

Ms. May Barber

Business Manager of the Arts and Culture Portfolio of

H.H. Sheikha Fatima Bint Hazza' Bin Zayed Al Nahyan

**Founder and Managing Director of the cARTel Wearable Art Gallery, Architect and
Writer**

United Arab Emirates

May Barber is an architect and writer based in the United Arab Emirates. She is the Business Manager of the Arts and Culture Portfolio of Her Highness Sheikha Fatima Bint Hazza Al Nahyan, a member of the UAE Royal Family, offering private tutorships in art, curating international artists for exhibitions and workshops, actively taking part in the art collection building strategies and Implementation as well as promotion of Sheikha Fatima's artworks and cultural award on domestic and regional scenes, who has been named A Tate Modern Patron in London since 2013.

In 2012, May Barber co-founded the cARTel Wearable Art Gallery; a unique concept store and gallery space in Al-Serkal Avenue featuring avant-garde fashion designers curated under the umbrella of wearable art. Featured in Vogue Netherland's as Dubai's hidden gem, the cARTel continues to nourish the cultural and artistic fabric of Dubai by offering exhibitions, producing art and fashion conceptual films as well as taking part in the international agenda of fashion. In March 2014, she released the cARTel magazine, a bi-annual magazine specialized in conceptual art and fashion where she currently serves as Editor-in-Chief.

May Barber is the recipient of several awards in architecture. In January 2012, she received the Royal Villa Design Award by Emirates Land Group ELG, for the complete architectural design of a luxurious mansion based on the Vastu system of energies. In October 2008, she received the Cityscape International Young Architect of the year Award for the design of *Labor Housing: A Modern Typology*, as well as the BP Innovative Design Award. She also received certificate of honor in recognition of being on the Dean's List at The American University of Sharjah and was awarded the Abdul-Jalil Al-Faheem Award for achieving one of the top High School graduates of the UAE with a score of 99.7%, and the highest Score in the Emirate of Abu Dhabi. Intrigued by poetry and creative writing, she was awarded the UAE Poetry Award for five consecutive years since 2001. As a young talent, she co-founded the Al-Anood magazine, written and designed by young talented children and published by the Cultural Foundation in Abu Dhabi.

May Barber graduated with a Bachelor in Architecture and a Minor in English Literature from the American University in Sharjah in 2008. She then underwent several courses in Writing About Art with Dubai Culture and Arts Authority as well as Fashion Design and Management Courses in Esmod French Fashion University and London College of Fashion. She has recently been named one of 10 'Regional Talents' to know by Grazia Luxury Publication and nominated for Emirates Women Award 2014.