**Art Jameel and Jeddah Municipality Introduce to Jeddah Corniche ‘Food for Thought’**

* For the first time, a sculpture by a female artist from Saudi Arabia installed in Saudi Arabia

**JEDDAH, Saudi Arabia –** 20 **March, 2016**

As part of the Jeddah Sculpture Museum initiative along Jeddah Corniche, Art Jameel in partnership with Jeddah Municipality, has installed artist Maha Mallouh’s sculpture, entitled ‘Food for Thought’. This is the first time a sculpture by a female artist from the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia will be welcomed and installed in Jeddah.

The Jeddah Sculpture Museum initiative is an ongoing project involving the restoration of a number of sculptures situated along Jeddah’s Central Corniche. 20 of the sculptures were placed in the new Jeddah Sculptures Museum, which is located north of Al Anani Mosque and was inaugurated in March 2014 by His Royal Highness Prince Mishaal Bin Abdullah, Prince of the Holy City of Mecca.

Maha Mallouh’s ‘Food for Thought’ sculpture was installed in the middle of the Corniche, next to the Al Anani Mosque. Maha Mallouh’s work reflects her interest in the impact of globalisation on the Arab region, and the shift from the traditionally proud oral culture of the Arabs to an increasingly visual culture. Her ‘Food for Thought’ work attempts to create a platform where both oral and visual culture are brought together and celebrated.

“In my works, I explore our materialistic culture and its relation to national and individual identities. I’m so proud that my work, ‘Food for Thought’, ‘Abraj’, is the first sculpture made by a Saudi artist in my city of birth, Jeddah, as part of Art Jameel’s sculptures project. This project sets an excellent example of modernism in art for the city of Jeddah,” Maha explained.

For the sculpture, aluminum posts are created from pieces used historically as cooking vessels in Bedouin tents, Arab homes and restaurants, collected from flea markets around Saudi Arabia. Capturing this visual history also reflects an oral history, where coming together to cook and share food also brings with it the telling of stories, histories, anecdotes and tales. The pots therefore celebrate Arab history and the tradition of Arab hospitality, as they exist as a visual testimony of personal histories.

Dalya Mousa, Art Jameel Programme Manager said, “We are delighted to see the first sculpture by a Saudi female artist being installed as part of our ambitious sculptures initiative. The project is a celebration of sculpture, young and old, traditional, modern and conceptual, from around the

world, ‘Food for Thought’ will sit proudly on the Corniche as a reminder of a rich Arab history and culture and the way it has been, and continues to be, shaped by the modern world.”

The Jeddah Sculpture Museum initiative began in 2011, when Art Jameel Jameel and Jeddah Municipality came together to build the Jeddah Sculpture Museum, the first open-air sculptures museum in Jeddah and one of the largest open-air museums in the world, and to restore a number of sculptures originally in place around Jeddah Corniche. The second phase of the project, restoring two the most famous and historic sculptures in Jeddah, is currently underway - ‘The Fist’ by one of the world’s renowned French artists, César Baldaccini and ‘The Verse’ by Spanish artist Julio Lafuente. Restoration of ‘The Verse’ is currently ongoing.

-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](http://www.cjameel.org).

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