

# ICSEWEN21

## QATAR CULTURE SESSION Program

# ICSEWEN21 CULTURAL EVENTS – SHOWCASING QATAR

24 November 2021 – Culture Session Agenda

## Qatar Culture Session “Showcasing Qatar” - Programme

AST (Arabian Standard Time, GMT+3)

- |       |       |   |
|-------|-------|---|
| 14:30 | 15:10 | H.E. Alessandro Prunas - Ambassador of the Italian Republic to the State of Qatar, Embassy of Italy in Doha.<br>“Italy and Qatar: driving ambitions towards sustainability” |
| <hr/> |       |   |
| 15:15 | 16:00 | Nicoletta Fazio – Curator at the Museum of Islamic Art in Doha.<br>“Building Bridges: MIA and the Cultural Politics of Qatar – Yesterday, Today, Tomorrow”                  |
| <hr/> |       |   |
| 16:05 | 16:20 | Qatar National Library<br>“The Heritage Library and Conservation & Preservation Lab at a Glance”  |

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H.E. Alessandro Prunas, career diplomat, is Ambassador of the Italian Republic to the State of Qatar. Doha is a vibrant city where art, architecture, innovation and sustainability take center stage: the Embassy of Italy plays an active role in such cultural scene by promoting a diversified range of initiatives, exhibitions and talks in partnership with institutions, universities and civil society.



Embassy of Italy  
Doha

## Italy and Qatar: driving ambitions towards sustainability

*Embassy of Italy in Doha – 24 November 2021*

**H.E. the Ambassador of Italy to Qatar, Alessandro Prunas**, will take the participants in a journey through the initiatives jointly organized by Italy and Qatar on the topics of sustainability and climate change. Indeed, in 2021 Italy had a great responsibility in leading the change by assuming the **G20 Presidency** and co-chairing with the United Kingdom the **26th Conference of the Parties** of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.

The session will give a glimpse of the **Pre-COP26 and first Youth Climate Summit in Milan**, which was held from September 30 to October 2, 2021, where Qatar actively participated with two youth delegates and a large delegation led by **Qatar Foundation** with a full program of debates and activities. **Fatima Abuhaliqa**, Electrical Engineering at Texas A&M University at Qatar and promoter of youth-led environmental initiatives and **Neeshad Shafi**, Co-Founder & Executive Director of the **Arab Youth Climate Movement Qatar** will talk about their advocacy work in Qatar and experience in Milan. The Embassy of Italy has also partnered with **Doha Environmental Actions Project (DEAP)** to raise awareness on the protection of natural resources and rich heritage in the framework of the **#KeepQatarClean campaign** launched by H.E. Sheikha Mayassa bint Hamad Al-Thani.

The second part of the session Art, Design & Sustainability presents the exhibition "**3CODESIGN - 3R: Reduce, Recycle, Reuse**", a project dedicated to the connection between design and sustainability with emerging **Italian designer Luca Gnizio** as well "**Plastic Seas: Eco-fables on show**" by Italian artist Elisabetta Farina and the Qatari artist Fatima Mohammed.

Embassy of Italy in Doha  
<https://ambdoha.esteri.it>

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## Building Bridges: MIA and the Cultural Politics of Qatar – Yesterday, Today, Tomorrow

Nicoletta Fazio – **24 November 2021**

With its imposing architecture and sharp, edgy lines, the Museum of Islamic Art (MIA) stands as an iconic landmark of Doha's skyline. After MIA's opening, the face of the city has changed many times, new buildings and institutions now punctuate the urban landscape, yet MIA continues to be a symbol of Qatar, still defining the cultural identity of the country very much. In this afternoon session, I will introduce you to the history of the museum and its place within the cultural politics that Qatar have been pursuing in more or less subtle and implicit ways for the past two decades. While I briefly discuss the reasons behind MIA foundation, the thriving forces, and sometimes flamboyant personalities behind this project, I will also present MIA's plans for the very near future and the main ideas leading our job as curators as we have embarked on this project. I will also offer some few personal takes and rare behind-the-scenes moments of MIA's much awaited re-opening in one-year time.

Nicoletta Fazio is Curator for Iranian Lands at the Museum of Islamic Art in Doha. An art historian and medievalist by training, she studied at the University of Genoa (Italy) and received her MA degree in Intellectual History from the Warburg Institute, London. Her research interests lie in the fields of comparative manuscript studies and literary history, Islamic Central Asia, transcultural exchanges, and museums studies.



Visit MIA and get a glimpse of its collections and activities at:  
<https://www.mia.org.qa/en/>

Explore the MIA Permanent Galleries as we wait to re-open the Museum for you in Fall 2022:  
<https://my.matterport.com/show/?m=eguLShJnVTo>