

“Sailing Through Time” Exhibition Opens at Liwan Design Studios and Labs

Doha, 6 September 2025 – Liwan Design Studios and Labs today launched “*Sailing Through Time*”, a special ceramic exhibition led by renowned Indonesian artist F. Kika Puspitastudibyo. The exhibition is now open to the public and will run through **10 September 2025**.

Francisca, widely known as **Kika**, is an Indonesian ceramicist recognised for blending contemporary forms with a strong sense of community. She previously led the popular *Indonesian Workshop Month* in Qatar during the 2023 Year of Culture, where she invited participants to sculpt their own creations and discover new ceramic-making techniques. Her interactive, inclusive approach demystifies traditional craft and welcomes the public to connect with clay as a medium for storytelling and cultural exchange.

Bringing together artists from Qatar and Indonesia, “*Sailing Through Time*” explores themes of human evolution, shared history, and personal transformation through ceramics inspired by the craft legacies of both nations. It is focused on objects created during the Ceramic Residency held throughout the month of August in Liwan. The residency embodied the spirit of friendship and artistic dialogue that the Years of Culture programme champions. By bringing communities together through craft and collaboration, the project reinforced the enduring legacy of the Qatar-Indonesia 2023 Year of Culture and its commitment to building connections that extend far beyond a single year.

As part of the programme, the public is invited to attend an **exhibition talk on Monday, 8 September at 5:00 PM** at Liwan. The session will feature Kika alongside collaborators Amira Alnamia, Asya Lazam, Isuri Ashani Peiris, Laila Noor, Norman Baskoro, and Sara Almohannadi, who will share insights into their creative processes and inspirations.

The exhibition is hosted in collaboration with **Years of Culture**, underscoring the role of cultural exchange in supporting innovation, dialogue, and community connections between Qatar and Indonesia.

For updates, follow Years of Culture on social media or visit the website at yearsofculture.qa.

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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. At its heart, Years of Culture celebrates the power of cultural exchange, which enriches Qatar’s ties with partner countries beyond the dedicated year.

Each year is organised with support from Qatar and partner countries’ cultural institutions, ministries, foundations, and private and public sector partners, with assistance from Embassies in Qatar and abroad. Programmes are tailored to explore the unique nature of each partner country with a focus on cultural heritage, creative industries, social and economic development, and innovation.

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, Qatar-Indonesia 2023, and Qatar-Morocco 2024.

About Liwan Design Studios and Labs

Liwan Design Studios and Labs, part of Qatar Museums Creative Hubs, is a membership space dedicated to supporting and connecting Qatar's burgeoning creative community. It provides designers who join as members with state-of-the-art labs for pottery, leatherworking, digital photography, prototyping, coworking, and shared studios.

Through its robust schedule of public programs featuring leading local and international creatives, audiences can participate in stimulating commentary on important cultural and intellectual matters surrounding design. Liwan publishes *Al Journal*, an online collection of essays, articles, book and exhibition reviews and visuals exploring contemporary design themes across the Middle East and beyond. There is also an archive library housing a collection of roughly 850 archived children's books and objects belonging to the former school where Liwan currently resides. On display are old children's storybooks showcasing some of the best late 20th-century typography, illustration, and design from the Arab world.

Located in the heart of Msheireb Downtown, Doha's ambitious new design district, Liwan is housed in an imaginatively repurposed historic building that was the first officially recognized school for girls in Qatar, founded by education pioneer Amna Mahmoud Al Jaida. The original school, Banat El Doha (renamed Umm Almo'mneen Primary School), opened in the late 1950s. It is a landmark institution in local history and pays tribute to Qatar's architectural, social, and educational history. It also hosts a permanent exhibition to honor the legacy of Amna Mahmoud Al Jaida. Liwan is led by multidisciplinary Qatari designer Aisha Bint Nasser Al Sowaidi as its director.

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Years of Culture

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