

**ArtBAB International Selection Committee adds acclaimed Curator Alistair Hicks**  
 The fundamentals of a successful art fair lie in the excellence of its management and its advisors. Art Bahrain Across Borders, ArtBAB, has drawn together a number of leaders from the arts who all bring their individual skills and value to the fair being held March 22nd – 26th 2017.  
 In our October newsletter we featured Jonathan Watkins - Museum Director and Curator, Janet Rady - Gallerist and Curator and David Hawkins who has organised individual and group artist exhibitions and crafted international art partnerships. The committee has subsequently been joined by Alistair Hicks.  
 Alistair Hicks worked as Senior Curator at Deutsche Bank for twenty years, where he was involved in naming the sixty floors of the Frankfurt headquarters after artists from around the world. He is now an independent curator and writer. His latest book is a survey of 21st century art, *The Global Art Compass*, published by Thames and Hudson in 2014.  
 In November 2015 Yapi Kredi published a Turkish edition with an extra chapter on Turkish artists. Hicks has been an art critic for such diverse UK publications as *The Spectator*, *The Times* and *Vogue*. He wrote *School of London* (Phaidon, 1989) and *New British Art in the Saatchi Collection*, (Thames & Hudson, 1989). In 2015 he was the curator of two one-man exhibitions at Kumu, the National Gallery of Estonia, those of Raymond Pettibon and Marko Maetamm.  
 In May 2017 he is curating an exhibition at the Pera Museum in Istanbul, *Doublethink: Doublevision*.



**In the past, writers and critics such as Goethe, Ruskin and Clement Greenberg perpetuated particular ideas about art and even dictated these ideas to the artists themselves. Since then, however, artists have rebelled. They no longer have to follow one particular prevailing theory or head to any particular city. New York, London, Paris, Berlin and Beijing are all great places to make art, but none today has a stranglehold on creation.**  
*Alistair Hicks, The Global Art Compass, 2014.*

### TAMKEEN Call for Submissions by Bahraini Artists for ARTBAB PAVILION



With a key part of ArtBAB being the development of working artists, the creation and strengthening of artist enterprises and a legacy of further engagement with the international art world, Tamkeen, the Kingdom of Bahrain's semi-government agency which supports the development of skills and entrepreneurship in both individuals and enterprises is promoting ArtBAB as one of its key initiatives to encourage a step-change in the development of Bahraini art and artists. *Read more*

To apply for the ArtBAB pavilion:  
[www.artbab.com](http://www.artbab.com) or Email: [talshrougi@artbab.com](mailto:talshrougi@artbab.com)



### Last Call for Submissions by General Entry, International Artists

As well as participation from emerging Bahraini artists, ArtBAB seeks to provide a platform for international artists. These General Entry artists are encouraged to apply to take a booth at ArtBAB and exhibit a wider range of work than the participating Bahraini ArtBAB artists.  
 For further details please contact Tasneem Al-Shrougi  
 Email: [talshrougi@artbab.com](mailto:talshrougi@artbab.com)



**Under the patronage of His Excellency Shaikh Fawaz bin Mohammed Al Khalifa, the Ambassador of the Kingdom of Bahrain to the United Kingdom, Art Select, the founders of Art Bahrain Across Borders (ArtBAB), Bahrain's international art fair were proud to present Bahrain Art Week in London under the new "Be Bahrain" brand - aiming to initiate creative projects, communicate the best of Bahraini culture and forge lasting art partnership collaborations.**  
 The focal point of this week-long celebration of Bahraini art was the "Be Bahrain" collection, an exhibition of paintings and sculpture representative of the diverse and vibrant arts and culture scene in the Kingdom of Bahrain.  
 "Be Bahrain" was a great opportunity to promote ArtBAB 2017 and to communicate the potential of the international art fair for the Kingdom of Bahrain and the wider region to the media, artists and galleries as well as continuing the work of Art Select in developing emerging Bahraini artists which began with the first Art Bahrain and continued with BAAB - Bahrain Art Across Borders.



Art Select worked with the Bahraini Embassy in London to present a preview of the "Be Bahrain" exhibition at the Lancaster House Bahrain National Day. Utilising Lancaster House, Art Select created a pop-up exhibition which complemented the festivities of the evening. His Excellency the Ambassador visited the exhibition accompanied by HRH the Duke of York who viewed the art work and chatted attentively with the artists and their families.  
 Nearly 300 guests of His Excellency were able to view the collection that evening and this included Members of both chambers of the UK Parliament, business leaders, opinion-formers and the media.  
 Following the private view the artists were able to join the National Day dinner held across the state rooms of Lancaster House. On December 15th the "Be Bahrain" exhibition continued at Asia House, the UK's leading centre for political, economic and cultural understanding between East and West.

The collection was exhibited on the first floor to complement the panel discussion held on the evening of the 15th on the theme of the creative industries in the Middle East.  
 Prior to this panel discussion was an address by the Rt Hon. John Whittingdale MP, former UK Secretary of State for Culture. Mr Whittingdale had previously attended the launch of Bahrain Art Across Borders (BAAB), held at the Victoria & Albert Museum in London and which was followed by an exhibition at Gallery 8 in Mayfair.

The full collection was then displayed downstairs in the gallery space till December 21st allowing members of the public to visit and appreciate Bahraini art. Members of the International Selection Committee attended the gallery each day of the exhibition and it was a fitting end to the 200th anniversary of the UK-Bahraini year of friendship which was celebrated in both countries across 2016.  
 Alongside this was an exhibition

of the work of fashion designers, Nada and Noor Alawi who presented the Annada range which uses the designs of artists from the Kingdom and across the wider region to design scarves, apparel, leather goods and paper goods.  
 Participating artists in the exhibition: Somaya Abdulghani, Jamal Abdulrahim, Ahmed Anan, Balqees Fakhro, Mariam Fakhro, Faika Al Hasan, Lulwa Al Khalifa, Marwa Al Khalifa, Nabeela Al Khayer, Ghada Khunji, Aysela Al Moayyed, Abbas Al Mosawi, Maryam Nass, Areej Rajab, Omar Al Rashid, Latifa Al Shakar, Mayasa Al Sowaidi and Zakeya Zada.



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GbUWoJpIGX4>  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Y1-yVp7pBKc>

Press coverage:  
<http://www.gdnonline.com/Details/149737>  
<http://www.gdnonline.com/Details/149981>  
<http://www.oannews.org/content/news/general/be-bahrain%E2%80%99-art-week-held-london>  
<http://www.theweek.co.uk/79762/bahrain-art-week-in-london>

### ArtBAB Artist Successes – CARAVAN International Touring Exhibition

ArtBAB is proud that 7 of its allied artists are participating in a major new art initiative entitled "I AM". "I AM" is a travelling peacebuilding art exhibition organised by CARAVAN, the international and interreligious peacebuilding arts NGO, involving 30 of the Middle East's premier contemporary women artists. It will open in the spring of 2017 in Amman, Jordan at their National Gallery of Fine Arts (May 2nd – June 22nd 2017) and will then be exhibited in London at St Martin-in-the-Fields in Trafalgar Square from July 1st to August 31st 2017 before touring North America from September 2017 until December 2018.  
 The confirmed Bahraini artists are: Amina Al Abbasi, Ghada Khunji, Mariam Al Fakhro, Marwa Al Khalifa, Mayasa Al Sowaidi, Nabeela Al Khayer and Taiba Faraj and each artist will submit one original two or three-dimensional work in any or still art medium: painting, drawing, collage, photography, digital art, mixed media and sculpture.

### ArtBAB brings Art to Jewellery Arabia

ArtBAB presented its art lounge at Jewellery Arabia, the region's largest jewellery fair held at the International Exhibition and Convention Centre between November 22nd – 26th.  
 In 2015 48,717 people visited Jewellery Arabia and 32% were from Saudi Arabia.



### ArtBAB Fact

The first Art Bahrain saw 48 participants from 17 countries, an extensive events programme and high sales.



[www.artbab.com](http://www.artbab.com)  
[www.facebook.com/ArtBAB.bh](https://www.facebook.com/ArtBAB.bh)  
 David Hawkins Head of Outreach & VIP Relations Mobile: +44 7790 726352  
 Email: [david@artbab.com](mailto:david@artbab.com)  
 Janet Rady Head of Development Mobile: +44 07957 284370  
 Email: [janet@artbab.com](mailto:janet@artbab.com)  
 Tasneem Al Shrougi Gallery and Artist Relations Landline: +973 1750 3080  
 Mobile: +973 6638 6877  
 Email: [talshrougi@artbab.com](mailto:talshrougi@artbab.com)