

press release

Standard Chartered highlights gender pay disparity with 'Art Gap'

- *Comprehensive global study finds that art by women sells for 47.6% less than art by men**
- *Even where art work was produced through artificial intelligence, respondents consistently ranked works they believe to have been made by female artists lower*
- *Women artists will use the Art Gap exhibition as a platform to make a powerful statement by painting 47.6% less*

Dubai, United Arab Emirates; 21 March 2019 – On International Women's Day and with March being the Women's History Month, Standard Chartered Bank UAE pledged that it would raise awareness about gender pay inequality and one example of this is in the world of art. This initiative comes also in line with the UAE's vision 2021 to be one of the world's top 25 countries for gender equality by 2021.

Held during of the World Art Dubai at the Dubai World Trade Centre from 3rd to 6th April 2019, the 'Art Gap' exhibition aims to add local voices to the global conversation. According to the 2017 Gender Bias in Art study, titled "Is gender in the eye of the beholder?" and published by University of Oxford: art work by women sells for 47.6% less than work by men. Even where art work was produced through artificial intelligence, respondents consistently ranked works they believe to have been made by female artists lower

The event will be an ideal platform for women artists in the UAE, to come together and make a powerful statement by painting 47.6% less. The first-ever exhibition will feature the works of a

collective of Emirati and expat women artists who will highlight the shocking gender pay disparity in the art world.

In the UAE, women enjoy the same constitutional rights as men. According to World Economic Forum's Global Gender Gap Report 2017 (PDF), the UAE ranks the second highest among Arab countries. The UAE also established the Gender Balance Council to enhance work environment by giving women equal opportunities in the public sector. Towards that end, the UAE launched the Gender Inequality Index for Government sector. The council would enact a framework to consolidate the efforts of various government entities. It aims to boost the country's efforts to evolve and enhance women's role as key partners in building the future of the nation.

Rola Abu Manneh, CEO Standard Chartered UAE said: *“At Standard Chartered we are passionate about promoting equality and committed to driving an inclusive and diverse culture at work. The “Art Gap” exhibition is a great initiative to highlight such an important topic; gender pay inequality. We want others to get inspired by this event and to support the drive for change not only in the world of art or banking but in all industries. I encourage you all to join us and support the cause.”*

“Organising this event reaffirms the Bank’s commitment to the national agenda, which aims to make the UAE one of the world’s top 25 countries for gender equality by 2021” she added.

As part of its wider commitment to bridge the global gender pay gap, Standard Chartered signed the Fair Pay Charter in 2017 and announced its pledge to pay men and women equally for the same role. This is in line with the UAE’s vision to advance gender balance. In April 2018, the UAE Cabinet has approved the issuance of the Law on Equal Wages and Salaries for Men and Women to ensure that women have equal opportunities as partners in the UAE’s development.

“The hand that rocks the cradle, is the hand that rules the world. Let’s give this hand the value it deserves. World Art Dubai and Standard Chartered have come together to honour women who add beauty to the world through their art and I am happy to lend my voice and be part of this movement that respects each artist without any gender discrimination,” **said Batool Jafri, Curator of Art Gap and Emirates Woman of the Year 2018.**

One of the co-authors of the study on gender bias in art, **Renée B. Adams, Professor of Finance, Saïd Business School, University of Oxford** said: *“Everyone is talking about diversity*

nowadays. But, the result of the talking is mostly just that—talk. To bring about real change, we need to act. The Art Gap exhibition presented by Standard Chartered is a cutting-edge way of leveraging scientific research to bring about change. Nobody who participates or views the exhibit will forget the message. And the next time they buy an artwork, they will approach it differently.”

-END-

* According to Gender Bias in Art study, "Is gender in the eye of the beholder?", University of Oxford, Dec 2017).(<https://ssrn.com/abstract=3083500>).

The study authored by Renée Adams, Roman Kräussl, Marco Navone and Patrick Verwijmeren can be downloaded [here](#)

About Standard Chartered

We are a leading international banking group, with a presence in 60 of the world's most dynamic markets, and serving clients in a further 85. Our purpose is to drive commerce and prosperity through our unique diversity, and our heritage and values are expressed in our brand promise, Here for good.

Standard Chartered PLC is listed on the London and Hong Kong Stock Exchanges as well as the Bombay and National Stock Exchanges in India. For more stories and expert opinions please visit [Insights](#) at [sc.com](#). Follow Standard Chartered on [Twitter](#), [LinkedIn](#) and [Facebook](#).

For more information or interview opportunities, please contact:

Wasim Ben Khadra,
Head of External Communications, UAE
Mobile: +971 56 508 0106
Email: wasim.benkhadra@sc.com

Media contacts:

To arrange an interview with Renée B. Adams, Professor of Finance, please contact the Saïd Business School, University of Oxford press office.

Emily Reed, Press Officer, Saïd Business School
M: +44 07801 404665 T: +44 01865 614489
Email: emily.reed@sbs.ox.ac.uk or pressoffice@sbs.ox.ac.uk

About Saïd Business School

Saïd Business School at the University of Oxford blends the best of new and old. We are a vibrant and innovative business school, yet deeply embedded in an 800-year old world-class university. We create programmes and ideas that have global impact. We educate people for successful business careers, and as a community seek to tackle world-scale problems. We deliver cutting-edge programmes and ground-breaking research that transform individuals, organisations, business practice, and society. We seek to be a world-class business school community, embedded in a world-class University, tackling world-scale problems.

