

STILL LIFE: Art, Ecology and the Politics of Change
Sharjah Biennial 8, United Arab Emirates, 4 April - 4 June 2007

Biographical Information

Director: Hoor Al Qasimi - Co-curator of 'NEAR' - 1998, with Derek Ogbourne and Peter Lewis and Co-curator of 'Andy Warhol' - 2002, with Brigitte Schenk from Brigitte Schenk Gallery, Cologne, both at Sharjah Art Museum. Director and Co-curator of 'Sharjah Biennial 6' with Peter Lewis - 2003. Director of 'Sharjah Biennial 7' - 2005. Tutor of Painting and Drawing at Sharjah Fine Art Centre - 1997. Studied Fine Art at Slade School of Fine Art, London and is currently completing an MA in Curating Contemporary Art at the Royal College of Art, London.

Artistic Director: Jack Persekian - Curator and Producer, Founding Director of Anadiel Gallery and, the Al-Ma'mal Foundation for Contemporary Art in Jerusalem. Head curator of Sharjah Biennial 7 (2005). Recent curated exhibitions include: Reconsidering Palestinian Art, Fundacion Antonio Perez, Cuenca, Spain (2006); Disorientation – Contemporary Arab Artists from the Middle East, Haus der Kulturen der Welt, Berlin (2003); in weiter ferne, so nah, neue palastinensische kunst, Ifa Galleries in Bonn, Stuttgart and Berlin (2002); Official Palestinian Representation to the XXIV Biennale de Sao Paulo. Additional productions and directing include: The Palestinian Cultural Evening at the World Economic Forum in the Dead Sea, Jordan (2004), The Geneva Initiative, Public Commitment Event (2003), the Millennium Celebrations in Bethlehem - Bethlehem 2000. Short films and video works: 'A Ball and a Coloring Box', 'my son', 'the last 5 short films of the millennium' and 'the first 4 short films of the millennium' in collaboration with Palestinian filmmakers.

Curator: Eva Scharrer - Independent curator and art critic, currently based in Basel, Switzerland. She has worked on shows in international art institutions, such as P.S.1 Contemporary Art Center, New York; Kunstverein Freiburg; and Kunsthaus Baselland, Muttentz/Basel. Exhibition projects include Submerge. New Art from New York at Kunstbunker Nuremberg (curator); and Insideout, 5th Festival of Young Art: Berlin, Prague, New York at Bunker Reinhardtstrasse, Berlin (co-curator). She has written catalogue essays on emerging artists and is a regular contributor to Artforum International Magazine and Artforum.com, New York; Kunst-Bulletin, Zurich; C Magazine, Toronto; and BAZ, the Basel daily newspaper, among others.

Curator: Jonathan Watkins - Jonathan Watkins has been Director of Ikon Gallery Birmingham since 1999. Previously he worked for a number of years in London, as Curator of the Serpentine Gallery (1995-1997) and Director of Chisenhale Gallery (1990-1995). Jonathan Watkins was Artistic Director of the Biennale of Sydney 1998. He was guest curator for Quotidiana, Castello di Rivoli, Turin (1999-2000), Europarte La Biennale di Venezia (June 1997), Milano Europa 2000, Palazzo di Triennale, Milan (November 2000), Facts of Life an exhibition of contemporary Japanese art at the Hayward Gallery, London (Autumn 2001), and Days Like These, the Tate Triennial exhibition of contemporary British art (London 2003). Currently, he is on the curatorial team for the Shanghai Biennale (September 2006). Jonathan Watkins has written extensively on contemporary art, and recently was the author of a Phaidon monograph on the Japanese artist On Kawara.

Curator: Mohammed Kazem - A native of Dubai, UAE Mohammed Kazem was born in 1969. He has been a member of the Emirates Fine Arts Society in Sharjah since 1985, and has been a participant in 3rd, 4th, 5th, and 7th Sharjah Biennials. Kazem has exhibited on the international level as well, including 7th Havana Biennial, 1st Bangladesh Biennial, the Netherlands, and Moscow. Kazem was also curator of the Emirates Fine Art Society Exhibition, concurrent with the Sharjah international Biennial, Sharjah Art Museum (2005). Also curator of WINDOW Exhibition (16 UAE Artist), total Arts gallery, Dubai (2006). Kazem has been teaching painting at Art Atelier in the Youth Theatre and Arts in Dubai since 1999.