



For Immediate Release

World Monuments Fund and partners convene Watch Day event at the Takkiyat Ibrahim al-Gulshani in Cairo

- **Takkiyat Ibrahim al-Gulshani is a major Sufi monument in Historic Cairo that is subject to a conservation project by the World Monuments Fund**
- **Event convened by World Monuments Fund, Ministry of Antiquities, Ambassadors Fund for Cultural Preservation, Art Jameel, and Arab Academy for Science, Technology and Maritime Transport**
- **Alumni from the Jameel House of Traditional Arts in Cairo participated in the Watch Day**

Cairo, Egypt | July 3, 2019 -On June 29, the [World Monuments Fund](#) (WMF) convened a Watch Day event at the Takkiyat Ibrahim al-Gulshani, an important Sufi monument in the heart of Historic Cairo. The event was held with support from the Ministry of Antiquities and the [Ambassadors Fund for Cultural Preservation](#), and in participation with [Art Jameel](#), an organisation that supports heritage, education and the arts, the [Arab Academy for Science, Technology and Maritime Transport](#), and [Turath Conservation Group](#) (TCG).

The Takkiyat Ibrahim al-Gulshani was the first religious foundation established in Cairo after the Ottoman conquest of 1517 and was built between 1519 and 1524 by the eponymous Sufi sheikh from modern Azerbaijan. The complex was designed around a freestanding Mamluk-style mausoleum in the middle of a courtyard, framed by Sufi cells, mosque, kitchen, shops, and apartments for his devoted followers and family members. Until recently, the Takkiyat Ibrahim al-Gulshani was abandoned and lay in a state of disrepair, a victim of neglect, looting and the 1992 Cairo earthquake.

Listed as a World Monuments Watch site in 2018, emphasising the urgent need for rehabilitation, the Takkiyat Ibrahim al-Gulshani is the subject of a major ongoing conservation effort by the WMF, supported by the Ministry of Antiquities and the Ambassadors Fund. The WMF team includes Heba Hosny, a graduate of the [Jameel House of Traditional Arts in Cairo](#), the centre for heritage preservation launched by Art Jameel in 2008 with a two-year diploma programme designed and delivered by the [Prince's Foundation School of Traditional Arts](#), in partnership with the [Ministry of Culture](#)'s Cultural Development Fund. TCG, the heritage consultancy that participated in the Watch Day, was co-founded by Ola Said, another graduate and now tutor at the Jameel House in Cairo.

The 2019 Watch Day event at the Takkiyat Ibrahim al-Gulshani was part of World Monuments Watch Day, a global series of celebratory events organised by local communities at Watch sites to highlight the importance of vibrant community engagement and local stewardship in the sustainable preservation of heritage sites.

As part of the Watch Day event, Basma Khalil, another graduate of the Jameel House in Cairo, produced a series of ceramic tiles inspired by motifs in the Takkiyat Ibrahim al-Gulshani. Both Heba, from the WMF team, and Basma are members of the [Atelier Cairo Art Jameel](#), a platform for Egyptian artisanship and design launched by



Art Jameel in February and which aims to support the practice of traditional arts by empowering craft designers with the tools to start or expand their businesses.

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For more information visit www.artjameel.org and join the conversation on Instagram [@art_jameel](#), [@jhtacairo](#) [@ateliercairo](#) | Facebook [Art Jameel](#), [Jameel House of Traditional Arts / Cairo](#), [Atelier Cairo Art Jameel](#) | Twitter [@art_jameel](#)

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Jameel House of Traditional Arts / Cairo

Launched in 2009 by Art Jameel, the Prince's Foundation School of Traditional Arts and the Cultural Development Fund of Egypt, the Jameel House of Traditional Arts / Cairo is a major educational institute teaching young Egyptians classes in traditional Islamic geometry, drawing, colour harmony and arabesque studies, as well as specialised training in ceramics, glass and gypsum, metalwork and woodwork. Students are taught a two-year diploma programme, developed and delivered by the Prince's Foundation, according to the same principles and standards as the postgraduate courses of the original London school. Located in Fustat in the heart of the historic district of Old Cairo, the Jameel House of Traditional Arts / Cairo programme focuses on the preservation of local cultural heritage, including through field trips to major monuments and practical design and make projects. The Jameel House of Traditional Arts / Cairo also supports graduates seeking employment or to establish businesses in the traditional arts. Around 20 students graduate each year and join the many alumni who connect through the programme's alumni association and participate in the annual alumni exhibition.

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.