

*For Immediate Release*

## **Saudi Art Council highlights work of Jameel House of Traditional Arts / Jeddah alumni to restore famous house in Jeddah Historic District**

- Alumni of the heritage centre restored a roshan window from one of Jeddah's grandest historic houses using the traditional mangour woodworking technique
- The reworked window is planned to be integrated into the restoration of the building
- Art Jameel and the Saudi Art Council presented the work to a high-level delegation of international arts leaders as part of the Al Obour arts fair programme



**Jeddah, Saudi Arabia | February 8, 2019** – Art Jameel, an organisation that supports heritage, education and the arts, collaborated with the Saudi Art Council (SAC) to present work by alumni of the Jameel House of Traditional Arts / Jeddah to restore a traditional roshan window in one of Jeddah's grandest tower-houses to a distinguished group of local and international artists, curators and gallerists on February 8, 2019, as part of the annual contemporary arts fair in Jeddah organised by SAC and now in its sixth edition.

The roshan, or wooden lattice window, is the product of painstaking research and intensive work by alumni of the Jameel House of Traditional Arts / Jeddah and displays the highest levels of craftsmanship in mangour, a style of jointless interlocking woodworking that was once widespread in Jeddah but had become scarcely practised until a programme of revival at the Jameel House of Traditional Arts / Jeddah.



The roshan will be incorporated into the restoration of the Jamjoom House, one of the grandest coral-stone houses in Jeddah. The Ministry of Culture is leading a programme of reinforcement of many of the traditional houses in Jeddah Historic District, or Al-Balad, which UNESCO inscribed in its List of World Heritage in 2014.

This project marks a significant contribution to the restoration of Al-Balad by the Jameel House of Traditional Arts / Jeddah, a centre for craftsmanship, architectural discourse and heritage preservation that was established in 2015 by Art Jameel, in collaboration with the Saudi Arabian Society for Culture and the Arts, and with an intensive one-year craft and design programme designed and delivered by the Prince's Foundation School of Traditional Arts.

2019 is an important year for the centre, with expansion to a new, second location in Jeddah Historic District with more manufacturing capacity; the opening of a design studio in the original building that will give selected alumni hands-on experience of market-facing product design; and the opening of a traditional arts library and a shop for products designed by alumni and other craft designers.

The window and a small presentation on the craft of mangour will remain temporarily on display at the Jameel House of Traditional Arts / Jeddah until the window is installed into the Jamjoom House. The display is free and open to the public on weekdays, between 10am and 3pm.

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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), [@jhtajeddah](https://www.instagram.com/jhtajeddah), [@hta\\_albalad](https://www.instagram.com/hta_albalad) | Facebook [Art Jameel](https://www.facebook.com/ArtJameel) | Twitter [@art\\_jameel](https://twitter.com/art_jameel)

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#### **About Art Jameel**

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.

[Jameel Arts Centre](#), an innovative contemporary institution in Dubai, UAE, opened on November 11, 2018; [Hayy: Creative Hub](#), a major complex for the creative industries in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, is set to launch in 2020.

Art Jameel's model is collaborative: major institutional partners include [Delfina Foundation](#), [the Metropolitan Museum of Art](#), the [Prince's Foundation School of Traditional Arts](#) and [the Victoria and Albert Museum](#). 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.



#### **About the Prince's Foundation | School of Traditional Arts**

The Prince's Foundation | 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 Foundation | School has pioneered practical post-graduate degrees at Master's 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 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/](http://www.psta.org.uk/)