

# Art Jameel

## Organisational Fact Sheet

### Overview

Art Jameel is a not-for-profit organisation that fosters contemporary art practice, cultural heritage protection, and creative entrepreneurship across the Middle East, North Africa, Turkey and beyond.

Art Jameel's initiatives are wide reaching and diverse, with a focus on the fields of **art**, **education**, and **heritage**. Art Jameel runs two institutes teaching and preserving the traditional arts in Cairo and Jeddah, and is active in restoration and heritage protection programmes in the region. Ongoing educational initiatives include working with the Ministry of Education in Saudi Arabia to develop new arts programmes in schools, among other arts and educational initiatives for all ages.

In the arts, the organisation co-founded the **Jeddah Sculpture Museum**, home to 26 recently restored, major public works. Art Jameel also awards the **biennial Jameel Prize**, recognising artists who explore traditional Islamic influences through contemporary art. Through these initiatives, Art Jameel collaborates with a number of major institutional partners, including the **Victoria and Albert Museum** and the **Prince's School of Traditional Arts**. Locally, Art Jameel 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.

In 2017, Art Jameel is entering a new phase of development as an organisation and re-focussing its work in the arts, education and heritage, including the announcement of the **Jameel Arts Centre Dubai** (opening winter 2018) and a new partnership with The New York's **Metropolitan Museum of Art**.

Art Jameel is led by Director **Antonia Carver** and President **Fady Mohammed Jameel**.

### History

Art Jameel was established in 2003 as part of **Community Jameel**, the organisation set up to continue the Jameel family's tradition of supporting the community — a tradition started in the 1930s by the late Abdul Latif Jameel, founder of the Abdul Latif Jameel business, who throughout his life helped tens of thousands of disadvantaged people in the fields of healthcare, education and improving livelihoods. Today, Community Jameel is dedicated to supporting social and economic sustainability, across the Middle East and beyond, through a range of initiatives. Art Jameel complements its sister organisation's work in promoting positive social change, job creation and poverty alleviation across the Middle East, North Africa and Turkey.

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## Partnerships

In 2003, Art Jameel partnered with the **Victoria and Albert Museum in London** to renovate the Islamic gallery. Now known as the Jameel Gallery, it houses over 400 objects, including ceramics, textiles, carpets, metalwork, glass and woodwork. Art Jameel and the V&A also collaborate on the biennial **Jameel Prize**, dedicating to recognising contemporary artists and designers who explore traditional Islamic influences through contemporary art. Every two years, shortlisted practitioners are featured in a touring exhibition. The Jameel Prize 5 will open at the V&A Museum, London, in the summer of 2018.

In 2010, the annual **Art Jameel Photography Award** was established, which has now developed into a year-round educational programme.

Art Jameel and **The Prince's School of Traditional Arts** have been in partnership since 2008, when they launched a joint programme (together with the Egyptian Ministry of Culture) to teach the traditional arts in Cairo, Egypt. Today, that programme – known as the **Jameel House of Traditional Arts / Cairo** – is in its eighth year. The Jameel House of Traditional Arts / Cairo has successfully trained local contemporary artists and artisans; preserved Egyptian cultural heritage; and is now putting the skills taught in the programme to practical use in the conservation and restoration of heritage sites in Islamic Cairo.

Since 2015, Art Jameel has reinvigorated its support for cultural heritage, opening the **Jameel House of Traditional Arts / Jeddah** in the Old Town (Al-Balad) of Jeddah, and supporting the establishment of the **Jameel House of Traditional Arts / Scotland** on the estate of Dumfries House. Both institutions, like their counterpart in Cairo, aim to preserve traditional arts and crafts through education and help graduates apply those skills to heritage restoration or as entrepreneurs.

The **Art Jameel Education Programme** was a pilot organised in collaboration with the Ministry of Education in Saudi Arabia and included workshops for art teachers to improve their teaching techniques, plus a yearly contest for students and exhibitions.

**Connected – Art in Airports** was launched with the aim of expanding audiences and awareness for Saudi art; in collaboration with the General Authority of Civil Aviation and the Saudi Art Association in Jeddah, art exhibitions have taken place to date in Hail, at King Abdulaziz International Airport in Jeddah, at Riyadh's King Khalid International Airport and in Dammam.

## Project Space Dubai

In advance of the opening of the Jameel Arts Centre Dubai, Art Jameel opens a new Project Space in Alserkal Avenue, Dubai, during Art Week, March 2017. The Space features a year-round programme of exhibitions, workshops and events. While some shows feature works from the Jameel Art Collection, others are developed in collaboration with partner institutions; educational initiatives aim to bring together creative communities of all ages and nurture experimentation, dialogue and a discursive approach to art and art-making.

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The inaugural installation features a five-channel video by **Basel Abbas** and **Ruanne Abou-Rahme**, part of a series focussing on single works from the Jameel Art Collection.

Upcoming projects include a day of workshops and talks on **April 13** with renowned Madrid-based foundation **Factum Arte**, on building new technologies to preserve heritage sites and create works with contemporary artists. Project Space Art Jameel is realised with the kind support of **Alserkal Avenue**.

### Jeddah Sculpture Museum

In the 1970s, Jeddah's then mayor, Mohammed Said Farsi, initiated the 'Jeddah Beautification Project' and purchased more than 400 sculptures, including major works by international artists such as **Henry Moore**, **Joan Miro** and **Alexander Calder**, among others. The collection is one of the world's most extensive focused on public art, and no doubt the most diverse: the style of the works ranges from traditional Arabic designs to the abstract and monumental.

Exposed to the harsh local climate, by the 2000s, some of the works were beginning to show signs of deterioration. In 2011, Art Jameel, in collaboration with Jeddah Municipality, decided to not only restore some of the sculptures but also to increase their prominence by creating an open-air museum, showcasing **20 works** in a seven square kilometre park along the Jeddah Corniche, known locally as 'Al Hamraa'.

In addition to activities to promote the **Jeddah Sculpture Museum**, Art Jameel is continuing the restoration of some of the remaining sculptures around the city, and on occasion, seeking to add new works, the latest being **Maha Malluh's** *Food for Thought 'Abraj'* (2016).

Entrance to the Museum is free and open to all.

### Press Contacts

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### Additional Information

To enquire about any of our programmes or events, please email [info@artjameel.org](mailto:info@artjameel.org)