

Jameel Arts Centre in Dubai is one of 3 institutions globally awarded prestigious Medal at the inaugural Art Basel Awards for visionaries shaping the future of art

Dubai, United Arab Emirates May 15, 2025—[Art Jameel](#), an organisation that supports artists and creative communities, is thrilled to announce that its [Jameel Arts Centre](#) in Dubai is one of three institutions globally awarded a Medal in the inaugural year of the Art Basel Awards, which recognises those “shaping the next generation of cutting-edge artistry”. A distinguished jury of leading museum directors awarded this “gold standard for excellence” to those who “defy categorisation and challenge conventions”.

Alongside [Art + Practice](#) (Los Angeles, California) and [RAW Material Company](#) (Dakar, Senegal), Jameel Arts Centre was recognised in the **Museums and Institutions category**, while other awards are bestowed on emerging, established and iconic artists and those supporting the industry. “From a nominee pool of the world’s most influential voices and promising rising talents, an international jury of experts awards 36 medallists for their vanguard vision, skill and impact,” state the organisers of the Art Basel Awards, chaired by Vincenzo de Bellis, Art Basel's Director of Fairs and Exhibition Platforms.

The Medal will be presented on **June 19, 2025**, to Art Jameel Chair and Co-Founder Fady Jameel at a premier reception during Art Basel's historic flagship fair in Basel, Switzerland, while Art Jameel Director Antonia Carver will present the work of Jameel Arts Centre at the [Art Basel Awards Summit](#) on June 20.

Fady Jameel, Chair and Co-Founder of Art Jameel said: *“We are deeply honoured to receive this landmark award for Jameel Arts Centre – this recognition of our work is all the more meaningful in that it comes from the industry itself, and we thank the Art Basel Awards and the jury of highly influential, expert colleagues from around the world. At Art Jameel, our mantra is that the arts are fundamental to life and accessible to all: we are proud to serve as Dubai’s contemporary arts museum and to contribute to the region and beyond – collecting, commissioning and exhibiting dynamic artists, providing research and learning programmes and access to contemporary arts and ideas, for everyone. This is all possible thanks to the artists and partner-institutions - private and government - whose generosity and collaborative spirit laid the foundations for a different kind of museum model like ours to flourish.”*

According to **Vincenzo de Bellis, Chair, Art Basel Awards and Director of Fairs & Exhibition Platforms, Art Basel**, the Art Basel Awards are *“not a competition, but a beacon. They shine a light on those working with radical vision, skill, and commitment to building communities of practice and exchange. We are thrilled to honour this year's Medalists – artists and allies whose work is reshaping how art is created, experienced, and channeled across contemporary culture.”*

Jameel Arts Centre, known as Dubai’s hub for contemporary art and ideas, and the city’s leading independent public institution for exhibitions, collections, learning, sustainability and more, is

recognised in the category of Museums and Institutions for “consistently curating groundbreaking exhibitions and fostering innovative contemporary works”. Art Jameel also founded and runs [Hayy Jameel](#), Jeddah’s home for the arts, in Saudi Arabia; both centres are independent with a civic purpose focussed on supporting artists, providing learning opportunities and experiences, and nurturing creative communities across West Asia and beyond.

Since opening in November 2018, Jameel Arts Centre has built a dynamic and innovative approach to exhibition-making, rooted in its home on the Dubai Creek, United Arab Emirates, and set on engaging broad local and international audiences through focussing on urgent, universal themes – from the oil and hospitality industries to port cities, waters and oceans, the age of the “extreme self”, and human/non-human relationships, for example.

The Jameel works with upcoming local and regional artists on their first commissions and institutional solo shows, and builds recognition for highly influential and leading regional voices from across Asia, often under-known internationally, through break-through surveys. The Artist’s Rooms series of capsule exhibitions is rooted in the [Art Jameel Collection](#), based in Dubai and a site of radical thinking around ownership, sustainability and collection care. The Collection has an active loans programme while exhibitions, curated in-house and by guest curators, often tour to or are co-organised with partner museums around the world.

Learning and research is foundational to the programme, with the dynamic [Jameel Library](#) the first public-access arts research library in the Gulf. Alongside a continual programme of community-centric talks, workshops and gatherings are a set of flagship educational initiatives for all ages, including the Youth Assembly, which every year sees the UAE’s 18-24-year-olds take over the building; an all-access intensive annual Night School; and Creative Careers Days, the region’s festival imagining and mapping futures in the arts, held in partnership with the Ministry of Culture UAE.

The Jameel Arts Centre is situated in Jaddaf Waterfront, Dubai’s Creekside cultural quarter, and sits alongside a highly popular sculpture and performance park – developed in dialogue with masterplanner Dubai Holding. Current large-scale outdoor commissions include [Tarabot: Weaving a Living Forum](#), a ground-breaking fully-regenerative pavilion, opened during COP28 Dubai and designed by theOtherDada, and [I Dreamt of a City Everyone Calls Home](#), an interactive sculptural playground by Theories of Imagination (TOFI), built as part of Dubai’s Public Art Initiative and developed in collaboration with Dubai Culture.

Jameel Arts Centre was originally designed by UK-based practice Serie Architects, working with Dubai and Tokyo-based architecture studio Waiwai, who also designed the Sculpture Park (and Hayy Jameel, Jeddah). The complex also includes project and community spaces, the [Art Jameel Shop](#) and [Teible](#), the first restaurant in the UAE to be awarded both the Bib Gourmand and Green Star for sustainability by the Michelin Guide.

This year's Art Basel Awards jury was challenged to spotlight visionaries creating new narratives, building alternative spaces, and pushing forward cultural conversation. The distinguished jury is composed of leaders from every continent around the world, including **Hoor Al-Qasimi**, President and Director, Sharjah Art Foundation; **Elena Filipovic**, Director, Kunstmuseum Basel; **Jessica Morgan**, Nathalie de Gunzberg Director, Dia Art Foundation, New York; **Hans Ulrich Obrist**, Artistic Director, Serpentine, London; **Adriano Pedrosa**, Artistic Director, Museu de Arte de São Paulo (MASP); **Suhanya Raffel**, Museum Director, M+, Hong Kong; **Franklin Sirmans**, Director, Pérez Art Museum Miami (PAMM); and **Philip Tinari**, Director and Chief Executive, UCCA Center for Contemporary Art, Beijing. The Art Basel Awards pay tribute to jury member Koyo Kouoh (December 1967-May 2025), the beloved and highly influential Executive Director and Chief Curator, Zeitz Museum of Contemporary Art Africa (Zeitz MOCAA), Cape Town, and Curator, 61st International Art Exhibition (2026), La Biennale di Venezia.

Later this year, the Medalists will pilot a peer-driven process, whereby they will vote to select up to 12 **Gold Medalists** from among themselves, representing the Art Basel Awards' highest honor and offering a new model of recognition, revealed in December 2025 during the Official Night of the Art Basel Awards in Miami Beach.

Exhibitions currently on view

[Trần Lương: 'Tầm Tã – Soaked in the Long Rain'](#)

On view through May 25, 2025

[Asunción Molinos Gordo: 'The Peasant, the Scholar and the Engineer'](#)

On view through September 21, 2025

['Eltiga: How to Work Together? A Collective Artistic Practice from Gaza'](#)

On view through July 20, 2025

[The Youth Takeover 2025: 'Spoon Spade Shovel'](#)

On view through June 2, 2025

[Library Circles: Samar Halloum](#)

On view through June 30, 2025

Upcoming Exhibitions include solo exhibitions by **Mohammed Al Faraj** (June 25, 2025 - January 4, 2026), also recognised by Art Basel Awards as a medalist in the Emerging Artists category; **Bady Dalloul** (September 20, 2025 - February, 2026); **Araya Rasdjarmrearnsook** (November 5, 2025 - March 15, 2026); and **Jumana Emil Abboud** (January 28, 2026 - June 28, 2026).

Notes to Editors

The full list of Art Basel Awards categories and medalists include:

Artists - Emerging: Mohammad Alfaraj; Meriem Bennani; Pan Daijing; Saodat Ismailova; Lydia Ourahmane; and Sofia Salazar Rosales

Artists - Established: Nairy Baghramian; Tony Cokes; Cao Fei; Ibrahim Mahama; Deley Morelos; and Ho Tzu Nyen

Artists - Icon: David Hammons; Lubaina Himid; Joan Jonas; Adrian Piper; Betye Saar; and Cecilia Vicuna

Cross-Disciplinary Creators: Saidiya Hartman; Grace Wales Bonner; and Formafantasma

Institutions: Jameel Arts Centre; ART+ PRACTICE; and RAW Material Company

Curators: Candice Hopkins; Shanay Jhaveri; and Eungie Joo

Patrons: Shane Akeroyd; Maja Hoffmann; and Joel Wachs

Allies: Art Handlrs*; Gasworks/Triangle Networks; and Sandra Terdjman

Media and Storytellers: Negar Azimi; Barbara Casavecchia; and The Journal of Curatorial Studies

Jameel Arts Centre is free and open to the public.

Jameel Arts Centre welcomes visitors Monday through Sunday from 10 am to 8 pm (Fridays 12 pm to 8 pm) and is closed on Tuesdays.

For more information, visit www.jameelartscentre.org | [Art Jameel](#)

Instagram [@jameelartscentre](#) | Facebook [@jameelartscentre](#) | Twitter [@jameelartsctre](#)

About Art Jameel

[Art Jameel](#) 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, a dedicated complex for the arts and creativity in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, and Jameel Arts Centre, an innovative institution for contemporary art and ideas in Dubai, UAE—are complemented by digital initiatives, collaborations with major institutional partners, and a network of practitioners worldwide.

Read Art Jameel's [Sustainability Charter](#).

About Jameel Arts Centre

Known as Dubai's hub for contemporary arts and ideas, Jameel Arts Centre presents curated solo and group exhibitions drawn from the Art Jameel 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. 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 Jameel'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 commission spaces, a writer's studio, an artisan seasonal dining concept, [Teible](#), and the [Art Jameel Shop](#).

About the Art Basel Awards

Launched by Art Basel in 2025, the Art Basel Awards are the world's first global honors dedicated to recognising excellence across the contemporary art world. Each year, an International Jury of experts awards Medals to individuals and organizations spanning the industry whose practices and contributions are shaping the future of art. Medalists are selected against four key pillars: vision and innovation, skill and execution, engagement, and broader impact. The Art Basel Awards confer both immediate, flexible support in the form of honorariums alongside global networking, philanthropic initiatives, tailored partnerships, and high-profile commissions designed to propel Medalists' work onto new platforms. Medalists are recognised globally by Art Basel through year-round campaigns and initiatives, including the Art Basel Awards Summit, the annual thought leadership conference for the most influential figures in the global art world and neighbouring creative industries, held in Basel, Switzerland. For further information, visit artbaselawards.com

About Art Basel

Founded in 1970 by gallerists from Basel, Art Basel today stages the world's premier art shows for Modern and contemporary art, sited in Basel, Miami Beach, Hong Kong, and Paris. Defined by its host city and region, each show is unique, which is reflected in its participating galleries, artworks presented, and the content of parallel programming produced in collaboration with local institutions for each edition. Art Basel's engagement has expanded beyond art fairs through new digital platforms including the Art Basel App and initiatives such as the Art Basel and UBS Global Art Market Report, the Art Basel Awards, and the Art Basel Shop. Art Basel's Global Lead Partner is UBS. For further information, visit artbasel.com.