

Sharjah Biennial Names Over 150 Artists for Long-Awaited Okwui Enwezor–Conceived 2023 Edition

BY MAXIMILIANO DURÓN April 18, 2022



Sharjah. PHOTO: ALI OMRAN/COURTESY SHARJAH ART FOUNDATION

The Sharjah Art Foundation has named over 150 artists hailing from more than 70 countries that will participate in its highly anticipated 2023 **Sharjah Biennial** which was conceived by the late curator **Okwui Enwezor** and curated by the organization’s director Hoor Al Qasimi.

The exhibition, titled “Thinking Historically in the Present,” will run from February 7–June 11, 2023 at some 16 venues across Sharjah, including “a vegetable market, power station, and former kindergarten,” according to a press release.

Almost a year ago, the Sharjah Biennial announced that it would delay its 15th edition to 2023, citing “the relentless devastation of COVID-19 in many parts of the world, as well as the uneven access to vaccines and restrictions to travel still in place.” The exhibition had already been postponed a year from 2021 to 2022 when this announcement was made.

To mark its 30th anniversary, the biennial previously announced that it had commissioned 30 artists, per Enwezor’s original vision, to create new work for the exhibition, including John Akomfrah, María Magdalena Campos-Pons, Carolina Caycedo, Coco Fusco, Mona Hatoum, Lubaina Himid, Isaac Julien, Ibrahim Mahama, Kerry James Marshall, Steve McQueen, Wangechi Mutu, Philippe Parreno, Doris Salcedo, Yinka Shonibare, Nari Ward, and Carrie Mae Weems.

Outside these well-known names, the extensive artist list is largely devoid of international artists who regularly appear on the biennial circuit.

Among the closely watched artists slated to take part in the biennial are Basel Abbas and Ruanne Abou-Rahme, Farah Al Qasimi, Brook Andrew, Diedrick Brackens, Cao Fei, Theaster Gates, David Hammons, Emily Kame Kngwarreye, Joiri Minaya, Tracey Moffat, Okwui Okpokwasili, Umar Rashid, Wendy Red Star, Veronica Ryan, and Mary Sibande.

In a statement, Al Qasimi said, “Okwui saw Sharjah Biennial’s 30-year anniversary as an opportunity to reflect on the role that biennials serve in the ecosystem of contemporary art, particularly the Sharjah Biennial itself and the broader Foundation that grew from it. With gratitude to Okwui and the ambitious intellectual project he conceived, we are organising a Biennial that builds on and honours his vision to probe the past, present, and future role that biennials and institutions, including the Sharjah Biennial and the Foundation can serve.”

The current artist list, which is still in formation, follows below.

Basel Abbas and Ruanne Abou-Rahme	Carolina Caycedo	Mona Hatoum
Maitha Abdalla	Ali Cherri	Lubaina Himid
Fathi Affi	Wook-kyung Choi	Laura Huertas Millán
Hoda Afshar	Iftikhar Dadi and Elizabeth Dadi	Saodat Ismailova
John Akomfrah	Solmaz Daryani	Isaac Julien
Jawad Al Malhi	Annalee Davis	Saddam Jumaily
Monira Al Qadiri	Destiny Deacon	Robyn Kahukiwa
Farah Al Qasimi	Manthia Diawara	Reena Saini Kallat
Mounira Al Solh	Imane Djamil	Hanni Kamaly
Moza Almatrooshi	Anju Dodiya	Amar Kanwar
Marwah AlMugait	Kimathi Donkor	Bouchra Khalili
Hangama Amiri	Heri Dono	Naiza Khan
Brook Andrew	Tania El Khoury	Kiluanji Kia Henda
Malala Andrialavidrazana	Nabil El Makhoulfi	Ayoung Kim
Rushdi Anwar	Rehab Eldalil	Emily Kame Kngwarreye
Kader Attia	Ali Eyal	Hiroji Kubota
Au Sow Yee	Brenda Fajardo	Nusra Latif Qureshi
Dana Awartani	Raheleh Filsoofi	Lee Kai Chung
Omar Badsha	Nina Fischer and Maroan el Sani	Ibrahim Mahama
Natalie Ball	Coco Fusco	Waheeda Malullah
Sammy Baloji	Flavia Gandolfo	Maharani Mancanagara
Mirna Bamieh	Theaster Gates	mandla
Pablo Bartholomew and Richard Bartholomew	Gabriela Golder	Lavanya Mani
Shiraz Bayjoo	Gabrielle Goliath	Kerry James Marshall
Bahar Behbahani	Yulia Grigoryants	Queenie McKenzie
Asma Belhamar	Joana Hadjithomas and Khalil Joreige	Steve McQueen
Diedrick Brackens	Hassan Hajjaj	Marisol Mendez
Maria Magdalena Campos-Pons	David Hammons	Almagul Menlibayeva
Cao Fei	Archana Hande	Helina Metaferia
	Fathi Hassan	Kimowan Metchewais
		Meleanna Meyer

Joiri Minaya
Tahila Mintz
Roméo Mivekannin
Tracey Moffat
Aline Motta
Wangechi Mutu
Eubena Nampitjin
Dala Nasser
Pipo Nguyen-Duy
Mame-Diarra Niang
Shelley Niro
Thenjiwe Niki Nkosi
Elia Nurvista
Okwui Okpokwasili
Kambui Olujimi
Zohra Opoku
Erkan Özgen
Pak Khawateen Painting Club
Pushpakanthan Pakkiyarajah
Hyesoo Park
Philippe Parreno
Angela Ponce
Prajakta Potnis
Anita Pouchard Serra
Jasbir Puar and Dima Srouji
Michael Rakowitz
Umar Rashid
Wendy Red Star
Veronica Ryan
Doris Salcedo

Abdulrahim Salem
Sangeeta Sandrasegar
Varunika Saraf
Khadija Saye
Berni Searle
Mithu Sen
Nelly Sethna
Aziza Shadenova
Smita Sharma
Nilima Sheikh
Yinka Shonibare
Felix Shumba
Semsar Siahaan
Mary Sibande
Kahurangiariki Smith
Inuuteq Storch
Vivan Sundaram
Pamela Phatsimo Sunstrum
Obaid Suroor
The Living and the Dead Ensemble
Hank Willis Thomas
Akeim Toussaint Buck
Fatimah Tuggar
Hajra Waheed
Barbara Walker
Wang Jianwei
Nari Ward
Carrie Mae Weems
Nil Yalter