



Creek Art Fair gathers 1000 visitors on its first night

More than 1000 people gathered in Bastakiya for the opening of the Creek Art Fair on Saturday 15 March. Organized by XVA, the CAF takes place in the pedestrian area of Bastakiya from the 15th to the 31st of March. The independent event runs in parallel to the Dubai Art Fair and is an open platform. Exhibitions will run from 10am to 7pm until the 31st of March.

On the occasion of the opening night, the alleys and houses of Bastakiya came alive with art exhibitions, installations and cultural performances. Visitors included gallerists, art dealers, curators, and personalities such as Mohammad Al Mur, Chairman of Dubai Cultural Council and Dutch designer, Marcel Wanders.

20 houses of Bastakiya remained open on the occasion of the opening night. Among the projects presented were Hilda Hiary's video installation "Tarabish". Architect, painter and sculptor Nadim Karam also presented his project "The Cloud". Exhibitions have been organized by over 20 galleries and magazines including B21, Green Art, The Jam Jar, Majlis, Showcase, The Flying House, The Third Line, Total Art, Traffic, Mah Gallery, Phillips de Pury and Company, Alef Magazine, Hia Magazine and Bidoun. The American University of Sharjah, the American University in Dubai and Zayed University also opened their exhibition on the 15th of March.

The Fair also launched its talks program on Sunday 16 March. The first talk featured leading Dutch architect, Rem Koolhaas. Rem offered the audience a unique insight on his latest project in Dubai, the Waterfront. Designed for one of the biggest developers in Dubai, the project is a 1.5-billion-square-foot city within the city that would simulate the density of Manhattan on an artificial island just off the Persian Gulf. Building on the publication he launched in 2007 with XVA Managing Directors Daniel Camara and Mitra Khoubrou, the Al Manakh, Rem also shared his impressions on the rapid development of Dubai and its current urban experimentations. Rem Koolhaas was joined by Scott Desmarais, from the newly created Dubai Cultural and Arts Authority and George Katodytis from the American University of Sharjah.

Rem Koolhaas' presentation was followed by another discussion on Art Censorship and Freedom of Expression with artists Fereydoun Ave and Jonathan Gent as well as Jack Persekian, Artistic Director of the Sharjah Biennial, Art curator Janet Rady and Arsalan Mohammad, Itinerant film and art editor.

Organized by XVA, the Creek Art Fair happens with the support of the Dubai Cultural Council and under the sponsorships of Joudran Real Estate and Tatweer, a member of Dubai Holding. The Fair will also happen in association with Fikra Designs. Media partners collaborating with XVA on the Fair are Alef Magazine, Bidoun, Dubai Eye and Hia Magazine.

The Fair will continue until the 31st of March. The program of talks and movies is available at www.creekartfair.com

XVA Gallery

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XVA Gallery is located inside the pedestrian area of Bastakiya, in Bur Dubai, XVA is one of Dubai's hidden gems. Together with its gallery, café and art hotel, XVA has been the heart of Dubai's cultural life since its opening five years ago. Following its recent merger with Ave Gallery, XVA continues to exhibit a stimulating array of contemporary paintings, sculptures and art installations.

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