**Breaking news: total ‘Takeover’ of Jameel Arts Centre by the third cohort of the Youth Assembly, featuring curated interventions including over 20 works and eight new commissions by emerging artists alongside Art Jameel Collection works and loans from private collectors, accompanied by a robust public programme of workshops, film screenings and performances**

* *The Youth Takeover is the culmination of a year-long talent development programme, designed to support artistic youth leadership, engagement and peer-to-peer information exchange, with eight talented creatives based across the UAE*
* *Titled ‘smol’, the third iteration of the Youth Takeover explores the journey of the inner child, nostalgia, the trials and tribulations of being and coming of age (from May 18 - June 5)*
* *The Youth Takeover includes over 20 artworks and 8 new commissions by emerging artists, alongside Art Jameel Collection works and loans from private collectors as well as a roster of public programmes centred around the theme of the inner child*
* *Powered by the youth, Jameel Arts Centre will extend its opening hours to welcome visitors of all ages until 8 pm daily; closed on Tuesday*

**Dubai, United Arab Emirates | April 26, 2022 -** [Art Jameel](https://artjameel.org/)announces a total relinquishment of its spaces to the third cohort of the Youth Assembly in [Jameel Arts Centre](https://jameelartscentre.org/), Dubai’s contemporary art museum from May 18 to June 5. The intervention, which culminates a year-long talent development programme through monthly seminars that delve into topics from collection care and curation through to critiquing and the making of strong community programme, manifests as a physical takeover of the Jameel’s Lobby, Stairs, Lockers, Elevator and Gallery 9 and 10. Featuring over 20 works of their curation, ‘smol’ draws from the **Art Jameel Collection**, loans from the **Endjavi-Barbé Art Collection** and eight new commissions by emerging artists, spanning 2D and 3D illustrations, installation, audiovisual works, and paintings. Interventions and provocations include a re-baptised map of Abu Dhabi, a vanity set with childhood videos, an immersive room-wide illustration and paintings accompanied by sourced audio.

A key pillar in the Assembly’s research throughout the year, the **Art Jamel Collection** works on view feature artists **Maha Malluh** and **Fayçal Baghriche**, and loans from the **Endjavi-Barbé Art Collection**, chosen for their inspiration in the Assembly’s exploration of the inner child.

‘smol’ taps into the curiosities and transformations of being and coming of age, invoking carefree possibilities, nostalgia, adventure, powerlessness and vulnerability in today’s world. Metaphorically and stylistically, ‘smol’ is an opportunity to colour outside the lines, bridging dreams with reality, while confronting constricting rules and rituals. The Youth Takeover’s third iteration features artists and curators from UAE, Egypt, Philippines, Pakistan, Palestine, India, Iran, Saudi Arabia and Chechnya, and covers a breadth of cultures and languages, including Tagalog, Chechen, Russian, Arabic, Hindi, Malayalam and Urdu.

The 2021/2022 Assembly members are **Alexis Javero**, **Anita Shishani**, **Farah Fawzi** **Ali**, **Lubnah Ansari**, **Raheed Allaf**, **Rashid Almheiri**, **Shama Nair** and **Sree**, led by independent curator and Assembly 2020 alumnus **Daniel H. Rey** who, in collaboration with the Art Jameel Learning team, curated and facilitated a year-long learning programme, designed to support artistic youth leadership, engagement and peer-to-peer information exchange.

The Assembly members have commissioned a roster of regional creatives to develop works and design public programmes in response to the theme including movement and zine-making workshops, a workshop to visualise a dreamhouse through the lens of Gulf-Kerala migration experiences, a film programme responding to the inner child through a feminist lens, a walk around Dubai and urban sketching sessions and participatory theatre performances, among many.

**Public Programme:**

The 2022 Youth Takeover features a multifaceted public programme that offer visitors the space to nurture their own inner child through a variety of performances, film screenings and workshops, including:

**May 18 (opening preview and sound activation):** *Abu Dha-me Sound Activation* by Khaled Esguerra

**May 20, 25 and 28 (zine workshop):** *be-ing* by Rummān Collective

**May 21 (zine workshop):** *Dream Houses* by Another Empty House

**May 22 (photowalk):** *Under a Sky in Transit* by Zeashan Ashraf and Shama Nair

**May 22 (youth-led crafts market):** *Support the smols*, organised by Farah Fawzi Ali

**May 27 (screening and workshop):** Cartoons screening and writing exercises by Anita Shishani

**May 28 (making workshop):** *Exploring the Inner Child amidst Urban Metabolism* by Manupriam Seth and Lubnah Ansari

**May 29 (talk):** Smol Panel Discussion by the Assembly 2021-2022 and programme curator Daniel H. Rey

**May 29 and June 4 (play):** *Every Brilliant Thing* by The Junction starring Gautam Goenka

**June 4 (kids tour):** *Mind Door Imagination,* a tour for children and families by Rashid Almheiri

More information and registration details will be available [here](https://jameelartscentre.org/whats-on/the-youth-takeover-2022/) soon – all events are free and open to the public.

Thematically, The Assembly’s focus this past year has been on research in the Global South and curation in languages other than English, engaging progressively with social practice. As a cohort comprised of creatives under 25 years old, they advocate for #youthcuratingyouth, with the official Takeover slogan #feelingsmol.

The Youth Assembly is an initiative that commenced in 2018 at Jameel Arts Centre – Dubai’s contemporary art museum – designed to foster creative leaders aged 18 to 25 and enable peer-to-peer exchange of ideas, discussions and to prompt self-initiated projects that utilise Art Jameel’s networks and opportunities.

The annually-appointed multidisciplinary cohort of UAE-based practising artists, researchers and entrepreneurs – known as The Assembly – collaborate to lead public programmes, commissioned exhibitions, community discussions and more, responding to both Art Jameel exhibitions and projects as well as current events and discourse.

In order to research, design and execute public engagements, The Assembly experiments primarily with curatorial practices featuring a Youth Curator and mentors, and focussing on five main areas:

1. Creating
2. Curating
3. Community programming
4. Commissioning
5. Critiquing

The Jameel will be keeping its doors open after hours throughout the duration of the Youth Takeover (**May 18 - June 5**); opening hours:

Saturday to Thursday 10am-8pm

Friday 12pm-8pm

Tuesday closed

**Meet The Assembly 2021-2022 members and curator**

**Alexis Javero**

Alexis Javero is a Filipino artist based in the UAE. She has a deep interest in writing, which lies at the heart of her artistic practice. She holds a BFA in Fine Arts from the University of Sharjah, and has exhibited her work in Maraya Art Center, Sharjah Art Museum and others. Along with three of her university friends, Dania Al Tamimi, Doha Aboelezz and Nava Rizvi, she co-founded Rummān Collective with the objective to establish creative learning experiences for early-career artists.

**Anita Shishani**

Anita is a multidisciplinary artist, curator and researcher, raised in Al Ain and of Chechen origin. She holds a B.A. in Art History from New York University Abu Dhabi where she specialised in Arab and Iranian modern and contemporary art. Anita is invested in researching the phenomenon of hurufiyya amongst Arab artists.

Anita is dedicated to archiving the artworks and lives of contemporary UAE-based artists through her podcast, *Khosh Bosh*. From the vantage point of a unique cultural crossroad, she is committed to empowering creative thinkers based in the UAE, helping them find their voice, tell their story, and strengthen their foothold in the global landscape. Anita currently works as a curator for Dirwaza Curatorial Lab.

**Farah Fawzi Ali**

Farah is an Egyptian-Filipina writer and researcher with a BA in Political Science from the American University in Cairo. Her written works can be found in Postscript Magazine, MariasAtSampaguitas, Art Dubai and Global Art Daily. She is currently part of the Arts Writing Agency. Driven by her mixed cultural heritage and Gulf upbringing, Farah is committed to widening spaces of representation and offering platforms for community-spirited interactions and personal histories. Traversing between her analytical mind and compassionate soul, Farah’s passion for cultivating discourse and collective meaning-making is deeply reflected and interwoven in her writing, research, and programming endeavours.

**Lubnah Ansari**

Lubnah Ansari dissects notions of personal and political questions with fervent curiosity. Utilizing her multidisciplinary skills, the artist and researcher engages with Hindu-Muslim households using feminist ethnographic frameworks. The NYU Abu Dhabi graduate has immersed herself in the roles of both the insider and the outsider, which gives her work a refreshing angle that urges you to tap into your compassion. She is currently a post-graduate research fellow at NYU Abu Dhabi.

**Raheed Allaf**

The corners of Raheed Allaf's life have been defined by Photography, Poetry, and Design. Raheed’s visual narratives serve as her nostalgic and surrealist escapes from reality, and a vessel through which she visualises her poetry. Having studied Multimedia Design at the American University of Sharjah, the Saudi Arabian storyteller aspires to immerse herself in different experiences to express the stories she comes across through mediums that tell them best.

**Rashid Almheiri**

A fluid Emirati visual artist illuminated with a B.A degree in Graphic Design from the American University in Dubai. Rashid has invisible dialogues with objects, moments and emotions, and likes to cultivate his interests in biology, psychology and sociology into forms of expression, and is continuously gravitating towards creating poetic experiences.

**Shama Nair**Shama is a photographer, writer, and artist based in the UAE. Drawn to the intersection between urbanity and visual culture, her work explores our spatial, temporal, and aesthetic relationships with an ever-expanding neoliberal metropolis. She graduated as a Media Studies major from the Symbiosis School for Liberal Arts, Pune in 2018 and returned to Dubai where she continues to collaborate with arts and academic institutions between India and the UAE. She currently works with the Bombay Institute for Critical Analysis and Research and on art/architecture programming for the Goethe-Institut, Gulf Region.

**Sree**

Sree is an artist-researcher, theater maker, and music producer who experiments with sound, sight, people, and movement. Through these experiments, he introspects his identity, culture, taboos, and place in the world. Having completed his undergraduate education in Theater and Music at NYU Abu Dhabi, he is currently part of the 9th cohort of the Salama bint Hamdan Emerging Artist Fellowship. Sree has been part of research, production and educational programs with various organizations including the Humboldt Forum in Berlin, Bhasha Center in Bangalore, MELA Foundation in NYC, as well as art institutions in the U.A.E such as Warehouse 421, NYUAD Arts Center and Jameel Arts Centre. Through art, he tries to make sense of what it is to be a brown cis-man that calls Dubai home, while holding an Indian passport.

**Assembly curator bio:**

**Daniel H. Rey**

Daniel is an independent curator advocating for #YouthCuratingYouth and cross-pollination in the Global South. His work balances institutional and grassroots presence via Art Jameel, Dirwaza Curatorial Lab, and Global Art Daily. An emerging writer, arts educator, and public programmer, his work has been presented and reviewed in the Americas, the Arab Gulf, and Scandinavia.

Daniel holds degrees in social sciences and theatre from NYU Abu Dhabi and is an Alumnus of Jameel Art Centre’s Assembly programme (2020), as well as current Curator and Tutor of the third edition (2021-22). He has recently launched **Almacén المخزن Armazém,** a multimedia research project storing and exhibiting creative practices tied to both Latin America and the Arab world. Daniel feels at home in Paraguay, Norway, the UAE, and hopefully in Mars.

**-ENDS-**

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

**Ramadan opening hours: Monday-Sunday from 10am-4pm (Wednesday: 10am-4pm and 9pm-12am); closed on Tuesday and Friday).**

**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 after each visitation time slot. 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 ‘Fahd Burki: Daydreams’, ‘Taus Makhacheva: A Space of Celebration’, ‘Artist’s Rooms: Samson Young’, ‘Library Circles: Salma Serry’, Hassan Khan’s *Composition for a Public Park* andArtist’s Garden *‘Desert is a Forest’* by Sunoj D and Namrata Neog.

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 Jemeel’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, an artisan bakery and local seasonal dining concept [‘Teible’](https://www.teible.com/) and the [Art Jameel Shop](https://shop.artjameel.org/).

The Jameel 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 – [Hayy Jameel](https://hayy.artjameel.org/), 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 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 [HRH Prince Sultan bin Salman bin Abdulaziz](https://jameel75.com/en/stories/HRH-Prince-Sultan-bin-Salman-bin-Abdulaziz?cSTteu2n5n), Chairman, Saudi Space Commission; [HRH Princess Adela bint Abdullah bin Abdulaziz Al-Saud](https://jameel75.com/en/stories/HRH-Princess-Adela-bint-Abdullah-bin-Abdulaziz-Al-Saud?YpjimFUQov), Chairwoman of multiple Saudi charitable societies; [Lubna S. Olayan](https://jameel75.com/en/stories/Lubna-S.-Olayan?mwWIM8HRRa), Chairwoman of Olayan Saudi Holding Company; [HE Noura Al Kaabi](https://jameel75.com/en/stories/HE-Noura-Bint-Mohammed-Al-Kaabi?mMJ6a8ahzt), UAE Minister of Culture and Youth; [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); [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.