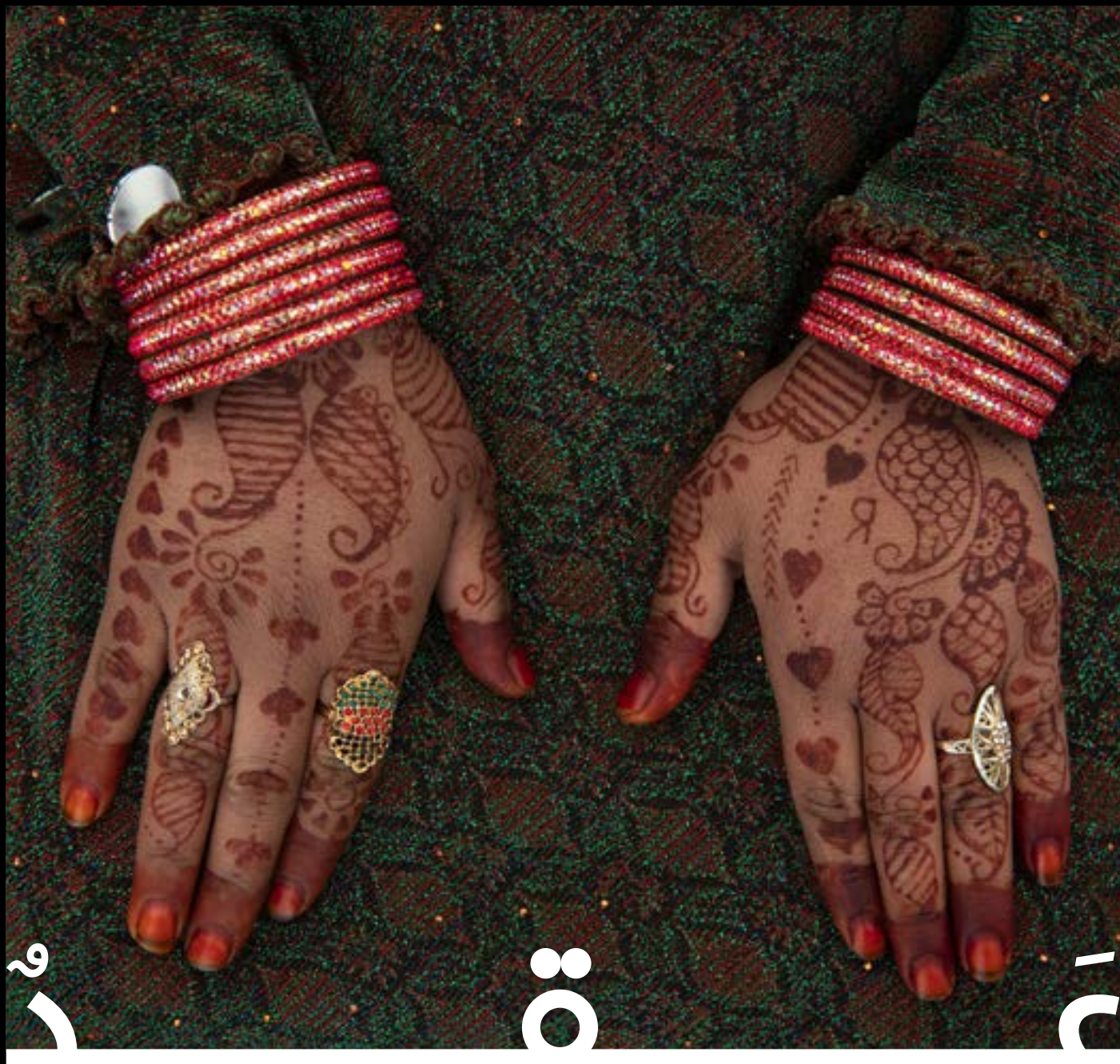


XPPOSURE 10th anniversary

الحقيبة الإعلامية PRESS KIT



A DECADE من السرد القصصي البصري OF VISUAL STORYTELLING

يناير 29 ————— 04 فبراير 2023
JAN FEB ALJADA SHARJAI

WELCOME TO

XPOSURE 2026

©Liam Man

Dear Storytellers,

Welcome to the 10th edition of the Xposure International Photography festival. This year marks a significant milestone, **"A Decade of Visual Storytelling."**

From **29 January to 4 February 2026**, Sharjah becomes a place where images inspire people and spark new ideas. At **Aljada**, Xposure gathers photographers, filmmakers, and visual artists from around the world, reminding us that even a single image can shape how we see, think, and understand our world.

This anniversary is dedicated to you: to the work you have created, the moments you have captured, and the perspectives you continue to offer. Together, we celebrate ten years of stories captured in light and look forward to what the next decade will bring.

Sharjah welcomes you. Xposure welcomes you.
Let the decade unfold.

STEP INTO A GLOBAL CELEBRATION OF VISUAL STORYTELLING

Organised by the Sharjah Government Media Bureau (SGMB), Xposure has become one of the world's leading platforms for photography, film, and visual media.

What began in 2016 as a regional initiative is now a global meeting ground for the world's most celebrated visual storytellers – and the emerging voices who will shape the future.

Xposure is a festival – and a movement. A space where still and moving images communicate across borders long before words do. Here, artistry reflects truth. Light carries meaning. Stories connect cultures.

At Xposure, each frame offers something of its own: some awaken wonder...others hold us still...but all connect us.



A DECADE THROUGH

THE LENS



A Message from
**His Excellency
Tariq Saeed Allay**
Director General,
Sharjah Government Media
Bureau (SGMB)

"When we created Xposure ten years ago, we weren't just establishing a photography festival; we were beginning a new conversation between humanity and the image that represents it.

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2 0 1 7

2 0 1 8

Every photograph and every frame is a reflection of how we see ourselves, and how we choose to be seen.

2 0 1 9

2 0 2 1

Through the lens, stories cross borders faster than words, and emotions reach people instantly.

2 0 2 2

2 0 2 3

In an age where the image defines memory, perception, and communication, Xposure has grown into a space where light becomes a way of expression and creativity becomes a form of dialogue between cultures."

2 0 2 4

2 0 2 5

2 0 2 6

ATH — IENS

GUEST OF HONOUR



A New Chapter of Cultural Dialogue

For the first time in its history, Xposure introduces a **Guest of Honour**, with **Athens** opening this new chapter.

Athens will present **five exhibitions** on Greek heritage, society, and contemporary life, using photography to explore memory and modern identity.

This cultural exchange gives Xposure a wider global scope, building stronger creative ties between Sharjah and Athens, and reinforcing the festival's role in uniting people through shared visual experiences.

5

EXHIBITIONS
EXPLORING
GREEK HERITAGE,
SOCIETY, AND
CONTEMPORARY
LIFE THROUGH
PHOTOGRAPHY

**Haris
Doukas,**
Mayor of
Athens

"Being celebrated as Guest of Honour at Xposure is a defining moment, affirming Athens' enduring cultural legacy and its ongoing influence on artists and creatives worldwide."

SHARJAH

A GLOBAL STAGE FOR CULTURE AND CREATIVITY



Sharjah is a place built on its values. It is an emirate that sees culture as an essential part of its development, its communities, and its place in the world.

With its rich heritage and future vision, Sharjah embraces values that reflect the essence of Xposure: knowledge as a legacy, creativity as a responsibility, and human connection as the highest purpose of art.

Here, creativity is not limited to galleries or festivals. It's part of our everyday life; in our public spaces, education, and architecture, and in how we preserve identity and language. Sharjah believes that progress is strongest when it honours its origins, and that the future is at its best when it is imagined through culture.

For visual storytellers, Sharjah offers something rare: a city where every frame carries context, and every story fits into a broader vision – one that protects heritage, values diversity, and places people at the centre of everything it builds.



WHAT AWAITS YOU AT XPOSURE 2026

1 EXHIBITIONS

A City of Images

Across **95 exhibitions** and **3,200 artworks**, Xposure 2026 invites audiences into visual worlds that expand our imagination and enrich our understanding of the human experience.

Exhibitions cover a wide spectrum, from nature and conservation to culture and identity, humanitarian stories, and experimental visual work.

This is not a passive viewing experience. It's an immersive festival of vision.

A festival that surrounds you. A festival that stays with you.

2 TALKS & PANELS

Where Visionaries Speak

With **126 talks and panel discussions**, Xposure places the world's leading photographic and cinematic minds at the heart of Sharjah.

These sessions explore the process, the purpose, and the evolving role of visual storytelling today – how images define memory, impact culture, and create empathy in a fast-moving world.

It is also where the global community meets: Publishers, curators, producers, talent scouts, and creators meet alongside new voices, forming connections and collaborations that continue long after the festival.

3 TRADE SHOW

A Showcase from the Future

At Xposure, the Trade Show becomes the festival's innovation hub. It is a place where the industry can explore new ideas, tools, and technologies shaping the future of photography and filmmaking.

The showcase features the latest equipment, software, and developments from leading brands. It gives visitors and professionals the chance to try out new tools, compare options, and purchase what they need for the stories they want to create.

WHAT AWAITS YOU AT XPOSURE 2026



4 WORKSHOPS & PORTFOLIO REVIEWS

Expertise Exchange

At the heart of Xposure is something only true masters can offer: the generosity of sharing a lifetime behind the lens. This programme exists because of you – the photographers and visual storytellers whose work has shaped the field, and whose presence makes the festival a place to learn from one another.

In this 10th anniversary edition, you will help lead an exceptional learning experience for audiences and emerging creatives through:

- **72 hands-on workshops**, guided by your expertise, discipline, and unique perspective
- **280 portfolio reviews**, where your insight can develop a career, refine a voice, or unlock a new direction
- **focus groups, panel deep-dives, and live demonstrations** that bring visitors closer to the real process behind the image

Your role at Xposure goes beyond exhibiting or speaking – you are passing forward the practice of photography itself. Through your mentorship, the festival becomes a place

where talent rises, stories evolve, the next generation of visual storytellers gains confidence.

5 XPOSURE AWARDS 2026

A Record Year of Global Participation

Over ten years, the Xposure Awards have grown alongside the field itself. What started as a photography competition expanded into a global platform that now embraces still and moving images, incorporates emerging technologies, and supports the next generation through the Junior category. Today, the Awards represent the full scope of visual storytelling.

A GLOBAL CELEBRATION OF VISUAL STORYTELLING



© Cath Simard

Aligned with Sharjah's vision for knowledge-sharing and cross-cultural understanding, the festival brings together creators, collectors, professionals, students, and audiences in a collective experience of discovery – where a single frame can transform thought, emotion, and imagination.

EXPLORE SHARJAH

THROUGH YOUR LENS

Sharjah is packed with places that catch the eye—heritage ,bold architecture ,wildlife ,coastlines ,ancient landscapes .Stepping out between festival moments gives you the chance to explore these different visual worlds:

SHARJAH CITY

Heart of Sharjah.

The emirate's restored old town: wind towers, alleyways, souqs, and authentic Emirati street life in every frame.

Rain Room (Sharjah Art Foundation). The Middle East's first permanent Rain Room installation: surreal, sensor-controlled rainfall for silhouettes and conceptual portraits.

Sharjah Museum of Islamic Civilisation.

Iconic domed architecture and luminous interiors

housing intricate artefacts and centuries of cultural history.

Sharjah Art Museum.

One of the region's leading Arab-art museums, with elegant galleries and powerful visual narratives.

Al Noor Island. A multi-award-winning landmark, blending gardens, art, a butterfly house, and night illumination into a dreamlike setting.



EXPLORE SHARJAH

THROUGH YOUR LENS



KHORFAKKAN

Khorfakkan Amphitheatre & Waterfall. Monumental stage carved between mountain and sea; epic symmetry by day, cinematic lighting by night.

Al Rafisah Dam. Turquoise reservoir framed by sharp peaks and mirror reflections.

Al Suhub Rest Area. Cloud-level panorama over the coast, best at sunrise or fog.

Khorfakkan Beach & Corniche. Coastal curves, fishing boats, and everyday life that give you plenty of chances to capture human stories.



KALBA

Kalba Mangrove Reserve. Emerald waterways and rare birdlife for quiet conservation frames.

Kalba Hanging Gardens. Terraced mountainside greenery with waterfalls and sweeping viewpoints.

Kalba Corniche Park. Soft shoreline light for silhouettes at dawn and dusk.

SHARJAH'S CENTRAL REGION

Sharjah Safari Park. The world's largest safari outside Africa: open-habitat wildlife for close, natural portraits.

Faya Palaeolandscape. The UAE's second UNESCO site, holding one of Arabia's oldest human landscapes – raw, ancient, and dramatic.

Mleiha. A UNESCO World Heritage Tentative List site rich in archaeological discoveries, offering visitors a gateway to the region's rich past with excavated artefacts, guided tours, and adventure experiences.

FINAL MESSAGE

TO PARTICIPANTS



© Pauline Planchon

As you prepare for Xposure 2026, we invite you to share your presence and excitement with your communities around the world. Let them know they can meet you here - in Sharjah - at one of the leading global celebrations of visual storytelling.

Encourage your audiences to experience seven unforgettable days of exhibitions, dialogue, learning, and creative encounters.

This is your festival of light.
Your festival of story.
Your festival of a decade - "A decade of visual storytelling"

Let's connect, create, and inspire the world – again.



XPOSUREXPF



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EVENT KEY MESSAGES

NOTHING
BIGGER THAN
A PICTURE.

TEN YEARS OF
IMAGES THAT
CHANGED HOW
WE SEE THE
WORLD.

A GLOBAL
CELEBRATION
OF VISUAL
STORYTELLING IN
ALL ITS FORMS.

WHERE LIGHT
BECOMES A WAY
OF EXPRESSION
AND STORIES
CROSS BORDERS.

BRINGING THE WORLD'S MOST
CELEBRATED PHOTOGRAPHERS,
FILMMAKERS, AND VISUAL ARTISTS
TO SHARJAH.

الأسبوع 10th CLOSURE 10th ج

SEE
YOU IN
SHARJAH

يناير
JAN 29

فبراير
FEB 04

الجمعة
ALJADA SHARJAI