

Doha Film Institute explores intersections between film, photography and music in 2021 Qumra Talks

- *French photography icon Brigitte Lacombe and trailblazing Lebanese singer-songwriter Yasmine Hamadan to inspire with their insights via virtual panel discussions*
- *Film lovers from the MENA region and international can buy their Qumra Pass now for an incredible online experience including fascinating masterclasses and up close and personal talks*
- *Innovative new format enables access from anywhere in the world introducing the event to new audiences and communities*

Doha, Qatar: March 2, 2021: Legendary French photographer Brigitte Lacombe and groundbreaking Middle Eastern singer Yasmine Hamadan will headline Qumra Talks for the 2021 online edition of Qumra, Doha Film Institute's event dedicated to supporting important emerging voices from the Arab and world cinema.

Qumra 2021's virtual format allows film lovers from across the globe to participate in diverse programmes through the purchase of the Qumra Pass, including fascinating Master Classes with luminaries in contemporary cinema, inspiring talks with distinguished artists, and a selection of screenings for audiences in the MENA region showcasing works of new and seasoned Arab film talent supported by the Doha Film Institute. To buy the Qumra Pass, view the entire programme and ticket details please visit: www.dohafilminstitute.com/qumra/qumrapass.

Fatma Hassan Alremaihi, CEO of the Doha Film Institute, said, "Through the diverse subjects and the unique insights shared by international experts, Qumra Talks adds tremendous value to the overall experience by delving into the many varying perspectives shaping the global creative landscape. Our treasured relationships with both Brigitte and Yasmine go back many years, and we are thankful for their continued support of the Institute. Their sessions will inspire and enlighten participants about their unique creative processes and the lasting legacies they are creating in contemporary society through their art."

"Audiences across the region now have an opportunity to participate in the sessions virtually and get the most from their Qumra experience with the Qumra Pass package that provides access to our entire programme. We are excited to bring the world this innovative virtual format of Qumra that makes it possible for lovers of art, film and music to gain an intimate glimpse into the lives of legends across the global creative community."

'On Music and Film' scheduled for March 13, Lebanese singer-songwriter Yasmine Hamdan will share her personal, contemporary approach to Arabic pop that has won her fans across the world, with filmmaker and Video Artist Rania Stephan. Often crossing genres and blending traditional boundaries, she has worked with visionary artists from all disciplines including filmmakers Jim Jarmusch and Elia Suleiman, as well as theatre productions at the Comédie-Française. In this inspirational Qumra Talk, Yasmine will take us on a journey of discovery, exploring her creative process and discussing her unique collaborations across mediums and disciplines.

Renowned for her crisp black and white portraits of global legends, Brigitte Lacombe's session on March 14 titled **'The Art of Ground-breaking Photography'** will showcase her acclaimed body of work and discuss

her experiences and inspirations. This intimate conversation with journalist and blogger E. Nina Rothe will span Brigitte's illustrious career in the world of cinema, working with some of the film industry's most famous names including Martin Scorsese, Meryl Streep, Mike Nichols, Lynne Ramsay, David Mamet, Alejandro González Iñárritu, Sofia Coppola, Wes Anderson, and Quentin Tarantino.

Qumra 21 will host Master Classes with legendary French auteur Claire Denis, BAFTA and Academy Award® nominated cinematographer Phedon Papamichael, internationally celebrated director and Cannes veteran James Gray, Silver Lion winning film director and screenwriter Jessica Hausner and Academy Award® winning sound designer Mark Mangini.

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About Doha Film Institute:

Doha Film Institute is an independent, not-for-profit cultural organisation. It supports the growth of the local film community through cultivating film appreciation, enhancing industry knowledge and contributing to the development of sustainable creative industries in Qatar. The Institute's platforms include funding and production of local, regional and international films; skills-sharing and mentorship programmes; film screenings; the Ajyal Film Festival; and Qumra. With culture, community, learning and entertainment at its foundation, the Institute is committed to supporting Qatar's 2030 vision for the development of a knowledge-based economy.

About Qumra

Directors and Producers attached to selected projects in development and post-production are invited to participate in the event. They will include a number of emerging filmmakers from Qatar, as well as recipients of funding from the Institute's Grants Programme. The robust programme will feature industry meetings designed to assist with propelling projects to their next stages of development, including master classes, work-in-progress screenings, bespoke matchmaking sessions and tailored workshops with industry experts. This creative exchange will take place alongside a programme of public screenings curated with input from the Qumra Masters.

The event is organised in three main sections: The **Qumra Master Classes** are daily sessions; each led by one of the Masters. The participating filmmakers have full access to these sessions, which are also open to accredited industry guests to attend in an observational capacity. The **Qumra Meetings** are a series of one-on-one meetings, workshops and tailored mentoring sessions between representatives from the selected projects and seasoned industry experts. The **Qumra Screenings** are open to the public and feature projects funded by the Institute through its grants and co-financing initiatives, as well as a series of films chosen by the Qumra Masters accompanied by Q&A sessions.

The Arabic term 'qumra' is popularly said to be the origin of the word 'camera', and to have been used by the scientist, astronomer and mathematician Alhazen (Ibn al-Haytham, 965-c.1040 CE), whose work in optics laid out the principles of the camera obscura.