



Years of Culture Celebrates 10 Year Anniversary with WeTransfer Activation

Doha, Qatar, 27 September 2022 – Check out WeTransfer this week (27 September 2022 – 11 October 2022) as the Years of Culture initiative profiles some of its programmes and the iconic Qatar Museums institutions that support them to mark 10 years of cross-cultural collaboration and friendship. Highlighted initiatives include:

- **Photography Exchange Programme:** American photographer Andrew Studer captured the first two building images seen on WeTransfer during his visit to Qatar as part of the Qatar-USA 2021 Year of Culture Photography Exchange Programme.
- **Pearls Exhibition:** Photographs from the exhibition *Pearls: Treasures from the Seas and the Rivers*, which traveled to Japan, the United Kingdom, Brazil, Turkey and Russia during past Years of Culture and is now on view at the National Museum of Qatar.
- **Upcoming Exhibitions at the Museum of Islamic Art (MIA):** The MIA will re-open October 5th following a facilities enhancement project and the reimagination and reinstallation of its permanent collection galleries. It will host the landmark temporary exhibition, *Baghdad: Eye's Delight* (26 October 2022 – 25 February 2023) under the Years of Culture banner, which introduces and celebrates one of the world's most influential cities. On WeTransfer, *The Bridge of the Boats on the Tigris, Baghdad* (1820) is juxtaposed against a striking photo of MIA captured by Andrew Studer.
- **The Fire Station:** The Fire Station creative community space has supported dozens of regional artists since its launch. One of the pieces to be presented in the upcoming exhibition Fire Station alumni exhibition *Majaz: Contemporary Art Qatar* (16 September 2022 – 25 February 2023) can be seen on WeTransfer now.

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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.

Under the leadership of its Chairperson Her Excellency Sheikha Al Mayassa bint Hamad bin Khalifa Al Thani, Qatar Museums (QM) developed the annual “Years of Culture” initiative — an international cultural exchange that deepens understanding between nations and their people. Though formal programming lasts only one year, the ties of friendship that are strengthened and formed are long-lasting.

In celebration of its 10th anniversary, the 2022 Year of Culture will offer programming from the Middle East, North Africa and South Asia (MENASA).

The Qatar-MENASA Year of Culture 2022 will include countries and communities from: Afghanistan, Algeria, Bangladesh, Bahrain, Bhutan, Egypt, India, Iraq, Iran, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Libya, Maldives, Morocco, Nepal, Oman, Pakistan, Palestine, Saudi Arabia, Sudan, Sri Lanka, Turkey, Tunisia, United Arab Emirates, and Yemen.

Qatar-MENASA Year of Culture 2022 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 Football Association, Qatar Foundation, Qatar Museums, Qatar National Library, Qatar Tourism, Qatar Olympic Committee, Supreme Committee for Delivery & Legacy, with assistance from Doha-based embassies of participating countries.

Previous Years of Culture have included: Qatar-Japan 2012, Qatar-UK 2013, Qatar-Brazil 2014, Qatar-Turkey 2015, Qatar-China 2016, Qatar-Germany 2017, Qatar-Russia 2018, Qatar-India 2019, Qatar-France 2020, and Qatar-USA 2021. Past sponsors include Vodafone, Qatar Gas, Shell, Ooredoo, Shangri-La Hotel and Resorts, Lulu Group International, Qatar Financial Centre, Qatar Petroleum, and ExxonMobil.

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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, restores, and expands the nation's cultural offerings and historical sites, 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, educate and encourage environmental stewardship and sustainable practices, and amplify the voices of Qatar's people. Since its founding in 2005, QM has overseen the Museum of Islamic Art and MIA Park, Mathaf: Arab Museum of Modern Art, the National Museum of Qatar, QM Gallery Al Riwaq, QM Gallery Katara, 3-2-1 Qatar Olympic and Sports Museum, and Dadu, Children's Museum of Qatar, which is currently under development.

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 and the creative hub for innovation, fashion and design M7—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.

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