

## Doha Film Institute invites public to engage with experts on shifting trends in digital media and creative storytelling at Qumra Talks

*Qumra Talks, open to the public and holders of Qumra Pass, will put the spotlight on photography, storytelling through emerging media, virtual reality and new media trends*

**Doha, Qatar; February 27, 2018:** The Doha Film Institute has announced the line-up of expert speakers who will lead the Qumra Talks, a series of insightful discussions on the new and emerging trends in film, media and the creative industry, held as part of Qumra, the Institute's annual film industry event.

A series of specially curated discussions that aim to elevate the power of visual storytelling, Qumra Talks is now in its second edition, having generated positive engagement and considerable feedback from the participants last year. At the fourth edition of Qumra this year, to be held from March 9 to 14 at Souq Waqif and the Museum of Islamic Art, members of the public and Qumra Pass holders can attend the discussions. Each Qumra Talk session, to be held from 4:00 to 5:30 PM at the Museum of Islamic Art Auditorium, will conclude with an audience Q&A.

Fatma Al Remaili, Chief Executive Officer of the Doha Film Institute, said: "Qumra Talks is now a strong pillar of Qumra, which aims to bring the conversations happening in the industry to Doha in order to engage with them and take them into new areas. With the diversity of subject matters discussed and the unique insights that can be gained from industry experts, Qumra Talks adds tremendous value to participants by delving into varying perspectives on the fast-evolving industry. This year, we have accomplished professionals who will focus on new media and digital trends as well as the creative landscape associated with film and media."

The first Qumra Talk, **'On Photography with Brigitte Lacombe,'** In partnership with Northwestern University in Qatar will be held on March 11. Acclaimed French photographer Brigitte Lacombe will share stories of her illustrious career through a series of iconic photographs. Brigitte and her sister, renowned documentary filmmaker Marian Lacombe, will also discuss their work on two Qatar based projects, **"I am Film"** and **"Hey'ya"**, at the event.

Brigitte's career spans over 40 years and includes work on the sets of Martin Scorsese, Spike Jonze and Quentin Tarantino. She has also contributed to Vanity Fair, The New Yorker, Harper's Bazaar, New York Magazine among other publications. The session will be moderated by Emma Pritchard Jones, who has worked across BBC News as an arts and culture reporter, reporting live from global events from the Oscars to the Cannes Film Festival.

On March 12, transmedia artist Simon Wilkinson, will discuss **'Storytelling through Emerging Media: Virtual Reality'**, In partnership with The British Council. The talk will cover the journey Simon has taken in VR, his career in film, audience trends of the past ten years and the lessons learnt through developing the 17 VR and AR installations. Simon made his first virtual reality story in 2010, bringing together techniques from his background in interactive cinema and artists moving image to make an experience that put audience members at the heart of the narrative in the role of the main character.

Alongside, he will also conclude an installation of *'The Third Day'* on HTC VIVE at Qumra for people to experience virtual reality. In its first public showcase ever, *The Third Day* presents a story in eight chapters in which each is an interactive environment. Simon will complete the first chapter, titled *'The Engineer'*. Together put, *The Third Day* narrates the story of a group of people who wake up one day in a strange place with no idea of how and why they came to be there. On his discussion about the installation, Simon will cover the conceptualisation of immersive technologies as tools in a transmedia toolkit, enabling artists to create works that engage audiences for protracted periods of time.

The final Qumra Talk on March 13 will discuss *'Content for a Fragmented Media Universe'* in partnership with Northwestern University in Qatar, led by Jon Kamen, CEO of RadicalMedia. He will share his thoughts on emerging trends in media and how businesses are producing content for a Fragmented Media Universe with social media and smart devices having disrupted traditional models of consumption.

RadicalMedia is one of the world's leading generators of premium content in nearly every medium possible, including television, film, graphic, and interactive design. Under Kamen's leadership, RadicalMedia has created and produced numerous heralded projects, such as the Academy Award®-winning *The Fog of War*; the Academy®-nominated and Emmy®-winning Netflix documentary *What Happened, Miss Simone?* and the Academy®- and Emmy Award®-nominated *Paradise Lost* documentaries for HBO.

The Qumra 2018 industry events include workshops and meetings for first- and second-time filmmakers with international film industry experts in bespoke mentorship labs; the Qumra Master classes, led by acclaimed filmmakers; Qumra Screenings of feature films presented by the Qumra Masters and recipients of funding from the Institute, followed by question-and-answer sessions; and the Qumra Talks.

The Qumra Pass is open for all citizens and residents of Qatar and the region, and will provide them access to Qumra Masterclasses, Qumra Screenings and Qumra Talks. The price for Qumra Pass is QAR 500, students and Culture Pass by Qatar Museums holders can purchase it for a discounted price of QAR 350. Qumra Talk tickets are available to general public for QAR 35. To learn more about the Qumra Pass, kindly visit [www.dohafilminstitute.com](http://www.dohafilminstitute.com).

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**Note to Editors:**

**About Qumra**

Directors and Producers attached to thirty-four projects in development and post-production are selected to participate in the event. They will include a number of emerging filmmakers from Qatar, as well as recipients of funding from the Institute's Grants Programme. The robust programme will feature industry meetings designed to assist with propelling projects to their next stages of development, including master classes, work-in-progress screenings, bespoke matchmaking sessions and tailored workshops with industry experts. This creative exchange will take place alongside a programme of public screenings curated with input from the Qumra Masters.

The event is organised in three main sections: The **Qumra Master Classes** are daily sessions; each led by one of the Masters. The participating filmmakers have full access to these sessions, which are also open to accredited industry guests to attend in an observational capacity.

The **Qumra Meetings** are a series of one-on-one meetings, workshops and tailored mentoring sessions between representatives from the selected projects and seasoned industry experts.

The **Qumra Screenings** are open to the public and feature projects funded by the Institute through its grants and co-financing initiatives, as well as a series of films chosen by the Qumra Masters accompanied by Q&A sessions.



The Arabic term 'qumra' is popularly said to be the origin of the word 'camera', and to have been used by the scientist, astronomer and mathematician Alhazen (Ibn al-Haytham, 965-c.1040 CE), whose work in optics laid out the principles of the camera obscura.

**About Doha Film Institute:**

Doha Film Institute is an independent, not-for-profit cultural organisation. It supports the growth of the local film community through cultivating film appreciation, enhancing industry knowledge and contributing to the development of sustainable creative industries in Qatar. The Institute's platforms include funding and production of local, regional and international films; skills-sharing and mentorship programmes; film screenings; the Ajyal Youth Film Festival; and Qumra. With culture, community, learning and entertainment at its foundation, the Institute is committed to supporting Qatar's 2030 vision for the development of a knowledge-based economy.

Doha Film Institute

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