

*For Immediate Release*

## **Jameel Arts Centre, Dubai, announces extensive Spring-Summer 2019 series of new exhibitions and public programmes**

- **Upcoming highlights include new and continuing exhibitions and installations, film screenings, workshops, artists' talks and performances**
- **A symposium designed to complement the critically-acclaimed exhibition 'Crude' marks the exhibition's closing day on March 30**
- **Library Circles, a new monthly research, exhibition and talks programme focussing on UAE-based artists, launches this March with a spotlight on Rand Abdul Jabbar**
- **The Jameel Prize 5 exhibition – featuring works by Kamrooz Aram, Hayv Kahraman, Hala Kaiksow, Mehdi Moutashar, naqsh collective, Younes Rahmoun, Marina Tabassum and Wardha Shabbir – tours from the V&A, London, to Jameel Arts Centre (April 25-September 14)**
- **The Jameel Youth Assembly occupies the Centre on April 26 with a day-long festival of new commissions, digital works, happenings, talks, performances and workshops by more than 20 practitioners**
- ***Composition for a Public Park*, a major, multi-lingual sound work by artist Hassan Khan takes over Jaddaf Waterfront Sculpture Park from October 2019 to May 2020**

**Dubai, United Arab Emirates | March 6, 2019 - [Jameel Arts Centre](#)**, one of the first major contemporary arts institutions in Dubai, today announces further details of its Spring-Summer 2019 programming, including: new exhibitions and installations, a symposium, film screenings, workshops, artists' talks, performances, reading groups, and a Centre-wide takeover by the inaugural Youth Assembly. Since the Jameel Arts Centre first opened to acclaim in November 2018, it has received active engagement from diverse communities across the UAE as well as regional and international artists, curators and cultural tourists.

### **Crude Symposium**

'**Crude**', the critically-lauded exhibition featuring 17 artists and collectives, curated by Murtaza Vali, and exploring oil as an agent of social, cultural and economic transformation across the Middle East, continues through March 30. To mark the exhibition's closing weekend, Jameel Arts Centre convenes an international symposium exploring key themes in the exhibition — the social, cultural and ecological histories and impacts of oil — through a series of talks, films and panel discussions. Participants include artists **Shirin Sabahi** and **Ala Younis**, historians **Amanda Boetzkes** and **Nelida Fuccaro**, writer **Graeme Macdonald** and curator **Cuauhtemoc Medina**, among others. Attendance is free; given limited capacity, participants are advised to register.

### Exhibitions

Following the closing of 'Crude', April 25 marks the opening of the **Jameel Prize 5** exhibition, on tour from the Victoria & Albert Museum, London, who organise the Prize in collaboration with Art Jameel. The Jameel Prize is awarded biennially to artists and designers inspired by Islamic design and visual culture. In addition to 2018 joint prize winners Iraqi artist **Mehdi Moutashar** and Bangladeshi architect **Marina Tabassum**, the exhibition presents works by Iranian artist **Kamrooz Aram**; Iraqi-born painter **Hayv Kahraman**; Bahraini fashion designer **Hala Kaiksow**; Jordan and Dubai-based graphic designer and architect duo **naqsh collective**; Moroccan multimedia artist **Younes Rahmoun**; and Pakistani painter **Wardha Shabbir**.

Meanwhile, three newly opened shows by **Hemali Bhuta**, **Farah Al Qasimi** and **Seher Shah** and **Randhir Singh**, run through until June 8, 2019. Drawn largely from the Art Jameel Collection, Artist's Rooms is a series of solo exhibitions by influential, innovative artists with a particular focus on practitioners from the Middle East, Asia and Africa. These capsule shows are collaborative and curated in dialogue with the artists.

Japanese artist **Chiharu Shiota's** commissioned, site-specific installation was originally set to end in May; following numerous requests from the public, this highly popular Artist's Room has been extended through September 7, 2019.

### Film and video

The Jameel's specialist film space, **Gallery 9** features *Sunstone* (2018) by **Louis Henderson** and **Filipa Cesar** in March. The film takes the history of the Fresnel lens to map a technological trajectory of optics, from singular projection to multi-perspectival satellitic visions. Registering these technical advances progressively through the film's materials and means of production, *Sunstone* creates "a cinema of affect, a cinema of experience - an Op-Film".

Expanding on themes related to 'Crude', a film series curated by **Murtaza Vali** and **Mona Damluji** will be on view continuously from March 24 to April 7. The selection of artists' films, documentaries and feature films explores the history of oil, from company films to historical archives, as well as oil's contemporary material and social affects.

### Artists' Talks and Workshops

Throughout the spring and summer, a series of artist-led presentations will explore highlights of the Jameel's programming. This includes New York- and Dubai-based artist **Farah Al Qasimi** in discussion with writer, editor and curator **Shumon Basar**; an Arabic-language discussion of Kuwaiti artist **Ibrahim Ismail's** career with Barjeel Foundation founder, UAE-columnist and researcher **Sultan Sooud Al Qassemi**; and a profile of Mumbai-based artist **Ranjit Kandalgaonkar**, who recently participated in Sri Lanka's Colomboscope.

Talks and tours continue through **Ramadan** in May with special late-night programming on Tuesdays and Fridays (9.30pm-midnight); details to be announced shortly.

### **Youth Assembly Takeover**

The inaugural Jameel **Youth Assembly** has been meeting since October 2018, debating ideas and devising their own programming. On April 26, they take over the Jameel, with a 'festival-style' public event featuring new installations, digital works, films, performances, discussions and music by 20 emerging UAE-based artists. The programme is wholly curated and commissioned by the nine Youth Assembly members: **Shaikha Al Ketbi, Salwa Al Khudairi, Abdulghanni Al Nahawi, Hassan Adebayo Bello, Sara Bin Safwan, Jenan Ismail, Arpana Murugappan, Dina Tawil, and Ray Yafi.**

### **Jaddaf Waterfront Sculpture Park**

The Jaddaf Waterfront Sculpture Park, adjacent to the Jameel and developed in partnership with Dubai Holding as the UAE's first arts-themed park, will be the site of several programmes throughout the coming months. April's **Performance in the Park** series includes a night led by **Backyard Poetry** co-founders **Qutouf Yahia** and **Safwa Hashim**, with new poems themed around migration, inspired by Chiharu Shiota's Artist's Room, plus performances of an Urdu-language theatre production by **Qissa-Go** featuring original music and live *qawwali*.

New sculptural works for spring in the Park include the 38 elements of *Desert Cast*, created using traditional foam cutting and sand casting processes by Kuwait-based designers **Ricardas Blazukas, Kawther Al Saffar** and **Jassim Al Nashmi.**

Over the summer, the grounds will be prepared for a major installation by **Hassan Khan, *Composition for a Public Park***, from the Art Jameel Collection. The installation was previously shown at the 57<sup>th</sup> Venice Biennial, where it won the Silver Lion; this edition of Khan's multi-channel work includes his original composition plus spoken libretto recorded by Arabic-, Urdu- and English-speaking actors. Opening October 8, 2019, and running through June 8, 2020, the work unfolds in three movements and will be freely accessible for all to experience, day and night.

### **Art Jameel Library and Educational Programming**

March sees the launch of a new programme, **Library Circles**, which invites UAE-based practitioners to present research and works via public presentations and an experimental exhibition format in the Jameel and its library. The first presentation is by artist **Rand Abdul Jabbar**, followed by other artists each month through 2019.

The Jameel's public programme also includes **children's and family workshops**, curator-led tours, reading groups and discussions. More than 600 students and 50 teachers have participated in workshops to date; at the weekends, the programme includes additional, highly popular artist-led workshops geared towards families and teens.

The next iteration of the Jameel's public Reading Groups run April - August 2019. Led in English and Arabic by local professionals working from the Jameel Library collection, this season's focus is on experiences of living and working in the GCC.

### **Installations and Commissions**

Other, major site-specific installations include *Green house: Interior yet Exterior, Manmade yet Natural* by **Shaikha Al Mazrou**; *Blue Velvet*, an interactive work by **Lara Favaretto**; and *Contrary Life: A Botanical Light Garden Devoted to Trees*, created by Kuwait-based artists **Alia Farid** and **Aseel AlYaqoub** via the first edition of Art Jameel Commissions.

**Art Jameel Commissions** is an annual programme anchored at Jameel Arts Centre that runs in a 3-year cycle, focusing on sculpture (2018); arts writing and research (2019); and drawing and painting (2020). In February, Art Jameel [announced](#) that **Nadia Christidi**, a Syrian, Palestinian, and Greek researcher and writer has been awarded Art Jameel Commissions: Arts Writing and Research for a project focused on climate change, disaster capitalism, global competitiveness for climate change solutions, and the manufacture of futures through culture and design. The Call to Artists for **Art Jameel Commissions: Drawing and Painting** will be announced in the coming months.

Entrance to Jameel Arts Centre is free and open to all, Saturday through Thursday from 10:00am to 8:00pm and Friday from 12:00pm to 10:00pm. Ramadan hours will be 10am-4pm daily, with late nights on Tuesdays and Fridays (9.30pm-12am).

### ***Select spring-summer 2019 schedule includes:***

- March 3-23 – Film Screening: *Sunstone* by Filipa Cesar and Louis Henderson**
- March 9 – Children's Tour and Workshop led by Nahla Al Tabbaa**
- March 13 – Conversations on Practice: Farah Al Qasimi with Shumon Basar**
- March 15 – Conversations on Practice: Ibrahim Ismail with Sultan Sooud Al Qassemi**
- March 24-April 7 – 'Crude' film programme curated by Murtaza Vali and Mona Damluji**
- March 29 – Poetry and Spoken Word Workshop**
- March 30 – 'Crude' Symposium; final day of the exhibition**
- April 13 – Performance in the Park: Poetry Night**
- April 16 – Conversations on Practice: UAE Unlimited artists' panel**
- April 17 – Library Circles talk: Rand Abdul Jabbar**
- April 20 – Drawing workshop with UAE Unlimited artist Zara Mahmood**
- April 20 – Performance in the Park: theatre with Qissa-Go**
- April 25 – September 14 – Jameel Prize 5 exhibition**
- April 26 – Centre-wide takeover by inaugural Art Jameel Youth Assembly**



April 27 – Teen’s tour and workshop led by Nahla Al Tabbaa

Summer 2019 – Call to Artists for Art Jameel Commissions: Drawing and Painting (2020)

Fall 2019 – Opening of *Composition for a Public Park* by Hassan Khan

Ongoing Exhibitions include:

March 7-June 8 – Artist’s Rooms: Seher Shah and Randhir Singh

March 7-June 8 – Artist’s Rooms: Hemali Bhuta

March 7-June 8 – Artist’s Rooms: Farah Al Qasimi

Now through March 30 – Exhibition: ‘Crude’, curated by Murtaza Vali

Now through September 7 – Artist’s Rooms: Chiharu Shiota

Now through September 1 – Commission: *Contrary Life* by Alia Farid and Aseel AlYaqoub

Now through September 1 – Artist’s Garden: Shaikha Al Mazrou

END

For more information visit [www.artjameel.org](http://www.artjameel.org) and [jameelartscentre.org](http://jameelartscentre.org) and join the conversation:

Jameel Arts Centre: Instagram @jameelartscentre | Facebook @jameelartscentre | Twitter @jameelartsctr

Art Jameel: Instagram [@art\\_jameel](https://www.instagram.com/art_jameel) | Facebook [Art Jameel](https://www.facebook.com/ArtJameel) | Twitter [@Art\\_Jameel](https://twitter.com/Art_Jameel) using the hashtag #artjameeldxb

#### Press Enquiries

Katrina Weber Ashour

[katrina@krwaconsulting.com](mailto:katrina@krwaconsulting.com)

+19176018618

Faisal El-Tannir

[faisal@rpr.ae](mailto:faisal@rpr.ae)

+971 58 500 1796

#### 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](http://www.jameelartscentre.org), an innovative contemporary institution in Dubai, UAE, opened on November 11, 2018; [Hayy: Creative Hub](http://www.hayycreativehub.com), 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 Jameel Arts Centre**

One of the first contemporary arts institutions in Dubai, [Jameel Arts Centre](#) presents curated solo and group exhibitions, drawn both from the Jameel Art Collection and through regional and international collaborations. The Centre is a 10,000-square metre, three-storey, multi-disciplinary space designed by UK-based practice Serie Architects. The building is punctuated by seven gardens, designed by landscape architect Anouk Vogel, which reflect local and global desert biomes.

Located by the creek in Dubai's Jaddaf Waterfront neighbourhood, the Centre's galleries are complemented by the Jameel Library, an open-access research centre dedicated to artists and cultural movements in the Gulf states and beyond. The Centre also includes project and commissions spaces, a writer's studio, a restaurant and shop.

The Centre serves as a hub for educational and research initiatives for diverse audiences. Its wider programming embraces partnerships with local, regional and international artists, curators and organisations.