The Kingdom of Bahrain receives the Golden Lion Award for “Best National Participation”

OUT OF fifty-two participating countries at the twelfth Venice Architecture Biennale held last August, the Kingdom of Bahrain has been awarded the Golden Lion for the best national pavilion.

Convex: A New Perspective
Bahrain National Museum

AN INSTALLATION comprising of over 50 convex-shaped paintings that Shaikh Rashid Bin Khalifa Al Khalifa has been making since 2002.

A thought-provoking solo exhibition by one of the most innovative and influential artists of the Kingdom of Bahrain, Shaikh Rashid bin Khalifa Al Khalifa brings to life an extraordinary atmosphere and lasting significance of fine arts created by a Bahraini.

Entitled ‘Convex: A New Perspective’ at the Bahrain National Museum surveys Shaikh Rashid’s exceptional ensemble of works from 2002-2010.

Artist Book
Inspires Giving

LEADING BAHRANI artist Shaikh Rashid bin Khalifa Al Khalifa’s groundbreaking achievements as a painter beginning in the 60s are featured in the book “Rashid bin Khalifa Al Khalifa - 40 years of painting from himself, by himself, for himself”. The retrospective book is the first major survey of his work and is a giant step towards understanding the ongoing vitality of his practice.
**Highlights**

Artkrush editor Paul Laster back-to-back interviews with Shaikh Rashid bin Khalifa Al Khalifa, one of Bahrain’s leading contemporary artists and the co-founder of the Bahrain Art Society and ArtBahrain, and Dia Al-Azzawi, a prominent Arab artist who’s hailed as the Godfather of the Iraqi Diaspora, about the ideas that inform their work, their support of contemporary art, and the exciting new cultural developments in the region.

PASSION FOR ART
It’s a New Day. It’s a New World.

Art in Iraq Today: Part I
Modhir Ahmed, Hanaa Malallah & Nedim Kufi at Meem Gallery

FOR THE opening of a four part exhibition curated by Dia Al Azzawi, Art in Iraq Today: Part 1 was intelligently grouped with Iraqi artists of the 80s presenting a range of style that reminds us of what all other self-consciously national art has made clear: that style is an instrument of “content” rather than an end in itself.

HRH Crown Prince Shaikh Salman bin Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa grace art Exhibition at Bin Matar House

BAHRAIN CROWN Prince HRH Shaikh Salman bin Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa attended the opening of “Cities of the Universe,” an art exhibition by Bahraini artist Faika Al Hasan at Bin Matar House in Muharraq.
Art-worlders from London, Beirut, Zurich and New York flew to Bahrain to survey and celebrate Convex: A New Perspective - Finale at the Bahrain National Museum.

THE GLOBAL AFRICA PROJECT
Explores impact of African visual culture on contemporary art, craft and design around the world
Museum of Arts and Design - (MAD) NY

Leaders of Print World converge at Dalarnas Museum, SE for the opening of the exhibition Laureates of the International Print Triennial Krakow-Poland 2009

Triennial curator, Monika Wanyura-Kurosad coordinated with Anne Seppänen curator of Dalarna Museum, the unprecedented show featuring works by the crème de la crème of contemporary print.

SOTHEBY’S tap into Bahrain’s growing collector base

THERE Was a good turn up of guests at Sotheby’s “Hurouf: The Art of the Word” auction preview under the patronage of Culture Minister Shaikha Mai bint Mohammed Al Khalifa at The Ritz Carlton Bahrain Hotel and Spa.
Bahraini Artists Donate to Madrasati Palestine Project

Christie’s London auctioned 15 works by established and emerging Arab contemporary artists in conjunction with the fundraising dinner hosted by the Madrasati Palestine Women’s Network at the Bahrain National Museum.

Kuwait ready for the 2nd edition of JAMM’s contemporary art auction

JAMM, an independent strategic art advisory, will host its 2nd auction in Kuwait on 9 February featuring 70 works by emerging and established Arab, Iranian and International artists.
### Bahrain Art Week

Bahraini artists and temples of art aligned last week to open the new decade’s art season with a weeklong fine art events entitled Bahrain Art Week.

### 37th Annual Fine Arts Exhibition

Bahrain National Museum

Bahrain Art Week commenced with the highly anticipated Annual Fine Arts Exhibition last 25 January. The annual exhibition is a juried show that has been running for 37 years under the patronage of HRH Prince Khalifa bin Salman Al Khalifa, the Prime Minister of Bahrain.

### Designing Women

Noon by Noor is a ready-to-wear fashion label based in Bahrain, founded by Shaikha Noor Al Khalifa and her cousin Shaikha Haya Al Khalifa. Elegantly combining influences from their Bahraini homeland with international styles, the dynamic duo creates a captivating balance between the traditional and modern—making fascinating fashions that capture and enhance a woman’s femininity in luxurious fabrics.

### Private collections at Bin Matar House for public viewing

Enjoying a growing reputation as an austerity chic contemporary art mecca, Bin Matar House did not fall short this week with its Collectors Exhibition showcasing a small personable art collection by Bahrainis with the noble calling of art patronage.

### Al Riwaq Revitalising Art Community

Everyone cognizant of the openings and events taking place in the kingdom that Al Riwaq, Adliya’s powerhouse art space run by Bayan Kanoo, kicked off its 13th year in business with a print workshop conducted by visiting renowned Iraqi artist Rafa Al Nasiri.

### BFH Fine Arts Gallery Inaugural Exhibition

The inaugural exhibition at the new BFH Fine Art Gallery is a hit parade of Salvador Dali’s monumental sculptures stunningly installed on the 275 sqm exhibition space at the West Atrium of the Harbour Towers.
Excitement is growing in the art world, and especially around the Gulf, for the fifth edition of Art Dubai, which this year coincides with the inspiring Global Art Forum and sensational Sharjah Biennial-making the fair, forum, biennial and related events irresistible for art lovers across the region and beyond.

Mona Hatoum, the 2011 Joan Miró Prize awardee has pioneered in opening up art practices to non-Western realities while showing the connections between Western high culture and transnational political and cultural events.

Curated by Dia Al-Azzawi, Art in Iraq Today: Part IV will exhibit the recent work of Dia Al-Azzawi, Rafa Al-Nasiri (both founders of the New Vision Group in 1969) and Ali Talib. The exhibition, and its supporting catalogue, is dedicated to the memory of Jabra Ibrahim Jabra and his seminal essays on modern Iraqi art, titled ‘Art in Iraq Today.’

AL RIWAQ Art Space hosted Uffizi (pronounced as uh-fit-zi), a revolutionary experience where you can interact with digital reproductions of the Florentine Renaissance master pieces.
Interview with Jason Lee, co-founder of Artnesia

ArtBahrain, in a conversation with Jason Lee, co-curator of the upcoming exhibition CONFESSIONS OF DANGEROUS MINDS CONTEMPORARY ART FROM TURKEY at Saatchi Gallery, London, talks about his background, his passion for arts and the forthcoming show.

Noon By Noor debuts with Fall/Winter 2011-12 Collection

DESIGNERS Shaikha Noor Rashid Al Khalifa and Shaikha Haya Mohammed Al Khalifa of the high-end women’s luxury line, Noon By Noor, revealed their Fall/Winter 2011-2012 collection on Thursday, March 10th at a fashion show hosted in the Kingdom of Bahrain.
Middle Eastern Art Sales Hit a High Mark

Following up on this phenomenal sale, Art Bahrain contributing editor Paul Laster caught up with Isabelle de La Bruyère, Director, Christie’s Middle East to discuss the development of the Middle Eastern art market, the nature of the work on sale, and the record-breaking results.

MORE THAN JUST A PURVEYOR OF TASTE

artBahrain in conversation with UAE-based curator Isabella Ellaheh Hughes about the different approaches to, and perspectives on, current curatorial practice that is more like a renaissance endeavour, positioning herself more than just a purveyor of taste and an upholder of an institutional mandate but a cultural producer creating exhibitions that highlight the fluidity of contemporary art practice.

HRH Queen Sabika bint Ibrahim Al Khalifa inaugurates art exhibition

HRH Queen Sabika bint Ibrahim Al Khalifa inaugurated Mariam Ali Bin Yousif Fakhro’s one-woman show entitled Longing for Places at The Art Centre which opened on 11 April.

Winner of the Golden Lion for best pavilion at the 2010 Venice Architecture Biennale at Bahrain National Museum

RECLAIM, BAHRAIN’S entry and winner of the Golden Lion for best pavilion at the 2010 Venice Architecture Biennale is now on show at the Bahrain National Museum until 30 June.
Highlights

artBahrain’s interview with Author, Art Critic & Curator Richard Noyce gives an expanded perspective on contemporary print, the art game and the new technological opportunities for artists.

Further... curated by Scott Betz based on the book “Printmaking on the Edge” by Richard Noyce. 31 printmakers from 11 countries (Australia, Austria, Canada, Finland, Iceland, Korea, Lithuania, Poland, Sweden, UK, USA).

artBahrain contributing editor Paul Laster recently caught up with Michael Huyser while he was wrapping up his old job and preparing to depart Holland for his new position—to discuss his history and what he hopes to accomplish in his new role in Abu Dhabi.

Unity in Identity Photography exhibition by Bahrainis and American photographer TODD DRAKE

Unity in Identity exhibition is the culmination of Todd Drake’s two week photography workshop in the Kingdom Bahrain. The project aims to promote a richer understanding of Muslims and Islamic culture in America, build bridges between the United States and Bahrain and deepen friendships across cultures.

artBahrain in conversation with OMAR Donya Co-founder of CONTEMPORARY PRACTICES Art Journalon—How much power do art magazines really have?
artBahrain interview with art patron and visionary Antonio Presti: Sicilian legacy

Esteemed poet and art critic MayMuzaffar in conversation with artbahrain on The Current State of Art Criticism in the Middle East

Middle East art expert Charles Pocock gives artBahrain an overview on ME Art in the first decade of the 21st century

Ganjifa is a card game that originated in Persia and became popular in India under the Mogul emperors in 16th century.

This International collection of small prints have a contemporary culture specific interpretations.
**Highlights**

**artBahrain interview with Lulu M Al-Sabah**
- accomplished art journalist, curator, tastemaker and art collector. She, along with her business partner Lydia Limerick, co-founded JAMM in 2009, an independent art advisory shaping Kuwait’s contemporary art market and the market for contemporary Arab and Iranian art.

**MODHIR AHMED** visits the Pavilion of Iraq at the Venice Biennale

15th Eastern Showroom is an all-Poland graphics artists’ exhibition entitled ‘Graphics’ Identity’.

20th century provided graphics with autonomy as no other discipline evolved so much using the technical development of print.

**SHAIKH RASHID** on Picasso, Niki de Saint Phalle, Arne Quinze, Rotraut Uecker and the French Riviera

To the many that visit the Riviera without knowing where to go and what to see often miss out on some of the best and most fascinating modern and contemporary art exhibitions. Perhaps, then, I shall share my exploration on the more interesting places that draws me back to the Riviera year after year.