

# sharjah-biennial-10-prize-recipients-announcement - Sharjah Art Foundation

Sharjah, United Arab Emirates (UAE), March 17, 2011 —The Sharjah Art Foundation announces recipients of the 2011 Sharjah Biennial Prize as the 10th edition of the Sharjah Biennial, Plot for a Biennial, continues with eight weeks of cutting-edge exhibitions, film, performance, music and publications, March 16 – May 16, 2011. Honorees of this year's award totaling \$30,000 include Trisha Donnelly, Imran Qureshi, Rania Stephan, Rayyane Tabet, and Jalal Toufic as selected by a jury of distinguished members including Director of MoMA PS1 Klaus Biesenbach, Director of Lebanon's Ashkal Alwan, Christine Tohme, and art critic, media theorist, and Andrew Mellon Professor at the Courtauld Art Institute in London Boris Groys. The awards were presented over a celebratory gala dinner hosted by HH Sheikh Dr Sultan Bin Mohammed Al Qasimi, Member of the UAE Supreme Council and Ruler of Sharjah, and members of the Sharjah Art Foundation on the occasion of the Biennial's opening on Wednesday, March 16. The 2011 Sharjah Biennial, curated by Suzanne Cotter (Curator, Guggenheim Abu Dhabi Project) and Rasha Salti (Creative Director ArteEast), in association with Haig Aivazian (Chicago-based independent curator, artist and writer), continues with more than 65 Sharjah Biennial Commissions. For more information on the Sharjah Art Foundation and its programs including the Sharjah Biennial, please visit [www.sharjahart.org](http://www.sharjahart.org).

Preceding the announcement of this year's Sharjah Biennial Prize, Plot for a Biennial commenced with a public ceremony in the presence of HH Sheikh Dr Sultan Bin Mohammed Al Qasimi, Member of the UAE Supreme Council and Ruler of Sharjah and HE Sheikha Hoor Al Qasimi, President of the Sharjah Art Foundation, along with Sharjah Art Foundation Director

Jack Persekian and Sharjah Biennial 10 Curators. Cultural leaders, curators, art professionals, artists, members of the local and international media and visitors gathered from across the globe for the official inauguration of the Biennial's 10th edition. Visitors enjoyed the Biennial's offerings of visual art from exhibitions in the Sharjah Art Museum to site-specific installations in Sharjah's Arts and Heritage Areas. Attendees also experienced a range of highlights across the disciplines from screenings of the Biennial's Cinema Program, to a live performance of a new commission by acclaimed Lebanese choreographer Omar Rajeh performed by Maqamat Dance Theatre. From live music performances of *Score for a Biennial*, to extensive exhibitions of visual art, the Sharjah Biennial continues with exciting presentations of new work.

Sharjah Art Foundation President HE Sheikha Hoor Al Qasimi states, 'The Sharjah Biennial Prize has served as a fundamental component of the Biennial's 20-year history of highlighting the contributions of artists who have influenced the cultural landscape of Sharjah and the Middle East. The long list of recipients serves as a reflection of not only each edition of the Biennial but of artistic movements over time.'

Director of the Sharjah Art Foundation, Jack Persekian states, 'Since 1993, the Sharjah Biennial Prize has remained one of the most culturally significant awards granted to artists in the MENASA region. With virtually no restrictions placed upon the award's selection committee, the Prize strives to recognize artists based solely upon their artistic practice. Through this freedom of selection, the Sharjah Biennial Prize has served as a valuable tool in raising awareness of the themes and issues addressed by some of the region's most progressive minds.'