**2021 Art for Tomorrow Talks: *Seeking Impact***

**Location**: Doha, Qatar

**Date**: November 19-21, 2021

As the world undergoes unprecedented change – from the pandemic and its fallout, to racial unrest, to deepening social and economic inequalities – people are searching for meaning. By grappling with these issues, the arts can help define that meaning, frame it and inspire change.

The Art for Tomorrow Talks aim to analyze that impact, exploring the effect the arts can and do have on society. Governments, institutions and the wider public are asking hard questions about the works they are showing, viewing or buying: Can and should collections be more inclusive? What are some specific instances in which the arts have ignited a movement or a policy shift? What is the interplay between politics and culture, and how has it evolved?

Technology has been a crucial driver of many of these changes. The nexus between art and technology is ever more present in the rapidly expanding field of digital art, the virtual nature of which brings into question many of the presuppositions of what art ultimately is. This provides a paradigm of the society and culture in flux, akin to the revolution that Modern art inspired at the beginning of the 20th Century. How do we make sense of these changes, and what do they tell us about the direction that the world is heading?

In association with The New York Times, the carefully curated Art for Tomorrow Talks will convene artists and experts to look closely at these issues, exploring the social and economic impact of art.

**Agenda:**

**Friday, Nov. 19**

**Youth-focused Sessions**

**6:00 p.m. - 6:40 p.m. Panel Discussion: *Youth And Re-Thinking Art and Culture In Doha***

**Nour Elbasuni,** Multidisciplinary Artist and Student, HBKU College of Law

**Ece Omayma Yigit**, Student, Painting and Printmaking at Virginia Commonwealth University, Qatar

**Hassan Alshehhi**, Multidisciplinary Artist and Student, Virginia Commonwealth University, Qatar

**Habeeb M. Abu-Futtaim**, Modern & Contemporary Arab Art Specialist at AlBahie Auction House, Qatar

Moderated by **Matt Anderson**, European Culture Editor, The New York Times

**6:40 p.m. - 6:50 p.m.** BREAK

**6:50 p.m. - 7:30 p.m. Panel Discussion: *More than Words: The Future Of Arabic
 Typography***

**Zainab Al Shibani**, Honors Bachelor of Fine Arts Graduate, Virginia Commonwealth University, Qatar

**Shima Aeinehdar**, Graphic designer, Illustrator, and Lettering Artist

**Sara Al-Afifi**, Graphic designer, Researcher, and Illustrator

**Sara Ahmed AlHelal**, Student at Virginia Commonwealth University, Candidate for Bachelor of Fine Arts in Graphic Design

Moderated by **Farah Nayeri**, Culture Correspondent, The New York Times

**Saturday, Nov. 20**

**1:30 p.m. - 2:10 p.m. Opening Conversation: *Why the Arts Matter***

In difficult times, the tendency might be for people to turn away from consuming art. But what could be more essential than our connection to one another, and the shared moments – even at a distance -- that

can help facilitate that? This panel will explore the power of the arts to anger, inspire, unite and push for change. It will also examine how art has been used during the pandemic, and how it can become a tool for cross-cultural communication.

 **Yana Buhrer Tavanier**, Co-founder and Executive Director, Fine Acts

 **Elif Shafak**, Author (virtual)

 Moderated by **Farah Nayeri**

**2:10 p.m. - 2:20 p.m. BREAK**

**2:20 p.m. - 3 p.m. Panel Discussion: *Identity and Art***

While museums are celebrated for the history and breadth of their collections, they are also being challenged to reconsider past contexts, and to explain the works’ relevance to contemporary audiences. How are institutions coming to grips with a perceived lack of diversity in their collections, and have the protests and general reckoning on racial issues accelerated these changes? What are the drawbacks to the art world’s current preoccupation with identity politics? And what are the particular concerns and challenges of museums outside of the U.S. and Europe?

**Sheikha Reem Al Thani**, Deputy CEO of Exhibitions and Marketing, Qatar Museums

**Doryun Chong**, Deputy Director, Curatorial and Chief Curator, M+ (virtual)

**Hans Ulrich Obrist**, Artistic Director, Serpentine Galleries (virtual)

Moderated by **Farah Nayeri**

**3:00 p.m. - 3:15 p.m. BREAK**

**3:15 p.m. - 3:55 p.m. Roundtable: *The Arts in Crisis Mode -- Taking Stock***

What are the ways that the crises of our time have impacted the arts, from conception to funding and production? In this discussion, experts from a variety of disciplines will examine how the pandemic, its aftermath and parallel crises have tested their resilience, and their creativity.

**Massimiliano Gioni**, Artistic Director, New Museum

and Curator of “Jeff Koons: Lost in America,” Al Riwaq, Doha

**Mareva Grabowski- Mitsotakis,** Entrepreneur

**Kamel Mennour,** Founder and President, kamel mennour

Moderated by **Matt Anderson**

**3:55 p.m. - 4:10 p.m. BREAK**

**4:10 p.m. - 4:50 p.m. Panel Discussion: *Tech and the Arts: A Paradigm Shift?***

The pandemic brought profound challenges for artists and performers, but also an opportunity to experiment and to reinvent the way they work. What are the creative ways artists embraced digital tools in new ways, and are they here to stay? Has this led to a wider acceptance and appreciation from viewers?

 **Daniel Birnbaum**, Artistic Director, Acute Art (virtual)

**Barnaby Francis (aka Bill Posters)**, Artist-Researcher, Author and Facilitator (virtual)
**Hadeer Omar,**New Media Artist and Assistant Professor, VCUarts

Moderated by **Matt Anderson**

**Sunday, Nov. 21**

**11 a.m to 1 p.m.** **Brunch and Jeff Koons in Conversation**

Koons speaks with HE Sheikha Mayassa about his most recent work, renewed inspiration and the continued impact of his art spanning four decades, and shares his thoughts about the current state of the art world and the role that art plays in global culture.

**Sheikha Al Mayassa Bint Hamad bin Khalifa Al Thani**, Chairperson, Qatar Museums

**Jeff Koons**, Artist

Introduced by **Matt Anderson**