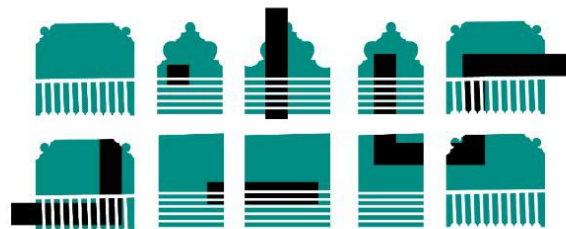


ART DUBAI
18-20.4.2025

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ART DUBAI ANNOUNCES PROGRAMME HIGHLIGHTS FOR 2025 EDITION



Composite image: (L-R: Ania Soliman, Mohammed Kazem, Héctor Zamora, Ouchhh Studio, Global Art Forum 2025)

DUBAI, UAE – 5 March 2025: Art Dubai today announces the first details of its programming and partnerships for the 2025 edition, reaffirming the fair's commitment to supporting and developing Dubai's cultural ecosystem. The 2025 edition of Art Dubai takes place at Madinat Jumeirah from 18 – 20 April, with invitation-only previews on 16 and 17 April.

Since its foundation in 2007, Art Dubai has played an important institutional role in the growth of the local and regional cultural scenes, shaping and delivering high-impact cultural programming through long-term, year-round partnerships with institutions, business and government. Art Dubai's 2025 programme demonstrates the fair's commitment to providing significant commissioning opportunities for local and international artists; convening the world's brightest creative minds through innovative talks and conference programming; and supporting scholarship and professional development programmes to develop the region's future cultural leaders.

Programme highlights for Art Dubai 2025 will include:

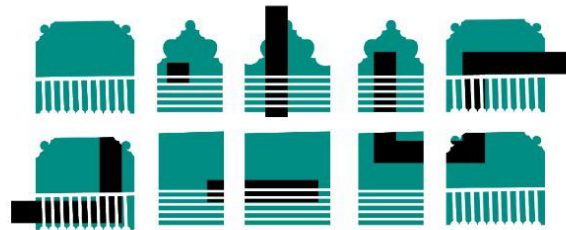
- A new series of performances and site-specific interventions by Mexican artist **Héctor Zamora**, marking the launch of a new multi-year co-commissioning partnership between Art Dubai and Alserkal Avenue
- A major new digital commission by leading Emirati artist **Mohammed Kazem**, presented by Julius Baer
- A series of experiential commissions and installations examining the transformation of nature through technology and human experience, including site-specific works by **Ania Soliman** and **Total Arts at the Courtyard**
- A series of new site-specific digital installations debuting at Art Dubai Digital, including by Ouchhh Studio, Breakfast, Jacopo Di Cera and Hybrid Xperience
- The first details of Art Dubai's flagship transdisciplinary summit, the **Global Art Forum**, entitled 'The New New Normal', commissioned by Shumon Basar, and curated by Y7
- The second edition of **Art Dubai's Digital Summit**, entitled 'After the Technological Sublime'

These initiatives are an important complement to Art Dubai's diverse gallery programme, which this year comprises more than 120 exhibitors, including dedicated sections curated by Magalí Arriola and Nada Shabout (Art Dubai Modern); Gonzalo Herrero Delicado (Art Dubai Digital); and Mirjam Varadinis (Bawwaba).

Pablo del Val, Art Dubai's Artistic Director commented: "For nearly two decades, Art Dubai has played two complementary roles, as the region's leading commercial art platform and as a unique institution that is rooted in and

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significantly contributes to the local cultural ecosystem. This year's programme continues this long-term approach, working in partnership with local institutions, business and government to create new opportunities for artists, and enhancing Dubai's reputation as a centre of innovation and thought leadership. We are proud to be a convener of the brightest minds and a meeting point for the diverse, global creative communities that we represent, those building the region's cultural infrastructure, and the increasing number of people who call Dubai home."

Art Dubai is held under the patronage of Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President and Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai. The fair is held in partnership with A.R.M. Holding. It is sponsored by Swiss Wealth Manager Julius Baer. Art Dubai's exclusive Watch and Jewellery partner is Piaget. Culturally driven lifestyle developer HUNA Living is a partner of Art Dubai. The Dubai Culture & Arts Authority (Dubai Culture) is the strategic partner of Art Dubai and Art Dubai Digital. Madinat Jumeirah is the home of Art Dubai.

Further details on Art Dubai's 2025 programme [here](#)

View the list of Art Dubai 2025 participating galleries [here](#)

EDUCATION

A.R.M. Holding Children's Programme 2025 Artists Announced

The A.R.M. Holding Children's Programme is the UAE's largest cultural education initiative, having reached more than 30,000 children since its launch in 2021. This year marks the 5th edition of the programme which will, for the first time, feature a collaboration between two artists: Peju Alatise, a widely recognised contemporary African artist who represented Nigeria at the 2017 Venice Biennale; and Alia Hussain Lootah, an Emirati artist, educator and co-founder of Medaf Studio in Dubai. Launching at Art Dubai before expanding in schools across all seven Emirates, their co-produced programme will celebrate local ecosystems, explore ecologies and question our interactions with our surroundings through different artistic lenses. It will also address the cultural significance of water in the UAE's landscapes, guiding children to examine our essential connection with this crucial resource and its creative applications in art.

The programme is a cornerstone of A.R.M Holding's ongoing support for culture and education, empowering the next generation through innovative cultural initiatives.

COMMISSIONS AND INSTALLATIONS

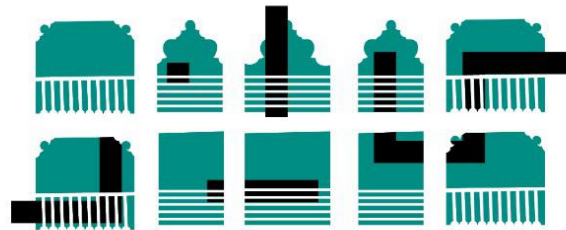
Art Dubai Commissions

This year's **Art Dubai Commissions** programme will explore transformation, liberation and the interplay between humanity and materials. Known for his site-specific interventions Mexican artist **Héctor Zamora** will present a new series of performances and site-specific interventions, including new sculptural pieces and performative group actions that involve performers interacting with terracotta objects. Each of the works is an exploration of symbolism through clay vessels, and the ritual dimension of the performances offer further reflection on human culture and social and natural dynamics. Performances at Art Dubai will be complemented by a site-specific installation by the artist at Alserkal Avenue. This marks the start of a new multi-year partnership between the two organisations, co-commissioning artists whose practices are rooted in performance.

A series of digital artworks will debut at the fair, responding to Art Dubai Digital's theme 'After the Technological Sublime' and explore how human-made creations may inspire admiration of human achievement, but also provoke anxiety as these systems may surpass our control and divert attention from pressing environmental, social, cultural

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and political issues. Following their successful debut in 2024, **Ouchhh Studio** will return to Art Dubai this year, presenting *MotherEarth*, a large-scale AI-driven data sculpture that transforms raw climate data—including air quality, CO2 emissions, humidity levels, and temperature changes—into a vivid sensory experience. New York-based data and kinetic artist **Breakfast** will present *Carbon Wake*, a digitally controlled kinetic installation that transforms real-time energy data collected from cities around the world. Gathering energy production data from a new city every minute, the work visualises the impact of individual energy choices through motion and interaction.

Further highlights will include *Retreat*, a new work by Italian artist **Jacopo Di Cera**, reflecting on the urgent need for climate action, capturing the melting of the Brenva glacier in the Italian Alps through an impactful four-metre-high piece with over 30 upcycled screens. **Hybrid Xperience**, a collective of artists, engineers and creatives based in Dubai, will present a large-scale kaleidoscope inviting audiences to visualise their dreams using artificial intelligence.

Taking its title from the Arabic for ‘electricity’, *Kahrabaa*, is a monumental site-specific installation by **Ania Soliman** that traces complex interconnections between technology, nature, and memory. The work was created in response to Beirut’s ongoing energy crisis, and presents five-metre-high canvases that blend technological and organic motifs captured in a series of performative acts involving artificial and real plants being thrown onto the canvases.

Total Arts at the Courtyard (Fereydoun Ave, Shaqayeq Arabi and Dariush Zandi) will present *Reconstructed Landscape*, a new site-specific installation. Their latest collaborative project transforms fragments of found objects from the mountains and urban environments of the UAE into an imagined terrain. Through photo collages, sculptures and assemblages, the work will carry traces of each object’s origins, forming a landscape that is both rooted in reality, and shaped by imagination. The work invites reflection on the fragile relationship between humans and their environment, urging viewers to consider how we shape, and are shaped by, the world around us.

New digital commission by Mohammed Kazem, presented by Julius Baer

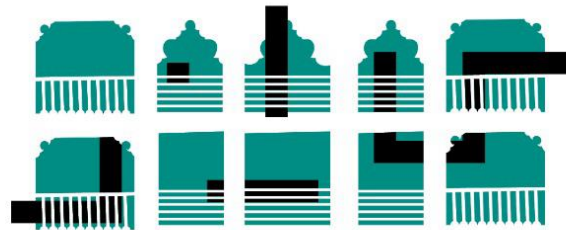
Swiss Wealth Manager Julius Baer, lead partner of Art Dubai, will present a newly commissioned digital installation by Emirati artist, Mohammed Kazem titled *Directions (Merging)* – اتجاهات (تمازج). In this installation, Kazem places the coordinates of Dubai at the centre of the space, drawing the visitors to converge as well – a microcosm of the city and the fair. The viewer is then surrounded by three walls containing a collection of static coordinates lining every inch, placed against the backdrop of moving waves, highlighting the feeling of this convergence and borderless flow. The installation speaks to the seamless exchange of resources, the fluidity of nature, and the interconnectedness of distant shores, mirroring Dubai’s evolution as a future city and a hub for global communities. This commission is part of Julius Baer’s “Future Cities” next generation theme – looking at the enormous growth potential of cities and how they are the engines of the global economy. This also marks Julius Baer’s 10-year partnership with Art Dubai, and the wealth manager’s third major digital commission at Art Dubai, following successful collaborations with Krista Kim in 2024 and Refik Anadol in 2023.

Piaget to debut a new commission by Alymamah Rashed

Piaget returns to Art Dubai 2025 with a special commission by Kuwaiti artist **Alymamah Rashed**, which will feature in a new exhibition titled *Play of Shapes* celebrating the Maison’s creativity, energy and craftsmanship through a showcase of their daring jewellery and watch collections. The commissioned piece, to be created in Alymamah’s distinctive surrealist style, will debut at Art Dubai and draw inspiration from Piaget’s signature styles that are anchored in the vibrant creativity and the social and artistic revolutionary ethos of the 1960s and 1970s.

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ART DUBAI 2025 TALKS AND CONFERENCE PROGRAMMING

Global Art Forum 2025: 'The New New Normal'

The largest arts conference in the Middle East and Africa, Art Dubai's **Global Art Forum** will this year examine how change keeps changing, often making everyday life feel more unsettling and unpredictable than science fiction. The 2025 edition, entitled 'The New New Normal,' will offer a timely exploration of the cultures and economies that are transforming chaos into progress. Sessions — featuring many of the world's foremost thinkers, technologists, artists, and forecasters — will cover transformations in quantum computing, Artificial Intelligence, gamified economics, cultural geopolitics, beauty and luxury industries and the never-ending reach of social media into our personal and political realms. The programme will be hosted by Global Art Forum Commissioner **Shumon Basar** and is curated by **Y7**, the UK-based post-disciplinary duo Hannah Cobb and Declan Colquitt, who specialise in integrating AI for audio-visual works and cultural criticism through their writing. Speakers will draw on a diverse range of expertise and backgrounds and will include celebrated architect **Rem Koolhaas**, artist **Lawrence Abu Hamdan** and **Postpostpost**.

Second Annual Digital Summit

Taking place over three days and building on the platform established by Art Dubai Digital, the second edition of the Digital Summit at Art Dubai brings together international and local industry leaders to explore the theme 'After the Technological Sublime'. Under the direction of Art Dubai Digital's curator Gonzalo Herrero Delicado, the summit offers a unique opportunity to discuss and debate how art and technology are addressing critical environmental, social, cultural, and political challenges. The programme will feature public talks, lectures, and breakout sessions, with contributions from museum directors, curators, artists, and experts shaping the global digital art landscape. The summit programme will address questions around ecological activism in media art; bias in artificial intelligence; and a focus on the future of museums in the digital age. The second Digital Summit is in strategic partnership with Dubai Culture.

Collector Talks

Art Dubai Collector Talks offers a platform for collectors within the Art Dubai network to discuss their passions, idiosyncrasies, unique perspectives, and provide intimate glimpses into their personal lives and inner worlds. This series fosters connections among like-minded individuals while offering inspiration to those who aspire to a deeper engagement with collecting. This year's discussions will explore questions that are particularly relevant to our times, including whether collectors are the same anywhere in the world; whether the practice of collecting, along with its motivations, has shifted over recent history. The sessions will also explore whether collectors today think beyond personal gratification, including whether the notion of 'impact collecting' shapes their decisions when acquiring works and fostering relationships with artists?

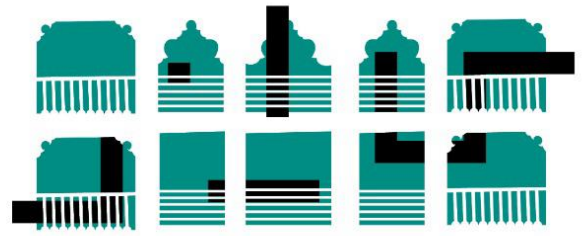
Modern Talks

Art Dubai Modern Talks is an annual series of conversations that support the fair's commitment to scholarship and under-explored art histories. A platform for discursive conversations sparked by Art Dubai Modern, whose 2025 edition is curated by Dr. Nada Shabout and Magalí Arriola, this year's programme will explore the cultural affinities and solidarities between West Asia, North Africa and Latin America, delving into shared experiences of navigating new national identities and examining how heritage has served as a tool for artists and scholars to address contemporary realities.

Art Dubai's Collector and Modern Talks are presented in partnership with **Dubai Collection**, the city's first institutional collection of Modern and Contemporary art.

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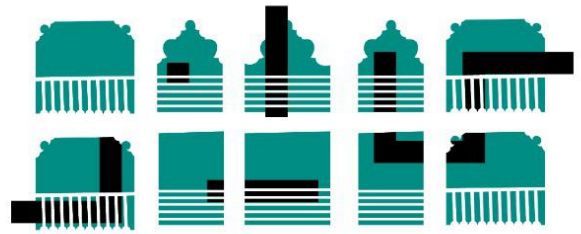
Further talks strands will include a new **Conversations with Artists** series, exploring the practice, stories and achievements of international and regional artists featured at this year's fair. Additionally, a new series of intimate conversations, presented by **HUNA Living**, will delve into the lives and practices of leading cultural voices in the UAE

A detailed day-by-day schedule of Art Dubai's extensive talks, workshops and events programme will be available in late March.

-ENDS-

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NOTES TO EDITORS:

About Art Dubai

Founded in 2007, Art Dubai is the most significant global art gathering in the Middle East. A catalyst for the rapid growth of the region's art scene and creative economy, Art Dubai provides an important gateway for discovery, learning and exchange, championing galleries and artists from less-represented geographies. Each year Art Dubai spotlights around 120 contemporary, modern and digital galleries from over 40 countries. The gallery programme is accompanied by artist commissions, an ambitious education programme and the most extensive talks programming of any international art fair.

Art Dubai reflects the robust growth and spirit of its home city – a cosmopolitan hub of innovation and the Gulf region's financial and commercial hub. With over 40 commercial galleries, global auction houses, and a rapidly expanding private and corporate collector base, it is also the centre of the region's art market.

Art Dubai works in partnership with government and business to develop and deliver ambitious long-term initiatives to support the long-term growth of the UAE's cultural sector. These include Dubai Collection - the first institutional art collection for the city of Dubai; Dubai Public Art, a multi-year and city-wide public realm commissioning programme; the most extensive cultural education programmes in UAE schools, developed in partnership with A.R.M. Holding, and Campus Art Dubai, which supports the next generation of cultural leaders through professional development, training and mentoring.

About Art Dubai Group

Art Dubai Group is a public-private partnership with Dubai International Financial Centre (DIFC) founded in 2007, and has grown to become the most experienced cultural programming company in the Gulf. Comprising more than 30 initiatives, including the region's leading art and design fairs and festivals, it is a provider of industry expertise to the business and government sectors, alongside year-round commissioning and professional development programmes.

The group's flagship initiatives include Art Dubai; Downtown Design – the region's leading design fair with a focus on high quality and original design; Dubai Design Week – the region's largest design festival; Prototypes for Humanity, the world's largest and most diverse assembly of academics addressing social and environmental challenges; and Editions – the Middle East's first limited edition art and design fair.

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