



PRESS RELEASE

Aga Khan Museum and Luciano Benetton's Fondazione Imago Mundi Collaborate on Exhibition that Explores the Impact of Migration

- Fifteen artists, representing 25 countries, have created new works for *Don't Ask Me Where I'm From*, an exhibition that explores personal experiences of migration
- *Don't Ask Me Where I'm From* opens on 27 November 2019 at Imago Mundi's Gallerie delle Prigioni, Treviso, Italy, before travelling to the Aga Khan Museum in March 2020

London, 09 October 2019 — The Aga Khan Museum and the Fondazione Imago Mundi announce the launch of a new partnership, dedicated to fostering dialogue and understanding between cultures and international communities.

The partnership begins with a jointly-created exhibition, *Don't Ask Me Where I'm From*, which channels the experiences of artists who are first, second, and third-generation immigrants – a growing body of people raised in a culture other than their parents' – in a series of diverse works exploring cross-cultural artistic realities.

Don't Ask Me Where I'm From features new works by 15 artists, representing 25 different countries, and will open at Imago Mundi's Gallerie delle Prigioni in Treviso, Italy, on 27 November 2019, before travelling to the Aga Khan Museum in March 2020, and then to venues across Canada, the United States, Europe and the Middle East.

In response to one of today's most pressing global issues, this project focuses on the impact of migration on artistic identity and expression. The artists selected address the issues they face as people who live between cultures and celebrate the abundance of cultural experience they are able to channel in their art.

Aligned in their belief in art as a source of knowledge and a key to interpreting the world, the Aga Khan Museum and the Fondazione Imago Mundi have come together for this project with a shared goal of furthering understanding, respect, and tolerance among the world's cultures.

"Our ambition as a Museum is to connect cultures through art," says **Henry Kim**, the Aga Khan Museum's Director and CEO, "and this exhibition reinforces our belief that culture is fluid and that it is possible to live free from nationalism – a perspective on the world that comes at a critical time."

"Imago Mundi is a cultural, democratic, and global project that looks to the new frontiers of art in the name of coexistence of expressive diversity," says **Luciano Benetton**, Chairman of Fondazione Imago Mundi. "This collaboration is a new step to enlarge our artistic community. We see it as a further opportunity to foster the promotion, research and knowledge of artistic realities from all over the world and, above all, dialogue between different cultures."

The artists participating in this special exhibition (along with the countries they share a connection with) are:



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Daniela Edburg Mexico;USA

eL Seed France;Tunisia

Elena El Asmar Italy; Lebanon

Erica Kaminishi Japan; Brazil; France

Farihah Aliyah Shah Canada; Guyana

Gui Mohallem Brazil; Lebanon

Jeanno Gaussi Germany; Afghanistan

John Young Zerunge Australia; China,
Hong Kong

Houda Terjuman Morocco; Syria;
Switzerland

Liberty Battson South Africa; Zimbabwe

Marija Nemčenko Lithuania; Russia; UK

Sarah Maple UK; India

Shinpei Takeda Mexico; Japan; Germany

Sukaina Kubba Iraq; Canada

Thenjiwe Niki Nkosi USA; South Africa;
Turkey

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Notes to Editors

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.

Fondazione Imago Mundi

Imago Mundi — Latin for “image of the world”— is the global, democratic contemporary art collection composed of thousands of works that Luciano Benetton, founder with his siblings of the fashion brand United Colors of Benetton, has commissioned and collected during his travels around the world involving, on a voluntary and non-profit basis, established artists and emerging talents from different countries, each of whom have created an artwork whose sole constraint is the 10x12 cm format. Imago Mundi – www.imagomundiart.com – represents the convergence of some of Luciano Benetton's personal passions: travel as a source of knowledge of the world, art as a key to interpreting our times. Up to now, Imago Mundi has involved over 26.000 artists from 160 countries, regions and native communities.

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