Le Maroc Contemporain
Institut du Monde Arabe
Paris, France
Until January 25

Le Maroc Contemporain not only brings together the work of more than 80 Moroccan contemporary artists, but will also play host to over 30 concerts, dance performances and a curated screening season of Moroccan cinema. A traditional Moroccan tent, designed specifically for the exhibition by Moroccan architect Tarik Ouzialou, will also be stationed outside of the Institut du Monde Arabe as a host space for artisanal workshops.

Sharjah International Book Fair
Sharjah, UAE
November 5-15

With book fairs and publishers’ exhibitions commonplace in nearly all major cities, it certainly says something momentous that the Sharjah International Book Fair (SIBF) ranks among the world’s largest. Tallying up during last year’s fair alone and 53 different countries represented to boot, SIBF offers authors, gallerists and scholars. Launches with artists, curators, and with a curated screening of a young boy and the giraffes his film that tells the story of ‘the gateway to the Sahara’, the festival is an exuberant four-day celebration of desert culture in the December sun.

02

International Festival of the Sahara
Douz, Tunisia
December 25-27

Featuring traditional Tunisian music and dancing, poetry readings, camel wrestling and horse racing, the International Festival of the Sahara has grown, over the last century, from humble beginnings as a camel fair to become one of Tunisia’s most-loved annual festivals. Held each year in Douz, a southern town known as ‘the gateway to the Sahara’, the festival is an exuberant four-day celebration of desert culture in the December sun.

Memorizing By Means of Observing
Mohammed Kazem
Taymour Grahne Gallery
New York, USA
November 13-December 20

Acknowledged as one of the ‘five’ — an informal group of pioneering artists from the Emirates – Mohammed Kazem’s work is considered at the vanguard of conceptual art practice in the UAE. ‘Memorizing By Means of Observing’ will bring selected works from the artist’s various periods – from ‘Photographs with Flags’, works initiated in the 1990s, to ‘Risse’, his most recent – together for the first time.

03

London Palestine Film Festival
Barbican Centre
London, UK
November 28-December 4

Proudly bringing Palestinian narratives to London audiences since 1999, this year’s London Palestine Film Festival runs the gamut of subjects, from Rani Massalha’s ‘Giraffada’, a feature film that tells the story of a young boy and the giraffes his father cares for at Qalqilya Zoo (the last remaining zoo in the West Bank), to ‘Shujayya’ by Haled Ansal, a short documentary film that juxtaposes home videos from Gaza with a journalist’s audio recording. Prioritising self-described Palestinian cinema and stories, the LPFF regularly proves to be as uplifting as it is evocative.

Doris Duke’s Sharqi La: Architecture, Landscape, and Islamic Art
DCA’s Los Angeles Municipal Art Gallery
Los Angeles, USA
Until December 28

This Los Angeles city-wide initiative will bring together over 60 projects from contemporary and design galleries from around the world, Abu Dhabi Art (created in 2014) titled ‘Beyond’, will host a diverse public engagement programme of talks, installations and book launches with artists, curators, gallerists and scholars. Coinciding with the first preview of the Guggenheim Abu Dhabi collection, the fair will also be branching out, for the first time, into other venues around the city in celebration of the future cultural diversity of Saadiyat Island.

01

Taymour Grahne Gallery hosts a solo show by
Emirati artist Mohammed Kazem

Future Is Not What It Used To
Emirati Art
Barbican Centre
London, UK
November 13-December 20

Taking over the five floors of the Galata Greek Primary School, and with satellite pop-ups posted around the city, the second Istanbul Design Biennial is inviting more than 50 projects to address the question: ‘What is the future now?’ Titled ‘The Future Is Not What It Used To Be’, set by British curator Zoe Ryan, the biennial will see household objects, fashion accessories, food, mems, maps, buildings and other visual languages propose multiple, alternative futures for design as an active agent for change in society.

02

Institut du Monde Arabe as BAC’s new director to spearhead its programming into the new year.

Sweets and Snacks Middle East
Dubai World Trade Centre
Dubai, UAE
November 9-11

Like a giant pick ‘n’ mix, the membership of the region’s confectionary conventions returns for its eight incarnation, bringing together sweets, snacks and confectionery from Lebanon, Turkey, Iran and elsewhere in the region and further afield. As well as the sweet treats, the convention will feature a large-scale display of the industry’s trends, innovations and technology advances.

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