

Art Jameel

‘Traditional and Digital Artisans Meet’: Factum Arte collaborate with Art Jameel to present their first public talk and Research Studio exhibition in the UAE

**Project Space Art Jameel
April 13–20, 2017**

Art Jameel’s first Research Studio at its new Project Space in Dubai is devoted to the renowned Madrid-based foundry Factum Arte and its non-profit sister organisation, the Factum Foundation for Digital Technology in Conservation.

In February this year, the *Guardian* lauded Factum Arte’s work as “the most important thing happening in 21st-century art – because it can quite literally save civilisation”.

Describing themselves as ‘digital mediators’, the Factum Foundation’s technologists, archaeologists and artists have become known for their work in scanning, documenting, preserving and replicating architectural heritage and ancient objects. Milestones have included creating an exact facsimile of Tutankhamun’s tomb through to, most recently, scanning and reproducing an exact replica of a 3,500-year-old statue Idrimi, in the collection of the British Museum (and previously too fragile to leave the museum on tour).

The Factum studio is also highly admired for its role in working with contemporary artists – including Anish Kapoor, Mark Quinn, Rashid Koraichi, Louise Bourgeois and Abdunasser Gharem – to produce the most complex of artworks.

The founders of Factum Arte, **Adam Lowe** and **James Macmillan-Scott**, deliver their first public talk in the UAE on **Thursday April 13, 6pm**, at **Project Space Art Jameel, Alserkal Avenue**, Dubai. This event is free and open to all (registration: info@artjameel.org).

Meanwhile, Factum Arte’s previous work and ongoing concerns are reflected in a **Research Studio** – a work-in-progress-style informational exhibition – which runs through until April 20, also at Project Space Art Jameel, Alserkal Avenue. (Opening hours, 10am-7pm, Saturday-Thursday, with Sunday by appointment only; free and open to all.)

Art Jameel’s presentation of Factum Arte in Dubai also includes a series of **roundtable discussions** with members of the local arts and heritage communities, focusing on specific points of debate in those areas – and the potential for a centre for technology and production in the UAE.

Working with Art Jameel, members of the Factum Foundation team have spent the past few weeks in Al-Balad, Jeddah, scanning and documenting the architectural treasures in the old city, many of which are in need of urgent renovation.

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About Art Jameel

Art Jameel is a non-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.

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.

www.artjameel.org