

News Release

- **Building the first institutional art collection in the city and for the city, aiming to support Dubai's thriving arts sector through a new, innovative model of patronage**
- **Featuring leading Modernist and Contemporary artists from the region and beyond, reflecting the unique creative spirit of Dubai**
- **Dubai Collection grows under the guidance and governance of expert Curatorial and Steering committees made up of regional and international cultural leaders**

Dubai, United Arab Emirates (13 July 2021)

Dubai Collection today announces details of the first artworks to be accepted into the recently launched initiative, designed to build an institutional art collection for the Emirate of Dubai through a new and innovative partnership model. Held under the patronage of His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, the Vice-President and Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai, Dubai Collection is a community-led and collaborative scheme that allows patrons to lend their works while retaining legal ownership, in addition to benefitting from expert advice to support the growth of both personal and public collections.

Artworks in the Dubai Collection will be accessible for public appreciation across the city of Dubai and education through a dedicated digital museum, launching later in the year. The first physical Dubai Collection exhibition of selected artworks from His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum's collection and other key Dubai collections will be unveiled later this year at the Etihad Museum, Dubai.

Commenting on the announcement, the Chairperson of the Dubai Collection Steering Committee, Her Highness Sheikhha Latifa bint Mohammed Bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Chairperson of the Dubai Culture and Arts Authority said: "We are at an exceptionally exciting moment in the development of the Dubai Collection initiative as we see the first artworks being accepted into the collection. I believe that our approach in collecting reflects Dubai's central role as a nucleus for art in the region and look forward to seeing this project become yet another milestone in our work in making Dubai a global cultural and creative hub."

Following the first official curatorial committee review and selection process, 87 new artworks will enter the Dubai Collection alongside the personal collections of founding patrons His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum and Her Highness Sheikhha Latifa bint Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, marking an important achievement in the development of Dubai's innovative new institutional art collection.

Included in the acquisitions announced today are works by many leading modern Arab artists from the Arab world, including Baya (Algeria, 1931 – 1998), Fateh Moudarres (Syria, 1922–1999), Chafic Abboud (Lebanon, 1926-2004) and Adam Henein (Egypt, 1929 -2020). An important focus in the acquisitions are works by leading Emirati artists, such as Abdul Qader Al Rais (UAE, 1951) and Shaikha Al Mazrou (UAE, 1988).

Among the accepted artworks, 19 are part of the A.R.M. Holding Art Collection, a new corporate collection launched by the private investment firm and multi-focused economic enabler to embody their support of the city of Dubai and its potential as a nascent global cultural hub. Highlights of the collection include Mohamed Ahmed Ibrahim (UAE, 1962), Lamya Gargash (UAE, 1982), Moath Alofi

(Saudi Arabia, 1984) and Rathin Barman (India, 1981). The A.R.M. Holding Art Collection is displayed in the offices of A.R.M in Al Safa, Dubai.

Chaired by Muna Faisal al Gurg, Director of Museums Department at Dubai Culture and Arts Authority, Dubai Collection's independent Curatorial Committee is responsible for the overall creative direction of the collection and is comprised of a panel of leading international arts professionals and curators including: Munira Al Sayegh, Dr. Nada Shabout, Antonia Carver, Maryam Al Dabbagh, Venetia Porter and Catherine David. To ensure the Collection's continuous development and growth, the committee will meet every three months to review new artworks submitted by prominent patrons in the region.

The Dubai Collection Steering Committee is chaired by Her Highness Sheikha Latifa bint Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum and will ensure that the initiative reflects the open, forward looking and cosmopolitan spirit of Dubai and the UAE. Leading figures from the city's cultural scene have been selected as members of the Steering Committee, including: His Excellency Mohammed Al-Murr, His Excellency Abdul Rahman Al Owais, Her Excellency Noura bint Mohammed Al Kaabi, Abdelmonem Bin Eisa Alserkal, and Muna Easa Al Gurg.

On the initiative, Steering Committee member Abdelmonem Bin Eisa Alserkal says: "That Dubai should imagine such an initiative is testament to its future-focused vision. The Dubai Collection showcases our shared commitment to legacy building by preserving the region's visual culture and introducing these collections to local audiences."

Featuring leading artists from the region and beyond, themes emerging in Dubai Collection explore identity, belonging, and place with a particular focus on the dynamic urbanism of the city. Maryam Al Dabbagh, curatorial committee member says: "The Collection takes a non-linear approach, not only in recognizing the contemporaneity of modern work from the region, but also in considering the rich contributions of regional and international artists to the local art scene that has grown alongside the development of Dubai city in the last 50 years."

Notes to Editors

About the Dubai Collection:

Dubai Collection is an initiative developed by Dubai Culture & Arts Authority, run in partnership with Art Dubai Group. Held under the patronage of His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, the Dubai Collection aims to build an institutional art collection for the city of Dubai by using a new and innovative format. The collection is being built in partnership with patrons who support the initiative by lending artworks whilst always retaining legal ownership over them.

The Dubai Collection engages with themes connected with the historical development of the Emirate and the UAE and reflects the values of openness, diversity and interconnectedness as embodied in the spirit of its home. Whilst it will focus on the UAE and the region, it is an international collection with no geographical restrictions.

About Dubai Culture & Arts Authority:

On 8th March 2008, His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, UAE Vice President and Prime Minister and Ruler of Dubai, launched Dubai Culture & Arts Authority (Dubai Culture). The mandate of the Authority is to serve as a dedicated entity for culture, arts, heritage, and literature in the Emirate of Dubai, and to drive the growth of the city's artistic and cultural landscape. Dubai Culture focuses on establishing Dubai as a regional and global centre for creativity, and also seeks to enhance the city's cultural identity in order to drive the creative economy. The Authority strives to enhance the quality of life for Dubai residents to help achieve a key pillar of the Dubai Plan 2021 objectives, which is to create a city of happy, creative, and empowered people. Under the leadership of Her Highness Sheikha Latifa bint Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Chairperson of Dubai Culture, the Authority has played an integral role in reinforcing Dubai's position as a vibrant global centre for creativity, and in enhancing the city's cultural identity.

About Art Dubai Group:

Established in 2007 the Art Dubai Group (ADG) is a public/private partnership with a mission to develop innovative sustainable ecosystems that support the development & promotion of vibrant creative scenes. The company owns and operates some of the region's most successful cultural events that include Art Dubai, Dubai Design Week and the Global Grad Show, as well as offering its industry expertise to private and government institutions

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For more information on the Dubai Collection visit: www.dubaicollection.ae