

Qatar Museums' Fire Station launches Youth Summer Residency to grow young artistic talent

Seven promising young artists will hone skills and draw inspiration over a two month programme designed to further strengthen Qatar's cultural sector

Doha, 19 June 2017: Qatar Museums' (QM) Fire Station is pleased to announce the launch of its inaugural Youth Summer residency, a new initiative that will see selected young artists join QM's Fire Station for a two-month residency to develop their artistic talents. Building on Fire Station's landmark Artist in Residence programme, an initiative fostering Qatar's next generation of artistic talent, the Youth Summer Residency aims to encourage young artists to explore art and develop their artistic skills.

Run in partnership with the Ministry of Education, the Youth Summer Residency will host seven young people from schools across Qatar in this year's inaugural edition. These budding artists will receive mentorship and guidance on a daily basis, discuss art with established artists in the community and visit museums and galleries to reflect upon and take inspiration from other artists' work.

In addition to regular training and mentorship, the program also provides participants with access to an impressive group studio space where each young artist can work on his or her creations. By combining learning and creative self-expression in this way, the Youth Summer Residency aims to create the perfect environment for young artistic talent to flourish. This creativity will then be exhibited to the community later this year by way of an exhibition displaying the young artists' artworks.

Commenting on the launch, Khalifa Al-Obaidly, Director of the Fire Station, said:

"I have been astounded by the talent, passion and hard work of our artists in residence and, given the success of our Artist in Residence programme, it only made sense to launch a youth-focused initiative to satisfy young people's appetite for increased opportunities for artistic expression. From July to August, seven promising young talents will have an opportunity to learn, explore and hone their skills in a wonderfully inspiring environment that young artists around the world can only dream of. At the end of the year, our artistic community will then have an opportunity to come together to reflect on the work created at a dedicated exhibition. Given the level of talent participating in this inaugural edition of the programme, I expect that to be an immensely exciting and rewarding experience for everyone involved."

The young people chosen to participate in QM's inaugural Youth Summer Residency are all from Grade 12, from several schools across the country. They are:

- Almaha Almaadeed from the Al Maha Academy for Girls
- Nhayan Khalid Almureziq from the Mohammed Bin Abudlwahab High school for Boys
- Ayman Waseem from Al Hamad International

- Esraa Mohammed Salaheldin and Noor Khalid Albadri from the Um Hakim High School for Girls
- Amina Mohammed Nour and Nada Ramadan Abdulfatah from the Zoabida High School for Girls

The Youth Summer Residency expands on the Fire Station's Artist in Residence programme, which began in September 2015. During a residency, artists move into one of Fire Station's studios, collaborate with fellow creatives and develop their own technique. They meet curators, benefit from weekly mentoring sessions, and meet arts professionals from all over the world, representing Qatar in the international cultural community.

The Youth Summer Residency will offer young artists a condensed version of this course, spread over two months instead of nine. By identifying, developing and celebrating artistic talent so early in an artist's career, QM hopes to broaden the base of cultural talent in Qatar, contributing to its delivery of the cultural goals set out in the 2030 Qatar National Vision.

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Qatar Museums

Qatar Museums connects the museums, cultural institutions and heritage sites in Qatar and creates the conditions for them to thrive and flourish. It centralises resources and provides a comprehensive organisation for the development of museums and cultural projects, with a long term ambition of creating a strong and sustainable cultural infrastructure for Qatar. Under the patronage of His Highness the Emir, Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani, and led by its Chairperson, Her Excellency Sheikha Al Mayassa bint Hamad bin Khalifa Al Thani, QM is consolidating Qatar's efforts to become a vibrant centre for the arts, culture and education, in the Middle East and beyond.

Since its foundation in 2005, QM has overseen the development of the Museum of Islamic Art (MIA), Mathaf: Arab Museum of Modern Art, and the Al Zubarah World Heritage Site Visitor Centre. QM also manages the QM Gallery at Katara Cultural Village, the ALRIWAQ DOHA Exhibition Space and the Fire Station: Artists in Residence. Future projects include the launch of the highly anticipated National Museum of Qatar and the 3-2-1 Qatar Olympic and Sports Museum.

QM is committed to instigating Qatar's future generation of arts, heritage and museum professionals. At its core is a commitment to nurturing artistic talent, creating opportunities and developing the skills to service Qatar's emerging art economy. By means of a multi-faceted program and public art initiatives, QM seeks to push the boundaries of the traditional museum model, and create cultural experiences that spill out onto the streets and seek to involve a wide audience. Through a strong emphasis on originating art and culture from within and fostering a spirit of national participation, QM is helping Qatar find its own distinctive voice in today's global cultural debates.

