

# Art, movies, books...in a fair

One of the most important art events this year, Al Bastakiya Art Fair will run from March 15 to 21 in the most aesthetic-looking and historical part of Dubai — the houses of Bastakiya. An independent fringe art fair, the event is organised by BAF founder, co-director and XVA gallery owner Mona Hauser and BAF 2010 organiser, co-director and XVA gallery director Rosie Hayes. As the fair enters its fourth year with the 2010 edition, BAF continues to stick to its primary and core aim of promoting emerging Middle Eastern contemporary art via a non-profit fringe event. During the fair, 17 houses in Bastakiya will be open to all kinds of visitors — tourists, aficionados, budding artists, and, of course, art enthusiasts of the varied work that will be exhibited. "BAF has achieved the creation of a fringe art event in Dubai, running at the same time as Art Dubai and the Sharjah Biennale. The importance of BAF for Dubai is reflected by Dubai Culture Arts Authority's patronage of the event," the two explained.

There are 1 clipping(s) in 1 part(s) with summary available in: English

Published on: 12/03/2010 Name: Khaleej Times  
 Section: Main section Country: United Arab Emirates  
 Edition: 331 Language: English  
 Page: 13 Circulation: 75,135  
 Size: 238 cc Distribution: IN, PK, YE, GCC, Europe  
 Ad Value: \$8,811.93



## ART, MOVIES, BOOKS... IN A FAIR

*The 2010 edition of Al Bastakiya Art Fair has movie screenings, book reading sessions and more at its heritage Creekside location*

**Anu Prabhakar**

One of the most important art events this year, Al Bastakiya Art Fair will run from March 15 to 21 in the most aesthetic-looking and historical part of Dubai — the houses of Bastakiya. An independent fringe art fair, the event is organised by BAF founder, co-director and XVA gallery owner Mona Hauser and BAF 2010 organiser, co-director and XVA gallery director Rosie Hayes. As the fair enters its fourth year with the 2010 edition, BAF continues to stick to its primary and core aim of promoting emerging Middle Eastern contemporary art via a non-profit fringe event. During the fair, 17 houses in Bastakiya will be open to all kinds of visitors — tourists, aficionados, budding artists, and, of course, art enthusiasts of the varied work that will be exhibited.

Speaking about the upcoming event, Hauser and Hayes said, "We are excited about the new elements of this year's fair — for instance, the Event's Programme, the curated talks by Rosie Hayes and the wider participation of galleries and curators from the MENA region and beyond."

It's a fair in the true sense of the word, far apart from exhibiting art, Al Bastakiya Art Fair will also host various other events like book reading sessions, movie screenings, performance art and installations. Visitors can look forward to a reading of the novel *A Case of Exploding Mangoes* by Mohammed Hanif, and screenings of films such as *Our Feelings Took the Picture: Open Shutters* from directed by Maysoon Pachaichi and *Life in the Wall of City of Lahore* by Shireen Pasha. The brunch talks, chaired by Rosie Hayes, will include a veritable who's who from the world of art, with speakers like Dr Venetia Porter, curator of the British Museum, Hans Ulrich Obrist, director of the Serpentine Gallery, London, and Anna Somers Cocks, editor of *The Art Newspaper*, all making an appearance.

Given the region's exemplary talent in art, shortlisting the fair's participants was not an easy feat. "There was a jury making the selections for BAF, we were certainly impressed by the high quality of applications. Each year, BAF gets better and bigger in terms of the artists it showcases — there are 23 participants this year, one of these is showing 50 works alone by different Emirati artists," organisers said. Participants at the fair include curated houses, such as BA+AG Curators, Leo Lefort, Janet Rady Fine Art, galleries like Majlis Gallery, Tashkeel, The Running Horse Gallery and individual artists including William Georges, Rania Ezzat and Laith Ubaidan.

When talking about what's new at the fair this year, the duo explained, "We have the new concept of 'curated spaces'. Some of these are 'national' houses curated by experts living in Dubai, and other spaces are curated by internationally recognised art curators such as Brahim Abouat.

"BAF has achieved the creation of a fringe art event in Dubai, running at the same time as Art Dubai and the Sharjah Biennale. The importance of BAF for Dubai is reflected by Dubai Culture Arts Authority's patronage of the event," the two explained.

anu@khaleejtimes.com





ON SHOW (left to right): Artwork by Janet Rady Fine Art; Wajaf Art Center, House of Art; William Georges and S'ucc will be on display during BAF 2010



ALL SET: Mona Hauser (above) and Rosie Hayes (below). KT Photos: Jaidin Bernard



Circulation and ad data supplied by:

**MediaSource**

**MEDIAWATCH**  
Middle East