

Design Doha Exchange 2024 Qatar | Morocco: Crafting Design Futures Residency to Showcase Exhibition of New Works by Craft-Makers from Qatar and Morocco

***Crafting Design Futures* will open at the Museum of Islamic Art, Gallery 4, on 30 November 2024 as part of the Qatar-Morocco 2024 Year of Culture**

DOHA, Qatar – 14 August 2024 – This fall, the Museum of Islamic Art will present *Crafting Design Futures*, an exhibition showcasing the artistic visions of nine makers from Qatar and Morocco, two cultures rich in handcrafting traditions. *Crafting Design Futures*, curated by Gwen Farrelly, will feature new works by designers from Qatar and Morocco created during Design Doha Residency Program 2024 Qatar | Morocco: Crafting Design Futures. The residency is a long-term exchange of knowledge, craft, and design practices under the auspices of Design Doha, a biennial event dedicated to creative innovation from the MENA region. On view 30 November 2024 through 7 January 2025, *Crafting Design Futures* is presented as part of the Qatar-Morocco 2024 Year of Culture.

Fahad Al Obaidly, Deputy Director of Design Doha, said: "The Years of Culture initiative calls on creative minds to forge profound partnerships transcending borders and cultures. *Crafting Design Futures* demonstrates the transformative impact of finding inspiration through shared experiences that draw on the wisdom of our ancestors, our lifestyles, and our deep-rooted connections with our societies, landscapes, and environment - all of which collectively shape our unique perspectives, creative endeavors, and shared narratives. Designing opportunities for creatives to engage in programs that have the capacity for such deep experiences is crucial to nurturing talents within the MENA region."

Gwen Farrelly, Curator for the Design Doha Exchange 2024 Qatar | Morocco: Crafting Design Futures, said: "*Crafting Design Futures* explores the confluence of traditional craft practices and contemporary modes of making and design. The significant works have emerged as a result of the exchanges of knowledge about traditional craft-making, and the relationship of these to their current practices. The program and exhibition reflect the deep commitment in both Qatar and Morocco to honor tradition while celebrating innovation and cutting-edge design and making."

Based in Qatar, designers **Nada Elkharashi, Reema Abu Hassan, Majdulin Nassrallah, and Abdulrahman Al Muftah** interpreted the traditional Moroccan craft-making skills learned during the exchange program to design multifunctional installations, create modern functional products and artistic displays, and draw attention to urgent cultural narratives. In Morocco, **Amine Asselman, Bouchra Boudoua, Amine El Gotibi, Hamza Kadiri, and Sara Ouhaddou** focused on textiles, earthworks, wood craftsmanship, ceramic and glass installations, and pottery.

Artworks created during the exchange will be on display at the Museum of Islamic Art's Gallery 4 and a public art installation by Amine Al Gotibi will be on view in MIA's courtyard. Bespoke merchandise products created by Qatar-based designers, inspired by their exchange in Morocco, will also be sold exclusively at MIA's shop.

The residency offered a first-hand experience for participants to learn from expert artisans and craftspeople in each country. The Moroccan artists participated in a two-week research residency in Qatar at the Liwan Design Studios & Labs and Torba Farm, immersing themselves in the local culture and traditions. Participants from Qatar, in turn, traveled to Morocco, visiting studios and artisan schools in Rabat, Casablanca, Marrakech, and Fes to gain insights and inspiration from the rich Moroccan craft traditions.

"Interpersonal exchanges are crucial to establishing a network of designers across the region," added Al Obaidly. "To continue the tradition of collaboration, the designers will showcase the skills they learned from the program through a series of workshops at the Liwan Design Studios & Labs in the fall."

The Years of Culture initiative spearheads sustained cultural partnerships between Qatar and other nations. It exists to promote respect and understanding among diverse cultures and serves as a catalyst for bringing people together.

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About Years of Culture

The Years of Culture initiative, chaired by Her Excellency Sheikha Al Mayassa bint Hamad bin Khalifa Al Thani, spearheads long-lasting cultural partnerships between Qatar and other nations. It exists to promote respect and understanding among diverse cultures and serves as a catalyst for bringing people together, nurturing connections, encouraging dialogue, and deepening understanding. Though formal programming spans one year, the lasting impact continues through legacy projects.

The Qatar-Morocco 2024 Year of Culture is developed in collaboration with leading organizations in Qatar with counterparts in Morocco and with assistance from the Moroccan Ministry of Youth, Culture, and Communication, Qatar's Embassy in Morocco, and the Embassy of the Kingdom of Morocco in Qatar.

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, Qatar-USA 2021, Qatar-MENASA 2022, and Qatar-Indonesia 2023.

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