*For immediate release*

**Art Jameel brings two major solo exhibitions, an Artist’s Garden symposium, an intensive ‘Night School’ on Gulf architectural history, plus new interventions, commissions and films to Jameel Arts Centre this spring**

* **Major solo exhibitions include ‘Taus Makhacheva: A Space of Celebration’ (February 23 - August 13, 2022) and ‘Fahd Burki: Daydreams’ (March 5 - September 24, 2022)**
* **Hong Kong-based artist Trevor Yeung and Dubai-based Nahla Tabbaa respond to Jaddaf Waterfront Sculpture Park through the inaugural ‘Park Projects’ commissions**
* **Intensive ‘Night School’ in concert with ‘Off Centre / On Stage’ exhibition, focussing on Gulf architectural histories, curated by Todd Reisz, featuring local and international guest speakers (January 2022)**
* **An all-new two-day symposium responding to the Artist’s Garden brings together botanists, artists, anthropologists and historians to address the role of art in ecology, climate change, conservation and sustainability (February 11-12, 2022)**
* **Food researcher Salma Serry presents the latest iteration of Library Circles (February 2 - August 3, 2022)**
* **Film programmes curated in line with current Art Jameel Collection exhibition ‘The Distance from Here’, including films by Bani Abidi, Mohamed Soueid and Mohammad Alfaraj (December 2021), and ‘Off Centre / On Stage’ (March 2022)**

**Dubai, United Arab Emirates | November 17, 2021** - [Art Jameel](https://artjameel.org/), an independent organisation that supports artists and creative communities, announces a dynamic roster of solo exhibitions, learning initiatives, film programmes and workshops for spring 2022 at [Jameel Arts Centre](http://www.jameelartscentre.org/), Dubai's contemporary art museum.

Highlights of the season include two major solo exhibitions, ‘**Fahd Burki: Daydreams’**, showcasing over 50 works spanning the last 15 years of the artist’s practice, and **‘Taus Makhacheva: A Space of Celebration’**, the first survey of the Moscow-born artist in West Asia, drawing largely on her expansive body of participatory installations, sound and performance works that, together, recount complex histories via humour and a cast of characters and objects.

Through site-specific interventions by a global community of creatives, Jameel Arts Centre will see the inaugural edition of **Park Projects** featuring commissions by Hong Kong-based **Trevor Yeung** and Dubai-based **Nahla Tabbaa,** anall-new, two-day ecology symposium, sparked by the **Artist’s Garden (*Desert is a Forest*)**, looking at environmental concerns through a multidisciplinary lens, and an intensive four-week **Night School** in conjunction with ongoing exhibition ‘**Off Centre / On Stage**’, curated by Todd Reisz, which unfolds across the Jameel Lobby with around 60 photographs illuminating Dubai’s architectural ambitions of the late 1970s.

The programme includes a series of film screenings curated alongside current Jameel Arts Centre exhibitions **‘Off Centre / On Stage’**, **‘Pacita Abad: I Thought the Streets Were Paved with Gold’**, **‘The Distance From Here’** an Art Jameel Collection exhibition, and the **Artist’s Garden Symposium**, in addition to an accompanying roster of films in response to **‘Staple: What’s on your plate?**’, the inaugural **Hayy Arts** exhibition at Art Jameel’s new creative complex in Jeddah, [Hayy Jameel](https://hayy.artjameel.org/).

**Antonia Carver, Director of Art Jameel, said:** “The upcoming season celebrates new, collaborative, interconnected thinking in the arts -- from the Artist’s Garden symposium and Todd Reisz’s Night School through to solo shows by compelling practitioners, exhibiting in-depth for the first time in this region, and interventions in the Sculpture Park and the Jameel Library. Jameel Arts Centre aspires to be a home for dynamic research and exhibition-making, furthering engagement with themes of ecology, collective futures and the pivotal role of the arts within them.”

**Exhibitions**

**‘Taus Makhacheva: A Space of Celebration’**

**February 23, 2022 - August 13, 2022**

In the first survey show of the Moscow-born artist in West Asia, **Taus Makhacheva** brings her expansive body of installation, sound and performance works to recount complex histories through a cast of characters and objects, including her alter ego, Super Taus. Her humorous and highly contextual installations involve dysfunctional exercise rooms, Soviet-era circuses, wedding halls and suspended mountain ranges.

In ‘A Space of Celebration’, facts merge with myth and fiction, troubling the notion of authenticity and opening doors to the fantastical.

**‘Fahd Burki: Daydreams’**

**March 5, 2022 - September 24, 2022**

This exhibition is Fahd Burki’s first international solo, bringing together more than 50 works spanning the past 15 years of the artist’s practice. Burki’s paintings, drawings, prints and sculptures are inspired by a spectrum of interests, from architecture, nature and science fiction, to various strands of contemporary popular culture. The selection of works ranges from his earlier figurative work to abstraction, as well as a new series of abstract reliefs.

The exhibition is accompanied by a specially produced publication featuring newly commissioned texts by **Murtaza Vali**, **Saira Ansari** and **Dawn Ross**, published by Art Jameel.

**Commissions:**

**Park Projects** **at Jaddaf Waterfront Sculpture Park**

**Nahla Tabbaa, ongoing since October, 2021; artist’s book launch: February 11, 2022**

**Trevor Yeung, 11 February 2022 - May 2022**

The inaugural **Park Projects** invites artists to produce works in the context of Jaddaf Waterfront Sculpture Park. The works inhabit the public space in alternative ways, posing pertinent questions that probe notions of community, nature and the very concept of a commission.

Since October 2021, artist and pedagogue **Nahla Tabbaa** has been using the exterior spaces of Jameel Arts Centre as sites of experimentation. Looking at organic ecosystems and their imbrication in networks of food production, *Shamsa* is a series of time-based interventions using textile and organic material to observe the passage of time through the impact of the sun. Tabbaa’s commission will result in a limited-edition artist’s book.

Hong Kong artist **Trevor Yeung** uses botanic ecology, horticulture and installation in *Volcanic Universe* to occupy the Jameel Arts Centre outdoor parking lot. Connected to the park’s recycled irrigation system through repurposed sprinklers, this timed and choreographed ballet waters an otherwise unloved, man-made ground, delicately and ironically addressing notions of artificiality.

**Library Circles: Salma Serry**

**February 2, 2022 - August 3, 2022**

In its latest iteration of Library Circles, [Jameel Library](https://jameelartscentre.org/learn/library/) presents food writer and filmmaker **Salma Serry**’s research, developed over the past few years, in which she explores regional menus as a site of confluence where history, knowledge, politics, economies, senses and semantics are revealed. Serry expands her research methods to include printed menus, informal publications, interviews, personal photo archives, to construct and share overlooked archival material that piece together a regional narrative.

Serry’s research also links Jameel Arts Centre’s programme with that of its new sister institution, [Hayy Jameel](https://hayy.artjameel.org/) in Jeddah, which opens to the public from December 6, 2021. **Hayy Arts’** opening exhibition, **‘Staple: What’s on your plate?**’, co-curated with London-based partner **Delfina Foundation**, investigates what we eat and the entanglement of food with memory, ecology and place through a plethora of media and more than 30 artists, researchers, thinkers, performers, filmmakers and creative practitioners. Serry’s Jeddah-specific project ‘**A Menu and its Leftovers: Finding the Voices in Jeddah’s Food Histories**’ looks at food culture as materialised in family recipes, generational cookbooks and ephemera, to document untold histories through culinary practices.

**Public Programme**

**Night School**

**January 2022**

‘Off Centre / On Stage’, curated by **Todd Reisz** and currently on display at Jameel Arts Centre, features a community-centric, bi-weekly intensive ‘night school’ on *City Making in the Arabian Peninsula*. The 4-week-long programme is designed for 15 participants interested in urban histories of the region, building on and broadening the exhibition themes via reading lists, film screenings, lectures and workshops featuring guest speakers from Sharjah, Abu Dhabi, Kuwait and Saudi Arabia. Participation details will be announced on [jameelartscentre.org](http://jameelartscentre.org/) soon.

**Artist’s Garden Symposium**

**February 11-12, 2022**

The Symposium invites botanists, artists, anthropologists and historians to discuss and reflect on the multifaceted and interdisciplinary web of relations, influences and current work happening at the intersection of community-based cultural practices and environmentalism. Taking the UAE ecology and the Artist’s Garden project at Jameel Arts Centre, **‘*Desert is a Forest’***, as a starting point, this two-day symposium looks at native ecosystems and the global biodiversity crisis to examine our relationship to the landscape, interconnectedness of humans and non-humans, and how we can take part in interspecies politics. Full programme and guest speakers to be announced on [jameelartscentre.org](http://jameelartscentre.org/) soon

**Film programme**

**Gallery 9**

**‘The Distance from Here’ film programme**

Curated in conjunction with **‘The Distance from Here’**, an Art Jameel Collection exhibition on view until January 22, 2022, the film programme focusses on similar themes as the exhibition – exploring personal responses to and interactions with space and time.

Films and screening dates:

**Bani Abidi, *The Distance from Here*, 2010**

**December 1–14, 2021**

*The Distance from Here* is a reflection on the psychology of visa waiting rooms, embassy protocols and the nervous anticipation of visa applicants who are hoping to access international travel from cities in South Asia. Gleaned from frequent visits to the ‘Diplomatic Enclave’ in Islamabad, Abidi gently observes the gestures of her fellow visa applicants, their conversations and questions, the spontaneous local economy that props up to enable the time of waiting and preparation, and the forbidding architecture and processes of permission.

*\*This film is one of the inspirations behind the title of ongoing Art Jameel Collection exhibition ‘The Distance from Here’.*

**Mohamed Soueid, *The Insomnia of a Serial Dreamer*, 2020**

**December 15–25, 2021**

In search of a good night’s sleep, Mohamed Soueid has collected stories from those around him on and off for 18 years. The cumulative footage, like daydreams, took a circuitous path to yield this roaming and quietly disarming work. Unfolding over time and locations across Beirut. The film provides a personal account of Soueid’s wanderings through the city and the camaraderie of his day-to-day interactions. These intimate conversations evoke a sense of melancholy, longing, tenderness and personal histories.

**Mohammad Alfaraj, *Glimpses of Now,* 2020**

**December 26, 2021 – January 4, 2022**

Mohammad Alfaraj’s hometown of Al Hassa in Saudi Arabia has influenced his interest in nature and ecology. In *Glimpses of Now,* hecreated a visual and auditory exploration of the cities and people of his country. The film is shot in a documentary format using a video camera and mobile phone. This is an ongoing project, and the artist has been gathering footage since 2015. Alfaraj joins over 30 artists and researchers in **Hayy Arts’** inaugural exhibition **‘Staple: What’s on your plate?**’ on view at **Hayy Jameel** (December 6, 2021 - April 30, 2022).

**‘Off Centre / On Stage’ film programme**

**March 9 - 21, 2022**

A special film and video programme coincides with the final weeks of **‘Off Centre / On Stage’,** curated by visual culture specialist **Hind Mezaina**. Bringing together artist's films and rarely seen archival footage, the programme looks at the transformation of Dubai and the UAE from the 1950s to the present day.

***Coming Soon***

**Exhibitions**

February 23, 2022 - August 13, 2022 - ‘Taus Makhacheva: A Place of Celebration’

March 5, 2022 - September 24, 2022 - ‘Fahd Bruki: Daydreams’

**Public Programme**

January 2022 - Night School

February 11-12, 2022 - Artist’s Garden Symposium

**Film Programme**

December 1 – 14, 2021 - Bani Abidi, The Distance from Here, 2010  
December 15 – 25, 2021 - Mohamed Soueid, The Insomnia of a Serial Dreamer, 2020

December 26, 2021 – January 4, 2022 - Mohammad Alfaraj, Glimpses of Now, 2020

January 4 - February 6, 2022 -- ‘Pacita Abad: I Thought the Streets Were Paved with Gold’

February 9 - March 7, 2022 -- Artist's Garden Symposium

March 9 - 21, 2022 -- ‘Off Centre / On Stage’

March 23 - May 22, 2022 -- ‘Staple: What’s on your plate?’

**Commissions:**

Park Projects at Jaddaf Waterfront Sculpture Park

Since October, 2021 - Nahla Tabbaa; book launch February 11, 2021

From January 2022 - May 2022 - Trevor Yeung

February 2, 2022 - August 3, 2022 - Library Circles: Salma Serry

***Currently on View***

**Exhibitions**

September 8, 2021 - January 22, 2022 - 'The Distance From Here'

September 8, 2021 - February 13, 2022 - ‘Pacita Abad: I Thought the Streets Were Paved with Gold'

September 29, 2021 - March 21, 2022 - ‘Off Centre / On Stage’, curated by Todd Reisz

October 30, 2021 - May 7, 2022 - ‘Artist's Room: Samson Young’

Until Spring 2022 - Artist's Garden: *Desert is a Forest* by Namrata Neog and Sunoj D

**Film Programme**

Until November 27, 2021 - *The Jump* by Shuruq Harb

**Commissions**

Until November 29, 2021 - Library Circles: Maysoon Al Dwairi

**International Exhibitions**

Until February 13, 2022 - ‘Hiwa K: Do You Remember What You Are Burning?’ at the Hugh Lane, Dublin

Until November 28, 2021 - ‘Jameel Prize: Poetry to Politics’ at Victoria and Albert Museum, London

**-ENDS-**

**Jameel Arts Centre is free and open to the public**

**10am to 8pm from Saturday to Thursday; 12pm to 8pm on Fridays, and closed on Tuesdays.**

**COVID-19 Notes**

Jameel Arts Centre complies with all safety regulations and spacing guidelines. Hand disinfectant is provided for visitors at the entrance and throughout the Centre, along with face masks and gloves if required.

Exhibition spaces and visitor reception areas are cleaned, aired, and disinfected throughout the day. More information on the precautionary measures taken by the Jameel Arts Centre is available [online](https://jameelartscentre.org/visit/).

**For more information visit** [**www.jameelartscentre.org**](http://www.jameelartscentre.org) **|** [**Art Jameel**](https://artjameel.org/)

Instagram [**@jameelartscentre**](https://www.instagram.com/jameelartscentre/) | Facebook [**@jameelartscentre**](https://www.facebook.com/JameelArtsCentre/) | Twitter [**@jameelartsctr**](https://twitter.com/JameelArtsCtr)**e**

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**About Jameel Arts Centre**

One of the first contemporary arts institutions in Dubai, [Jameel Arts Centre](https://jameelartscentre.org/) presents curated solo and group exhibitions, drawn both from the Art Jameel Collection and through regional and international collaborations. Current exhibitions include ‘I Thought The Streets Were Paved With Gold’ by Pacita Abad, ‘The Distance From Here’, Artist’s Rooms: Samson Young, ‘Off-Centre/On-Stage’ by Todd Reisz, works by Shuruq Harb and Sunoj D. and Namrata Neog’s Artist’s Garden.

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. Sitting alongside is the Jaddaf Waterfront Sculpture Park, designed by waiwai, and a collaboration between Art Jameel and Dubai Holding.

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 Jameel also includes project and commissions spaces, a writer's studio and Art Jameel 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.

**About Art Jameel**

[Art Jameel](https://artjameel.org/) supports artists and creative communities. Founded and supported by the Jameel family philanthropies, the independent organisation is headquartered in Saudi Arabia and the UAE and works globally. Art Jameel’s programmes – across exhibitions, commissions, research, learning and community-building – are grounded in a dynamic understanding of the arts as fundamental to life and accessible to all.

Art Jameel’s two institutions – the forthcoming Hayy Jameel, a dedicated complex for the arts and creativity in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, and [Jameel Arts Centre](http://www.jameelartscentre.org/), an innovative contemporary institution in Dubai, UAE – are complemented by digital initiatives plus collaborations with major institutional partners and a network of practitioners across the world.

Art Jameel and the Jameel family are currently celebrating three quarters of a century of philanthropy; this journey is marked through [the 75 Years / 75 Voices / 75 Stories](https://jameel75.com/) project, which engages key figures from the worlds of business, arts, academia and philanthropy, including [Tristram Hunt](https://jameel75.com/en/stories/Dr.-Tristram-Hunt?ADVuqcJ5mY), Director, V&A; [HRH The Prince of Wales](https://jameel75.com/en/stories/HRH-The-Prince-of-Wales?ZNb0xtSBz5); [HE Noura Al Kaabi](https://jameel75.com/en/stories/HE-Noura-Bint-Mohammed-Al-Kaabi?mMJ6a8ahzt), UAE Minister of Culture and Youth; [Max Hollein](https://jameel75.com/en/stories/Max-Hollein?bULxBWYgz7), Director at the Metropolitan Museum New York; and [L. Rafael Reif](https://jameel75.com/en/stories/L.-Rafael-Reif?syjGPffn8F), President, MIT.