

What's Your Sanctuary? **Aga Khan Museum seeks photos and videos for new exhibition**

Submissions will complement Sanctuary, Museum's newest contemporary art exhibition

Toronto — Wednesday, May 27, 2020 — A collection of community-generated art called *What's Your Sanctuary?* will bring stories of hope and resilience to the Aga Khan Museum when it reopens its doors later this spring or in the summer.

The Museum is calling on art lovers in Canada and around the world to submit **original photographs and short videos** representing how and with whom they have found sanctuary during the COVID-19 lockdown. Participants' visuals and stories will be featured in a new interactive art display that will serve as a companion to the Museum's newest exhibition, [Sanctuary](#). Originally set to open on March 21, *Sanctuary* boasts woven rugs designed by 36 leading contemporary artists, including Palestinian-British artist Mona Hatoum and Canadian Brendan Fernandes.

Submission Instructions:

- Interested participants can visit the [What's Your Sanctuary?](#) page on the Museum's website to submit their artwork.
- Upload a picture (JPG, JPEG, or PNG with a file size of 10 MB or less) or video (MOV or MP4 with a file size of 10 MB or less).
- Include a short description (25 words or less) about what the image or video represents to you.
- We encourage creativity! For some, sanctuary may come in the form of a cherished pet. For others, it may be a dear loved one with whom they have regular video chats. It can be a cozy spot at home, or a spectacular sunset.

Submissions are due by Tuesday, June 30, 2020, and will become part of new community-generated exhibition to be displayed on digital screens within the Museum Atrium. Select works will appear on the Museum's website, its social media channels, and on the social media channels of the [Aga Khan Development Network](#) (AKDN) agencies around the world. The work will be seen by hundreds of thousands of people across Canada and globally, and will represent the creativity, optimism, and unity of our global community.

"A central aim of the *What's Your Sanctuary?* project," said Dr. Ulrike Al-Khamis, the Museum's Director of Collections and Public Programs, "is to celebrate the instinctive human drive to create and connect in the face of adversity. As humans, we have a remarkable ability to infuse beauty into our lives and the lives of others in defiance of difficult circumstances. We want to document and celebrate these moments of light and togetherness. Not only do they spark healing but they also offer us precious insights into how we can reconnect and reinvigorate our communities after this collective tragedy."

Though no reopening date has been set, preparations are well underway for welcoming visitors back through the Museum's doors. "People are yearning for shared experiences that celebrate human resilience,

creativity, and diversity,” said Henry Kim, the Museum’s Director and CEO. “With the need for the Museum’s work and mission at an all-time high, we are committed to providing a safe, inspiring space where people and cultures connect.”

The Museum, Kim stressed, will reopen based on government guidelines. “Our highest priority is the health and safety of our visitors, volunteers, and staff,” he said. “Any decision to reopen our doors will comply with public health guidelines, to ensure our procedures meet the highest standards for keeping people safe.”

The Aga Khan Museum in Toronto, Canada, has been established and developed by the Aga Khan Trust for Culture (AKTC), which is an agency of the Aga Khan Development Network (AKDN). The Museum’s mission is to foster a greater understanding and appreciation of the contribution that Muslim civilizations have made to world heritage while often reflecting, through both its permanent and temporary exhibitions, how cultures connect with one another. Designed by architect Fumihiko Maki, the Museum shares a 6.8-hectare site with Toronto’s Ismaili Centre, which was designed by architect Charles Correa. The surrounding landscaped park was designed by landscape architect Vladimir Djurovic.

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