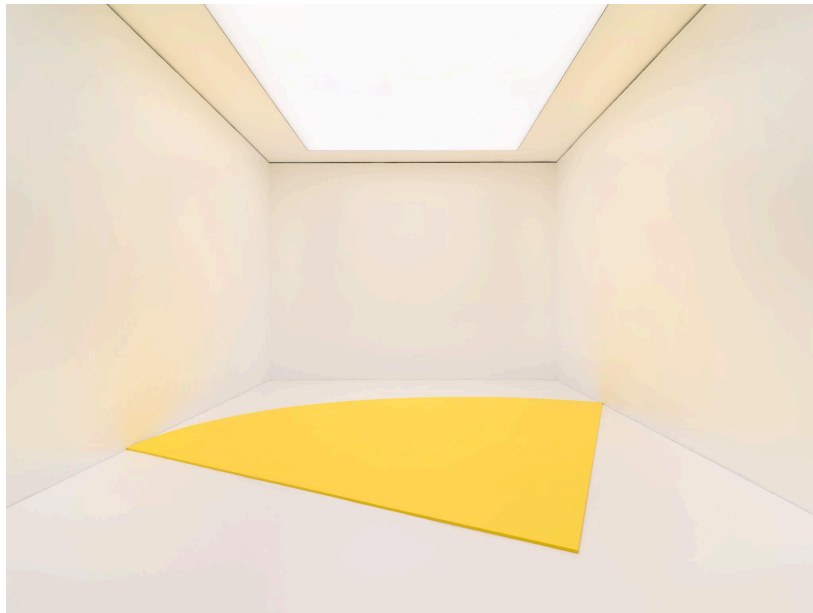


For Immediate Release

**QATAR MUSEUMS PRESENTS THE FIRST RETROSPECTIVE
ON ELLSWORTH KELLY IN THE MENASA REGION**

***Organised by Glenstone Museum, the exhibition celebrates the American artist's
centennial and spans his seven-decade career***

On view 31 October 2024 through February 2025



Ellsworth Kelly, *Yellow Curve*, 1990, acrylic on canvas on wood. Glenstone Museum, Potomac, Maryland.
© Ellsworth Kelly Foundation. Photo: Ron Amstutz.

PRESS IMAGES AVAILABLE FOR DOWNLOAD [HERE](#)

DOHA, QATAR, 19 August 2024 – This October, Qatar Museums will present *Ellsworth Kelly at 100*, a major survey exhibition commemorating the late artist's seven-decade career and the first retrospective of his work in the MENASA region. Organised by Glenstone Museum (Maryland, U.S.A), the exhibition marks what would have been the artist's 100th birthday in 2023 and is one of the largest retrospectives of Kelly's work in the 21st century. The presentation will be on view at M7, Qatar's epicentre for innovation and entrepreneurship in design, fashion, and technology, from 31 October 2024 to February 2025.

Ellsworth Kelly (1923–2015) is regarded as one of the most significant American painters and sculptors. Throughout his career, the artist drew inspiration from nature and the world around him to create a singular style that shaped American abstraction in the 20th and 21st centuries. The comprehensive presentation will chart the artist's lifelong exploration of the relationship between form, colour, line, and space through key works drawn from pivotal periods in his career.

Works on view will span the wide range of media in which the artist worked, from painting and sculpture to works on paper, collage, and photography. Highlights include formative early paintings such as *Painting for a White Wall*, 1952, a groundbreaking work composed of joined monochromatic panels, and *Painting in Three Panels*, 1956, a key example of Kelly's engagement with architecture. These early works will be on view alongside examples from the now canonical *Chatham* and *Spectrum* series. A selection of the plant drawings Kelly created throughout his career will feature prominently, alongside a selection of rarely exhibited photographs.

Also featured will be *Yellow Curve*, 1990, the first work in Kelly's series of large-scale, floor-based paintings, which will be displayed in a custom-designed space. The installation encompasses more than 60 metres (600 square feet) of floor space and is emblematic of the artist's examination of the relationship between colour and architecture.

Maha Ghanim Al Sulaiti, director of M7, said, "By refining his craft over the course of seventy years, Ellsworth Kelly showed how paying close attention to the seemingly simplest things can yield marvelous insights. Our mission with *Ellsworth Kelly at 100* at M7 is to spark the same kind of excitement and curiosity in our visitors that guided him over the course of his career. We hope that Kelly's pared-down forms and bright, bold colours will inspire local and visiting audiences to pay closer attention to the creativity that marks the world around them."

Emily Wei Rales, director and co-founder of Glenstone, said, "At Glenstone Museum, we present art that fundamentally alters the ways we see the world. Few artists have done so with as much grace and elegance as Ellsworth Kelly, and it is an honour to collaborate with Qatar Museums to introduce this groundbreaking artist's work to the Gulf region."

The exhibition will feature nearly 70 works drawn from Glenstone's collection and those of major international museum lenders, including Centre Pompidou, Paris; Fondation Louis Vuitton, Paris; National Gallery of Art, Washington, D.C.; Philadelphia Museum of Art; San Francisco Museum of Modern Art; Art Institute of Chicago; Walker Art Center, Minneapolis; and the Whitney Museum of American Art, New York. Major works have also generously been made available from the Ellsworth Kelly Studio and private collections.

Ellsworth Kelly at 100 first debuted at Glenstone on 4 May 2023, and then travelled to Paris as *Ellsworth Kelly. Shapes and Colors, 1949-2015*, which is currently on view at the Fondation Louis Vuitton through 9 September 2024. The presentation of *Ellsworth Kelly at 100* in Doha is a legacy project of the Qatar–USA 2021 Year of Culture, a year-long programme of collaborations between institutions across both countries.

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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) 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, the Tasweer Qatar Photo Festival, and Design Doha. Future projects include Dadu: Children’s Museum of Qatar, Art Mill Museum, Qatar Auto 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, M7, the creative hub for innovation, fashion and design, and Liwan Design Studios and Labs—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.

About M7

M7 is Qatar’s epicentre for innovation and entrepreneurship in fashion, design and technology. Established by Qatar Museums under the leadership of Her Excellency Sheikha Al-Mayassa bint Hamad bin Khalifa Al Thani, M7 is committed to accelerating the growth of Qatar’s creative economy by providing mentorship and opportunities for designers to build a successful business both locally and internationally, while encouraging the fashion and design industry to play their part in the growth of Qatar’s creative circular ecosystem. M7’s platforms include comprehensive incubation and mentorship programmes, world-class exhibitions and pop-ups, and public discussions. Located at the heart of Msheireb Downtown Doha, M7 serves to create a space for creatives by working closely with its Resident Partners, Cutting Studio, Studio 7, Scale 7, Fromm,

Workinton and Profiles. M7 has also hosted world-class exhibitions including *Masterpieces of Furniture Design* (2023), *Forever Valentino* (2022), *Christian Dior Designer of Dreams* (2021).

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.

Current and previous Years of Culture have included: Qatar-Morocco 2024, Qatar-Indonesia 2023, Qatar-MENASA 2022, Qatar-USA 2021, Qatar-France 2020, Qatar-India 2019, Qatar-Russia 2018, Qatar-Germany 2017, Qatar-China 2016, Qatar-Türkiye 2015, Qatar-Brazil 2014, Qatar-UK 2013 and Qatar-Japan 2012.

The Year of Culture Qatar-United States featured exhibitions by Jeff Koons and Virgil Abloh in Doha and an exhibition of extraordinary textiles and portraits on loan from the Museum of Islamic Art at Washington, DC's Smithsonian National Museum of Asian Art. Additional legacy projects include *Dan Flavin / Donald Judd: Doha* organised by the Los Angeles County Museum of Art (LACMA) in collaboration with Qatar Museums.

About Glenstone

Glenstone, a museum of modern and contemporary art, is integrated into nearly 300 acres of gently rolling pasture and unspoiled woodland in Montgomery County, Maryland, less than 15 miles from the heart of Washington, DC. Established by the not-for-profit Glenstone Foundation, the museum opened in 2006 and provides a contemplative, intimate setting for experiencing iconic works of art and architecture within a natural environment. The museum includes its original building, the Gallery, as well as additional structures opened in its 2018 expansion: the Arrival Hall (LEED platinum), the Pavilions, and the Café (both LEED gold). Admission to Glenstone is always free.

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