



Museums

MUSEUMS

New contemporary art museum takes shape in Beirut

Shortlist of 13 architects announced for the planned institution near the city's National Museum

by GARETH HARRIS | 18 April 2016



The site of the future museum in Beirut © Roger Moukarzel

A new museum of Modern and contemporary art in Lebanon has moved a step closer to becoming a reality with the announcement of the shortlisted architects for the project.

The 2,780 sq. m museum, which will be located in central Beirut close to the National Museum, is due to open by 2020. Representatives from the Association for the Promotion and Exhibition of the Arts in Lebanon (Apeal), the non-profit organisation behind the museum, have signed a long-term lease agreement with the Université Saint Joseph for the site. Apeal has also launched an ambitious private fundraising campaign to build the new museum.

Youssef Tohme Architects and Associates of Beirut and Paris-based Lina Ghotmeh/DGT architects are among the 13 shortlisted practices. The winning design will be announced this autumn, while the search for the founding director is under way.

“The museum is envisioned as a multidisciplinary hub of art and design dedicated to showcasing Modern and contemporary Lebanese culture. Its collections and programme are being developed with the aim of bringing together diverse populations and narratives from the region and beyond,” says a statement posted on Apeal’s website.

Pre-launch programming activities include a month-long artist-in-residence programme for six artists in the village of Ras Masqa in Lebanon, organised in collaboration with Temporary. Art. Platform, a Beirut-based art projects body.

Most people associate Beirut with the turbulent civil war of the 1970s and 1980s, in which Syria and Israel were also involved.

Lebanon’s failed political system—the country has been without a president for more than 18 months—has made life in the capital a challenge. A parliamentary session to elect a new head of state is due to take place today (18 April).

YOU MIGHT ALSO LIKE



Five art spaces shortlisted for UK's premier museum prize



Montblanc steps up its art patronage



MoMA offers buyout programme to employees nearing retirement



Lacma nearly halfway to goal for new building with two pledges totalling \$75m

TOPICS

[News](#)

[Museums](#)

Subscribe

Subscribe to our newsletter

Contact us

Advertise

ABOUT

Company

Sister Papers

SOCIAL

 Facebook

 Twitter

 Email



© 2016 THE ART NEWSPAPER

[Sitemap](#) | [Cookie policy](#) | [RSS](#)