

SHARJAH BIENNIAL 15

Learning Programme for Children and Families

6 May–10 June 2023



Make cyanotype and block prints, embroider plants and letters, take excursions to the past, and build an art installation in the form of a storybook. Enjoy all these activities and more in the Learning Programme for Children and Families during May and June.

Taking place from 6 May to 10 June, the programme invites you to experience an array of arts activities and events inspired by the work of the international artists and collectives participating in Sharjah Biennial 15 (SB15): Thinking Historically in the Present.

With other participants aged 6 to 15 and their families, connect with and learn first-hand from SB15 artists, locally based artists, art practitioners and community members through tours, excursions, workshops and courses.

Offered in English and/or Arabic, depending on participant needs, the May and June sessions unfold in the city of Sharjah—at the Collections Building and Bait Obaid Al Shamsi in Arts Square—and in Al Hamriyah Studios.

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, 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



Autism Spectrum Disorder



Attention Deficit Hyperactive Disorder



Physical Disability



Hearing Impairment



Visual Impairment



Intellectual Disability



Specific Learning Disorder

EXHIBITION TOURS

Join guided tours of all our exhibitions, in both Arabic and English, and then attend our workshops to learn more about the artworks on view.

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

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WORKSHOPS

Excursion and Workshop: Enhance the Creative Process with Archival Materials In collaboration with the Sharjah Documentation and Archives Authority (SDAA)

Ages 11–15

Date: Saturday, 6 May 2023

Timings: 10:00 am–12:00 pm

Location: Collections Building, Arts Square, Sharjah

Languages: English and Arabic



Take an excursion to the archives at the Sharjah Documentation and Archives Authority, following in the footsteps of SB15 artist John Akomfrah, who draws on history and archival footage as background for his work. Discover photos of old Sharjah and newspaper archives, and learn how cultural and historical events are preserved and documented. Finally, recreate old posters, drawings or photographs through your own sketches or drawings.

Create and Perform with 2D Puppets

Family Workshop

Date: Saturday, 6 May 2023

Timings: 10:00 am–12:00 pm

Location: Collections Building, Arts Square, Sharjah

Languages: English and Arabic



Watch a video of the shadow puppetry performance *The Foiled War of Bharatayudha* (2022) by SB15 artist Heri Dono. Then construct a movable 2D puppet for a character you have created. Present a performance with your puppet that demonstrates your understanding of the artist's theme.

Draw the Human Figure

Ages 11–15

Date: Saturday, 13 May 2023

Timings: 10:00 am–12:00 pm

Location: Collections Building, Arts Square, Sharjah

Languages: English and Arabic

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Taking inspiration from works by various SB15 artists, learn how to draw a simplified human form. Gain an understanding of how to create figures without a model, focusing on basic proportions and a 'muscle map' to know how and where muscles are attached. You will work on different types of figures and postures.

From Photographs to Cyanotype Prints

Ages 6–10

Date: Saturday, 13 May 2023

Timings: 10:00 am–12:00 pm

Location: Collections Building, Arts Square, Sharjah

Languages: English and Arabic



Harness the power of the sun to turn photographs into cyanotype prints with a process that produces blue images using coated paper and light. After taking inspiration from a visit to SB15 artist Carrie Mae Weems' multimedia installation *The In Between* (2022–2023), select photographs, and transform them into cyanotype prints on tote bags.

Design Floral Embroidery

Ages 11–15

Date: Saturday, 20 May 2023

Timings: 10:00 am–12:00 pm

Location: Al Mureijah Art Spaces

Languages: English and Arabic



View SB15 artist Annalee Davis's works with embroidered plants and flowers, and create your own representation of nature through embroidery. After becoming familiar with the basics, draw a design on fabric and embroider it using a variety of stitches

Weave with Paper

Ages 6–10

Date: Saturday, 20 May 2023

Timings: 10:00 am–12:00 pm

Location: Collections Building, Arts Square, Sharjah

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Languages: English and Arabic



Delve into the colourful wall tapestries of SB15 artist Diedrick Brackens, and find out how he weaves threads together to produce a textile. Experiment with his weaving technique to create different patterns using colourful paper, and share your impressions of Brackens' work and the weaving process.

Prepare Your Canvas for Painting

Ages 11–15

Date: Saturday, 27 May 2023

Timings: 10:00 am–12:00 pm

Location: Collections Building, Arts Square, Sharjah

Languages: English and Arabic



Discover the importance of preparing your canvas for painting with a tour of the work of SB15 artist Roméo Mivekannin, who seeks to upset the established boundaries of art with his unique approach to painting. After the tour, learn the basics of creating quality canvases, including priming techniques and both wet and dry methods for stretching canvas.

Embroider Fabric Letters

Ages 6–10

Date: Saturday, 27 May 2023

Timings: 10:00 am–12:00 pm

Location: Collections Building, Arts Square, Sharjah

Languages: English and Arabic



After visiting SB15 artist Mounira Al Solh's colourful works of embroidery, explore the process of stitching different fabrics together to create a letter. Refine your sewing skills as you become familiar with embroidery techniques that will allow you to create larger textile projects in the future.

Ongoing Sharjah Biennial 15 Mural Project

Family Workshop

Date: Saturday, 27 May 2023

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Timings: 5:00 pm–7:00 pm
Location: Bait Obaid Al Shamsi, Arts Square, Sharjah
Languages: English and Arabic



Contribute to the ongoing Sharjah Biennial 15 Mural Project, taking your imagination on a journey across past, present and future. Immerse yourself in the artworks, architecture and nature around you, and work collaboratively with other SB15 visitors to paint your impressions of Biennial works and venues on one of several large murals. At the end of the project, all the murals will be on view at the Collections Building, Arts Square, Sharjah. The Sharjah Biennial 15 Mural Project has been inspired by SB15 artist Pipo Nguyen-Duy's work (My) East of Eden (2011–2013), which reflects on the artist's childhood in Vietnam.

Experiment with Block Printing

Ages 11–15

Date: Saturday, 3 June 2023
Timings: 10:00 am–12:00 pm
Location: Collections Building, Arts Square, Sharjah
Languages: English and Arabic



Learn how to do block printing on fabric. You will carve designs on the surface of a wood block, apply acrylic paint to the block, and then print the designs on fabric. Take inspiration from SB15 artist Roméo Mivekannin's works, which merge a unique approach to painting and archival photographic images.

Excursion and Workshop: Connect with the Past In collaboration with the Sharjah Archaeology Museum

Family Workshop

Date: Saturday, 3 June 2023
Timings: 10:00 am–12:00 pm
Meeting Point: Collections Building, Arts Square, Sharjah
Languages: English and Arabic



Archiving and documenting are important tools for preserving cultures and stories from the past. Join us for an excursion to the Sharjah Archaeology Museum to view artefacts found in Sharjah and create your own archival notebook.

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Weave Wool and Silk Tapestries

Ages 11–15

Date: Saturday, 10 June 2023

Timings: 10:00 am–12:00 pm

Meeting Point: Collections Building, Arts Square, Sharjah

Languages: English and Arabic



Learn the steps to create your own woven tapestry using wool and silk yarns. You can find inspiration in artist Nelly Sethna's work for SB15, which entwines natural designs with geometric and ritual diagrams.

Show Your Fashion Style through Mixed-Media Collages

Ages 6–10

Date: Saturday, 10 June 2023

Timings: 10:00 am–12:00 pm

Meeting Point: Al Hamriyah Studios

Languages: English and Arabic



Visit SB15 artist Joiri Minaya's wallpaper works Redecode (2015) and Redecode II (2018), which present images of tropical settings and flowering plants. Taking inspiration from the colours and patterns of her work, share your own creative taste in fashion in a mixed-media collage in the shape of a T-shirt. You will work with paper cut-outs and cardboard.

COURSE

Create a Storybook Installation

Ages 11–15

Date: Saturday and Sunday, 27–28 May 2023

Timings: 4:00 pm–6:00 pm

Location: Collections Building, Arts Square, Sharjah

Languages: English and Arabic



Write an animal fable and create an art installation in this two-day group project. On the first day, you will devise a narrative that uses animal characters to present moral lessons about respect, harmony and co-existence between

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animals and humans. On the second day, you will build an art installation in the form of an open storybook. You can include your animal fable as well as objects and other mediums that set the scene or enhance the story.