

MEDIA RELEASE

GUGGENHEIM
UBS **MAP** GLOBAL
ART INITIATIVE

GUGGENHEIM MUSEUM AND GALLERIA D'ARTE MODERNA
MILANO PRESENT EXHIBITION OF CONTEMPORARY ART
FROM THE MIDDLE EAST AND NORTH AFRICA, OPENING
APRIL 2018

But a Storm Is Blowing from Paradise marks the eighth and final exhibition of the Guggenheim UBS MAP Global Art Initiative

VENUE: Galleria d'Arte Moderna Milano (GAM)

LOCATION: Villa Reale, Via Palestro, 16, 20121 Milano MI, Italy

DATES: April 11–June 17, 2018

(MILAN AND NEW YORK, December 6, 2017)— Galleria d'Arte Moderna Milano (GAM), the Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum, New York, and UBS will present *But a Storm Is Blowing from Paradise: Contemporary Art of the Middle East and North Africa* from April 11 through June 17, 2018, in Milan. The exhibition marks the final installation of the Guggenheim UBS MAP Global Art Initiative, a distinctive, multiyear program that underscores a mutual commitment by the Guggenheim and UBS to support contemporary art and education through a total of eight international exhibitions, more than 125 acquisitions, curatorial scholarship from three global regions, and extensive public programming. *But a Storm Is Blowing from Paradise* was first shown at the Guggenheim Museum in April 2016.

“At a critical time in history, we hope these works will inspire reflection and spark discussion about the world we share,” said Richard Armstrong, Director, Solomon R. Guggenheim Foundation and Museum. “Together with our colleagues at the Galleria d'Arte Moderna Milano and UBS, we look forward to introducing this collection of artwork from the Middle East and North Africa to audiences in Europe. As this Milan presentation represents the culmination of the MAP series of exhibitions, we also celebrate the artworks collected, relationships fostered, and ideas articulated during the project’s five years that continue to ripple outward thanks to MAP’s unprecedented scope, scale, and ambition. We remain grateful to our visionary collaborator UBS and to our colleagues at partner institutions around the globe, including our friends at GAM.”

“The Middle East and North Africa are at the center of sweeping global change and are currently addressing some of today’s most critical issues,” said Fabio Innocenzi,

Country Head Italy, UBS Europe SE. “We are proud to be able to help bring this exhibition to the Galleria d’Arte Moderna Milano so that our clients, employees, and the public can participate in the dynamic creative community of the arts, much as we facilitate our clients’ informed involvement in the complex global economy. This is a further step in the collaboration with GAM, to which UBS in Italy has contributed ongoing support of restorations and exhibitions. But it is also a testament to the ongoing impact of the MAP Global Art Initiative developed by UBS and the Guggenheim.”

“The intersecting themes of the exhibition address the most vital points of contemporary society’s connection with the past and present, and the variety of accompanying programs align with the spirit of openness and dialogue that characterizes the cultural message of Milan’s museums,” said Anna Maria Montaldo, Director, Polo Arte Moderna e Contemporanea, Municipality of Milan.

“A focus on contemporary art has been the main feature of several projects developed by GAM in the past few years, creating an interesting comparison between contemporary production and the museum’s collection. Furthermore, these projects have resulted in the involvement of a different and wider range of visitors,” said Paola Zatti, Chief Curator, Galleria d’Arte Moderna.

Organized by Sara Raza, Guggenheim UBS MAP Curator, Middle East and North Africa, in collaboration with Zatti and Omar Cucciniello, Curator, Galleria d’Arte Moderna, *But a Storm Is Blowing from Paradise* features a diverse range of artistic voices and critical concerns from a rapidly evolving region and its international diaspora. Works by thirteen artists explore the intersecting themes of migration, displacement, architecture, geometry, and history through mediums including works on paper, installation, photography, sculpture, and video. The presentation at GAM will include public events and educational programs for visitors, students, and families. The exhibition features the works of the following artists: Lida Abdul, Abbas Akhavan, Kader Attia, Ergin Çavuşoğlu, Ali Cherri, Joana Hadjithomas and Khalil Joreige, Rokni Haerizadeh, Susan Hefuna, Iman Issa, Gülsün Karamustafa, Hassan Khan, and Ahmed Mater.

According to Raza, “*But a Storm Is Blowing from Paradise* offers a cross-circulation of ideas rooted in science, mathematics, and philosophy. Many of the artworks featured in this exhibition use geometry as a metaphor to measure both physical and conceptual space, and create a dialogue between shape and form, symbol and abstraction, and past and present. The exhibition also considers architecture as a tool for evoking both colonial history and the implications of globalization and gentrification. This new installation at Galleria d’Arte Moderna Milano converses with the building’s own

architectural heritage and raises urgent issues of migration and displacement in areas around the world, including Italy.”

“Guggenheim UBS MAP Global Art Initiative showcases the new protagonists of contemporary art from within and beyond Europe. This same purpose is shared by the city of Milan, which promotes interculturalism in the arts as well as in the social realm. Milan is an ideal hub for creative thinking and therefore a natural destination for such an innovative project,” said Filippo Del Corno, Deputy Mayor for Culture, Milan.

About MAP

The Guggenheim UBS MAP Global Art Initiative builds upon and reflects the Guggenheim’s distinguished history of internationalism and UBS’s commitment to direct engagement with contemporary art and education, ultimately contributing to a richer, more expansive story of the histories of modern and contemporary art. Through in-depth collaboration with artists, curators, and cultural organizations from South and Southeast Asia, Latin America, and the Middle East and North Africa, MAP has expanded the Guggenheim’s collection with more than 125 new works. Partnerships with cultural organizations such as the Galleria d’Arte Moderna Milano have been at the heart of the project throughout, extending its creative reach and impact both physically and digitally. Together, the Guggenheim and UBS recognize the power of art to connect and inspire communities, spark debate, enrich the present, and help shape the future. This long-term collaboration underscores a mutual commitment to supporting today’s most innovative artists by increasing visibility of their work across the globe. Learn more about the artists, curators, and exhibitions that bring these works to life at guggenheim.org/MAP.

About the Solomon R. Guggenheim Foundation

Founded in 1937, the Solomon R. Guggenheim Foundation is dedicated to promoting the understanding and appreciation of art, primarily of the modern and contemporary periods, through exhibitions, education programs, research initiatives, and publications. The Guggenheim constellation of museums that began in the 1970s when the Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum, New York, was joined by the Peggy Guggenheim Collection, Venice, has since expanded to include the Guggenheim Museum Bilbao (opened 1997) and the Guggenheim Abu Dhabi (currently in development). The Guggenheim Foundation continues to forge international collaborations that celebrate contemporary art, architecture, and design within and beyond the walls of the museum, including the Guggenheim Social Practice initiative, Guggenheim UBS MAP Global Art Initiative, and The Robert H. N. Ho Family Foundation Chinese Art Initiative. More information about the Solomon R. Guggenheim Foundation can be found at guggenheim.org.

About UBS and Contemporary Art

UBS's long and substantial record of patronage in contemporary art actively enables clients and audiences to participate in the international conversation about art and the global art market through the firm's contemporary art platform. In addition to the Guggenheim UBS MAP Global Art Initiative, UBS's extensive roster of contemporary art initiatives and programs currently includes the UBS Art Collection, one of the world's largest and most important corporate collections of contemporary art, and the firm's long-term support for the premier international Art Basel shows in Basel, Miami Beach, and Hong Kong, for which UBS serves as Global Lead Partner. These activities are complemented by a number of regional partnerships with fine art institutions including the Fondation Beyeler in Switzerland, Galleria d'Arte Moderna Milano, Nouveau Musée National de Monaco, Louisiana Museum of Modern Art in Denmark, and the Art Gallery of New South Wales in Sydney, Australia. UBS provides its clients with insight into the art market and strategic guidance on managing art collections and legacy planning through the UBS Art Competence Center. The Art Basel and UBS Global Art Market Report is also published annually. The UBS Arts Forum convenes and connects exceptional people in the art world, providing thought leadership at the cutting edge of contemporary art. For more information about UBS's commitment to contemporary art, visit ubs.com/art.

About Galleria d'Arte Moderna Milano (GAM)

The Galleria d'Arte Moderna Milano is a civic museum dedicated to the nineteenth-century collections of the city of Milan. Founded in 1903 in the Castello Sforzesco, the museum moved to the Villa Reale in 1921, which was built for Ludovico Barbiano di Belgiojoso by Leopold Pollack between 1790 and 1796.

GAM's permanent collection contains approximately four thousand objects, beginning with Neoclassical works, continuing through several nineteenth-century movements—including examples of Romanticism, Scapigliatura, and Realism—and ending with Divisionist and the Symbolist paintings from the first years of the twentieth century. The museum's second floor features two notable collections of twentieth-century art: the Grassi Collection (donated by Carlo and Nedda Grassi in 1958) and the Vismara Collection (donated by Giuseppe Vismara in 1975).

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Editor's Notes

Richard Armstrong, Director, Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum and Foundation
Richard Armstrong has served as the Director of the Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum and Foundation since November 2008. Armstrong works with senior staff to maximize all aspects of the foundation's operations: permanent collections, exhibition programs, acquisitions, documentation, scholarship, and conservation. Previously, Armstrong was The Henry J. Heinz II Director of Carnegie Museum of Art, where he also served as Chief Curator and Curator of Contemporary Art. From 1981 to 1992, he was a curator at

the Whitney Museum of American Art, where he organized four Biennials, as well as several other exhibitions.

Sara Raza, Guggenheim UBS MAP Curator, Middle East and North Africa

Sara Raza was selected by a committee of esteemed experts in the region as Guggenheim UBS MAP Curator, Middle East and North Africa. As a part of her residency at the Guggenheim in New York, Raza has curated the third phase of the Guggenheim UBS MAP Global Art Initiative. Born in London in 1979, Raza earned a BA in English literature and history of art and an MA in art history and theory, both from Goldsmiths College, University of London. She also pursued studies towards her Ph.D. at the Royal College of Art.

Raza has curated exhibitions and projects for several international biennials and festivals, including the Tashkent Biennial: *Quotations from Daily Life*, Art Gallery of Uzbekistan (2011); *Rhizoma (generation in waiting)*, Collateral Event, Venice Biennale (2013); and Baku Public Art Festival: *A Drop of Sky*, Yarat Contemporary Art Space, Baku, Azerbaijan (2015). She also co-curated the Bishkek International: *In the Shadow of Fallen Heroes* at the Bishkek Historical Museum and Alto Square, Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan, in 2005.

In 2008 Raza curated the group exhibitions *Cult of Personality* and *New Image Making*, which featured projects by artists including Yael Bartana, Ergin Çavuşoğlu and Erbossyn Meldibekov, for SH Contemporary, Shanghai. She has organized a number of exhibitions for Maraya Art Centre, Sharjah, United Arab Emirates (UAE), including solo presentations of the work of Adel Abidin, Wafaa Bilal, and Mohammed Kazem, and the group exhibitions *Migrasophia (migration + philosophy)* (2012) and *The Beginning of Thinking is Geometric* (2013). She co-curated Shezad Dawood's North American debut at the Plug In ICA, Winnipeg, Canada, in 2010, and organized Ergin Çavuşoğlu's UAE debut at The Pavilion Downtown, Dubai, in 2011.

Formerly, Raza was the head of education at Yarat Contemporary Art Space, Baku, Azerbaijan; founding head of curatorial programs at Alāan Artspace, Riyadh, Saudi Arabia; and curator of public programs at Tate Modern, London (2006–08). She was an educational advisor to Edge of Arabia's CULTURUNNERS US tour (2013–14) and a jury member for the 2014 Akbank Contemporary Artists Prize, for which she also curated the shortlist exhibition (2014). She was a nominator for the Jameel Prize of the Victoria and Albert Museum (2012 and 2015) and the Future Generation Art Prize of the Victor Pinchuk Foundation (2014). Raza was the winner of both the United Kingdom Arts Council's Emerging Curator's Award at the South London Gallery (2004) and the

11th ArtTable New Leadership Award (2016), and she was a finalist for the Walter Hopps Award for Curatorial Achievement (2015).

Raza writes for numerous art publications and is the West and Central Asia desk editor of *ArtAsiaPacific*. She is the author of *Punk Orientalism: Central Asia's Contemporary Art Revolution*, which will be published in 2018 by Black Dog Publishing, London.

Anna Maria Montaldo, Director, Polo Arte Moderna e Contemporanea, Municipality of Milan

Anna Maria Montaldo directs the Polo Arte Moderna e Contemporanea for the Municipality of Milan, which includes three civic museums: Galleria d'Arte Moderna Milano, Museo del Novecento, and MUDEC (Museum of Cultures). She previously directed the Civic Museums of Cagliari and managed, among other things, the acquisition, restoration, and museology of the Ingrao Collection and the acquisition of the Ingrao Library, as well as conservation and exhibition design for all the city's civic museums. She has collaborated with museum institutions internationally, including the State Hermitage Museum in St. Petersburg. As president of the A.N.M.L.I. (National Association of Local Institutional Museums), she has contributed to the enhancement and recognition of Italian civic museums, collaborating with ICOM and other museum associations.

Paola Zatti, Chief Curator, Galleria d'Arte Moderna Milano

Paola Zatti has been the Chief Curator for the Galleria d'Arte Moderna Milano since 2011, where she leads the requalification of the historical outfittings, a project for a new design of museum displays (museology), and the restoration of a museum's wing. She also manages the educational programming, and the exhibitions and events planning dedicated to contemporary art. As an art historian specializing in nineteenth- and twentieth-century art, Zatti has collaborated with numerous Italian and foreign public and private institutions (including Venice Biennale, FAI, Musée d'Orsay, and Musée de l'Armée) helping to realize several exhibitions and projects for civic museums (historical collections of the Municipality of Milan, Palazzo Morando and Palazzo Moroggia). At GAM, she has curated publications and temporary exhibitions dedicated to artists from GAM's collection and of international significance, including Alberto Giacometti, Medardo Rosso, and Adolfo Wildt.