

Art Jameel

For Immediate Release

Art Jameel launches multi-year commissions programme with call to artists to propose major sculptural works

- **Artists are invited to explore light as a medium for a public art installation**
- **Artwork to be revealed at the opening of the new Jameel Arts Centre, Dubai, in 2018**
- **Applications are due by November 21, 2017**

Dubai, United Arab Emirates | October 17, 2017: Art Jameel, a not-for-profit organisation that supports arts, education and heritage in the Middle East, announced today the launch of a multi-year commissions programme. Starting with a 2018 sculpture commission, which builds on Art Jameel's longstanding interest in supporting artists in creating new public works, the programme spans a 3-year cycle anchored at the forthcoming Jameel Arts Centre, UAE. The 2017-2018 programme focuses on sculpture, specifically works using light technologies; upcoming editions will consider research and lecture series (2019) and drawing and painting (2020). The new work awarded under the inaugural 'Art Jameel Commissions: Sculpture' programme will be revealed at the Jameel Arts Centre on the Dubai Creek, at its grand opening in the winter of 2018.

Art Jameel Commissions is open to artists from or based in the Middle East, North Africa and Turkey, as well as those from around the world with an interest in and familiarity with these regions. Art Jameel Commissions will be foundational to the Centre's future programming, reflecting the institution's aims to be a multidisciplinary, exploratory space. For the inaugural edition, artists are invited to respond to the concept and form of light, as well as to the building and environment of the Jameel Arts Centre, Dubai. The project encourages artists to consider the role of light in a dynamic urban setting and to reflect upon the ways in which artists and architects have embraced the medium.

Following the submission of applications by 11:59 pm (UAE) **November 21, 2017**, the international jury will select three shortlisted artists before announcing the winner in **February 2018**. The winning artist will receive a production budget of USD 70,000, as well as support from a network of architectural, engineering and technical experts. The jury includes writer and curator **Shumon Basar**; independent curator and art historian **Reem Fadda**; **James Lingwood**, Co-director, Artangel; **Elvira Dyangani Ose**, Senior Curator at Creative Time and Lecturer in Visual Cultures at Goldsmiths, University of London; and **Sheikha Hoor Al Qasimi**, President, Sharjah Art Foundation; plus representatives of Art Jameel.

Antonia Carver, Director of Art Jameel, said, "Art Jameel aims to support artists in the development of their practice and the new commissions programme allows us to do just that. With its focus on light technologies and mandate to create a truly public work, the inaugural 'Art Jameel Commissions: Sculpture' encourages artists to explore new media and reach broad audiences outside of the traditional gallery space. This programme is an exciting way for us to continue building upon Art Jameel's strong history of exhibitions, educational initiatives, institutional partnerships and community outreach and encourage artists' practices in, from and connected to the region."

Art Jameel

Art Jameel has an extensive track record of working with artists to produce and exhibit works in public spaces. In collaboration with Jeddah Municipality, for example, Art Jameel founded the open-air **Jeddah Sculpture Museum**, restoring and showcasing major sculptures in a public park on the Corniche in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia; recent new commissions include a major outdoor work by **Maha Malluh**.

One of the first not-for-profit contemporary arts institutions in Dubai, the **Jameel Arts Centre**—a 10,000-square metre, three-storey multi-disciplinary space designed by UK-based firm **Serie Architects**—will present curated exhibitions and act as a hub for educational and research initiatives. Located at the tip of Dubai's Culture Village, overlooking the Dubai Creek, the Centre includes more than 1,000 square metres of dedicated gallery space, a 300-square metre open-access research centre, flexible studio and events spaces, a café and bookshop. Until the Centre launches, Art Jameel's temporary **Project Space** in Alserkal Avenue, Dubai, hosts a dynamic programme of exhibitions, projects, talks and events. Past exhibitions have presented works by artists **Maha Maamoun**, **Hazem El Mestikawy** and **Basel Abbas and Ruanne Abou-Rahme**, among others. Research Studios embrace an experimental approach to history-making; **'Annotations - Interdisciplinary practices of the early 80s, UAE'** opens November 1.

Full details on **Art Jameel Commissions: Sculpture**, including details on eligibility criteria and processes, can be found here: <https://artjameel.org/jameel-sculpture-commission/>

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For more information visit www.artjameel.org and join the conversation on Instagram [@art_jameel](https://www.instagram.com/art_jameel) | Facebook [@art_jameel](https://www.facebook.com/art_jameel) | Twitter [@art_jameel](https://twitter.com/art_jameel) using the hashtag #artjameeldxb

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About Art Jameel

Art Jameel is a not-for-profit organisation that supports artists and creative communities. Current initiatives include running heritage institutes and restoration programmes, plus a broad range of arts and educational initiatives for all ages. The organisation's programmes foster the role of the arts in building open, connected communities; at a time of flux and dramatic societal shifts, this role is understood as more crucial than ever. Winter 2018 will mark the opening of the Jameel Arts Centre in Dubai, one of the first not-for-profit contemporary arts institutions in the city.

Art Jameel's model is collaborative: major institutional partners include the Victoria & Albert Museum, the Prince's School of Traditional Arts and the Metropolitan Museum of Art; locally, the organisation works with individuals and organisations to develop innovative programming that embraces both ancient and new technologies, and encourages entrepreneurship and the development of cultural networks.

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Art Jameel is positioned alongside Community Jameel, and complements its sister organisation's work in promoting positive social change, job creation and poverty alleviation across the Middle East, North Africa and Turkey.

www.artjameel.org

Art Jameel Commissions: Sculpture 2017-2018 Jury Biographies

Shumon Basar

Shumon Basar is a writer, curator and cultural critic. He is co-author of *The Age of Earthquakes: A Guide to the Extreme Present* with Douglas Coupland and Hans Ulrich Obrist. He is Commissioner of the Global Art Forum in Dubai, Editor-at-large of *Tank* magazine, Contributing Editor at *Bidoun* magazine, Director of the Format program at the AA School, and a member of Fondazione Prada's Thought Council.

Elvira Dyangani Ose

Elvira Dyangani Ose is Senior Curator at Creative Time, Lecturer in Visual Cultures at Goldsmiths, member of the Thought Council at the Fondazione Prada and an independent curator. She was part of the curatorial team of the Biennale de l'Image en Mouvement 2016 in Geneva, Curator of the eighth edition of the Göteborg International Biennial for Contemporary art (GIBCA 2015) and Curator of International Art at Tate Modern (2011 – 2014). Previously, Dyangani Ose served as Curator at the Centro Atlántico de Arte Moderno and the Centro Andaluz de Arte Contemporáneo, as Artistic Director of Rencontres Picha, Lubumbashi Biennial (2013), and as Guest Curator of the triennial SUD, Salon Urbain de Douala (2010). She has curated, among others, the retrospective exhibition 'Carrie Mae Weems: Social Studies' (2010) and the interdisciplinary project 'Across the Board' (2012–2014). Dyangani Ose has contributed to art journals such as *Nka* and *Atlántica* and has served as guest editor of *Caderno Sesc_Videobrasil 10*.

Reem Fadda

Reem Fadda is an independent curator and art historian. From 2010 to 2016, Fadda worked at the Guggenheim Museum as Associate Curator, Middle Eastern Art, Abu Dhabi Project. From 2005 to 2007, Fadda was Director of the Palestinian Association for Contemporary Art (PACA), Ramallah and served as Academic Director for the International Academy of Art Palestine, Ramallah, which she helped found in 2006. She has curated many international exhibitions and biennials, including 'Jerusalem Lives (Tahya Al Quds)', The Palestinian Museum, Birzeit (2017); 'Not New Now', 6th Marrakech Biennale (2016); and the United Arab Emirates National Pavilion, 55th Venice Biennale (2013). She is also a guest curator of Sharjah Biennial 13 Act II in Beirut co-organised by Sharjah Art Foundation and Ashkal Alwan. Fadda was awarded the eighth Walter Hopps Award for Curatorial Achievement in 2017, and she received a Fulbright scholarship to pursue her PhD in the Department of History of Art and Visual Studies, Cornell University in 2008. She is based between Amman and Ramallah.

James Lingwood

James Lingwood is, together with Michael Morris, Co-Director of Artangel. Ground-breaking works produced by Artangel over the past 25 years include Rachel Whiteread's *House* (1993), Ilya and Emilia Kabakov's *The Palace of Projects* (1998), Jeremy Deller's *The Battle of Orgreave* (2001), Steve McQueen's *Caribs' Leap/Western Deep* (2002), Francis Alys's *Seven Walks* (2005), Roni Horn's *Library of Water* (2007), Mike Kelley's *Mobile Homestead* (2010), Cristina Iglesias's *Tres Aguas* (2014), Ryoji Ikeda's *spectra* (2014) and *Inside: Artists and writers in Reading Prison* (2016). He has curated numerous exhibitions for museums around the world.

Art Jameel

including surveys of the work of Vija Celmins, Luigi Ghirri, Douglas Gordon, Susan Hiller, Juan Munoz, Thomas Schutte, Robert Smithson and Thomas Struth.

Hoor Al Qasimi

President and Director of Sharjah Art Foundation, Hoor Al Qasimi was curator of Sharjah Biennial 6. Recent curatorial projects include *Hassan Sharif: I Am The Single Work Artist*, *Yayoi Kusama: Dot Obsessions*, *Farideh Lashai*, and *1980-Today* (UAE Pavilion, Venice Biennale). She is President of the International Biennial Association and serves on Boards including MoMA PS1, Darat al Funun and KW Berlin. Scholar-in-Residence at Cornell University, she served on numerous juries including the Maria Lassnig Prize (2017), Hepworth Wakefiled (2016) and the Benesse Prize (2013).

Fady Jameel

Fady Mohammed Jameel is President of Art Jameel. His passion and appreciation for art has led him to create a number of successful art collaborations and partnerships, including the Jameel Prize and Jameel Gallery at the V&A, London, as well as an institutional partnership with the Met, New York. He is a member of the Director's Council of the Dia Art Foundation, New York, and the council at the Centre Pompidou, Paris. He is also President of Community Jameel International, Art Jameel's sister organisation, which is dedicated to sustainable social and economic enterprise across the MENAT region through a wide range of programmes, including job creation, education, and health and social initiatives.

Antonia Carver

Antonia Carver is Director of Art Jameel. Previously Director of Art Dubai (2010-2016), she led its development into the leading international fair for the Middle East and South Asia. Based in the UAE since 2001, Carver has written extensively on Middle Eastern art and film. In 2004, she joined *Bidoun* as an editor and later became the director of the organisation's projects division. Carver has also served strategy and programming roles at the Dubai and Edinburgh international film festivals, the Institute of International Visual Arts, and Phaidon.