



CULTURAL REPORT

Events, exhibitions and contemporary Arab culture happening around the globe

Le Maroc Contemporain

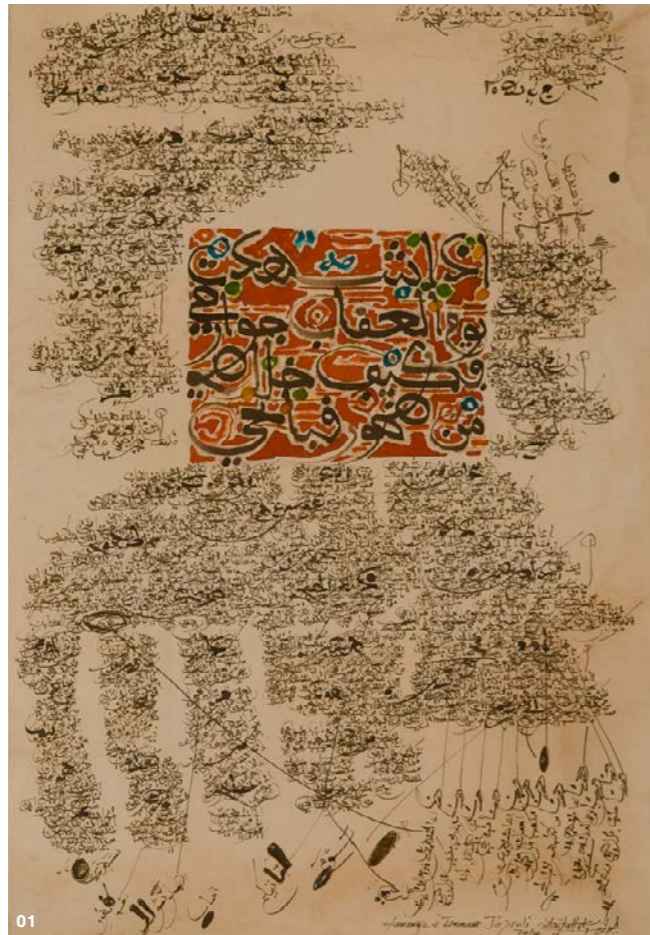
Institut du Monde Arabe
Paris, France
Until January 25

'Le Maroc Contemporain' not only brings together the work of more than 80 Moroccan contemporary artists, but will also play host to over 30 concerts, dance performances and a curated screening season of Moroccan cinema. A traditional Moroccan tent, designed specifically for the exhibition by Moroccan architect Tarik Oualalou, will also be stationed outside of the Institut du Monde Arabe as a host space for artisanal workshops.

Sharjah International Book Fair

Sharjah, UAE
November 5-15

With book fairs and publishers' exhibitions commonplace in nearly all major cities, it certainly says something momentous that the Sharjah International Book Fair (SIBF) ranks among the world's largest. With over one million visitors tallied up during last year's fair alone and 53 different countries represented to boot, SIBF offers fair-goers a distinctly diverse collection of paperbacks and hardcovers (including a section solely dedicated to Arabic authors), a three-day seminar catered specifically for the region's librarians, a dedicated cookery corner and speaking



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engagements with international and local authors.

Exposure 2014
Beirut Art Center
Beirut, Lebanon
December 12-February 13

Exposure 2014's 'Under Construction' theme will capture the spirit of youth and transformation that its featured

artists aim to explore. The exhibition will offer a variety of artworks and explorations, such as work by Hiba Kalache, who creates 'social sculptures' requiring the involvement of spectators, and the nostalgic and often unsettling photography of Tanya Traboulsi. Co-founders Sandra Dagher and Lamia Joreige recently appointed curator

Marie Muracciole as BAC's new director to spearhead its programming into the new year.

Sweets and Snacks Middle East

Dubai World Trade Centre
Dubai, UAE
November 9-11

Like a giant pick 'n' mix, the mothership of the region's confectionary conventions returns for its eighth incarnation, bringing together sweets, snacks and confectionery from Lebanon, Turkey, Iran and elsewhere in the region and further afield. As well as the sweet treats, the convention will feature a large-scale display of the industry's trends, innovations and technology advances.

Doris Duke's Shangri La: Architecture, Landscape, and Islamic Art

DCA's Los Angeles Municipal Art Gallery
Los Angeles, USA
Until December 28

This Los Angeles city-wide initiative will bring together over 60 objects from tobacco heiress Doris Duke's grand collection of Islamic art and artefacts, which she collected meticulously throughout her life. Honouring her love for the Islamic world, the exhibition will also bring together over 30 organisations to showcase modern-day Islamic art made by Muslims and non-Muslims

alike. The initiative's sister exhibition, 'Shangri La: Imagined Cities', will investigate contemporary life in the Middle East through artists rarely showcased on the mainstream stage, curated by Rijin Sahakian.

Istanbul Design Biennial

Istanbul, Turkey
November 1-December 14

Taking over the five floors of the Galata Greek Primary School, and with satellite pop-ups posted around the city, the second Istanbul Design Biennial is inviting more than 50 projects to address the question: 'What is the future now?' Titled 'The Future Is Not What It Used To Be', set by British curator Zoë Ryan, the biennial will see household objects, fashion accessories, food, menus, maps,



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buildings and other visual languages propose multiple, alternative futures for design as an active agent for change in society.

Memorizing By Means of Observing

Mohammed Kazem
Taymour Grahne Gallery
New York, USA
November 13-December 20

Acknowledged as one of the 'Five' – an informal group of pioneering artists from the Emirates – Mohammed Kazem's work is considered at the vanguard of conceptual art practice in the UAE. 'Memorizing By Means of Observing' will bring selected works from the artist's various periods – from 'Photographs with Flags', works initiated in the 1990s, to 'Kisses', his most recent – together for the first time.

Abu Dhabi Art
Saadiyat Cultural District
Abu Dhabi, UAE
November 5-8

Much more than a presentation of artworks from contemporary, modern and design galleries around the world, Abu Dhabi Art's 2014 edition, titled 'Beyond', will host a diverse public engagement programme of talks, interviews and book launches with artists, curators, gallerists and scholars. Coinciding with the first preview of the Guggenheim Abu Dhabi collection, the fair will



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also be branching out, for the first time, into other venues around the city in celebration of the future cultural diversity of Saadiyat Island.

International Festival of the Sahara

Douz, Tunisia
December 25-27

Featuring traditional Tunisian music and dancing, poetry readings, camel wrestling and horse racing, the International Festival of the Sahara has grown, over the last century, from humble beginnings as a camel fair to become one of Tunisia's most-loved annual festivals. Held each year in Douz, a southern town known as 'the gateway to the Sahara', the festival is an exuberant four-day celebration of desert culture in the December sun.

London Palestine Film Festival

Barbican Centre
London, UK
November 28-December 4

Proudly bringing Palestinian narratives to London audiences since 1999, this year's London Palestine Film Festival runs the gamut of subjects, from Rani Massalha's 'Giraffada', a feature film that tells the story of a young boy and the giraffes his father cares for at Qalqilya Zoo (the last remaining zoo in the West Bank), to 'Shuja'iyah' by Hadeel Assali, a short documentary film that juxtaposes home videos from Gaza with a journalist's audio recording. Prioritising self-described Palestinian cinema and stories, the LPFF regularly proves to be as uplifting as it is evocative.