The Qatari art scene today is dynamic and eclectic, often incorporating styles not just from Arab tradition but from across the world thanks to Qatar’s unique position as a geographic crossroads and trade hub between different cultures.

This cosmopolitan spirit of cultural and artistic exchange is highly valued in Qatar.

Qatar Museums

Years of Culture

The eclecticism of Qatar’s art scene is both celebrated and partly facilitated through “Years of Culture,” a Qatar Museums exchange program that brings Qatari artists to different countries to exhibit their work, appreciate similarities and differences between their cultures, and find even more inspiration for groundbreaking art.

Museum of Islamic Art

“Designed by world-renowned architect I.M. Pei, the MIA building has become an icon. Standing apart on the waters of the Corniche, it draws influence from traditional Islamic architecture. The building is made from limestone, which captures hourly changes in light and shade. The geometric patterns of the Islamic world adorn the inside space, making for a grand interior. A variety of textures and materials, including wood and stone, have created a unique environment for the museum’s stunning collections. With incredible views across the bay, it’s the foundation for Doha’s burgeoning cultural scene.”

MATHAF: Arab Museum of Modern Art

“Mathaf celebrates the modern and contemporary, showcasing art created in Qatar, the Middle East and the international Arab diaspora. It’s a boundary-breaking museum that asks the local community to celebrate the present-day creativity of the Arab world. It is one of the most engaging, contemporary, and lively museums within our group.

It’s an informal space to be used, not just visited. Beyond its galleries, it brings people together to learn, share ideas and enter debate. From conversations with artists to the creative internship programme, Mathaf Voices, Mathaf helps you deepen your relationship with art of our time.”

Fire Station

“The station was built in 1982 as a Civil Defense building that was occupied by the fire brigade until late 2012 when it was handed over to Qatar Museums, to be recycled for contemporary use. Ibrahim Al Jeidah, the Qatari architect who led the project, preserved the original details of the building and its tower.

Fire Station is a creative space that allows emerging talent from within Qatar to further their practice, research, and work as aspiring professional artists. The residency program begins mid-September for the duration of a nine-month period where artists from all disciplines are invited to set up their respective studios and complete a specific project of their choice.”

3-2-1 QATAR OLYMPIC AND SPORTS MUSEUM

This museum will demonstrate to the world that sport and Qatar are intrinsically linked. It will be packed full of interactive exhibits, inspiring objects and unique activity areas that generate a spirit of participation.
As well as promoting the positive value of sport, it will showcase the origins, development and significance of sports culture within Qatar and beyond. 3-2-1 is also a member of the Olympic Museum Network, which currently unites 22 Olympic museums worldwide.

**National Museum of Qatar**

![National Museum of Qatar](image)

The museum’s interlocking disc design by Jean Nouvel is inspired by the desert rose. The space will be a thriving hub for the public, students, and museum professionals. It will redefine the role of a cultural institution, fostering a spirit of participation and providing the conditions for discovery to thrive.

Visitors can learn about Qatar’s ancestors and the formation of early cities, as well the modernization of Qatari society. Exhibitions will combine historic objects and contemporary influences, opening up a dialogue around the impact of rapid change.

**Orientalist Museum**

![Orientalist Museum](image)

Qatar’s Orientalist Museum is the only institution of its kind. It is dedicated to Orientalism - an influential period in art history, based around Western artists’ first experiences and impressions of the ‘oriental’ East.

Through the collection of fine and applied arts, objects document the meeting of diverse cultures. The forthcoming museum is committed to creating opportunities for residents to explore Orientalism and associated themes on their own terms. Collaborating with Qatar University, the museum introduced this art movement as part of the university teaching programme for two years.

**Katara Gallery**

![Katara Gallery](image)

The venue hosts local and international artists whose work centers around human themes. Though mediums vary, the content always connects with people on a personal level. The space is designed for individual contemplation, meaning visitors reflect beyond the gallery. Nestled amongst other buildings, the QM gallery is a casual place that lends itself to weekend browsing. The art is always a talking point, but location and atmosphere are as important.

**Msheireb Museums**

Msheireb Museums celebrate the history of four historic heritage houses in the heart of Msheireb in Downtown Doha. The museums are located within the oldest part of the capital forming an important part of Qatar’s national history. Msheireb Museums are an integral aspect of the inner city’s regeneration of the old commercial center in conjunction with its traditional community-based lifestyle. The museums consist of four restored heritage houses:

**Bin Jelmood House**

The House explores the history of slavery and human exploitation, from early Islam to the modern day. Bin Jelmood raises awareness of this history, in Qatar and the rest of the world, with the mission of advocating the abolition of all forms of human exploitation. The museum gives visitors a space to reflect on the historic and contemporary prevalence of human exploitation, and provides the opportunity to join the fight against it.

**Company House**

This house was once used as the headquarters for Qatar’s first oil company. The museum tells the story of the pioneering Qatari petroleum industry workers and their families, who helped transform Qatar into a modern society.

**Mohammed Bin Jassim House**

Build by Sheikh Mohammed Bin Jassim Al Thani, son of the founder of modern Qatar, this heritage house addresses the past, the present, and the sustainable aspect on which Msheireb Downtown Doha is based.

**Radwani House**

Radwani House provides visitors an insight into how family life evolved in Qatar over the years. The house showcases not only the manner in which it changed over time, but also how domestic family life was transformed in Doha.

**Sheikh Faisal Bin Qassim Al Thani Museum**

The Sheikh Faisal Bin Qassim Al Thani Museum (FBQ Museum) collection was developed throughout decades of dedicated and enthusiastic collecting of a diverse and eclectic body of works and natural artifacts, spanning from the Jurassic Age through to the early Islamic period and up to the present day.

The Museum tells the story not only of the history of the Qatari people, but also of Sheikh Faisal Bin Qassim Al Thani himself. His extensive international travel is represented with eclectic pieces from over four continents. This intensely personal collection is a journey through space and time, which Sheikh Faisal welcomes local and international visitors to share.

"Art and culture is a religion we can all practice. It's a space to discuss, interact and show all works of art, as well as the people behind the creation of exemplary things. It acts as a facilitator to connect the other invaluable cultural entities in Qatar and the world with our community. We learn from these interactions on a daily basis."

- HE Sheikha Al Mayassa Al Thani