

[Years of Culture](#) and M7 Call on Qatari Fashion Designers to Participate in New CULTUKAR Collaborative Design Residencies

14 May 2023 – Doha, Qatar – [Years of Culture](#) and M7 announced an open call inviting Qatari fashion designers specializing in embroidery to apply for CULTUKAR, a new collaborative design residency program created to bring cultures together. As part of the Qatar-Indonesia 2023 Year of Culture, CULTUKAR offers Qatari and Indonesian product and fashion designers a chance to collaborate with peers and traditional craft masters from Indonesia to create bespoke products and fashion items that will be profiled during major industry events later in the year.

Qatar Museums' Director of Cultural Diplomacy, Aisha Ghanem Al Attiya, said: "We're excited to invite Qatari fashion designers to participate in the CULTUKAR program and engage with Indonesian culture and craft traditions. Participants will have the chance to explore traditional Indonesian craft techniques and collaborate with local artisans to create innovative designs."

M7 Director Maha Al Sulaiti said: "Indonesia's vibrant textile traditions offer incredibly rich inspiration for residency participants to collaborate and create. The fashion industry in Qatar has seen rapid growth and we hope that this residency will continue to showcase Qatar's talented creatives on the global fashion stage. M7 is proud to partner with Years of Culture to champion creative talents and foster cross-cultural collaboration."

Designers are asked to prepare a personal statement and portfolio that best displays their work for submission through the [Years of Culture website](#) by May 20, 2023 at 5pm Doha time.

Residency Overview

The hybrid program spans three months from May-July, including a 10-day onsite workshop in Tasikmalaya in West Java, Indonesia. Participants will take part in various activities, ranging from group discussions, skill apprenticeships, crafter and designer studio visits, to prototype design and development. Participants will also be tasked with considering the challenge of responsible production using sustainable materials and waste management.

Two Qatari designers will be chosen to participate in the residency. Each will be paired with an Indonesian peer to promote the exchange of ideas, knowledge transfer and open pathways for long-term collaboration. The two selected Qatari participants will join material designer Hana Surya and textile designer John Martono who will represent the Indonesian creative industries during this hybrid residency.

- [Hana Surya](#) is a material designer and founder of [Threadaputic](#), a small brand of local artisans with a shared passion for fabric reconstruction.
- [John Martono](#) is known mostly as a textile designer, with a brilliant ability to combine textile science, embroidery, and painting on silk to create a unique and highly personal technique.

International Mentors

An incredible team of mentors and masters has also been assembled to support the participating designers.

- [Dr. Tyar Ratuannisa](#), S.Ds., M.Ds. is a lecturer and researcher at the Craft and Tradition Research Group, Faculty of Arts and Design, [Technology Institute of Bandung](#), Indonesia. She launched the Indonesia Trend and Color Studies laboratory in 2022 to explore traditional Indonesian textiles, their visual characteristics and aspects of color .

- [Dr. Kahfiati Kahdar, M.A.](#) earned her doctorate degree from the [Technology Institute of Bandung's](#) Faculty of Design, focusing on textiles. She is currently lecturing in the same institute and works with the Indonesia Trend and Color Studies laboratory.
- [Tazkia Welong, M.Ds.](#) is a fashion illustration and concept development lecturer at [ESMOD International](#), passionate about fashion and fine arts. Her work is highly conceptual, focusing on the concept and development of creative ideas.
- [Uyung Aria](#) is a digital creator, cultural advisor, and enthusiast in Indonesia.

Application Process

The CULTUKAR residency will explore the richness of Tasikmalaya's culture in the form of craft. The objectives are:

1. To identify the cultural wealth of Tasikmalaya through the diversity of embroideries that are closely related to the region's natural resources.
2. To understand the methods of collaboration during the design process between designers, or designers and the community.
3. To analyze the correlation between embroidery and cultural identity; how cultural identity shapes and enhances the concept, the process, or the design.
4. To develop artwork and designs that revive or transform Qatari and Indonesian traditions.

Requirements

- Knowledge of fashion design processes.
- At least two years of experience as a professional designer.
- Applicants must be Qatari nationals.

Submission Materials

All of the following materials must be submitted for the application to be considered complete.

- Portfolio containing examples of previous works.
- Valid Qatar ID.
- 400–450-word statement responding to the following prompt: "Please describe how you hope this residency will impact your design career and how you intend to use these experiences/skills in your future practice."

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About Years of Culture

Culture is one of the most effective tools to bring people closer together, encourage dialogue, and deepen understanding between nations.

Under the leadership of its Chairperson Her Excellency Sheikha Al Mayassa bint Hamad bin Khalifa Al Thani, Qatar Museums (QM) developed the annual "Years of Culture" initiative — an international cultural exchange that deepens understanding between nations and their people. Though formal programming lasts only one year, the ties of friendship that are strengthened and formed are long-lasting.

Qatar-Indonesia 2023 Year of Culture has been developed in collaboration with leading organizations in Qatar, including Doha Film Institute, Education Above All, Katara Cultural Village, Ministry of Commerce & Industry, Ministry of Culture, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Qatar Charity, Qatar Cycling Federation, Qatar Foundation, Qatar Museums, Qatar National Library,

Qatar Tourism, with assistance from the Ministry of Education, Culture, Research and Technology of the Republic of Indonesia, Embassy of the Republic of Indonesia in Qatar and the Embassy of the State of Qatar in Indonesia.

Previous Years of Culture have included: Qatar-Japan 2012, Qatar-UK 2013, Qatar-Brazil 2014, Qatar-Türkiye 2015, Qatar-China 2016, Qatar-Germany 2017, Qatar-Russia 2018, Qatar-India 2019, Qatar-France 2020, and Qatar-USA 2021. In celebration of its 10th anniversary, the 2022 Year of Culture celebrated the entire Middle East, North Africa and South Asia (MENASA) region as Qatar welcomed the world for the Arab region's first FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022™.

Past sponsors include Qatar Airways, Vodafone, Qatar Gas, Shell, Ooredoo, Shangri-La Hotel and Resorts, Lulu Group International, Qatar Financial Centre, Qatar Petroleum, and ExxonMobil.

About Qatar Museums

Qatar Museums (QM), the nation's preeminent institution for art and culture, provides authentic and inspiring cultural experiences through a growing network of museums, heritage sites, festivals, public art installations, and programs. QM preserves, restores, and expands the nation's cultural offerings and historical sites, sharing art and culture from Qatar, the Middle East, North Africa, and South Asia (MENASA) region with the world and enriching the lives of citizens, residents, and visitors.

Under the patronage of His Highness the Amir, Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani, and led by its Chairperson, Her Excellency Sheikha Al Mayassa bint Hamad bin Khalifa Al Thani, QM has made Qatar a vibrant centre for the arts, culture, and education in the Middle East and beyond. QM is integral to the goal of developing an innovative, diverse, and progressive nation, bringing people together to ignite new thinking, spark critical cultural conversations, educate and encourage environmental stewardship and sustainable practices, and amplify the voices of Qatar's people. Since its founding in 2005, QM has overseen the Museum of Islamic Art and MIA Park, Mathaf: Arab Museum of Modern Art, the National Museum of Qatar, QM Gallery Al Riwaq, QM Gallery Katara, and 3-2-1 Qatar Olympic and Sports Museum. Museums under development include Dadu, Children's Museum of Qatar; Qatar Auto Museum; Art Mill Museum, and the Lusail Museum.

Through its newly created Creative Hub, QM also initiates and supports projects—such as the Fire Station Artist in Residence, the Tasweer Qatar Photo Festival and the creative hub for innovation, fashion and design M7— that nurture artistic talent and create opportunities to build a strong and sustainable cultural infrastructure.

Animating everything that Qatar Museums does is an authentic connection to Qatar and its heritage, a steadfast commitment to inclusivity and accessibility, and a belief in creating value through invention.

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