



SHARJAH ART FOUNDATION

**For Immediate Release**  
**October 23, 2013**



Hassan Hajjaj, *Le Salon Paris*, mixed media installation, 2010, courtesy of the artist

***Chaos into Clarity: Re-Possessing a Funktioning Utopia***

**October 26, 2013 – January 26, 2014**

**6.30pm**

**Building F, SAF Art Spaces, Al Mureijah, Sharjah Heritage Area**

**Sharjah Art Foundation (SAF)** will present *Chaos into Clarity: Re-Possessing a Funktioning Utopia*, an exhibition that includes works that investigate the Aesthetic of Funk. The opening will take place on October 26, 2013 at 6.30pm in Building F at SAF Art Spaces.

Curated by **Shannon Ayers Holden**, this exhibition is an exploration of the radical power of transformation, the theme of transcendence and the presentation of a new world material culture as seen through the works of three artists from the African Diaspora: American textile artist **Xenobia Bailey**, Moroccan-born photographer and designer **Hassan Hajjaj** and British Trinidadian filmmaker and sculptor **Zak Ové**. Each artist has a shared ancestral link to the continent of Africa, which provides them fertile ground to address issues of identity, belonging and community.

The Aesthetic of Funk is an underlying theme in *Chaos into Clarity: Re-Possessing a Funktioning Utopia* and is fundamental to the work of all three artists. Each artist

explores how the prisms of duality and multiculturalism repossess their view of the world in their own personal ways through video and installations. The works also explore the personalised yet multi-faceted nature of each artist's African heritage.

This exhibition was developed as part of Campus Art Dubai 1.0 January – June 2013. Campus Art Dubai is held in partnership with Dubai Culture & Arts Authority (Dubai Culture).

### **About the artists:**

#### **Xenobia Bailey**

Fine artist Xenobia Bailey's textile interpretations explore contemporary mythology, African antiquity and the 21st century visual aesthetic of 'Cosmic-Funk' through the mediums of crochet, fibre and digital mixed media. Her recent work has focused on design, with particular emphasis on how a well-designed material culture can enhance and support a community.

#### **Hassan Hajjaj**

Photographer and designer Hassan Hajjaj was born in 1961 in Larache, Morocco and moved to London in 1975. His work has been featured extensively in international solo exhibitions including *My Rock Stars Experimental, Volume 1*, Los Angeles County Museum, California, USA (2013), *Vogue-Arab Issue*, Middle East Film Festival, Aria Art Gallery, Florence, Italy (2013), *My Beautiful Rubbish*, Freies Museum, Berlin, Germany (2010), *Kesh Angels*, Rose Issa Projects, London, UK (2010), *Dakka Marrakesh*, 8th Bamako Encounters African Photography Biennial, Mali (2009). He has participated in group exhibitions at MuCEM - Musée des civilisations de l'Europe et de la Méditerranée, Marseille, France, the National Museum of Damascus, Syria and Athr Gallery in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, amongst other institutions.

#### **Zak Ové**

The son of a Trinidadian immigrant, British-Trinidadian filmmaker, photographer and sculptor Zak Ové defines himself as a man of the Caribbean. Since 2000, he has returned yearly to Trinidad to document Carnival. Based in London, UK, he earned a BA in Film as Fine Art from Saint Martin's School of Art. He continues to pursue his own art projects, using mainly the mediums of photography, film and, more recently, sculpture grounded in found objects.

### **About Sharjah Art Foundation:**

Sharjah Art Foundation brings a broad range of contemporary art and cultural programmes to the communities of Sharjah, the UAE and the region. Since 2009 SAF has built on the history of cultural collaboration and exchange that began with the first Sharjah Biennial in 1993. Working with local and international partners, we create opportunities for artists and artistic production through our core initiatives that include the Sharjah Biennial, the annual March Meeting, residencies, production grants, commissions, exhibitions, research, publications and a growing collection. Our

education and public programmes focus on building recognition of the central role art can play in the life of a community by promoting public learning and a participatory approach to art. All our events are free and open to the public. Sharjah Art Foundation is funded by the Department of Culture and Information, Government of Sharjah.

### **About Campus Art Dubai:**

This exhibition was developed as part of Campus Art Dubai 1.0 January – June 2013.

Campus Art Dubai is held in partnership with Dubai Culture & Arts Authority and is a six-month alternative “school” for artists, curators, writers, cultural producers, and art workers based in the UAE and provides a space for critical thinking and the exchange of ideas and skills. Meetings occur over weekends and feature seminars, workshops, critiques, and one-on-one mentorship. Campus Art Dubai is taught and led by a local and international cast of academics, critics, curators, and artists.

### **MEDIA CONTACT:**

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