

For Immediate Release

Alumni of the Jameel House of Traditional Arts / Cairo stage major exhibition and fair for artisanal works



Cairo, Egypt | November 26, 2017 – Art Jameel is organising the third exhibition to display works by alumni from the Jameel House of Traditional Arts / Cairo programme. Taking place at the *maq'ad* of Sultan al-Ashraf Qaitbey (MASQ), a restored part of the magnificent Mamluk palace complex in Cairo's medieval 'City of the Dead' operated by the Sultan Foundation in cooperation with the Historic Cairo project of the Ministry of Antiquities, the exhibition will run from December 9 to 13, 2017, with an opening on December 8. It will feature more than 120 artworks in ceramic, woodwork and metalwork, handmade by seventeen artisans, all graduates of the Jameel House of Traditional Arts / Cairo. As well as the exhibition, pieces by the alumni will also be on sale in a fair outside the venue, in the bustling heart of a neighbourhood known for traditional arts and artisanal crafts.

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“ Jameel House of Traditional Arts / Cairo 2nd alumni exhibition, January 2017 at the british council”

“We are looking forward to a stellar display of talent by the Jameel House of Traditional Arts / Cairo alumni this year, making for a truly engaging exhibition, where heritage and contemporary design intersect,” said Antonia Carver, Art Jameel’s director. “In line with Art Jameel’s focus on preserving cultural heritage, including traditional arts in Egypt, the Jameel House of Traditional Arts / Cairo programme develops students’ abilities to apply the foundational skills they learn during the programme to contemporary design and the restoration of monuments.”

The annual alumni exhibition provides an opportunity for former students of the programme to exhibit artworks completed since graduation, and for art-lovers to acquire the valuable pieces that are for sale. The first two annual alumni exhibitions held at the British Council were a great success, with more than 100 pieces of woodwork, ceramics, and jewellery displayed by more than 15 artists.

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One of the graduation projects of this year's Jameel House of Traditional Arts / Cairo students.

In addition to this annual exhibition, Art Jameel supports the alumni through different programmes, including business courses and a dynamic alumni club. This summer, the alumni led children's workshops in geometry, pottery and wire-shaping in the Al-Khalifa neighbourhood of Old Cairo, as part of collaboration with the Megawra – Built Environment Collective.

The Prince's School – together with Art Jameel and the Cultural Development Fund of Egypt – jointly opened the Jameel House of Traditional Arts / Cairo in 2009, where students enrol in a two-year programme to study the traditional arts. Students graduate from the programme with a deep understanding of both the principles and practical application of the traditional arts, furthering opportunities for careers in the arts, heritage conservation, architectural preservation and the creative industries.

Through the programme, students learn how to make artworks and master handicrafts using modern technology. The curriculum includes lessons in geometry, floral decorative patterns,

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observational drawing, and colour studies. Students also train on handicrafts such as woodworks, ceramics, gypsum and stained glass, copper artwork, and others.

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For more information visit www.artjameel.org and join the conversation on Instagram [@art_jameel](#) [@jhtacairo](#) Facebook [Art Jameel, Jameel House of Traditional Arts / Cairo](#) Twitter [@Art_Jameel](#)

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The Jameel House of Traditional Arts / Cairo (JHTA/C)

Launched in 2009 by Art Jameel, the Prince's School of Traditional Arts and the Cultural Development Fund of Egypt, the Jameel House of Traditional Arts / Cairo is a major educational institute teaching young Egyptians classes in traditional Islamic geometry, drawing, colour harmony and arabesque studies, as well as specialised training in ceramics, glass and gypsum, metalwork and woodwork. At JHTA/C, students are taught a two-year diploma programme, developed and delivered by the Prince's School, according to the same principles and standards as the postgraduate courses of the original London school. Located in the heart of the historic district of Old Cairo, at the Fustat Centre for Traditional Arts and Crafts, the JHTA/C programme focuses on the preservation of local cultural heritage, including through field trips to major monuments and practical design and make projects. JHTA/C also supports graduates seeking employment or to establish businesses in the traditional arts. Around 20 students graduate each year and join the many alumni who connect through the programme's alumni club and participate in the annual alumni exhibition.

The Prince's School of Traditional Arts (PSTA)

The Prince's School of Traditional Arts is part of a group of charities which reflect HRH the Prince of Wales's profound interest in some of the most relevant and pressing challenges facing the world we live in today. The Prince's School has pioneered practical post-graduate degrees at Masters and Doctoral level in the traditional arts of the great civilizations of the world. The School teaches the importance of integrating the theoretical study of the traditional arts with their practical application. One of the School's main objectives is to encourage an awareness of the holistic nature of the traditional artist, whose inspiration derives from the highest sources and whose skill and dedication creates masterpieces which we can all recognise as part of our world heritage. The School's postgraduate programme based on the practice and research of the traditional arts has expanded to include the Open Programme, extending our teaching to a wider community; the Harmony Schools Programme, presenting

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an integrated view of the world to younger audiences; and an Outreach Programme active in more than twenty countries across five continents.

www.psta.org.uk

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Art Jameel 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.

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.

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

Maq'ad of Sultan al-Ashraf Qaitbey

The recently-restored maq'ad of Sultan al-Ashraf Qaitbey is located in the "City of the Dead" in Cairo, in the historic Eastern Cemetery known as the Desert of the Mamluks. It is the only surviving part of a palace that the Sultan built in 1474 as part of the vast complex that he constructed in the cemetery around his mausoleum. The sultan was a great patron of architecture, and the Mamluk style indigenous to Cairo reached its zenith under his rule. The buildings of his "royal suburb" in the Desert of the Mamluks are of exceptional quality even by the high standards of Cairo's heritage- In 2015 – 2016, with the European Union's funding and in collaboration with the Historic Cairo Project of the Ministry of Antiquities, the Cairo-based ARCHiNOS Architecture carried out the conservation of the maq'ad with the purpose of turning it into a place of art and culture serving the local community and the broader public. The MASQ – Maq'ad of Sultan Qaitbey cultural hub is now operated by the especially established Sultan Foundation. It includes exhibitions, lectures, performances, training workshops, arts and crafts fairs, and residencies of visiting contemporary artists among its activities.