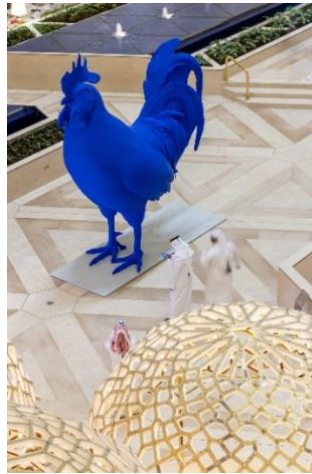


QATAR MUSEUMS EXPANDS ONE OF THE WORLD'S MOST AMBITIOUS PUBLIC ART PROGRAMMES WITH MORE THAN 40 ADDITIONAL WORKS

*Ahead of FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022™, Qatar will be Transformed into an Outdoor Art Museum Experience with Installations by **Jeff Koons, Ugo Rondinone, KAWS, Rashid Johnson, Yayoi Kusama, Katharina Fritsch, Peter Fischli & David Weiss, Suki Seokyeong Kang, Shilpa Gupta, Shezad Dawood, Shua'a Ali, Faraj Daham, Shouq Al Mana and Salman Al Malek** among other international, regional and Qatari artists*



[PRESS IMAGES AVAILABLE FOR DOWNLOAD HERE](#)

Doha, 09 August 2022 – As part of Qatar Creates – the year-round national cultural movement that curates, promotes, and celebrates the diversity of cultural activities in Qatar – Qatar Museums (QM) today announced a programme of new and commissioned public artworks by celebrated Qatari, regional and international artists that will be presented throughout Doha and the nation. From the Qatari desert to the bustling Souq Waqif, in the coming weeks, the nation's public spaces will be transformed into a vast outdoor art museum experience featuring more than 100 public artworks, which will be on view for locals and the 1.5 million visitors who are expected to travel to Doha for the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022™.

Her Excellency Sheikha Al Mayassa bint Hamad bin Khalifa Al Thani, Chairperson of Qatar Museums, said: "The addition of 40 new, major works of public art this fall is a significant milestone for Qatar's public art programme. Public art is one of our most prominent demonstrations of cultural exchange, where we present works from artists of all nationalities and backgrounds. From the arrivals at the best airport in the world – Hamad International Airport – to every neighbourhood in our nation, public art is there to make

your experience unique. These works vary in size and form, and they encompass a wide range of subject matter, but all further our mission to make art more accessible, engage our publics, celebrate our heritage, and embrace the cultures of others. More importantly, artists from every corner of the world – representing all continents – have been invited to express their artistic creativity with our very own diverse population. Our longstanding commitment to public art is visible across Qatar, and we hope these works will be welcomed by locals and enhance the experiences had by the millions of visitors we expect to welcome to Doha this year.”

Qatar Museums is working with various entities across the city on Qatar’s public art programme including the Hamad International Airport, the Supreme Committee of Delivery and Legacy, and the Public Works Authority (Ashghal) to install artworks in a variety of both highly trafficked and unexpected public spaces designed to surprise and delight passersby including parks, shopping areas, educational and athletic facilities, Hamad International Airport and Q-Rail stations, as well as stadiums that will host the World Cup matches.

Highlights of the new public artworks include:

- *Maqam I, Maqam II, Maqam III* (2022) by Lebanese artist **Simone Fattal** for which she has created three granite sculptures in a blue coloured granite with a manifold shape that can be perceived at once as a dune, a construction or a tent that appear to be geographical landmarks
- *Dugong* (2022), a massive, approximately 21 metre high and 31 metre wide polychromed mirror-polished stainless-steel sculpture by American artist **Jeff Koons** in the form of a Dugong, the marine mammal that has inhabited the waters surrounding Qatar's peninsula for centuries, on view at Al Masrah Park
- Along with Iraqi sculptor **Ahmed Al Bahrani's** *Dugong Family* installation in Al Ruwais celebrating the dugong, an endangered marine mammal native to Qatar’s waters
- A collection of temporary sculptures and installations by Japanese artist **Yayoi Kusama** - including *My Soul Blooms Forever* (2019), *Flower that Speaks All About My Heart* (2018), *Dancing Pumpkin* (2020), and *Narcissus Garden*, among others - on view on the grounds of the Museum of Islamic Art and MIA Park
- A site-specific artwork in the desert by **Olafur Eliasson** that continues the artist’s long-standing exploration into the role that our perception of the world plays in how we co-produce reality
- German artist **Katharina Fritsch's** newly installed iconic bright blue *Hahn* (2021) on view at the iconic Sheraton Grand Doha Resort & Convention Hotel
- Commissioned works by Brazilian artist **Ernesto Neto** including an installation in the Qatari desert titled *Slug Turtle, TempleEarth* (2022), and *CocoonEarth, Our Goal is the Life* (2022)
- **KAWS'** site-specific commission *THE PROMISE* (2022), depicting the American artist’s companion figures in a tender gesture suggesting a parent carefully passing

the globe to the hands of a child, unique piece for the future Dadu, Qatar Children's Museum and on view at its park

- *Doha Mountains* by Swiss artist **Ugo Rondinone**, on view along Doha's Ras Abou About beachfront near 974 Stadium, echoes the Olympic Ring colors that encircle the 3-2-1 Qatar Olympic and Sports Museum
- A mosaic installation comprising four walls titled *Qatari Walls "Village of the Sun"* (2022) by American artist **Rashid Johnson**
- *Doha Modern Playground* (2022), a site-responsive playground inspired by a group of four key modernist buildings in Doha, by **Shezad Dawood** at Al Masrah Park
- **Monira Al Qadiri's** *Zephyr* (2022) is a large-scale recreation of a microscopic organism seen in fossilised marine algae found in the Arabian Peninsula. The Kuwaiti artist's work is located along the West Bay's North Beach
- **Peter Fischli & David Weiss's** sculpture *Rock on Top of Another Rock* (2022) is made up of two nearly 30-ton boulders that are stacked and balanced without aid, on view at the Qatar National Theatre. The installation is the last work created by the Swiss artist duo.
- A series of sculptures by Korean artist **Suki Seokyeong Kang** titled *Here We Hear* (2022) in the Corniche Park that encourages spectators to congregate and interact with one another
- *I Live Under Your Sky Too* (2022), a light installation by **Shilpa Gupta** in the form of an animated sentence in which the Indian artist's handwriting rises and shines from lines of a ruled book to read "I Live Under Your Sky Too" in three interwoven languages, at Stadium 974
- American conceptual artist **Lawrence Weiner's** *ALL THE STARS IN THE SKY HAVE THE SAME FACE* (2011/20) installed at Stadium 974
- Inspired by construction debris and location marks (Neshan) found in both urban and desert environments, Qatari artist **Shua'a Ali's** *Tawazun* (2022) in Msheireb and *Milestones* (2022) in Grand Hamad Plaza explore the relationship between past and present-day Doha using symbolic stacking of materials to create visionary, balanced, agglomerative sculptural forms
- The site-specific work *Us, Her, Him* (2022) by Lebanese artist **Najla El Zein** on view at the Flag Plaza along the Corniche that will explore the relationship between form, use, space and emotion through themes relating to abstract conceptions of the body
- American artist **Faye Toogood's** *Clay Court* (2022), an immersive display of 17 hand-shaped sculptures, located around the National Theatre site
- The enormous *Gekröse* (2011) is one of Austrian artist **Franz West's** (1947-2012) largest works, presenting a monumental, wielded aluminum sculpture that is as imposing as it is whimsical, in bright pink hues, that may concurrently attract and shock viewers at Al Masrah Park
- Iraqi artist **Adel Abidin's** light installation *They Asked Me to Change It, and I Agreed* (2022) on the façade of Mathaf, which explores contemporary art as a means of dialogue and change and adds to the existing works *Al-Safina (The Ship)* by Egyptian

artist Adam Henein and *The Guardian of the Fertile Crescent* (2001-2010) by the late Iraqi painter and sculptor Ismail Fattah

- Qatari artists **Shouq Al Mana's** *Egal* (2022), which is installed along the Lusail Marina Promenade serves as a tribute to Qatar's history and traditions

Abdulrahman Ahmed Al-Ishaq, Qatar Museums' Director of Public Art, said: "Doha is a vibrant destination, and adding more than 40 new public art installations will further transform the city into a dynamic urban canvas that serves to spark conversations and provide sources of inspiration for all. Qatar Museums' public art programme, more than anything else, serves as a reminder that art is all around us, not confined to museums and galleries, and can be enjoyed and celebrated whether you are going to work, or school, or the desert or the beach."

Qatari and MENA region artists whose work will be presented in the public art programme include **Adel Abidin, Ahmed Al Bahrani, Shouq Al-Mana, Shua'a Al Muftah, Salman Al-Malek, Monira al Qadiri, Simone Fattal**, and **Faraj Daham**.

Making art a part of everyday life, Qatar became one of the first countries in the Gulf to create a comprehensive contemporary public art programme. To date, the programme has grown to encompass approximately 70 works by more than 60 artists from Qatar, across the MENA region, and around the world. Current highlights include **Richard Serra's** *7* at MIA Park and *East/West-West/East* in Zekreet, **Tom Claassen's** *Falcon* (2021) at Hamad International Airport, *A Blessing in Disguise* by **Ghada Al Khater** at the Fire Station, **Bruce Nauman's** *Untitled (Trench, Shafts, Pit, Tunnel and Chamber)* at M7, *Flag of Glory* by **Ahmed Al Bahrani** at the National Museum of Qatar, *Untitled (Lamp/Bear)* by **Urs Fischer** at Hamad International Airport, *Gandhi's Three Monkeys* by **Subodh Gupta** at Katara Cultural Village, *Maman* by **Louise Bourgeois** at the Qatar National Convention Centre, *The Miraculous Journey* by Damien Hirst at Sidra Medical Centre, *Bench* by **Saloua Raouda Choucair** at MIA Park, *Flying Man* by **Dia al-Azzawi** at Hamad International Airport, and many others.

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About Qatar Museums

Qatar Museums (QM) connects the museums, cultural institutions and heritage sites in Qatar and creates the conditions for them to thrive and flourish. It centralizes resources and provides a comprehensive organization for the development of museums and cultural projects, with a long-term ambition of creating a strong and sustainable cultural infrastructure for Qatar. 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 is consolidating Qatar's efforts to become a vibrant center for the arts, culture and education, in the Middle East and beyond. Since its foundation in 2005, QM has overseen the development of the Museum of Islamic Art (MIA), Mathaf: Arab Museum of Modern Art, 3-2-1 Qatar Olympic and Sports Museum, Fire Station: Artists in Residence, The National Museum of Qatar and the Al Zubarah World Heritage Site Visitor Centre, among other projects. QM is committed to instigating Qatar's future generation of arts, heritage and museum professionals. At its

core is a commitment to nurturing artistic talent, creating opportunities and developing the skills to service Qatar's emerging art economy. By means of a multi-faceted programme and public art initiatives, QM seeks to push the boundaries of the traditional museum model, and create cultural experiences that spill out onto the streets and seek to involve a wide audience. Through a strong emphasis on originating art and culture from within and fostering a spirit of national participation, QM is helping Qatar find its own distinctive voice in today's global cultural debates. For more information visit: www.qm.org.qa.

About Qatar Creates

Qatar Creates curates, celebrates, and promotes cultural activities within Qatar. Working with partners in museums, film, fashion, hospitality, cultural heritage, performing arts, and the private sector in Qatar, the Qatar Creates platform amplifies the voice of Qatar's creative industries, directly connecting audiences to events.

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Katharina Fritsch (b. 1956, Germany). Hahn, 2013. Glass-fibre reinforced polyester resin fixed on a stainless-steel supporting structure; 440 x 440 x 150 cm. Sheraton Hotel, Katara Hospitality. Photo copyright Iwan Baan. Courtesy of Qatar Museums.

Shouq Al Mana (b. 1995, Qatar). Egal, 2022. Stainless steel, Various dimensions between 3.5m - 4.5m high (5 pieces). Lusail Marina. Photo copyright Iwan Baan. Courtesy of Qatar Museums.

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