

"Dialogue of Papers" Exhibition to Open in Jakarta as Part of [Qatar-Indonesia 2023 Year of Culture](#)

JAKARTA, November 15, 2023 — The [Years of Culture](#) initiative announced the upcoming "Dialogue of Papers" exhibition opening in Jakarta, a remarkable artistic endeavor that encapsulates the deep cultural connection shared between Qatar and Indonesia. Taking place at the Emiria Soenassa Gallery, Taman Ismail Marzuki (TIM) Jakarta from November 25 to December 16, 2023, the exhibition is organized as part of the Qatar-Indonesia 2023 Year of Culture and delves into the intricate relationship between the two countries through the medium of papermaking. This cultural dialogue is portrayed through collaborative artworks that brought together two exceptional artists: Qatari artist, Mr. Yousef Ahmad, and Indonesian artist, Mr. Widi Pangestu.

Curated by Years of Culture Senior Museums Expert Dr. Aisha Al Misnad, the "Dialogue of Papers" exhibition showcases the results of a collaborative workshop held in Qatar, where Yousef Ahmad and Widi Pangestu combined the unique natural elements of both countries. This collaboration involved the fusion of palm tree pulp from Qatar with abaca and mulberry pulps from Indonesia, resulting in 36 artworks that will be on display at the Emiria Soenassa Gallery.

"The Dialogue of Papers concept is a legacy borne out of Year of Culture's partnership with Japan. We were thrilled to be able to host Mr. Widi Pangestu in Doha for workshops with Mr. Yusuf Ahmad. The resulting artworks offer a captivating exploration of concepts such as fullness and emptiness, differences and similarities, and the power of dialogue through shared creativity. It is a visual representation of the profound connection between Qatar and Indonesia, transcending geographic boundaries through art," said Dr. Aisha Al Misnad.

Mr. Yousef Ahmad and Mr. Widi Pangestu will hold a free public talk at the gallery on Saturday, November 25 at 1 p.m.

At its core, this exhibition delves into the ways in which distinct environments, landscapes, and climates have influenced the lives and experiences of people in Qatar and Indonesia. Indonesia, an archipelago of lush, green islands, boasts dense forests teeming with plants of diverse shapes and hues. The contrast is stark when compared to Qatar, a peninsula characterized predominantly by a desert landscape, a region initially appearing devoid of flora. However, the desert has generously gifted the palm tree, which has thrived in the face of harsh conditions and limited water resources.

This juxtaposition of the forest and the desert evokes notions of fullness and emptiness, drawing attention to the artistic and creative endeavors of the inhabitants of these distinct environments. Humans have managed to thrive and create in both landscapes, despite their inherent differences and challenges.

Exhibition Details:

Title: Dialogue of Papers

Dates: November 25 to December 16, 2023

Venue: Emiria Soenassa Gallery, Gedung Ali Sadikin, Taman Ismail Marzuki, Jakarta

Admission: Free

About the Artists:

Mr. Yousef Ahmad: Yousef Ahmad is one of the most prominent Qatari artists and he is amongst the first generation of Qatari artists to have studied abroad. He started his artistic career in the 1970s creating artworks by experimenting with different shapes and structures, with the ambition to form new narratives. His interest in working on paper started in the 1980s, and he has since experimented with many types of papers that originate from different places. This influenced him to make his own paper twenty years ago, using Qatar palm trees. Since then, he has come to understand that handmade paper gives his work a more profound meaning and a different visual quality. For him, it is a way to connect with the land of Qatar, his roots, and his personal memories.

Mr. Widi Pangestu: Widi Pangestu is a pioneer Indonesian artist, whose work is characterized by his use and exploration of papermaking in his artistic practice. Throughout his career, he has focused on paper as the central medium for his productions and reflections, researching and experimenting with its possibilities as a vehicle for meaning making. He sees the potential of paper beyond its historical and traditional function as a medium for writing and painting. For him, papermaking offers a unique, timeless connection that extends from the past all the way to the present, and even towards the future. His unique artworks explore human connections and experiences through the continuous development of papermaking throughout history.

“Dialogue of Paper” was launched as a legacy project of the Qatar - Japan Year of Culture, an exhibition organized to mark 50 years of diplomatic ties between the two countries. This recurring exhibition has now become one of the initiative’s key annual events as a residency for international artists from partnering countries.

[Years of Culture](#) was established in 2012 by Sheikha Al Mayassa bint Hamad bin Khalifa Al Thani to promote mutual understanding, recognition, and appreciation between Qatar and the world. Since then, the Years of Culture program has been remarkably successful in its mission, partnering with the UK, Brazil, Germany, Turkey, India, France, and other nations over the past decade.

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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.

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, Qatar-USA 2021, and Qatar-MENASA 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 programmes. QM preserves and expands the nation's cultural offerings, 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, and amplify the voices of Qatar's people. Since its founding in 2005, QM has overseen the development of museums and festivals including the Museum of Islamic Art (MIA) and MIA Park, Mathaf: Arab Museum of Modern Art, the National Museum of Qatar (NMOQ), 3-2-1 Qatar Olympic and Sports Museum, QM Gallery Al Riwaq, QM Gallery Katara, and the Tasweer Qatar Photo Festival. Future projects include Dadu: Children's Museum of Qatar, Art Mill Museum, Qatar Auto Museum and the Lusail Museum. Qatar also has one of the largest and most ambitious public art programmes in the world. Through its Department of Archaeology, QM spearheads several initiatives to preserve and restore Qatar's historical sites and buildings. QM also initiates and supports Creative Hubs that nurture artistic talent and create opportunities to build a strong and sustainable cultural infrastructure. These include the Fire Station: Artist in Residence, M7 for innovation, fashion and design, and Liwan Design Studios and Labs. For more information visit <https://qm.org.qa>

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