

SAF March Meeting and Spring 2022 Exhibitions

Published January 20th, 2022 - 09:17 GMT



CAMP, From Gulf to Gulf to Gulf, 2013. HDV, SDV, VHS, cellphone videos, stereo audio and in-camera phone music, 83 minutes. Courtesy of CAMP.

Sharjah Art Foundation today announced its spring 2022 programme, featuring the 14th edition of the Foundation's annual March Meeting and a wide-ranging slate of solo exhibitions by pioneering contemporary artists from the MEASA region.

Building upon the 2021 edition, March Meeting 2022 engages with the theoretical framework of Sharjah Biennial 15: Thinking Historically in the Present, opening in February 2023. The spring 2022 programme also includes major solo exhibitions of work by Lawrence Abu Hamdan, Khalil Rabah, CAMP, Aref El Rayess and Gerald Annan-Forson.

Taking place online and in-person from 5 to 7 March 2022, March Meeting 2022: The Afterlives of the Postcolonial examines the legacies of colonialism and the contemporary impacts of related issues on cultural, aesthetic and artistic practices around the world.

The three-day programme convenes key voices in art and academia to discuss contemporary art and issues through a postcolonial lens, spanning a wide range of topics including racism, settler colonialism, apartheid, social movements including

Black Lives Matter, Indigenous rights, climate change and the restitution and repatriation of looted artifacts.

March Meeting 2022, in tandem with March Meeting 2021: Unraveling the Present, is an integral part of the framework for Sharjah Biennial 15: Thinking Historically in the Present (SB15) laid out by the late Okwui Enwezor (1963–2019). SB15 is being curated by Hoor Al Qasimi, Director of Sharjah Art Foundation, in collaboration with the SB15 Working Group and Advisory Committee. Registration for the online and in-person components of March Meeting 2022 is now live at [this link](#).

Alongside March Meeting, the spring 2022 exhibition programme features Lawrence Abu Hamdan: The Sonic Image, the artist's largest solo exhibition of new work to date, encompassing three significant new bodies of work, a large-scale SAF-commissioned installation, as well as a site-specific performance.

The season also includes Khalil Rabah: What is not, a major exhibition of work by conceptual artist Khalil Rabah from the 1990s to today, examining states of emergency and displacement, and CAMP: Passages through Passages, an exhibition of work by Mumbai-based collaborative studio CAMP featuring video, audio and archival works — including works presented at Sharjah Biennial 9, 10 and 11 — that analyze technology, surveillance and public health.

Additionally, the Foundation is partnering with other Sharjah institutions to realise major retrospectives for the late Lebanese artist Aref El Rayess, organised in collaboration with Sharjah Museums Authority, and Ghana-based photographer Gerald Annan-Forson, organised in collaboration with The Africa Institute.

SAP Spring 2022 Programme

March Meeting 2022: The Afterlives of the Postcolonial
5–7 March 2022
Sharjah Art Foundation

Sharjah Art Foundation's March Meeting, an annual programme that convenes artists, curators, scholars and art practitioners for panels, lectures and performances exploring critical issues in contemporary art, returns in 2022 with a three-day schedule of online and in-person programmes. Expanding upon March Meeting 2021: Unravelling the Present, March Meeting 2022:

The Afterlives of the Postcolonial will examine the legacies of colonialism and the contemporary impacts of related issues on cultural, aesthetic and artistic practices around the world. Together, both of these March Meetings serve as preludes to

Sharjah Biennial 15: Thinking Historically in the Present, conceived by the late Okwui Enwezor (1963–2019) and curated by SAF Director Hoor Al Qasimi, which opens in February 2023.

Drawing upon Enwezor's concept of the 'Postcolonial Constellation', March Meeting 2022 considers contemporary art and issues through the lens of postcolonialism, the critical study of the historical, social and cultural legacies of colonialism and imperialism. From this perspective, participants analyse a wide array of current global issues, such as racism, settler colonialism, apartheid, persistent structural inequalities, new imperial wars, migration, social movements including Black Lives Matter, Indigenous rights, climate change and the restitution and repatriation of looted artefacts.

The programme also explores theoretical frameworks such as 'intersectionality', 'coloniality', 'decoloniality' and 'gendered identities'. To discuss the 'afterlives' of the postcolonial, the March Meeting convenes key voices in art and academia whose work reflects discourses, practices, theories and critical perspectives derived from postcolonialism but focused on the world in the late twentieth and early twenty-first centuries and its present and future challenges.



Following March Meeting 2021, which examined the 30-year history of the Sharjah Biennial and the future of the biennial model, March Meeting 2022 further engages with

Enwezor's framework for Sharjah Biennial 15, building momentum towards its opening in February 2023.

Sharjah Biennial 15: Thinking Historically in the Present, will continue to explore these themes, bringing together 30 artists—including John Akomfrah, Coco Fusco, Hassan Hajjaj, Isaac Julien, Bouchra Kahlil, Kerry James Marshall, Steve McQueen, Wangechi Mutu, Doris Salcedo, Yinka Shonibare, Carrie Mae Weems, among others—to make commissioned works, which examine histories that continue to shape our present, alongside a selection of contemporary works by international artists.