

## **INAUGURATION OF Ma VERONICA's Exhibition 16-01-2017**

- **Dr. Khalid Al-Sulaiti**, General Manager of Katara Cultural Village
- **H.E. Mr. Nassir Abdul-Aziz Al Nasser**, United Nations High Representative for the Alliance of Civilization.
- **H.E. Mr. Ibrahim Fakhro**, Head of Protocol Department- Ministry of Foreign Affairs.
- **Distinguished Excellencies & Ambassadors.**
- **Distinguished Guests, Esteemed Friends of Ecuador, Ladies & Gentlemen.**

I am truly delighted to welcome you tonight to this evening that is embellished by your esteemed presence, where ***Creativity embraces Beauty***, through the art paintings of the Ecuadorian & International Artist Maria Veronica Leon.

In Ecuador, as in almost all the countries of the Andes, the visual arts refer back to the colonial period. The denominated Quiteña School of Art characterized the time with its particular styles of painting, sculpture and architecture that excelled in the streets and filled many churches and monasteries of the colonial monuments of its cities.

The artists of the colonial period, given the situation of colonial submission, had to express their inspiration anonymously, because of the very disadvantageous conditions in which they had to work, nevertheless; left us an immeasurable legacy of

work, which is reflected in the wonderful artistic composition represented by all our colonial cities in which the imprint of the Quiteña School of Art is shaped. Ecuador is a land of artists in all its expressions. The Ecuadorian Plastic Artists had always stood out through their exquisite works throughout its history.

By the end of the nineteenth century, a new generation of artists emerged, renovating the Ecuadorian art. Subsequently, the influence of social themes and a broadly reactionary attitude, gave way to Social Realism, a current that would mark an era and an artistic style, which based its themes on the problem of poverty, the Indians and the oppressed, in general. As a result, new currents emerged on the Ecuadorian artistic scenes, such as: Abstraction, Expressionism, Neo-figurative art and others that had replaced the conventional and traditional art forms in the country.

In this way, they have inscribed their names with golden letters as infamous artists recognized nationally and internationally, of whom I will highlight a few: Miguel de Santiago, Oswaldo Guayasamín, Eduardo Kingman, Gonzalo Endara Crown, Oswaldo Viteri, Enrique Tábara, Víctor Mideros, Araceli Gilbert , Humberto More, Camilo Egas, Edgar Balseca Toral, amongst others.

In reality, although the Art has changed and has radically evolved from its beginning stages up until recent generations, it does not really have the best conditions to develop. Consequently, all the people who dedicate their lives to this art that exalts the soul of human beings are highly admired. This is the case of this compatriot who goes beyond the borders of our beloved Ecuador, now living in the city of Dubai, where she maintains the eagerness and dedication to her wonderful artistic work. María Verónica

León was born in Guayaquil, Ecuador and has presented many exhibitions in Ecuador, Dubai, Brussels, Monaco, New York, Paris, Venice, Germany, Cuba, Canada and China. Maria Veronica has specialized and excelled in painting self-portraits and portraits of many famous personalities such as: Bjork, Isabelle Adjani, Pina Bausch, Dominique Mercy, Julie Stanzak, Helena Pikon, Placido Domingo, Bill Clinton in addition to various Ecuadorian, Latin American and European personalities.

In 1996 Guayasamin invited her to collaborate with him in painting Murals for "**The Chapel of Man/Capilla del Hombre**" in Quito. In 2016, María Verónica has been designated in Ecuador as "Woman of the Year in Arts and Culture."

Dear Friends, I do not want to miss this opportunity to extend my heartfelt thanks to **Katara Cultural Village** headed by **Dr. Khalid Al-Sulaiti**, who has spared no effort to provide all the support for the realizing this event.

I would like to convey to the entire staff of **Katara Cultural Village**, in general and to **Dr. Khaled** in particular, all my gratitude and my sincere appreciation.

Thank you again for coming to share this special artistic and cultural event, enjoy it.