

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

4 July 2016

Great Start to VCUQatar's 2016 Summer Program for Children and High School Students

The first four courses of VCUQatar's Summer Art Camp concluded successfully. Eight more courses will be taking place from the end of July until the middle of August.

Children and high school students of various age groups (4-7, 8-12 and 13+) learned a variety of different art and design techniques at the summer art camp courses that took place in late June and early July at Virginia Commonwealth University in Qatar (VCUQatar) at Education City.

In the "Art Fun – Tea Party" class, 4-7 year old children had a fun-filled week as they learned about art and design by making cakes, ice creams and all things sweet with a variety of materials such as colored clays, cards, and paints.

Eight to twelve-year old students at the "Art Exploration" course learned how to design and create mythical creatures by using painting, collage and clay skills to great effect, while children of the same age group in the "Print Workshop" created eye-catching two-color prints. Participants in the "Fashion Illustration" class were introduced to different fashion drawing styles and processes that are being used throughout the fashion industry.

The teachers and assistants described the attitude of the students as "wonderful" and "inspiring" as the enthusiastic students wasted no time in getting to grips with the materials at hand.

Yousra Ahmed, one of the assistants in the Art Fun class, was impressed by how quickly the children learned. "It was an eye-opening experience to see the skills of these kids grow to such an extent in such a short amount of time."

Nour Elbasuni, who assisted in the art exploration program and who created a stop motion movie of the children's mythical creations, said it was wonderful to watch the children open up to the possibilities of art and design, and to see how they reached into the "infinite spring of creativity that is inside each and every one of them."

Najla, a student who participated in the Art Fun class said: "I love this summer camp, because I love art", while Ahmed, a keen student of the Art Exploration course said: "I really enjoyed this monster week because I loved the way I expressed my ideas".

More art and design courses will be taking place from July 31 to August 18 at VCUQatar.

One week and two week programs are available for all age groups starting from the age of 6 upwards, including drawing & illustration, print, collage & creative discovery, arts & design intensive, fashion illustration, and fashion design portfolio.

Registration for the classes is still ongoing and details for all classes are available at <http://www.qatar.vcu.edu/community/summer-program>

The summer classes are designed to engage young students and interest them in art and design from an early age and are taught by seasoned art educators and VCUQatar alumni, with the assistance of VCUQatar degree students.

ENDS

About Virginia Commonwealth University in Qatar:

VCUQatar is the Qatar campus of the prestigious Virginia Commonwealth University School of the Arts in Richmond, Virginia. Established in 1998 through a partnership with Qatar Foundation, VCUQatar offers students the opportunity to earn a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree in fashion design, graphic design, interior design and painting & printmaking, a Bachelor of Arts degree in art history and a Master of Fine Arts degree in design.

In addition to a comprehensive annual public events program that includes a wide range of exhibitions, lectures and fashion events, the University hosts the biennial international design conference Tasmeeem and the biennial Hamad bin Khalifa Islamic Art Symposium, attracting globally recognized designers, academics and thinkers while fostering sustainable, university-community partnerships that enhance the educational, economic and cultural vitality of Qatar. For more information please visit www.qatar.vcu.edu

Qatar Foundation – Unlocking Human Potential

Qatar Foundation for Education, Science, and Community Development (QF) is a private, non-profit organization that is supporting Qatar on its journey from carbon economy to knowledge economy by unlocking human potential, for the benefit of not only Qatar, but the world. Founded in 1995 by His Highness Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa Al Thani, the Father Amir, QF is chaired by Her Highness Sheikha Moza bint Nasser.

QF's work encompasses education, research and community development. World-class universities are brought to Qatar to help create an education sector in which young people can develop the attitudes and skills required for a knowledge economy. At the same time, QF builds Qatar's innovation and technology capacity by developing and commercializing solutions through key sciences. The Foundation also works to foster a progressive society while enhancing cultural life, protecting Qatar's heritage and addressing immediate social needs in the community.

For a complete list of QF's initiatives and projects, visit <http://www.qf.org.qa>