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A retrospective of late Emirati artist Hassan Sharif is being showcased in Europe this year

Previously on view in Sharjah and curated by Hoor Al Qasimi, the exhibition is on view in Berlin, Germany and will travel to Malmö, Sweden

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P.C.- PHOTOS: FRANK SPERLING

Installation views of Hassan Sharif. I am The Single Work Artist at KW Institute for Contemporary Arts, Berlin 2020.

A pioneer of conceptual art in the Middle East, the late Emirati artist Hassan Sharif explored form, time, and social action throughout his career. Between his roles as an artist, educator, critic and writer, Sharif was instrumental in engaging local audiences with contemporary art through his Arabic translations of historical art texts and manifestos.

In 2017, [Sharjah Art Foundation](#) director Hoor Al Qasimi curated the largest ever staged exhibition at the foundation, which traced the late artist's career from the early 1970s to 2016. Now, this exhibition, titled *Hassan Sharif: I Am The Single Work Artist*, will tour two European cities throughout 2020 and into early 2021. In collaboration with the KW Institute for Contemporary Art in Berlin, the exhibition will be presented from 29 February to 3 May 2020 in the German capital as the first major retrospective of artist Hassan Sharif in Europe. *I Am The Single Work Artist* will then travel to Malmö Konsthall, Malmö, Sweden from 18 September 2020 to 14 January 2021.

“We are delighted to collaborate with KW Institute for Contemporary Art and Malmö Konsthall to bring this major Hassan Sharif retrospective to Europe,” said Qasimi.

Born and raised in Dubai in the 1950s, Sharif's worked included performance, installation, drawing, painting and assemblage during his 40 year career. His work is represented in major public collections, such as the Guggenheim New York, [Guggenheim Abu Dhabi](#), Centre Pompidou, Mathaf Arab Museum of Modern Art, and Tate Modern. Sharif's pieces have also been shown in *1980–Today: Exhibitions in the United Arab Emirates*, UAE Pavilion, 56th Venice Biennale (2015); and ADACH Platform for Visual Arts, 53rd Venice Biennale (2009).

One of Sharif's greatest legacies, however, was in his support of generations of artists in the UAE, co-founding The Flying House, a Dubai institution for promoting contemporary Emirati artists, in 2007, among other institutions to encourage local artistic talent.

“Hassan Sharif's art practice was instrumental to the transformation of art production regionally,” Al Qasimi added. “It is great to see his work presented for new audiences around the world.”