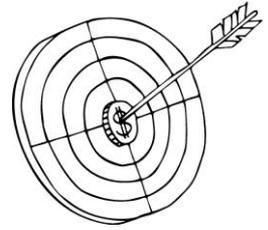




CLIENT: APEAL

DISPATCH DATE: Friday, October 28th 2016

DESCRIPTION: Ministry of Culture and APEAL Sign Loan Agreement of the Lebanese Ministry of Culture's Artwork Collection



THE DAILY STAR
LEBANON

Published on: 29/10/2016
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Name: The Daily Star

Future museum to host Culture Ministry's collection



BEIRUT: Lebanon's Culture Ministry and the Association for the Promotion and Exhibition of the Arts in Lebanon signed an agreement Friday loaning the ministry's art collection to APEAL's anticipated museum of modern and contemporary art, BeMA. The project was unveiled in October 2015, and is expected to be located near the National Museum and Universite Saint-Joseph's Mineral Museum. Earlier this month APEAL announced that HW Architecture, led by Franco-Lebanese architect Hala Warde, had been selected to design the museum building.

Culture Minister Raymond Areiji and APEAL Vice President Sandra Abou Nader signed the agreement. Government and association representatives were also in attendance, as were delegates from the German Embassy, which is supporting the collecting and restoration processes.

In her speech, Abou Nader stressed the importance of Friday's agreement. "We are sure that this is not an ephemeral event," she said, "but another milestone to building a better cultural and artistic life for Beirut."



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Areiji echoed these sentiments. "We are confident that this loan agreement signed with APEAL's museum in the making will add value to its art collections and will help the museum reach its objectives."

Along with works from the collections of three private individuals, this loan will form the backbone of the new museum. "It is an open loan," Abou Nader told The Daily Star, "and we are taking charge of the restoration of the collection."

She said the collection is comprised of modern and contemporary works. "It primarily starts around 1920 and runs through the present," she explained. "All the well-established Lebanese artists are there."

Both Areiji and Abou Nader spoke glowingly of the possibilities posed by the museum and collection's future. "The museum will play a focal role in contributing to culture and art through its design and mission," Abou Nader said in her address, later telling The Daily Star that "we hope to make the museum a central hub for the Lebanese and Middle Eastern cultural map."

It will be a while before visitors will be able to see the work in this collection. Abou Nader said a commission of professionals is currently cataloguing the pieces. "They are the ones who will decide which pieces to display in the museum," she said, "but the final process has not been completed."

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