

ART JAMEEL EASES AIRPORT WAITS
Medina latest venue for *Connected: Art in Airports*

JEDDAH, Saudi Arabia – July 27, 2016

People using Prince Mohammed Bin Abdulaziz International Airport in Medina, Saudi Arabia, are enjoying an art exhibition while waiting to connect with their flights or greet arriving passengers.

Connected: Art in Airports is presented by Art Jameel – a Community Jameel initiative – under the theme of ‘Our Mothers’ House’ and celebrates the centuries-old tradition of house-painting by skilled female artisans from the Asir region of southern Saudi Arabia.

The fourth in a series of exhibitions at airports – previous venues were Jeddah, Riyadh, and Dammam – it is organised in collaboration with the General Authority of Civil Aviation and the Saudi Art Association and runs until August 1.

Senior airport management made an official visit to the exhibition on Tuesday (July 26): Mohamed Al Fadel, director, Prince Mohammad bin Abdulaziz International Airport; Ahmed El Sharqawi, deputy general manager, TIBAH Airports Operation Company; Akram Ayara, technical director, TIBAH; Deniz Varol, operations director; and Alaa Jabarty, operations duty manager.

They saw murals designed and painted by the women of Asir, in addition to an artwork by Taha Al Sabban. The murals express the long and intimate relationship between people and their natural environment. They tell the stories of family, culture, environment, rituals, and agricultural. They are an important part of the cultural and natural heritage of Asir.

Our Mother’s House was first launched by Art Jameel at the United Nations in 2015. It highlights the importance of the region and of cultural heritage protection, while promoting job creation and the representation of women in Saudi Arabia and the Middle East.

Program advisers include three Saudi artists: Arwa Alnaemi, whose work often explores the relationship of women to larger Saudi Society; Ahmed Mater, best known for his explorations of the Islamic culture and trends of consumerism and transformation in the region; and Fatimah Jaber, an Asiri house painter and founder of Fatimah Museum in Abha. Additional support is provided by Ali Moghawi, an Asiri cultural historian and member of the Rijal Alma UNESCO World Heritage Bid.

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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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