

Sharjah Biennial 15: Thinking Historically in the Present

Learning Programme for Children and Families

FEBRUARY PROGRAMME

11–26 February 2023

The Learning Programme for Children and Families invites you to experience Sharjah's history, its diverse communities and its landscapes through exhibition tours, excursions, workshops and courses designed especially for [Sharjah Biennial 15 \(SB15\): Thinking Historically in the Present](#), which runs from 7 February to 11 June 2023. With other participants aged 6 to 15 and their families, explore a range of Biennial themes, and develop your technical art skills. Many of the sessions have been inspired by the work of one of the more than 150 artists and collectives who have created the over 300 works for the 30th year of the Biennial.

This month's workshops, taking place on Saturdays and Sundays from 11 to 26 February, range from painting, drawing and cyanotype printing to architecture, gardening and martial arts; the course, offered during one weekend, focuses on natural dye making. Venues are located in Al Mureijah Square, Arts Square and Al Qarayen in the city of Sharjah as well as sites in Al Dhaid and Khorfakkan. Sessions are in English and/or Arabic, depending on participant needs. Please note that for any session identified as a **Family Workshop**, young participants must be accompanied by a parent or caregiver.

Sessions are free, and all materials are provided. To find out more about the Learning Programme for Children and Families, please email children@sharjahart.org, or call (06) 568 5050.

Sharjah Art Foundation is committed to making its programmes inclusive and accessible. Disability symbols are included with all session descriptions.

Key to symbols:



EXHIBITION TOURS

Join guided tours of all our exhibitions, in both Arabic and English. You can enjoy self-guided activities during the tours and then attend our workshops to learn more about the artworks on display.

To book a visit, please email children@sharjahart.org.

WORKSHOPS

Ongoing Sharjah Biennial Mural Project Family Workshop

Dates: Saturday, 11 February to Saturday, 10 June 2023

Timings: Saturday to Thursday, 9:00 am–9:00 pm; Friday, 4:00 pm–9:00 pm

Location: [Bait Obaid Al Shamsi, Arts Square](#)

Languages: English and Arabic



Take your imagination on a journey across past, present and future in a collective mural project on the rooftop of Bait Obaid Al Shamsi. Join other Biennial visitors to paint scenes of the Corniche and create a backdrop of memories.

Talking Visually to the Future In collaboration with Flavia Gandolfo

Date: Saturday, 11 February 2023

Timings: 10:00 am–1:00 pm

Location: [Bait Obaid Al Shamsi, Arts Square](#)

Language: English



Tour the souq next to Sharjah Art Foundation offices with artist Flavia Gandolfo, whose SB15 works investigate primary education in Peru through portraits, photographs of drawings and objects from classrooms. Examine the architecture, products and shopkeepers. Note your impressions, and collect physical data. With Gandolfo's guidance, create a 'letter' to the future using your visual impressions of today's history through pencils, colours, paper and more.

So What's Your Story?

Ages 10–15

Date: Saturday, 11 February 2023

Timings: 11:00 am–2:00 pm

Location: [The Urban Garden, Al Mureijah Art Spaces](#)

Language: English



الاعاقة الحسدية
Physical Disability



اضطراب طيف التوحد
Autism Spectrum Disorder



الاعاقة السمعية
Hearing Impairment



الاعاقة الذهنية
Intellectual Disability



صعوبات التعلم المحددة
Specific Learning Disorder

Join SB15 artist Meleanna Meyer to learn about her practice, Native Hawaiian traditions and history. With her guidance, create a folded picture book with drawings to represent your story.

Regenerate the Soil: Cook for Microbes Family Workshop

Date: Saturday, 11 February 2023

Timings: 4:00 pm–6:00 pm

Location: [Bait Abdul Raheem Jasem, Al Mureijah Square](#)

Language: English



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Discover how to rejuvenate the soil by cooking for microbes with SB15 artist Yoeri Guépin. Investigate the effects of capitalism on soil composition, and consider human activity and the microbiome. Analyse different soil conditions, and learn how to use freely available materials and improvised technologies to cook a nourishing meal for bacteria. Finally, work together with other workshop participants to build, brew and mix ingredients that create conditions for balanced and biodiverse soil ecosystems.

Excursion and Workshop: Exploring the Architecture of the Sheikh Khalid Bin Mohammed Palace and Farm in Al Dhaid
In collaboration with Asma Belhamar
Family Workshop

Date: Saturday, 18 February 2023

Timings: 10:00 am–2:00 pm

Meeting Point: [Old Al Dhaid Clinic](#)

Languages: English and Arabic



Explore SB15 artist Asma Belhamar's outdoor installation at the Sheikh Khalid Bin Mohammed Palace and Farm in Al Dhaid through a photowalk and sketching session. Immerse yourself in Belhamar's studies of the architectural elements and patterns of the palace, and create your own patterns.

Guerrilla Gardening
Family Workshop

Date: Saturday, 18 February 2023

Timings: 11:00 am–1:00 pm

Meeting Point: [Bait Al Hurma, Al Mureijah Square](#)

Languages: English and Arabic



Observe and identify the variety of plants growing in the cracks, sidewalks and alleyways of Al Mureijah while documenting them in your sketchbooks. Add to the vegetation in the neighbourhood by taking part in guerilla gardening as a form of street art. Rewild the city by loosely distributing seeds and encouraging nature to grow organically.

Cyanotype Prints: Al Mureijah Square

Ages 6–10

Date: Saturday, 18 February 2023

Timings: 11:00 am–1:00 pm

Location: [The Urban Garden, Al Mureijah Art Spaces](#)

Languages: English and Arabic



Cyanotype is a mid-nineteenth-century process of cameraless photography, unique because of its cyan blue colour. Using plants found near Al Mureijah Square, produce your own cyanotype prints by placing foliage on light-sensitive paper and exposing your designs to sunlight.

Grow Your Own First Aid Garden

Family Workshop

Date: Sunday, 19 February 2023

Timings: 10:00 am–12:00 pm

Location: [Al Hamriyah Art Centre](#)

Languages: English and Arabic



Go back in time to explore traditional treatments and find cures through nature. Discover which plants can be used for first aid, and learn about the planting process and the care of your first aid garden at home.

From Pixels to Mixed Media

Family Workshop

Date: Thursday, 23 February 2023

Timings: 5:30 pm–7:30 pm

Location: [Al Qarayen 2 Park](#)

Languages: English and Arabic



Inspired by SB15 artist Joiri Minaya's wallpaper work *Redecode*, made from digital units called pixels, manually create your own 'pixelated' artwork with mixed media such as paper cut-outs and stickers.

Making a Field Guide to Plants of the Emirates

In collaboration with Sharjah's Islamic Botanical Garden, Environment and Protected Areas Authority (EPA)

Ages 11–15

Date: Saturday, 25 February 2023

Timings: 10:00 am–12:00 pm

Location: [Old Al Dhaid Clinic](#)

Languages: English and Arabic



Discover the UAE's natural environment by researching plants that are native to the deserts and mountains of the Emirates. Learn documentation techniques as you sketch, photograph or add actual plant specimens to your own field guide. Following in the footsteps of SB15 artist Rehab Eldalil, who has produced a flora field guide of native plants in South Sinai, Egypt, think of how your guidebook can transfer the knowledge and information you collect to others.

Capoeira: Movement and Music

Family Workshop

Date: Saturday, 25 February 2023

Timings: 4:00 pm–6:00 pm

Location: [Bait Obaid Al Shamsi, Arts Square](#)

Languages: English and Arabic



Capoeira is an Afro-Brazilian martial art that combines movement and music. In this interactive session drawing on the work on SB15 artist Hassan Hajjaj, learn about the history of Capoeira, and practise its core elements: spatial and bodily awareness, defense and attack, rhythm and song.

Grow Your Own First Aid Garden

Family Workshop

Date: Sunday, 26 February 2023

Timings: 10:00 am–12:00 pm

Location: [Bait Abdul Raheem Jasem, Al Mureijah Square](#)

Languages: English and Arabic



Go back in time to explore traditional treatments and find cures through nature. Discover which plants can be used for first aid, and learn about the planting process and the care of your first aid garden at home.

Composting Family Workshop

Date: Sunday, 26 February 2023

Timings: 10:00 am–12:00 pm

Location: [Al Hamriyah Art Centre](#)

Language: English and Arabic



Compost is a mixture of organic materials used to fertilise plants and enhance the soil. Discover an easy way to reduce waste by turning your leftovers and food scraps into compost.

Watercolour Drawings Family Workshop

Date: Sunday, 26 February 2023

Timings: 5:30 pm–7:30 pm

Location: [Al Qarayen 2 Park](#)

Languages: English and Arabic



Look around you in the park, and imagine your surroundings as a world of dreams. Then work in a group to create watercolour drawings of what you have imagined. At the end of the workshop, your drawings will be compiled into a booklet.

COURSE

Natural Dye Making

Ages 11–15

Date: Friday to Sunday, 17–19 February 2023

Timings: 10:00 am–12:00 pm

Location: [Collection Building, Arts Square](#)

Languages: English and Arabic



SB15 artist Veronica Ryan employs seed pods, fruits, plants and natural dyes in her practice, which explores her Afro-Caribbean heritage. In this three-day course, explore the processes for making dyes from plants, food scraps and other natural ingredients. Learn important techniques for extracting colours from nature, painting with natural dyes and dyeing fabric.