

## Qattan Residency 2019-2020

*SERVING CULTURE & EDUCATION  
IN PALESTINE & THE ARAB WORLD*

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The A. M. Qattan Foundation's residency 2019–2020 seeks to honour John Berger's immense legacy of bettering our understanding of the relationships between the political and the aesthetic in all its forms. The Residency Programme consists of three interrelated parts: Critical Research and Writing; Qattan Studio; and Culture in Motion. Each of these opportunities provide a setting within which artists, curators, academics, writers and other creators engage in ongoing discussions and debates that examine the historical, social and intellectual conditions of cultural production. The program also encourages theoretical and critical studies of the practices, institutions and discourses that constitute the field of culture.

All residencies are opened to all fields of knowledge, provided that applicants should recognise that the Foundation is not interested in applications that lack in-depth discursive research in the Palestinian context or proposals that stigmatise and stereotype the local cultural and political realm. Applicants are encouraged to prove in their applications that they harbour already established contacts with relevant individuals and institutions related to their personal projects.

All residents are required to contribute with a public presentation about their work or ongoing projects. These presentations will provide an opportunity to compare projects and experiences, and exchange notes on the diverse conditions of cultural production and their contextual relevance. The residency programme offers three seasonal opportunities, each for a duration between 1-3 months:

1. **Critical Research and Writing**, January–March
2. **Qattan Studio**, April–September
3. **Culture in Motion**, October–December

### 1. Critical Research and Writing

This module is devised for university and think-tank-based academics, researchers, professors, writers, curators and scientists working in any discipline in a topic that relates to the following cultural fields: architecture, film/video arts, urban studies, performing arts, interdisciplinary arts, literature, music composition, theatre and the visual arts. Successful applicants will demonstrate an expansive experience of significant professional contributions to their field or show evidence of being on a strong upward trajectory for these experiences earlier in their careers.

The module has a strong interest in proposals that align with the Foundation's work to expand opportunities that enable more broadly shared prosperity and build resilience in people, places and institutions to prepare for, withstand and emerge stronger from acute social and political upheaval. Critical research and writing participants engage in individual or collective scholarly research and critical writing projects. Applicants are required to prove pre-established connections with institutions and individual scholars working in the same domain and area of research. Successful residents are required to arrange a series of seminars and/or talks and/or a symposium on the subject of their research.

## **2. Qattan Studio**

This module is available for multidisciplinary artists from all backgrounds and with a strong emphasis on interaction with the local community and collaboration among peers. The Qattan Studio's mission is to nurture the arts by offering creative individuals an opportunity to develop new works in a stimulating environment and entrench a better understanding of rich and complex Palestinian history and multifaceted contemporary issues of society and politics.

This module facilitates cultural exchange between the local community and creators from across the world and aims to forge new connections between the surrounding community and contemporary cultural practices, encouraging community members to become active participants in the cultural dialogue. Residents will be given studio space and access to the library and other building facilities. Successful residents are required to demonstrate proposals that tie their studio work with the local community and/or the Foundation's ongoing programmes and projects.

## **3. Culture in Motion**

This module aims at cultural production informed by local experiences while the residents interact with the community in order to create work about these encounters and situations in the conversation of a 'glocal' context related to contemporary cultural practices. Applicants are encouraged to take risks and experiment while exploring new ways of working outside the studio. Through learning and researching the intricate history of Palestine and their specific site of study, residents are required to understand the changes in their practice, methods and tools that might come from working within this complex context. Applicants are encouraged to communicate with their peers while researching for clues and sites of interest within the Palestinian landscape. Successful applicants are required to create individual or collective site-specific public interventions that generate strong discursive interactions with the public around the project.

This participatory approach will be achieved by means of expansive research accompanied by a series of events, encounters and workshops with various groups and stakeholders. Each project unfolds with a different momentum, scenario and rhythm, and each is likely to require a different programme of events.