**FIRE STATION PRESENTS EXHIBITIONS FEATURING ARTWORKS OF LOCAL AND REGIONAL ARTISTS**

**Doha, Qatar 31 October 2022 –** The Fire Station is showcasing the artworks and installations of local and regional artists, on view until 21 January 2023:

* ***Note to Self***, on view at Gallery 3, is a multidisciplinary exhibition exploring the realm of self-reflection. The exhibition is curated, designed, and executed by the students of the Interior Design and Graphic Design departments at VCUarts Qatar.
* The ***From\_\_\_\_To\_\_\_\_(Water/Sky/Land),*** on view in Gallery 4, presents the artists’ outlook on living in an environment that combines natural topography with rapid and continuous urban development. This group show features Abdulaziz Yousef, Abdulrahman Al Muftah, Alanoud Al Buainain, Ali Al Naama, Alya Al-Khalifa, Anfal Alkandari, Arman Mansouri, Haifa Alkhuzaei, Hind Alobaidli, Mohammed Abdulla Alhamadi & Abdulla Anwari, N&LS, Noor Al-Kharaan, Saida AlKhulaifi and Wafika Sultan Al-Essa.
* ***Art is Not a Race***, an installation by Arwa Al Neami, an award-winning Saudi multidisciplinary artist, sheds light on the current state of art, which is directly influenced by struggle and acceleration caused by the impact of the art world. Al Neami is currently a visiting artist at the Fire Station.

Entry to the exhibitions if free of charge.

**ENDS**

**Fire Station**

The Fire Station is a world-class artist residency programme for residents of Qatar designed to nurture, energize and promote the country's artistic and creative community, and enrich the art scene in Qatar. Founded in 2015 and located in a fire station repurposed by Qatari architect Ibrahim Mohamed Jaidah, the Fire Station offers a nine-month programme for creatives across all disciplines, enabling young artists to cultivate their talent through production support, curatorial advice, and expert mentorships. During the residency, artists engage with professionals from all over the world who recognize Qatar as a growing centre of artistic talent and creativity. Over the past six years, the programme has welcomed 92 artists and expanded its duration to include a three-month stint at the prestigious Cite Internationale des Art in Paris and New York City at Studio 209 NY, which is part of the International Studio & Curatorial Program (ISCP).

The Fire Station includes extensive studio spaces, a theatre, the popular restaurant Café #999, a bookshop, an art supply shop, and gallery spaces presenting inspiring local and international exhibitions. The Fire Station has also hosted world-class exhibitions organized by Qatar Museums within its expansive Garage Gallery, including Picassos Studios (2020), KAWS: He Eats Alone (2019) curated by renown art historian Germano Celant, Kazimir Malevich: Genius of the Russian Avant-garde (2019), Russian Avant-garde Pioneers and Direct Descendants (2018), Laundromat by Ai Weiwei (2018), German Encounters – Contemporary Masterworks from the Deutsche Bank Collection (2017), and Picasso-Giacometti (2017). The Fire Station is headed by Director Khalifa Ahmad Al Obaidly, the renowned Qatari photographer.

**About Qatar Museums**

Qatar Museums (QM), the nation's preeminent institution for art and culture, provides authentic and inspiring cultural experiences through a growing network of museums, heritage sites, festivals, public art installations, and programmes. QM preserves, restores, and expands the nation's cultural offerings and historical sites, sharing art and culture from Qatar, the Middle East, North Africa, and South Asia (MENASA) region with the world and enriching the lives of citizens, residents, and visitors. Under the patronage of His Highness the Amir, Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani, and led by its Chairperson, Her Excellency Sheikha Al Mayassa bint Hamad bin Khalifa Al Thani, QM has made Qatar a vibrant centre for the arts, culture, and education in the Middle East and beyond. QM is integral to the goal of developing an innovative, diverse, and progressive nation, bringing people together to ignite new thinking, spark critical cultural conversations, educate and encourage environmental stewardship and sustainable practices, and amplify the voices of Qatar's people. Since its founding in 2005, QM has overseen the Museum of Islamic Art and MIA Park, Mathaf: Arab Museum of Modern Art, the National Museum of Qatar, QM Gallery Al Riwaq, QM Gallery Katara, 3-2-1 Qatar Olympic and Sports Museum, and Dadu, Children's Museum of Qatar, which is currently under development. Through its newly created Creative Hub, QM also initiates and supports projects—such as the Fire Station Artist in Residence, the Tasweer Qatar Photo Festival and the creative hub for innovation, fashion and design M7—that nurture artistic talent and create opportunities to build a strong and sustainable cultural infrastructure. Animating everything that Qatar Museums does is an authentic connection to Qatar and its heritage, a steadfast commitment to inclusivity and accessibility, and a belief in creating value through invention.

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