For Immediate Release

**Art Jameel launches interactive studio devoted to the dynamic cultural scene of the early 1980s UAE**

* **‘Interdisciplinary practices of the early 80s, UAE’ opens November 1 at Project Space Art Jameel and highlights the collaborative spirit between artists, writers, poets and playwrights**
* **Public programming runs through to December 21, and features talks, workshops and poetry nights**
* **The Research Studio includes videos, interviews, documents, clippings, music and more, illustrating the cultural dynamism of the time**
* **The initiative builds on Art Jameel’s collaboration with the National Pavilion of the UAE at the 2017 Venice Biennale**

**Opening: November 1, 7-9pm
November 2 - December 21, 2017**

**Dubai, United Arab Emirates | October 31, 2017 –** Art Jameel announced today its latest Research Studio at Project Space Art Jameel, Alserkal Avenue, Dubai, opening on November 1, 2017. Running through until December 21, the Studio focusses on the dynamic period of the early 1980s in the UAE and, in particular, on the collaborative, multidisciplinary stance taken by artists, poets, playwrights, theatre directors and writers at that time.

The initiative is part of a series, titled ‘Annotations’, which takes an experimental approach to presenting research and work-in-progress, and is indicative of the direction of the Research Library at the Jameel Arts Centre, Dubai, opening in winter 2018.

‘Interdisciplinary practices of the early 80s, UAE’ follows Art Jameel’s collaboration with ‘Rock, Paper, Scissors: Positions in Play’, the National Pavilion United Arab Emirates 2017 exhibition curated by **Hammad Naser** at la Biennale di Venezia (Venice Biennale), and takes as inspiration an interview with the poet **Khalid Albudoor** and artist **Nujoom Alghanem**, titled “A Dialogue between Rhythm and Form”, published in the exhibition’s accompanying book.

This conversation, and the Studio itself, reflects on the ways in which protagonists in the cultural scene in the early 1980s in the UAE collaborated in bold and dynamic ways. The Research Studio’s premise is to actively engage with material that documents the UAE’s cultural histories: Project Space Art Jameel is transformed into an interactive laboratory, featuring annotated interviews, newspaper and magazine clippings, a library of rare books and journals, exhibition materials, videos and music. The process of annotating is ongoing for the duration of the Studio; conversations and public programmes are designed to highlight and add further materials and circles of influences.

‘Interdisciplinary practices of the early 80s, UAE’ references the works of **Khalid Albudoor**, **Nujoom Alghanem**, **Yousif Khalil**, **Hamda Khamis**, **Thabiya Khamis**, **Hassan Sharif**, **Ahmed Rashid Thani**, **Dr. Mohamed Yousif**, among many other artists, poets, playwrights and writers of the early 1980s United Arab Emirates.

Public programming runs throughout the Studio, and features poetry nights, tours, talks and workshops, including:

* **November 22**: Emirati poet, writer and journalist **Adel Khozam** in conversation with **Bana Kattan**, Exhibitions Curator at NYUAD Art Gallery
* **December 19**: Ethnomusicologist **Dr. Aisha Bilkhair**, Research Advisor at the UAE National Archives, in conversation with artist **Hind Mezaina**

All events are free; all welcome.

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**For more information visit** [www.artjameel.org](http://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-891861424222667/) **| Twitter** [@Art\_Jameel](https://twitter.com/art_jameel)

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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.

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](http://www.artjameel.org)