



**"Dot "- Sharjah Calligraphy Biennial
Seventh Edition
6th April – 6th June 2016**

General Rules – General Exhibition

Article 1:

- 1- Sharjah Collections of The Art, at Sharjah Government, organizes Sharjah Calligraphy Biennial once every two years in the emirate of Sharjah, UAE.
- 2- **Sharjah Calligraphy Biennial Strategy:**

- The Vision

Arabic Calligraphy is one of the Islamic and Arabic artistic practices of calligraphy, based upon the Arabic language and alphabet. It features the originality of Islamic arts, and identifies the Islamic cultural heritage, that is known for its clear implications on the intellectual, social and scientific level. Hence, these distinctive features took its advanced and honorary status within human civilization. It appeared as a beacon which throughout the ages has formed a fundamental basis in the development of many ideas and concepts of our modern era. The letter in general, not to mention a specific language, represents a visual element that many artists have used through applying it into different concepts, particularly in contemporary arts, representing a remarkable visual approach.

- The Mission:

Emphasize the cultural status of the Emirate of Sharjah, within a system of remarkable cultural activity and civilizational discourse, and the noble values that are expressed through calligraphy art, enabling the establishment of the contemporary artistic personality that practices modern experiments and at the same time adhering to the originality of calligraphy. In addition we also highlight the idea that modern practices on the international level has transferred the letter from the narrow perspective of the language to an imaginative visual approach within contemporary plastic art. Hence, through the presented theme we seek for renewal between one edition to another, as well as encouraging the element of competition, through attracting

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many varied experiences, that contribute significantly in enriching the local art scene.

- The aims: Sharjah Calligraphy Biennial aims to:

- Paying due attention and maintaining the art of Arabic calligraphy as an aesthetic human heritage, introducing it in theory and practice, with all its disciplines, schools and types.
- Providing contemporary calligraphic experiences on the international level.
- Highlighting the aesthetical and artistic aspect of the classical doctrine, as well as dealing with contemporary and modern trends.
- Identifying artistic activities related to foreign calligraphy and different cultures, with the aim of enriching the human experiences on the intellectual, aesthetical and technical level.
- Activating theoretical studies and research related to Arabic calligraphy and other scripts.
- Spreading artistic awareness and develop the aesthetic taste of the viewers, and connecting the educational and creative knowledge of various generations.
- Contribute to the construction and illustration of the cultural image of Arab-Islamic arts, with the view of spreading these arts, recognizing their creators within the framework of human dialogue.
- Stimulate artistic and intellectual exchange of classical script and ornamentation among young calligraphers and recognize various skills.
- Attract international calligraphic experiences for a comprehensive artistic renaissance that promote their individual efforts and support them through the active participation on the level of the development, effort and production.
- Invest the creative efforts in order to support the artistic renaissance through multiple means such as Joint classical, modern and contemporary exhibitions, in addition to the workshops and intellectual seminars and special shows.
- Identifying western and eastern calligraphic experiences along with Arabic calligraphy as an Islamic art, confirming its aesthetical identity and its cultural role since the emergence of Arabic and Islamic civilization.

3- The biennial consists the following basic activities:

- 1- **General Exhibition** (includes the following exhibitions which will be selected by the jury):
 - **Hilya Exhibition** in its classical style or the new innovative ideas related to it wither in form or content, with the aim of:
 - Reviving one of the most authentic traditions of Arabic Calligraphy through introducing the Hilya of the Prophet Mohammed which deal



with the physical description of the prophet, and allow it to be presented in a contemporary modern way.

- Highlighting its main elements (the ornament, the gilding, the artistic production) reflecting the calligrapher potentials.
- The possibility of developing Hilya through creating new designs, which adds new innovative model to the history of Arabic Calligraphy.

- **Calligraphy Patchwork Exhibition (Muraqa'at)** : in its original classical style, or new creative approaches of patchwork (Muraqa'at) in form and content, with the aim of:

- Revival of one of the most significant calligraphy traditions, through writing a series of texts, including Quranic verses and Hadith Sharif in various scripts.
- Indicate the multiple and innovative styles of patchworks in theory and design.

- **Exhibition of Classical Calligraphic Paintings** features the classical Arabic scripts that adhere to traditional aesthetics in creating the calligraphic painting, whether in idea, design, ornament and artistic production. In order to:

- Maintain the traditions of making the calligraphic painting through selecting the texts, the artistic composition, the paper, the pen, the tools, the ornament, the gilding and the artistic production.
- Work on creating new calligraphic compositions and formations within the authentic nature of Arabic calligraphy and produce it in a new artistic form.
- The calligrapher can use a variety of scripts in the same painting.

- **Exhibition of Contemporary Calligraphic Arts** which includes the new calligraphic experiences and the various arts of spatial and conceptual calligraphic image executed in its multiple techniques. As well as the designs of the printing Arabic letters, through the models which inspire the classical nature of Arabic Calligraphy in a way that harmonizes with the modern design and its functional uses in printing. In addition to the digital uses of Arabic letter.

The aim:

- Highlighting the aesthetical aspect of Arabic calligraphy through the various artistic and aesthetical methods.
- Introducing new materials, techniques and processing methods within the new mediums of technology, assuring the calligraphy potentials in producing multiple aesthetics that handle various contemporary functions.



- Highlighting the distinct individual styles resulting from the values of self-expression.
- Promoting the steps that makes calligraphy art related to modern technology.
- Encouraging artists to use new tools and with different skills which support their approach of artistic and aesthetic research.

2-The Honorees: Honoring a number of pioneer artists and establishments for their remarkable efforts in the domain of Arabic calligraphy, and hold retrospective exhibitions.

3- Parallel Exhibitions: (Specific exhibitions organized outside the competition) in classical calligraphy, beside the contemporary experiences.

4- Parallel Intellectual Seminar: (An international parallel seminar which discusses a certain theme and participate in it a group of researchers and specialists)

5- Individual Invitations: (Special invitations to be addressed to artists, critics, researchers, media people and officials of authorities and academies).

6- Workshops (special invitations addressed to innovative persons to conduct experimental workshops during the period of the biennial).

7-General Invitations:(Invitations addressed to authorities, societies, centers, museums and other institutions).

Article 2:

1. The documentation and individual files of the participants in the general exhibition include the following:

- A- A digital personal photo of each artist with a digital copy of the passport which shall be valid for Six months at least prior to the start of the biennial.
- B- Colored digital slides and photos of the nominated artworks of high quality (Photoshop 300 dpi-jpg), to be sent via email.**
- C- A complete and brief CV in Arabic and English, on word system, to be sent via email.
- D- Most Important critical essays and opinions on the participant artists and their art works.
- E- A list of the number of the participant artworks, their size, material, date of completion, and their estimated price in US dollar. This list can be prepared by completing the attached forms after signing the attached contract by the two parties.



F- A critical review in 200 words of the participating works shall be submitted to be published in Arabic and English in the Biennial guide book. The review to be saved on “Word” and sent via the enclosed email address.

2- All documentary materials required above shall be sent via the following email address: aysha@sdci.gov.ae

3- All communications and shipments shall be sent on the biennial address. It is preferable to send the art works to Sharjah International Airport. (Please note that if the shipment comes through Dubai Airport or through Courier companies, senders may pay custom fees); or, works shall be hand delivered to the biennial administration, attached with it the schedule of the participating artworks.

4-The Leading Committee of the Biennial and the curator of the biennial will form a committee to sort out the nominated artworks.

5-The Leading Committee of the Biennial and the curator of the biennial form an international jury committee consisting of five experienced and specialized members.

The decisions of both the sorting committee and the arbitration committee are final, and conclusive and not subject to appeal within the general system of the biennial, and the presence of the curator.



Article 3:

Awards:

Sharjah Grand prize (value of) (US \$ 15000)

Three awards for the category of classical trend (value for each) (US \$ 6000)

As the following:

Hilya Award

Calligraphy Patchwork Award (Muraqa'at)

Calligraphic Painting Award

Three awards for the Contemporary trend (value for each) (US \$ 6000)

As the following:

Two Awards for contemporary calligraphy experience

One Award for designing Arabic letter for printing purposes

Article 4:

Parallel Seminar: It is an international intellectual seminar that deals with a specific theme. Researchers and specialists will take part in this seminar and shall issue a final declaration. The items and materials of the seminar shall be printed in a book or group of books.

General Remarks:

- 1- Artists shall have the right to participate in one or more of the following exhibitions (Hilya exhibition, Calligraphy patchwork (Muraqa'at), classical calligraphy, contemporary calligraphy arts)
- 2- Artworks related to the theme (Dot) have the priority in display and arbitration
- 3- Participant artists are free to present the projects and the artworks in their own way, however it shall reflect the theme (Dot) and in agreement with the organizing committee.
- 4- Copied, printed or duplicated works shall not be accepted. Participant shall submit original artworks in Hilya, calligraphy patchwork and classical Arabic trend.
- 5- Members of the jury and sorting committee have the right to participate in the exhibition, but their works shall be exhibited out of the official competition.
- 6- Winners of the previous edition are not allowed to win twice in a row within the same trend, unless one edition has passed their winning.
- 7- Winning artworks in other competitions shall not participate in the biennial.
- 8- Participating in the general exhibition doesn't necessarily mean hosting the artist.
- 9- Artworks shall be sent without frame or glass.
- 10- As for the participants in the general exhibition, the biennial administration shall guarantee the re-shipment of the artworks to the same address it was sent from and in the same way it was sent with an insurance coverage.
- 11- The biennial administration shall not receive artworks after the specified due date.
- 12- Any artwork shall not be retrieved during the exhibition period, whereas artworks shall be returned to their owners within two months (60) days from the end of the biennial. The artist shall not claim their artworks after this period.
- 13- The biennial administration has the right to use participating artworks in media means and promotional campaigns.
- 14- In case of acquiring any participating artwork, 15% of the artwork value shall be discounted for the sake of the organizer, that is, Sharjah Calligraphy Biennial.
- 15- Acceptance of the participation terms and signing the attached participation contract demands fully commitment to the above mentioned provisions.



Mailing and shipment Address:

**Sharjah Collections of The Art
Sharjah Calligraphy Biennial 2016 – Seventh Edition
P.O. Box 68068, Sharjah
UAE, Government of Sharjah.
Tel: 00971 6 5123355
Mobile: 00971 50 3724527
Fax: 00971 65123352
Email: hisham@sdci.gov.ae
aysha@sdci.gov.ae**

Parallel International Seminar:

**Sharjah Collections of The Art
UAE – Government of Sharjah
Attention: Mr. Hisham Al Madhloum – Head of the lead committee
Hisham@sdci.gov.ae
Attention: Prof. Dr. Iyad Al Huseini – Biennial Curator
ayadalousseini82@gmail.com
P.O. Box 68068, Sharjah,
Mob: 00971 56 5723600
Fax: 00971 6 5663360**

Important Dates must be observed:

- 1- Last date for receiving participation contract, participation form and the agenda with required details and identification documents (via email) is on 31/9/2015**
- 2- Last date for receiving the research papers of the international seminar (via email) is on 1/9/2015.**
- 3- Art works shall be sent between the period form 1/12/2015 till 15/12/2015 (Participating artworks shall be sent along with the artist address and the agenda form. Any work arriving after the specified date shall not be accepted).**

You are kindly advised to observe the above mentioned dates, and we are highly appreciating your cooperation, wishing you all the best.

Regards

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