

## UAE pavilion unveils new platform for art lovers

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The UAE Art Archive has been developed to offer a platform for people interested in the art scene across the country.

The office for the UAE pavilion at the Venice Biennale has launched the UAE Art Archive.

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It will enable them to have a better understanding of the country's art and the cultural infrastructure while showcasing the work of artists.

Its launch is complemented by an image design contest that will enable anyone who is resident in the UAE to submit their design for the homepage banner of the art archive, which can be found at [www.uaeartarchive.org](http://www.uaeartarchive.org).

Supported by Emirates, which is providing two economy class tickets to Venice, the competition encourages interested individuals with artistic flair to submit their work.

Dr Lamees Hamdan, Commissioner of the UAE pavilion, said the initiative offered a unique platform where all could come together and share the "vehicle across all seven emirates."

She said it was a collective space for artists practising in the UAE to showcase their work and in the process upload profiles with a biography. The initiative also allows referencing to online websites while gallery affiliation can be done, as well as exhibition histories and the creation of artwork.

"The archive is published online and is open to everyone all over the world. This is also an opportunity for UAE residents to participate in an exclusive competition and to be a part of an online community that is really working from a grass roots level for the art and cultural scene across the UAE.

"This competition, I believe, is one of the most effective paths in which we can engage people's interests and encourage them to support our own pool of creative contemporary talent," she said.

Ahmad Khoury, Emirates' senior vice president for commercial operations in the Gulf, Middle East and Iran, said: "Emirates is delighted to be a part of this exciting initiative. I hope that the people of the UAE can take inspiration from the majestic beauty of this great country when developing their submissions.

"The UAE pavilion has worked hard to encourage UAE residents to embrace and express their creativity and we look forward to continuing our partnership with them for many years to come."

Commencing from July 23rd, the competition will be judged by the ambassadors to the UAE pavilion who include Sultan Al Qasimi, Alanood Al Warshaw, Jack Persekian, Paula Askari, Hannan Syed, **Nadine Kanso**, Rashid Shabib, Ahmad Shabib, Sunny Rahbar and Maliha Tabari.

The contest will close on September 2 and the winner will be announced on September 16th.

The announcement comes at the midst of an ongoing international art exhibition in Italy - the 2009 Venice Biennale.