

British Council hosts Art Jameel Alumni Traditional Arts and Crafts Exhibition in Egypt

Cairo, Egypt– January 27, 2016

Art Jameel, one of Community Jameel's Initiatives, organized the first alumni exhibition of the Art Jameel Program for Traditional Arts and Crafts hosted by the British Council in Cairo, Egypt. A total number of 110 pieces of woodwork, ceramic and jewelry were exhibited by fourteen alumni, and 28 pieces were sold during the course of the exhibition.

Established in 2009 by the Prince's School of Traditional Arts (PSTA), in partnership with Art Jameel and in collaboration with Egypt's Ministry of Culture, the program aims to train Egyptian youth on traditional arts and crafts and seeks to help provide job opportunities for graduates.

Through the program, students learn how to make artworks and master handicrafts using modern technology. The curriculum includes lessons in geometry, floral decorative patterns, observational drawing, and color studies. Students also train on handicrafts such as woodworks, ceramics, gypsum and stained glass, copper artwork, and others.

Commenting on the exhibition and the program, Renata Papsch, General Manager of Art Jameel International, said, "We are grateful to the British Council for hosting this event and for expressing their willingness to host the exhibition annually. This year we were able to showcase the work of a very talented group of artists who demonstrated particular originality and skill in their woodwork, ceramics and jewelry, and we look forward to continuing to promote traditional arts, to preserve and promote the Arabic and Islamic culture and heritage of the region, and to invest in the program's young talents through providing them with training and mentorship".

Also commenting on the success of the program, Dr Mamdouh Sakr, Cairo Program Manager, The Prince's School of Traditional Arts said, "I'd like to thank Art Jameel for giving us an opportunity to teach the language and practice of traditional arts and raise awareness of the richness and diversity of our cultural heritage. Special thanks goes to all our teachers who keep inspiring our students through their teaching and artworks. At this stage, I am grateful for everyone who was part of this educational programme, and I look forward to more success."

Launched 5 years ago, the program has graduated over 50 students, some of whom joined teaching positions and others who pursued their small furniture projects and innovative artwork. Having enjoyed great success, Art Jameel pledges to not only continue the program but also to offer additional business workshops and outreach events for the students.

Ends

Art Jameel

Art Jameel, one of Community Jameel's Initiatives, fosters and promotes contemporary art and creative entrepreneurship across the MENAT region. In partnership with arts organizations worldwide, Art Jameel is developing two arts centres and cultural exchange programmes to encourage networking and knowledge sharing.

Art Jameel is the founding partner of Edge of Arabia, The Crossway Foundation, Jeddah Art Week, and The Archive. In partnership with the Victoria and Albert Museum in London, it awards the biannual Jameel Prize for contemporary art and design inspired by Islamic traditions. Additional projects include: Art Jameel Photography Award; Jeddah Sculpture Museum, a public park established in collaboration with Jeddah Municipality; Jameel Arts Education at schools; the House of Traditional Arts in Jeddah and the Art Jameel Programme for Traditional Arts and Crafts in Fustat, Cairo, both developed in partnership with the Prince's School of Traditional Arts in London.

Community Jameel was established in 2003 to promote positive social change, and has been undertaking this through the establishment of long-term partnerships with international institutions, and the creation of initiatives in the fields of Job Creation, Global Poverty Alleviation, Arts & Culture, Education & Training, Health & Social, and Food & Water Security. More information on Community Jameel's considerable set of initiatives can be found online at www.cjameel.org.

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