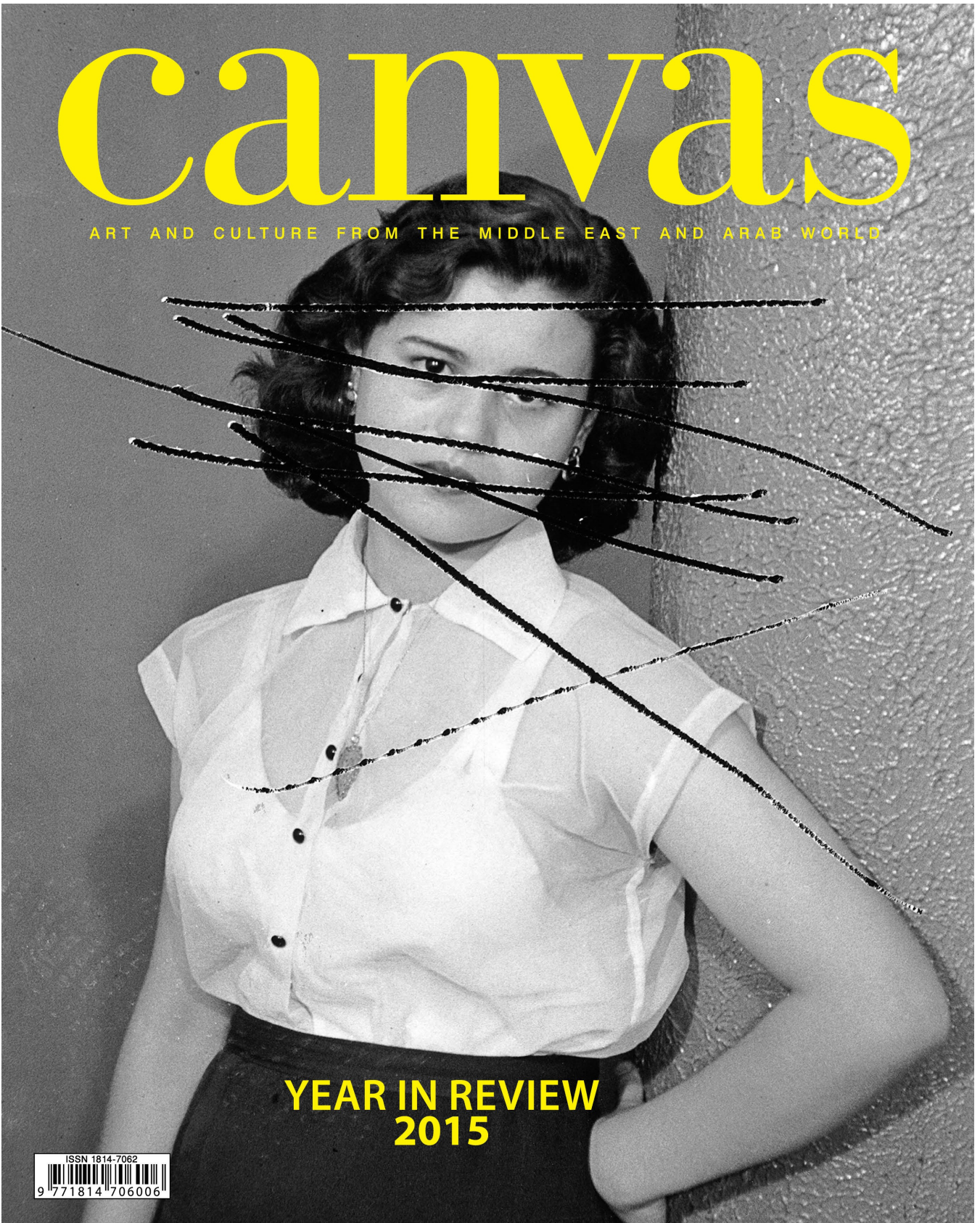


Canvas

ART AND CULTURE FROM THE MIDDLE EAST AND ARAB WORLD



**YEAR IN REVIEW
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LOOKING AHEAD 2016

Come Dubai's March Art Week, the Delfina Foundation will launch a special project derived from its popular programme *The Politics of Food*, which collaborates with celebrity chefs, leading artists and farmers. This will be in addition to its involvement with A.i.R Dubai.

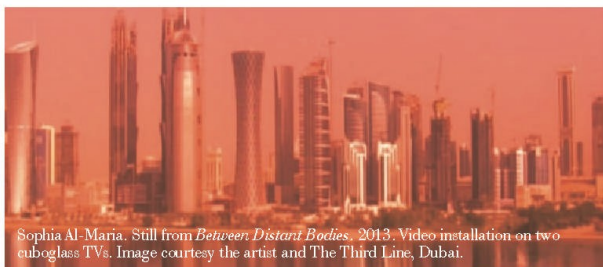
The Politics of Food. Image courtesy Delfina Foundation, London.



21,39 Jeddah Arts has moved its dates from January to begin instead on 10 February 2016. The focus of the third edition will be *The Earth and Ever After*, focusing on the earth as a living being and humanity's relationship to it.

Iranian artists Shoja Azari and Hadieh Shafie will be part of *Islamic Art Now Part 2* at LACMA (Los Angeles) as of 24 January onwards. It is the second installment of a two-part exhibition featuring 25 Contemporary artists from the Arab world that began in February 2015.

In summer 2016 Qatari-American artist Sophia Al-Maria will have her first-ever solo exhibition at The Whitney Museum in New York. Her self-coined 'Gulf Futurism' focuses on the intersections of culture, identity and isolation in relation to technology and reactionary Islam. The upcoming exhibition will feature a new series of videos and is inspired by the Gruen Transfer, a phenomenon where a controlled environment is used to distract and manipulate consumers.



Sophia Al-Maria. Still from *Between Distant Bodies*, 2013. Video installation on two cuboglass TVs. Image courtesy the artist and The Third Line, Dubai.



Children from Jenin during a school trip to the Dead Sea, Jericho, 1962. From the family album of Afaf Zarour. © and courtesy The Palestinian Museum.

The upcoming Palestinian Museum is designed to celebrate and preserve Palestinian culture, society and history. The Birzeit-based museum intends to open on 15 May 2016 on the 68th anniversary of the Nakba ('catastrophe'), an event which caused the displacement of over 60 per cent of the Palestinian population. It is a project of the Welfare Association, an independent, non-profit organisation offering developmental and humanitarian assistance to Palestinians, in collaboration with Palestinian and Arab donors. Chosen director Jack Persekian has stepped down from the position as of December, his replacement is pending. The inaugural exhibition, *Never-Part* (at the time of press, dates were yet to be confirmed), will investigate connections between material culture, memory and Palestinian identity through cherished objects that have been saved.

In a new initiative within the MENASA region and on a global scale, the Hamdan Bin Mohammed Bin Rashid Al-Maktoum International Photography Award (HIPA) group has paired with the World Photography Organisation (WPO) to create the first Global Perspective of Photography, a biennial-like event to be held from 16–19 March 2016 during Dubai's Art Week. Zeldia Cheatle will be head curator leading 19 other curators, each in charge of one (or more) of the 25 national pavilions. Each pavilion will select up to eight artists to represent their strongest national talent from the 20th and 21st centuries. The exhibitions will accompany workshops and talks housed within a temporary museum space in Dubai's Design District (d3). The region will be represented by the inclusion of Morocco, Egypt, India and the UAE.



Image courtesy Yasser Elsheshtawy.

The UAE will make its second appearance at the 2016 Venice International Architecture Biennale. Paolo Barrata, chair of the event, announced the appointment of Chilean architect Alejandro Aravena as curator of the 2016 edition, under the theme *Reporting From The Front*. The biennale will revolve around architecture that makes a positive difference, improving the quality of the environment and, thereby, the quality of life of its inhabitants, a notion inspired by Aravena's work with social housing and community development.

The UAE Pavilion, under the curation of Yasser Elsheshtawy, has been commissioned by the Salama Bint Hamdan Al-Nahyan Foundation and is supported by the Ministry of Culture, Youth and Community Development. "We would like to present an architectural and urban landscape that goes beyond the iconic and spectacular," says Elsheshtawy. "Instead, the focus will be on architecture that is a response to the need of its inhabitants, in order to demonstrate that there is an active architectural culture in the UAE that can offer positive lessons to the rest of the world and make a contribution to contemporary architectural discourse. We are attempting to move away from representation depictions – which have typically focused on history – towards a more contemporary expression."

To further encourage arts education, applications for the 2016 Venice Internship programme (which runs for the entirety of the exhibition) are now invited from Emiratis and long-term residents aged 21 and over. The internship includes a one-month stay in Venice, where those selected will act as custodians and docents of the UAE Pavilion to help them acquire first-hand managing experience.

2016 will mark the first London-based survey of work by Lebanese-born Palestinian artist Mona Hatoum at Tate Modern from 4 May–21 August 2016. The exhibition will include over 100 works, from performance to works on paper spanning 35 years of practice that captures Hatoum's political and aesthetic concerns.



Mona Hatoum. *Performance Still 1985, 1995*. Photograph, gelatin silver print on paper, mounted on aluminium. 76.4 x 113.6cm. Presented by Tate Patrons 2012. © Mona Hatoum.

Gallery Ward (Dubai/Riyadh/Cairo), which emphasises Contemporary Egyptian art, will reopen in Dubai's d3 in early 2016. The new gallery venue, previously in Al-Quoz, will include a space permanently dedicated to displaying innovative concepts alongside temporary exhibitions.

In early December a new London gallery, Sophia Contemporary Gallery was announced that will showcase Middle Eastern and Iranian art alongside Western work. Founded by Vassili Tsarenkov, Lali Marganiya and Lili Jassemi, the inaugural exhibition will feature Reza Derakshani from 9 March–23 April 2016.

The works of late Iranian artist Farideh Lashai will be presented as a retrospective exhibition at the Sharjah Art Foundation from 12 March–12 June 2016.

The Tehran Museum of Contemporary Art (TMOCA) announced that from 7 March–13 May 2016 it will present a solo exhibition for Belgian artist Wim Delvoye. Organised by Vida Zaim and Leila Varasteh, this will mark the first time the institution will completely hand over its space to a non-Iranian artist. Delvoye has made efforts to respect Iran's culture and will omit works that may be deemed insensitive, such as a sculpture with bare shoulders.



Wim Delvoye. *Rimowa Classic Flight Multiwheel 971.63.00.4*. 2014. Embossed Aluminium. 71 x 47 x 25.5 cm. Image courtesy Leila Heller Gallery, New York/Dubai.