

PRESS RELEASE
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Water Matters: *Exploring the Intersection of Art, Culture, and Water Preservation*, at “the Fez Gathering,” the 7th Annual International Artists Gathering of Fez, 30th October to 3rd November, 2024

The seventh Annual International Artists Gathering of Fez, Morocco is exploring the theme “Water Matters.” The Fez Gathering is a dynamic, Fez-based event consisting of exhibitions, panels, demonstrations and workshops that bring together artists from Morocco and the international community. It supports the artistic community of Fez by providing a space to exhibit its work to international artists, academics, and guests, fostering connections and amplifying their voices. This initiative encourages networking opportunities, enabling local artists to share their stories, collaborate on projects, and gain visibility within a global context.

During its seventh edition in October 2024, the Fez Gathering will focus on how art is used to address current challenges related to water through various panels, art installations, performances, and events. The multi-day, public event will focus on how artistic expression can significantly contribute to raising awareness about the critical importance of water management, resources, and the cultural connection to water, while also strengthening and supporting existing artistic communities. The event will also offer space for intergenerational dialogue, highlight the contemporary Moroccan art scene, and promote emerging young Moroccan artists. An ancient city like Fez, with its intricate network of historic water infrastructure, is the ideal host for conversations exploring water-related issues. The water system in the medina of Fez, dating back to the 9th century, is one of the oldest and most sophisticated in the world.

This edition of the Fez Gathering will evoke conversation that goes beyond discussing “art for art’s sake.” Among other factors, the Fez Gathering will explore how the arts are shaping and being shaped by the external forces of exchange, cultural heritage, markets, and the ecosystem through an exploration of how art serves as a bridge that crosses into a possible future.

Artists joining us this year include Gathering regular Hamza El Fasiki, an author and craftsman from Fez; Cris Marcondes, a performance artist from Brazil; Mohamed Kilito, a photographer from Morocco; Mélodie Gimard, a pianist from France; Martí Corbera, a dancer from Spain; Jessica El Mal, Moroccan British visual artist and others.

Omar Chennafi, a Moroccan artist and photographer who is a native of Fez, established the Fez Gathering in 2015. The goal of each Gathering is to encourage dialogue and engagement with the arts. This year’s attendees will have the opportunity to participate in workshops and discussions focused on the “Water Matters” theme.

In the spirit of the festival, admission is free and open to the public. The four-day festival will be documented and shared on social media. Coverage will include interviews with artists and participants.

The International Artists Gathering of Fez is organized in collaboration with the American Language Center Fes/Arabic Language Institute in Fez (ALC Fes/ALIF), Goethe-Institut Marokko, Centre Culturel Les Etoiles de Fès, Kan Ya Makan Center, Berlin Art Institute, Euromed University of Fez, and other esteemed partners.

For more information, a full schedule of the International Artists Gathering of Fez, or for press inquiries, contact the Fez Gathering Press/Media Coordinator at fezgatheringpress@gmail.com

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