
PRESS RELEASE

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Art Basel Qatar announces 87 galleries for inaugural edition in February 2026

Art Basel Qatar will feature 84 artist presentations by 87 galleries when the fair debuts in Doha next February. Presented in partnership with Qatar Sports Investments (QSI) and QC+, the fair – Art Basel’s fifth globally – will be held from 5-7 February 2026 (with Preview Days 3-4 February). The 87 participants span 31 countries and territories, and 16 galleries will be showing with Art Basel for the first time – bringing new voices and perspectives onto our global platform.

Conceived under the curatorial direction of Egyptian-born artist **Wael Shawky**, Art Basel Qatar’s first edition departs from the traditional booth model to present an open-format exhibition in which artist presentations respond to a central curatorial theme of *Becoming*. A meditation on humanity’s constant transformation and the systems that shape how we live, believe, and create meaning, it will unfold across two key venues – M7 and the Doha Design District – as well as selected public sites in Msheireb Downtown Doha, the city’s creative and cultural heart. Both the format and curatorial direction will foreground storytelling and dialogue, offering new ways for galleries, artists, and collectors to engage while maintaining strong market relevance.

Art Basel Qatar – with Visit Qatar as the fair’s Lead Partner – will highlight the vitality of artistic production and the expanding gallery landscape across the Middle East, North Africa, and South Asia. The strength of the regional presence in our first edition affirms Doha’s position as a vibrant hub for cultural exchange, while linking the fair to Art Basel’s global network of galleries, artists, and collectors.

- More than half of the artists presented in this first edition hail from the region, including **Etel Adnan**, **Ali Banisadr**, **Simone Fattal**, **Ali Cherri**, **Meriem Bennani** and **Iman Issa**.
- Galleries from across the region will participate, including those with locations in the Gulf (Qatar, U.A.E., Saudi Arabia), the wider Middle East (Lebanon, Turkey), North Africa (Egypt, Morocco, Tunisia), and South Asia (India).
- Homegrown galleries from the region that are participating in their first Art Basel fair include **Hafez Gallery** (Jeddah, Riyadh), **Gallery Misr** (Cairo), **Le Violon Bleu** (Tunis), **Saleh Barakat Gallery** (Beirut), and **Tabari Artspace** (Dubai).
- International galleries from across Europe, the Americas, and Asia will participate, including **Acquavella Galleries**, **Gagosian**, **Hauser & Wirth**, **Pace Gallery**, **David Zwirner** and **White Cube**.

See a more detailed selection of artist and gallery highlights below*, with the full list of participating galleries available under artbasel.com/qatar/galleries

Noah Horowitz, CEO of Art Basel, said: “With Art Basel Qatar, we are furthering our mission to be a catalyst for cultural exchange and market growth. Our gallery line-up for year one is thrilling – welcoming diverse new voices to our platform and deepening our engagement with new geographies, while also creating opportunities across our network of existing clients and established partners. This new venture is only possible thanks to the long-term commitment of our partners, Qatar Sports Investments (QSI) and QC+, and I’m excited for the impact our collaboration will have over the coming years.”

Vincenzo de Bellis, Chief Artistic Officer and Global Director of Fairs for Art Basel, said: “We are delighted with the response to Art Basel Qatar, which has brought together an exceptional roster of leading galleries for our inaugural edition. The breadth and quality of participation speaks to the strength of the project and the excitement it has generated both regionally and internationally. Working with Wael Shawky has been deeply energizing and rewarding: his vision has inspired outstanding presentations shaped around the theme of *Becoming*.”

Wael Shawky, Artistic Director, said: “The theme ‘*Becoming*’ is a meditation on change, on how humanity reshapes the ways we live, believe, and create meaning. The Gulf lies at the heart of this story, where oral traditions flow into digital networks and ancient trade routes return as new pathways of culture and exchange. Here, art is not only a witness to history but a force that shapes how we imagine and reimagine identity. My hope is that the first edition of Art Basel Qatar becomes a space for these stories to surface. The additional commissioned public projects will extend this spirit, giving greater voice to artists from the region and allowing their perspectives to echo far beyond it. Their full scope will be unveiled in the weeks ahead, inviting audiences to anticipate what is still becoming.”

***Artist & Gallery Highlights**

More than half of the 84 artists represented in this first edition hail from the Middle East, North Africa, and South Asia, affirming Art Basel Qatar as a new flagship for the region. Participating in partnership with galleries both within the region and globally, presentations selected include **Etel Adnan** with **Anthony Meier** (Mill Valley) in collaboration with **Waddington Custot** (London, Dubai), **Ali Banisadr** with **Perrotin** (Paris, London, New York, Los Angeles, Hong Kong, Shanghai, Tokyo, Seoul, Dubai), **Ali Cherri** with **Almine Rech** (Paris, Brussels, New York, Shanghai, Monaco, Gstaad), **Ahmed Mater** with **Athr Gallery** (Jeddah, Riyadh, AlUla), **Mona Hatoum** with **Galerie Chantal Crousel** (Paris), **Iman Issa** with **Sylvia Kouvali** (London, Athens), **Mohammed Monaiseer** with **Gypsum Gallery** (Cairo), **Hassan Sharif** with **Gallery Isabelle** (Dubai), **Simone Fattal** with **Karma International** (Zurich), **Shirin Neshat** with **Lia Rumma** (Milan, Naples), **MARWAN** with **Sfeir-Semler Gallery** (Beirut, Hamburg), **Sophia Al-Maria** with **The Third Line** (Dubai), and **Meriem Bennani** with **François Ghebaly** (Los Angeles, New York) in collaboration with **Lodovico Corsini** (Brussels).

The region’s burgeoning gallery ecosystem will be central to this inaugural edition. In addition to those listed above, galleries from the Gulf – including **al markhiya gallery** (Doha), showing **Bouthayna Al Muftah**; **Hafez Gallery** (Jeddah, Riyadh), showing **Lina Gazzaz**; **Green Art Gallery** (Dubai), showing **Maryam Hoseini**; **Lawrie Shabibi** (Dubai), showing **Amir Nour**; and **Tabari Artspace** (Dubai), showing **Hazem Harb** – will be presented alongside participants from the wider Middle East. These include **Marfa’ Projects** (Beirut), showing **Caline Aoun**, and **Galerie Tanit** (Beirut, Munich), showing **Adel Abidin**, as well as **Pilot Galeri** (Istanbul), showing **Halil Altindere**. From North Africa, highlights include **ArtTalks | Kanafani Gallery** (Cairo), showing **Ahmed Morsi**;

Gallery Misr (Cairo) showing **Souad Abdelrasoul**; **Loft Art Gallery** (Casablanca, Marrakech) showing **Mustapha Azeroual**, and **Le Violon Bleu** (Tunis), showing **Farid Belkahia**. From India, participants include **Chemould Prescott Road** (Mumbai), showing **Rashid Rana**.

They will sit in dialogue with international galleries from across Europe, the Americas, and Asia. These include: **Acquavella Galleries** (New York, Palm Beach), showing **Jean-Michel Basquiat**; **Galleria Continua** (San Gimignano, São Paulo, Beijing, Havana, Boissy-le-Châtel, Paris, Rome), showing **Pascale Marthine Tayou**; **Gagosian** (New York, Beverly Hills, London, Paris, Le Bourget, Basel, Gstaad, Rome, Athens, Hong Kong), showing **Christo**; **Gladstone Gallery** (New York, Brussels, Seoul), showing **Alex Katz**; **Gray** (Chicago, New York), showing **Torkwase Dyson**; **Hauser & Wirth** (Zurich, New York, Paris, Hong Kong, Monaco, Ciutadella de Menorca, Basel, Gstaad, St. Moritz, London, Somerset, Los Angeles, West Hollywood), showing **Philip Guston**; **Sean Kelly** (New York, Los Angeles), showing **Hugo McCcloud**; **kurimanzutto** (Mexico City, New York), showing **Gabriel Orozco**; **Lisson Gallery** (London, Los Angeles, New York, Shanghai), showing **Olga de Amaral**; **Luxembourg + Co.** (London, New York), showing **Katsumi Nakai**; **Pace Gallery** (New York, Los Angeles, London, Geneva, Berlin, Hong Kong, Seoul, Tokyo), showing **Lynda Benglis**; **Sprüth Magers** (Berlin, London, Los Angeles, New York), showing **Otto Piene**; **Tornabuoni Art** (Florence, Milan, Forte dei Marmi, Crans Montana, Paris, Rome), showing **Alighiero Boetti**; **Michael Werner Gallery** (New York, London, Beverly Hills, Berlin), showing **Issy Wood**; **White Cube** (London, Hong Kong, Paris, New York, Seoul), showing **Georg Baselitz**; and **David Zwirner** (New York, Los Angeles, London, Hong Kong, Paris), showing **Marlene Dumas**.

NOTES TO EDITORS

About Art Basel

Founded in 1970 by gallerists from Basel, Art Basel today stages the world's premier art shows for Modern and contemporary art, sited in Basel, Miami Beach, Hong Kong, Paris, and Qatar. Defined by its host city and region, each show is unique, which is reflected in its participating galleries, artworks presented, and the content of parallel programming produced in collaboration with local institutions for each edition. Art Basel's engagement has expanded beyond art fairs through new digital platforms including the Art Basel App and initiatives such as the *Art Basel and UBS Global Art Market Report*, the Art Basel Shop, and the Art Basel Awards. For further information, please visit artbasel.com.

About Art Basel Qatar

Debuting in Doha in February 2026, Art Basel Qatar will embed itself in Qatar's vibrant cultural landscape and provide an unparalleled platform to showcase leading galleries and artistic talent from the Middle East, North Africa, South Asia, and further afield. The new fair is the centerpiece of a one-of-a-kind partnership between Art Basel; its parent company MCH Group; Qatar Sports Investments (QSI), a major investor in sports, culture, entertainment and lifestyle; and QC+, a strategic and creative collective specializing in cultural commerce.

About Qatar Sports Investments (QSI)

Qatar Sports Investments (QSI) is a leading, global strategic investment group focused on world-class assets across sport, entertainment, lifestyle, and culture. Founded in 2004, QSI brings hands-on expertise, innovative capital solutions, and a long-term vision to each of its investments. Its portfolio includes the iconic football club Paris Saint-Germain (PSG), the global professional padel tour Premier Padel, and the historic Portuguese football club Sporting Clube de Braga (SC Braga). With a proven track record of transformative impact, QSI continues to shape the future of cultural and entertainment experiences worldwide.

About QC+

QC+ is a strategy group that brings culture to life through experiences that connect and inspire. By merging cultural insight with innovation, QC+ empowers partners to unlock new revenue through impactful programs, activations, and creatively considered land development and rejuvenation projects. The group gives creatives the space, platform, and power to shape culture on their own terms. By positioning culture as a catalyst for growth, QC+ opens new pathways for value across tourism, hospitality, retail, and the wider cultural economy.

Its portfolio includes in-house brands and services such as Qatar Creates, IDAM, and celebrated Qatari chef Noof Al Marri. Initiatives span Michelin-awarded restaurants, art and design consultancy, cultural land development, experiential events, product development, and art retail.

We don't just preserve culture - we cultivate it. This is The Art of Cultural Commerce™.

About Wael Shawky

Based in Doha, Wael Shawky most recently won acclaim for his video work Drama 1882, representing Egypt at the 60th International Art Exhibition at the Venice Biennale (2024). His work, which ranges widely among film, performance, and storytelling, has been the subject of solo exhibitions at institutions including Tate Modern (2022), Kunsthaus Bregenz (2016), MoMA PS1 (2015), Mathaf (2015), Serpentine Gallery (2013), and The Hammer (2013), among others. Shawky's work is currently on view in the site-specific installation I Am Hymns of the New Temples at LUMA Arles, as well as a solo show at the University of Edinburgh's Talbot Rice Gallery. He has participated in major international exhibitions including the 14th Istanbul Biennial (2015), the 11th Sharjah Biennial (2013), Documenta 13 (2012), the 9th Gwangju Biennial (2012), and SITE Santa Fe (2008).

Shawky founded MASS Alexandria, an independent studio program for young artists, in 2010. In October 2024, Shawky was appointed Artistic Director of the Doha Fire Station, where he has launched the Arts Intensive Study Program (AISP) designed to foster critical thinking, hands-on learning, and professional development for a cohort of 20 emerging international and Qatari artists.

Selection Committee, Art Basel Qatar

Lorenzo Fiaschi, Galleria Continua, San Gimignano
Shireen Gandhi, Chemould Prescott Road, Mumbai
Daniela Gareh, White Cube, London
Mohammed Hafiz, Athr Gallery, Jeddah
Sunny Rahbar, The Third Line, Dubai
Gordon VeneKlasen, Michael Werner Gallery, New York

Partners

Art Basel Qatar herewith shares an initial list of Partners:

Art Basel Qatar is pleased to announce **Visit Qatar** as the **Lead Partner** of the inaugural edition. This strategic partnership underscores Qatar's ambition to strengthen its position as a destination for arts, culture, and global dialogue. Visit Qatar is the main arm of Qatar Tourism.

Visit Qatar's mission is to promote and expand tourism in Qatar by cultivating its rich culture, developing thrilling attractions, enhancing Qatar's calendar, becoming the leading MICE destination in the region, diversifying events and luxury experiences.

Visit Qatar is rooted in Service Excellence, boosting the entire tourism value chain, and increasing local and international visitor demand in Qatar. Through Visit Qatar's network of international offices in priority markets, cutting-edge digital platforms, and marketing campaigns, Visit Qatar is

expanding Qatar's presence globally and enhancing the tourism sector.

Named the World's Best Airline a record ninth time at the 2025 Skytrax World Airline Awards, **Qatar Airways** leverages its network of over 170 destinations to connect people, places, and cultures. As Art Basel's **Premium Partner**, the airline showcases its ability to be a catalyst for discovery and cultural dialogue, supporting all the fair's prestigious global editions—including the newly launched show in Qatar.

Art Basel Qatar's **Associate Partner** is **BMW**.

Art Basel Qatar's **Official Partner** is **Zegna**.

Art Basel's Global Lead Partner is UBS.

More partners will be announced in coming weeks. For more information, please visit artbasel.com/partners.

Upcoming Art Basel shows

Paris, October 24–26, 2025

Miami Beach, December 5–7, 2025

Qatar, February 5–7, 2026

Hong Kong, March 27–29, 2026

Basel, June 18–21, 2026

Media Access and Information

Media information and images can be downloaded directly from artbasel.com/press. Journalists can subscribe to our media mailings to receive information on Art Basel.

For the latest updates on Art Basel, visit artbasel.com, find us on Facebook at facebook.com/artbasel, or follow @artbasel on Instagram, X, LinkedIn, Threads, Weibo, and WeChat.

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