

ART AND CULTURE PROTAGONISTS IN THE SPOTLIGHT

AWARDS



Anahita Razmi. Image courtesy Carbon 12, Dubai.

FEBRUARY

ANAHITA RAZMI WINS ERICH HAUSER AWARD

Berlin-based Hamburg-born Iranian artist Anahita Razmi was announced as the 2015 recipient of the Erich Hauser (WERKSTATTPREIS) Award. As a laureate, Razmi was granted a residency at the Erich Hauser Foundation in Rottweil, Germany. This was followed by a solo exhibition at the foundation, running from 2 October–1 November, with an accompanying publication. Established in 1997, the award supports artists at the beginning of their careers. “The award made possible the realisation of a comprehensive new video installation, titled *Tutti*, and a book publication in relation to this work,” said Razmi. “The Art Foundation, which is located in sculptor Erich Hauser’s former work and living estate, is an incredible space to work in: within the premises, one can find traces of masterful craftsmanship and eccentric and bold ideas of an exceptional artist. My work there was realised in direct relation to the foundation’s 600 square metre workshop hall.” Her work featured a number of synchronised video monitors arranged in the hall, combining different media contexts, while still working with an explicitly sculptural setup.



Sharjah Biennial artists Basel Abbas and Ruanne Abou-Rahme receive an award from HH Sheikh Dr Sultan Bin Mohammed Al Qasimi, Member of the UAE Supreme Council and Ruler of Sharjah for their work *The Incidental Insurgents* (2012–15). Image courtesy Sharjah Media Office, Sharjah.

MARCH

SHARJAH BIENNIAL PRIZE

On 5 March, the recipients of the 2015 Sharjah Biennial Prize were announced at an Awards Ceremony for the 12th edition of the biennial, entitled *The past, the present, the possible*. Honourees comprised Eric Baudelaire, Asunción Molinos Gordo and duo Basel Abbas and Ruanne Abou-Rahme. Also honoured were Adrián Villar Rojas and Fahrelnissa Zeid. Awards were selected by a panel featuring Suha Shoman, founder and chair of Darat Al-Funun, The Khalid Shoman Foundation, Amman; Koyo Kouoh, founding artistic director of RAW Material Company in Dakar, Senegal and artist and filmmaker Park Chang-Kyong, artistic director of MediaCity Seoul 2014 at the International Media Art Biennale in Seoul, Korea.



Ivan Parati. *TileTable*. Modular coffee table, wood and copper. Dimensions variable. Image courtesy the artist.

MARCH

MIDDLE EAST EMERGENT ART PRIZE

On 15 March 2015 it was announced that Ivan Parati and his modular coffee table *TileTable* had won the 2015 Middle East Emergent Art Prize. Bestowed by Van Cleef & Arpels, in collaboration with Tashkeel and Design Days Dubai, the prize aims to further develop the recognition and realisation of emerging artists in the Middle East. Parati was selected from over 70 applicants from across the GCC. As part of his prize, the Italian designer (currently teaching at the Ajman University of Science and Technology), has been awarded \$8200 (AED 30,000) towards the funding of the final product, as well as a seven day trip to Paris, where he was invited to attend L’Ecole Van Cleef & Arpels, learning directly from the creators at the Maison. “Through this award we continue our objective to highlight talent throughout the region, providing a platform for emerging designers and artists to exhibit their work,” commented Alban Belloir, CEO of Van Cleef & Arpels ME and India.