

THE EMPTY QUARTER

F I N E A R T P H O T O G R A P H Y



VISION & MISSION

The Empty Quarter is a purpose built Fine Art Photography Gallery that provides high quality photographs from Middle Eastern and international artists in an elegant space located in Dubai's financial district. We provide a vital platform to contribute unique, iconic photography to the UAE art market. Combining fine art prints, professional demeanor, and prime location, The Empty Quarter creates opportunities for benefiting and inspiring the collectors, and wider community.

To Develop an understanding and appreciation for Fine Art Photography and the role it plays in reflecting and exposing how people relate to and creatively change the world

To Present innovative and thought-provoking, well-researched exhibitions which are supported by events and

publications to enhance the lives of the surrounding community

To provide the 2000 square foot gallery space located in the heart of DIFC to host Cultural, Business and Private events that seek an intimate modern venue

To take a national leadership role in the UAE as the prime destination for Fine Art Photography artworks, literature and events to enrich the cultural identity of Dubai.



THE EMPTY QUARTER PROFILE

Co-founded by Saudi Arabian Princess HH Reem Al-Faisal, Emirati Safa Al-Hamed. The Empty Quarter is the first of its kind in the region – a space dedicated solely to photography. “We took a very big risk in opening a photography gallery in 2009, when photography wasn’t even regarded as a medium that art enthusiasts would collect,” recalls Al-Hamed.

One of the very first galleries to open up in the Dubai International Financial Centre (DIFC), The Empty Quarter’s aim was to get the art industry more excited about photography and deem it a serious medium. Since its inception, the gallery has hosted exhibitions of works by renowned regional and international photographers, including award-winning Steve McCurry, and Bruno Barbey, Andreas H Bitesnich, Roland & Sabrina Michaud, Marc Riboud and Carl De Keyzer, among others. TEQ’s programming explores diverse themes, such as religion, culture, fashion, natural disasters, war and women.

The gallery has taken part in Paris Photo twice, won the BMW Paris Photo Award (in 2009) and published a number of books, including *Oman 1971*, in collaboration with Magnum photographer Bruno Barbey. The gallery also hosted the Prix Pictet Earth world tour in 2009. “I want to see more photography galleries here,” says Al-Hamed. “We want the art industry to be as active as possible.”

The Empty Quarter has also opened its very own printing Lab in the actual gallery space: “We realised the printing quality here is not up to par with places such as Paris, London and Istanbul – so we decided to bring high quality

printing to the region – it's important as we deal with prints all the time," comments Safa Al-Hamed.

To give the viewer a narrative and engage him through factual pieces of time throughout history, is the gallery's aim as a beacon of photographic excellence.

We look forward to working with you, and thank you in advance for your support.

If you have any questions or require further information, please contact Sebastian Ebbinghaus or Julie-Anne Servant or e-mail at info@theemptyquarter.com

The Empty Quarter

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