

## Guide to Art Dubai - annual event has something for everyone



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Wednesday, March 20, 2013

The seventh edition of Art Dubai gets under way on Wednesday and with more than 75 galleries from 30 countries represented, there's plenty to keep browsers busy at Madinat Jumeirah.

With more commissioned works than ever before, a jam-packed artist-in-residence programme and some glamour guests, art lovers will be in their element at the annual event, which runs until Saturday. The art world can seem a little intimidating however, so here are our top picks to make sure you make the most of the culture and creativity on show.

### TOUR THE WORLD



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Whether you want to check out the scene in London, New York or Milan, Art Dubai is your chance to see what's on at galleries around the world. And this year, art from West Africa is taking centre stage. Lagos-based curator Bisi Silva has selected works from Cameroon, Ghana, Mali, Nigeria and Senegal for the 'Marker' programme, including Ade Adekola's 'The Challenger', above.

### STAR ATTRACTION

Former REM singer Michael Stipe, left, and author Douglas Coupland, the writer of 'Generation X: Tales for an Accelerated Culture', are part of a star-studded panel this afternoon that will discuss the idea of 'Careering'. That event takes place at 4.30pm, and it's just one of many fascinating talks that touch on music scores, drones, our future and much more, under the umbrella 'Global Art Forum\_7'.

## **SHOP AROUND**

Grab some fab and fashionable limited-edition items including jewellery, furniture, stationary and clothes at the dXb Store, a pop-up platform for UAE-based creatives to showcase and sell their latest creations.

## **A FITTING TRIBUTE**

Art Dubai commissioned nine artists to create site-specific works this year. And one in particular is worth special attention. Female Iranian artist Farideh Lashai, who died last month of cancer aged 68, had put together a fascinating video installation, which shows the culture of Iran in the 1950-1970s.

## **SOMETHING IN THE A.I.R**

Expect an assault on all your senses, thanks to this year's Artists-in-Residence (A.i.R) programme, which features six artists from across the Middle East and Asia. Egyptian artist Dina Danish is presenting a series of floor drawings and video installation commenting on voyeurism, while it's not the eyes but the ears that will be needed for Joe Namy's investigations into music. Yudi Noor, meanwhile, will present two sculptures and two installations related to the creekside district.

## **A LINE IN THE SAND**

'Sculpture on the beach' tours will take art lovers out into the great outdoors and the wonderful setting of the Mina A'Salam beach. Spanish expert Chus Martinez, of El Museo del Barrio, is guest curator for the event and she's hosting some large-scale works by artists from all over the world, including American Chris Burden, Mali's Amahiguéré Dolo and Moroccan Mounir Fatmi.

## **DOWN THE HATCH**

**Even an ordinary stairwell has plenty to offer at Art Dubai. The area between the Joharah and Arena gallery halls has been transformed into 'The Hatch', an intimate screening space for film and video.**

## **UPWARDLY MOBILE**

**You don't have to hit Madinat Jumeirah to enjoy a spot of culture. The Mobile Art Gallery, operating from a truck, will showcase works by a number of talented UAE-based artists. Catch the MAG at the American University of Dubai on Thursday, or Sikka Art Fair, in the Al Fahidi Historical Neighbourhood, on Friday and Saturday.**

## **KIDDING AROUND**

**Get the little ones interested in the world of art. Shadow puppet workshops, for five to 10 year olds, and discovery tours, for eight to 14 year olds, are being hosted throughout the event by 'Little Artists Centre'.**

***Check [artdubai.ae](http://artdubai.ae) for a full programme***