16 March 2019–
27 April 2019

Sharjah Biennial 14 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, which span a broad range of cultural and visual arts, emphasise public participation, urban research, sustainability and creativity. All activities are facilitated by experienced professionals, art and cultural enthusiasts, and members of the communities, with sessions conducted in both English and Arabic, according to the needs of the participants.

Running from 16 March to 27 April 2019, the Community Outreach Programme for Sharjah Biennial 14 (SB14) includes a range of engaging workshops, excursions, meet-ups and collaborations. During this season, participants can tour SB14 exhibitions, explore traditional Emirati recipes and traditions, develop their photography and sketching skills, and discover new talents.

All Community Outreach Programme events are free and open to the public, Materials and equipment for workshops are 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:

Blindness or low vision

Hearing impairment

Physical disabilities

Down's syndrome

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, Meet-ups and Culinary Explorations

Workshop: Snail Mail Postcards and Packages
Jaffat El Aqlam
Saturday, 16 March 2019
2:00 pm–5:00 pm
Collections Building, Arts Square

Accessible to

Inspired by SB14 artist Lee Mingwei's *The Letter Writing Project*, participants in this workshop will be introduced to the postal system in the UAE and learn the step-by-step process of sending a postcard via snail mail. Starting with a walk to capture the best of #SAFneighbourhood through photography, participants will then use their favourite photographs to personalise their postcards and dedicate them to new pen-pals with the use of a random mail address generator.

Jaffat El Aqlam is an independent platform that celebrates artistic creations by individuals from/based in the MENA region, establishing its digital existence through zines, open calls, workshops, and collaborative dialogue. Established in 2014, Jaffat El Aqlam has grown to become an open space for artists/designers, writers, musicians, poets, start-ups and researchers to feature their work and contribute to the exploration of identities for those within and out of the MENA region.

SB14 Activation: *Speculative Collective*
With Gudskul

  Session 2 (of 10):
  Thursday, 7 March 2019
  12:30 pm–1:30 pm

  Session 5 (of 10):
  Sunday, 10 March 2019
  6:30 pm–8:00 pm

  Session 8 (of 10):
  Tuesday, 2 April 2019
  10:00 am–11:00 am

  In ten individual sessions, SB14 artist collective Gudskul invites participants to activate a series of instructions by playing the roles of teachers and students who share knowledge between them. There are no age restrictions; everyone is welcome to share their knowledge and expertise. The dates above are for activations at the Collections Building in Arts Square, Sharjah; see the Art Centres information at sharjahart.org for information about activations in Al Madam and Khorfakkan.

SB14 Photowalk
Saturday, 23 March 2019
12:00 pm–6:00 pm
Meeting point: Information Centre, Al Mureijah Square

Accessible to

Participants will embark on a guided tour of Sharjah Biennial 14: *Leaving the Echo Chamber*, discover Heart of Sharjah, Arts Square, and Al Mureijah Square, and explore the narratives of #SAFneighbourhood. They will journey through heritage houses and challenge themselves by learning how to adopt SB14 artist Ampanee Satoh's square photo composition style in their own photography while connecting with fellow members of the social media and photography community.

Open Mic Night
With Blank Space
Saturday, 30 March 2019
4:00 pm–9:30 pm
Event location: Site of abandoned airplane in Umm Al Quwain
Meeting point: Information Centre, Al Mureijah Square

Accessible to

In collaboration with Blank Space, Sharjah Art Foundation invites poets, musicians, performers and comedians, both amateur and professional, to join in this open mic night at the site of an abandoned airplane in Umm Al Quwain. The open mic performances will focus on themes relating to the New Orleans Airlift SB14 project, including ideas of travel, immigration, home, personal identity and memory.

Blank Space is a community-driven open mic initiative co-founded by Mohammed Abdelhakam and Mathani Mohamed to showcase music, spoken word poetry, stand-up comedy and other performance arts.

Transportation from Al Mureijah Square to Umm Al Quwain and back will be provided.

To register as a performer, please click here.
To register as an attendee, please click here.

Sketchwalk: Capturing Light and Shadow
With TBA
Saturday, 6 April 2019
12:00 pm–7:00 pm
Workshop location: Kalba Ice Factory
Meeting point: Information Centre, Al Mureijah Square

Inspired by SB14 artist and performer Nikolaus Gansterer, whose work at Kalba Ice Factory activates all the senses through light, shadow, water, wind, temperature or animals, this workshop invites participants to embark on a trip to Kalba to observe the ethereal shift of light and shadow on the landscape and document it in their own preferred method (sketching, painting, photography, writing, etc.). Can the movement of light and shadow possibly be a way of measuring time? Can it be considered a light painting? This workshop is ideal for artists and hobbyists of all levels. Participants are encouraged to bring along their favourite sketching tools.

Culinary Explorations: History and Preparation of Arabic Coffee
With TBA
Saturday, 13 April 2019
2:00 pm–6:00 pm
Collections Building, Arts Square

Accessible to

Whether spiced with cardamom, saffron or cloves, or served with *fuwala* [traditional Emirati tea time snacks, including fruits, dates, nuts and desserts], Arabic coffee is a major aspect of Arab culture and hospitality in the UAE and the region. Every Arab household prides itself on the way family members perform the ceremonial act of serving coffee to guests, which comes with its own etiquette for preparation, serving and drinking. In this workshop, participants will explore the history of Arabic coffee and the various ways it is prepared and served. They will also sample different types of coffee to compare their concentrations, roasts, colours, aromas, tastes and quality, and they will try traditional Emirati *fuwala* as well. This workshop draws inspiration from SB14 artist Isabell Lewis' 'hosted occasions', in which she seeks to engage all the senses and uses hospitality as a component of her performance.

Embroiderers' Meetup and Workshop
With TBA
Saturday, 27 April 2019
11:00 am–3:00 pm, Arts Square
Collections Building

A traditional handicraft for decorating fabric, embroidery is now being used as a contemporary craft to portray narratives that are no longer limited to flowery geometric designs and landscapes but can tell stories of identity. Embroiderers, whether professional or beginners, are invited to join this workshop to meet fellow enthusiasts and practitioners in the community, discuss the importance and challenges of this rising movement, share tips and tricks of the trade and create embroidered compositions that speak of their personal narratives. This workshop in inspired by SB14 artist Anwar Jalal Shemza's practice of using modern Islamic patterns woven into carpets.