

From 15 September
to 24 November 2018

Autumn 2018 Community Outreach Programme

Committed to growing the local creative community, Sharjah Art Foundation's Community Outreach Programme offers a number of opportunities for participants aged 16 and older to come together and experience the rich artistic heritage and dramatic landscapes of Sharjah. The programme's immersive activities emphasise public participation, urban research, sustainability and creativity. Spanning a broad range of cultural and visual arts, workshops and other activities are facilitated by experienced professionals, art and cultural enthusiasts and members of the community. Sessions are conducted in English and Arabic, according to the needs of the participants.

The Autumn 2018 Community Outreach Programme, running from 15 September to 24 November, includes a range of engaging workshops, excursions and meetups. Participants can learn about local textiles, sustainable living and Emirati cuisine, develop their sketching skills at Souq Al Jubail, design characters for games or books and meet up with other photography enthusiasts.

All Community Outreach Programme events are free and open to the public, and materials and equipment for workshops will be provided by Sharjah Art Foundation.

The foundation is committed to making its programmes as inclusive and accessible as possible. Disability access symbols are included in Education and Community Outreach programme descriptions to indicate the accessibility of individual sessions.

Kindly contact the Community Outreach Programme in advance to arrange any support needed during the workshops or other activities.

Key to symbols:



Person who is blind or has low vision



Person who is deaf, hard of hearing or has auditory disorders



Person with physical disabilities



Person with Down's syndrome



Person with autism spectrum disorder (ASD)

For further information, email community@sharjahart.org or call (06) 5685050, ext. 26 or 54.

To register, please visit www.sharjahart.org/sharjah-art-foundation/events

Workshops, Excursions, Meetups and Culinary Explorations

Photographers' Meetup

Saturday, 15 September 2018

4:00 pm–6:00 pm

Fen Café & Restaurant, Al Mureijah Square

Both photography enthusiasts and professional photographers are welcome to join this meetup to network with other photographers and share knowledge, tips and tricks of the trade. The meetup will provide an opportunity to explore creative potential by sharing and critiquing work and exchanging advice. Whether participants are new to photography or seasoned professionals, this meetup is the perfect chance to learn something new and connect with others who share a passion for photography.

Workshop: Sketching Sharjah's Fresh Produce Market

Saturday, 22 September 2018

11:00 am–2:00 pm

Meeting point: Souq Al Jubail

In this workshop, participants will discover and sketch Souq Al Jubail, Sharjah's largest fresh produce market, as they experience a guided sensory tour of its colourful sights, busy sounds and delicious smells. They will enhance their ability to portray characters, movement, food and atmosphere in a lively setting and learn how to be at ease when drawing in public. Suitable for participants of all levels, from beginners to professionals, this workshop provides an opportunity for anyone interested in sketching to practise and broaden their skills. Participants are encouraged to bring along sketching materials that are easy to carry and use on the go.

Workshop: Designing an Original Character

With Khadija Al Saeedi

Saturday, 29 September 2018

11:00 am–4:00 pm

Collections Building, Arts Square

Accessible to 

Through a step-by-step approach, participants will learn the stages of character design and development in this workshop. By looking at different examples of character designs, from those in games to those in children's books, and working with clay and sketches, participants will develop an understanding of body proportions, consistency, expression and movement of characters in a variety of situations. This workshop is for illustrators who want to use their skills to create their own original characters for animation, comics, children's books, gaming, graphic design and theatre design.

Khadija Al Saeedi is an Omani cartoonist based in Abu Dhabi. She graduated from Cartoon Network Animation Academy and then went on to work as an animation studio artist for Cartoon Network Studios for four years. She is also the co-founder of Zompie Studio and runs the Artists Working podcast.

Workshop: Fine Art Photography

With Nasser Ali

Saturday, 6 October 2018

11:00 am–4:00 pm

Collections Building, Arts Square

In this workshop, participants will be introduced to fine art photography and ways to capture photographs with a creative purpose and artistic outlook. Using props as well as lighting and post-processing editing techniques introduced in the workshop, participants will understand how to enhance images and manipulate them to represent an idea. This workshop is ideal for photographers with little to intermediate experience who are looking to learn how to be more in control of their results and develop new skills in the field of photography.

Nasser Ali is an Emirati chemical engineer, fine art photographer and artist. He believes that photography is not only an art, but also an international language, which he uses to reflect his personal ideas and thoughts to the world.

Workshop: Sharjah Textile Hunters

With Khalid Mezaina

Saturday, 3 November 2018

4:00 pm–8:00 pm

Meeting point: Collections Building, Arts Square

In this workshop, participants will discover the dominant textile trends in #SAFneighbourhood's vibrant textile market and create their own designs inspired by their findings. After a short tour of Sharjah Art Foundation's exhibition *Ala Younis: Steps Toward the Impossible*, participants will head out to Souq Saqr and the Old Souq in search of beautiful, and sometimes bizarre, textile trends. Participants will also have the opportunity to interview shopkeepers about how these trends develop and access information about suppliers and manufacturers who create and distribute these textiles to the local market. After visiting some of the nearby tailors to collect scrap fabric, participants will discuss their findings and work in groups to come up with new pattern designs, which will then be printed onto plain textile surfaces.

Khalid Mezaina is an artist whose work is drawn from the fabric of Emirati culture. He received a BS in Visual Communication from the American University of Sharjah in 2006 and recently graduated from the Rhode Island School of Design with an MFA in Textiles.

Excursion and Workshop: #SAFneighbourhood on Film

With Mazna Al Mazrouei

Saturday, 10 November 2018

11:00 am–3:00 pm

Meeting point: Collections Building, Arts Square

Using a film camera, participants will take part in a short photo shoot to capture the lively and bustling streets, alleyways, shops and people of #SAFneighbourhood. They will then be introduced to the step-by-step process of developing their 35mm film, employing methods introduced in this workshop. This workshop is for hobbyists and seasoned photographers alike who have some experience with film photography and would like to learn the traditional techniques for processing film. Participants in this workshop should bring along their own film camera and a 35mm roll of film.

Mazna Almazrouei is a film photographer based in Abu Dhabi. Passionate about street photography, she mainly shoots with black and white film, which she develops and prints in her darkroom. She has worked in film photography for the last eight years and offered several workshops on the subject in the UAE.

Workshop: The Thoughtful Table and Sustainable Living

With Everyday Feasts

Saturday, 17 November 2018

11:00 am–3:00 pm

Fen Café & Restaurant, Al Mureijah Square

This workshop will focus on personal sustainability and responsible waste reduction, both inside and outside the home. During the session, participants will explore how daily consumption impacts the environment and how these effects could be observed and managed more thoughtfully, and with a smaller impact on the Earth. By focusing on simple ways to reduce waste and further community collaboration rather than consumerism, participants will develop a sense of responsible living that will benefit their home, neighbourhood and the planet. Participants will leave with a better understanding of how small actions can have a large impact over time, resources to help them with their waste-less journey and knowledge about how to make their own DIY toolkit for avoiding waste outside the home.

Stephanie from Everyday Feasts is a writer who loves to cook, eat and learn about new cultures wherever she travels. She is passionate about the ocean and the wildlife that lives there and strives to live a waste-less life in order to reduce her impact on the Earth.

Culinary Explorations: Machboos

With TBA

Saturday, 24 November 2018

11:00 am–2:00 pm

Meeting point: TBA

Accessible to



Joining in the spirit of the UAE's 47th National Day, participants can celebrate the day and learn how to prepare *machboos*, one of the most loved rice dishes in the Emirates. Flavoured with *loomi* [dried limes] and an abundant selection of aromatic spices, *machboos* is made with rice and meat, chicken or fish, all cooked in a rich tomato sauce. It is easy to understand what makes this dish a mouth-watering comfort food and a staple food on the Emirati lunch table. In this workshop, participants will learn the process for cooking *machboos* and sample the delicious outcome in the traditional way.