ponder, David Beats Goliath are poised to



take the Dubai music scene by storm in the coming months.

### CHARLIE AL MAAMERI

A young singer/songwriter with a healthy following on YouTube, Charlie sings from the heart about love, friendship and everything else his teenage mind cares to tackle.

### ARWA AHMED

One of the rare and truly local talents coming out of Dubai, young Arwa is an Emirati singer-songwriter who has a sweet, melodic voice and repertoire of original and traditional songs.

### CRAIG PERRY

Dubai's newest rising star, Craig Perry, has been an unstoppable force on the local music scene since his debut as part of The Fridge Singer/Songwriter Showcase in June 2013. Chosen as runner-up in the 2013 Rolling Stone ME Street To Stage competition, and having recently released his debut solo EP "Small Steps, Big Shoes" his now trademarked brand of heartfelt music is making big, big waves.

### JOANNA BROOMFIELD

Having lived in the UK and Australia, Singer/Songwriter Joanna now calls the UAE home. Despite a quick diversion into the world of modelling – even getting to the final 6 of Australia's Next Top Model – she has truly settled into the world of music. Her style lends itself to folky, easy listening melodies and she engages everyone with her heartfelt lyrics.

### SHELLEY FROST

Born in South Africa, Shelley was principal harpist with the Natal Philharmonic Orchestra, opened for José Carreras, supported Michael Jackson and has reams of other bragging rights. But it's her

experimentation with the electric harp that's elevated her crowd-pulling status and made the music world take notice – twice voted finalist at the Entertainer of the Year awards in the USA, Shelley now resides in Dubai where she is working on her debut solo album which fuses her mesmerising harp playing with myriad of genres and styles.

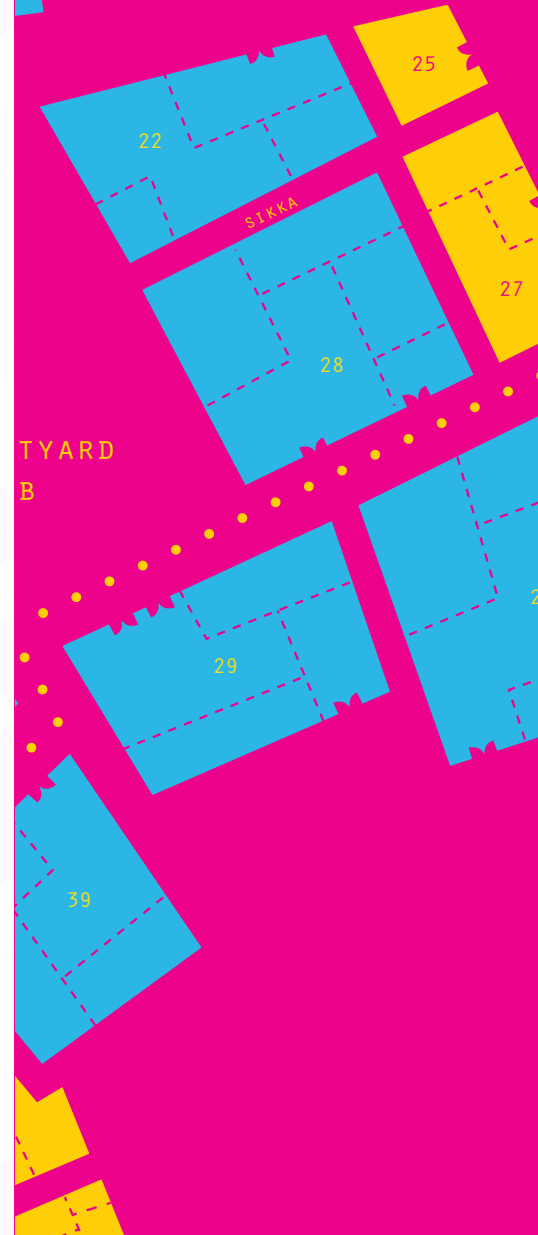
### SONS OF YUSUF

Brothers Ya'koob & Humble Abdul aka "Sons of Yusuf" are the region's leading hip hop artists. They are well known for their unique stage presence and creative performances that capture any audience. Ya'koob and Humble Abdul have a vision to help build art and hip hop culture in the Middle East, introduce the rest of the world to their culture and share their side of the story.

### IMBUE

Arabic vocalist Maher Al Halabi has rounded up a selection of the region's prolific musicians to create something truly original combining Arabic, Latin and Western sounds.

## FEATURED TENANTS



**TASHKEEL House 10**  
*The Cassette Tape Project*  
Exhibition by Hind Mezaina  
15 March – 25 March

Hind Mezaina is a photographer and blogger from Dubai and a cultural leader for the UAE. In this exhibition she takes the viewer on a journey through the history of the cassette tape and its association to Dubai, both on a personal level, growing up in the UAE and obsessively listening to music from the west, as well as regional music that is still distributed today on cassette tape in the UAE.

**THE MAJLIS GALLERY House 52**  
*Guided by Gaia Exhibition.*  
15 March – 17 April

An art exhibition supported by the DCAA, in conjunction with UAE Green Festival. The Gaia Hypothesis proposes that Earth is a self regulating complex organism that has the ability to interact with other organic and inorganic substances to maintain and repair itself in optimum condition in order to harbour life. Artists Lynette ten Krooden and Daragh Muldowney explore this theme in the *Guided by Gaia* exhibition.

**XVA GALLERY House 14**  
*Rite of Passage*  
Exhibition by Walid Siti  
15 March – 16 April

The work in this exhibition comprises of work on paper, one work on canvas and an installation by the artist. The work is inspired primarily by the oldest literary text in the history of mankind, the Mesopotamian Epic of Gilgamesh about 4000 BC. A circular form of journey, that captures the human occupation with the quest for finding the meaning of life.

### FATMA LOOTAH House 35

*Daughter of the Light*

Exhibition by Fatma Lootah

15 March - 15 April

A personal show by the artist intended for children, featuring installations created by children, with children and by the artist for children.

### HAWI AL-SHINDAGHA House 47

15 March - 25 March

A mixed exhibition of paintings, Arabic Calligraphy digital art, sculpture and photography inspired by HH Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashed Al Maktoum quotes. Featured artists include Saeed Thani Bin Ghalita Al Mehairi, Jamal Al Suwaidi, Abdallah Bin Khadem, Sultan, Hob Al Hussein, Mohammed Kashani, Mohammed Hadwi, Ahmed Yaakoub, Abdallah Mohammed Al Abduli, Ghan Al Suwaidi and Jamal Al Suwaidi.

### MAWAHEB FROM BEAUTIFUL PEOPLE

House 28

*An Imagination of Colors*

15 March - 15 April 2014

Under the umbrella of Art Season, Mawaheb proudly presents the largest abaya in the world measuring 10 meters, decorated solely by paintings produced by the talented artists from Mawaheb from Beautiful People. The artists from Mawaheb, an art studio for young adults with special needs, have been working with Dubai based renowned artist Shefali Ranthe on abstract paintings *An Imagination of Colours*. They will be displaying these colorful paintings in the Mawaheb art studio during SIKKA 2014 accompanied by 5 uniquely decorated abayas with the prints of these art works. In collaboration with Future Fashion, a sustainable (ethical and eco) fashion business based in Dubai, they are attempting the Guinness World Record for the Largest Abaya with the vibrant paintings done by Mawaheb artists. Ayesha Siddequa, Creative Director of Future Fashion also aims to promote local talent through her business.



## CURATORS

### KAYOKO IEMURA

Official Curator of Dubai Art Season 2014

and SIKKA Art Fair 2014

An architect and program director of the Tokyo Wonder Site, Kayoko Iemura completed a master's degree in Architecture at the Graduate School of Fine Arts, Tokyo National University of Fine Arts and Music. She studied for a diploma as part of the Architectural Association (AA) School of Architecture, London. She has taken part in projects such as the *Site of Reversible Destiny* at Yoro Park together with Shusaku Arakawa and Madeline Gins. Since 2001, she has planned and managed programs to support and nurture emerging artists at the Tokyo Metropolitan Foundation for History and Culture, Tokyo Wonder Site, curating exhibitions such as *Out of the Blue*, *Diorama of the City: Between Site & Space* and *The Beautiful Earth* by Vik Muniz. She is also involved in producing a wide range of programs that include collaborations between contemporary music and culture, such as the *Tokyo Experimental Festival - Sound, Art & Performance*. As part of different residency programs, she is carrying out projects associated with the rapidly changing world such as *On the Agenda*.

### HER HIGHNESS SHEIKHA Wafa Hasher Al Maktoum,

Official Co-Curator of Dubai Art Season 2014

and SIKKA Art Fair 2014

Born in Dubai, Sheikha Wafa Hasher Al Maktoum developed a creative mind and an artistic eye at an early age. She first picked up a camera at the age of 6 during a school trip to Dubai Zoo, she was hooked, and it was inevitable that she would grow up with a passion for art and photography. She now holds a degree in Business Administration and has a Bachelor's degree in Arts and Design. Even as a university student she has participated in various activities and exhibitions such as the photography exhibition held at The Third Line, in Dubai which was a big success, and the graduation exhibition held at the DIFC.

Wafa Hasher Al Maktoum is the founder and director of FN Designs. Love and passion for art are the words to describe her. The idea for FN Designs was born in November 2008 and six months later in April of 2009 Sheikha Wafa launched FN Designs. Molded by curiosity, creativity and aspirations to which are the heart of her diverse body of work. Conceptual and visual design, illustrations, photography, publication and clothing are the layers that her studio has to offer whilst applying pragmatic and creative solutions. FN Designs is a multi-disciplined art and design studio based in Dubai. FN – pronounced fann – is the Arabic word for “the arts.” As the founder of FN Designs she is looking to develop her personal desire for art and design and create a more design-centric social community within Dubai, through innovative and collaborative events.

#### YUSAKA IMAMURA

Strategic Art Advisor of Dubai Art Season 2014 and SIKKA Art Fair 2014

Imamura is founding director of Tokyo Wonder Site (TWS), a creative platform, international hub of contemporary arts and culture of Tokyo, nurturing emerging creators, international cultural exchange and interdisciplinary experimental projects. TWS organizes a wide range of cultural activities, exhibitions, concerts, workshops and artist-in-residence programmes, focusing on creative dialogue and the process of creation. TWS acts as an “on site laboratory” for cultural diversity and environmental issues to vision of the society after 311 through an international network.

From 2001 to 2013, Imamura worked as Counselor on Special Issues to the Governor, Tokyo Metropolitan Government, spending 12 years making new cultural policy, strategy, and a new system of foundation for arts and culture of Tokyo. Imamura was also responsible for the cultural program for the Olympic Games, Tokyo 2016 and the 2020 candidacy. He is a Board Member of Tokyo Designers Week and Senior Advisor of Kamoe Art Center.

## VISITORS

SIKKA Art Fair takes place 15-25 March 2014, at Al Fahidi Historical Neighbourhood, in Bur Dubai, the heart of the city. The fair is free and open to all.

#### FAIR TIMINGS

Saturday 15 March	16:00 – 00:00
Sunday 16 March	14:00 – 22:00
Monday 17 March	14:00 – 22:00
Tuesday 18 March	14:00 – 22:00
Wednesday 19 March	14:00 – 22:00
Thursday 20 March	14:00 – 22:00
Friday 21 March	16:00 – 00:00
Saturday 22 March	12:00 – 00:00
Sunday 23 March	14:00 – 22:00
Monday 24 March	14:00 – 22:00
Tuesday 25 March	14:00 – 22:00

#### GETTING TO SIKKA

**Art Bus:** There are three Art Bus vehicles transporting people to Al Quoz, DIFC & Downtown, and Jumeirah & Al Fahidi Historical Neighbourhood from 20-22 March 2014. For more information, please contact [artbus@artinthecity.com](mailto:artbus@artinthecity.com) or call +9714 341 7303

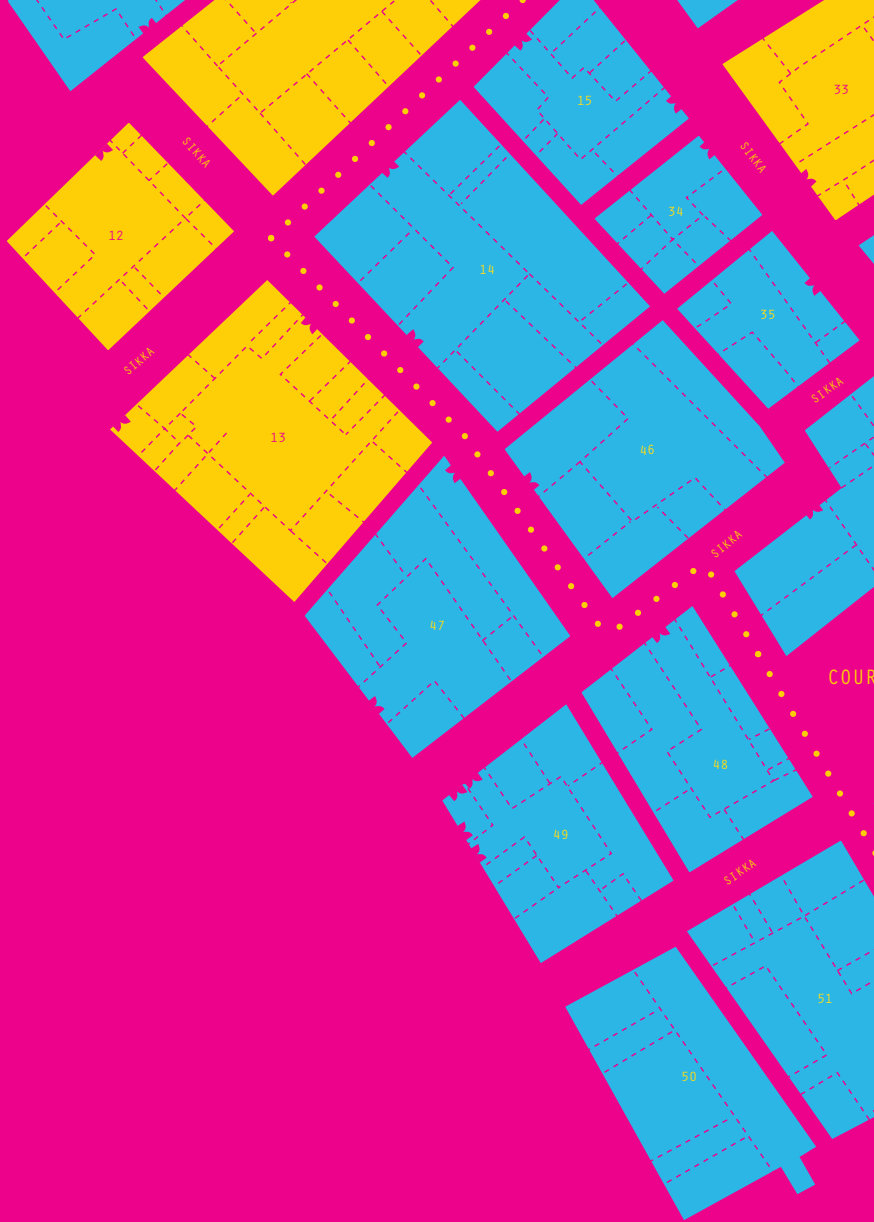
**Dubai Metro:** The closest metro station is Al Fahidi, on the Green Line. Visitors can take Exit 3 and walk down Al Mussalah Street towards the Creek for approximately five minutes until they reach the Al Fahidi roundabout where the venue is. Alternatively, visitors can take the metro to Burjuman station, on the Red and Green lines, where shuttle buses will be available for transport directly to SIKKA 2014.

**Water Taxis:** Water taxis from all water taxi stations will take visitors to the Al Fahidi stop.

#### SIKKA INFO CENTRE

+971 56 356 3646





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