

Factum Arte

Traditional and Digital Artisans Meet

April 13–20, 2017

Research Studio 01

Project Space Art Jameel’s first Research Studio is devoted to the renowned Madrid-based foundry **Factum Arte** and its non-profit sister organisation, the **Factum Foundation for Digital Technology in Conservation**.

In February this year, the *Guardian* lauded the Factum Foundation’s work as “the most important thing happening in 21st-century art – because it can quite literally save civilisation”. Describing their work as ‘digital mediation’, the Factum Foundation has become known for its particular approach to documenting, preserving and replicating architectural heritage and ancient objects. Milestones include creating an exact facsimile of Tutankhamun’s tomb through to, most recently, scanning and reproducing a replica of a 3,500-year-old statue of Idrimi, in the collection of the British Museum (and previously too fragile to be moved).

Working with Art Jameel, members of the Factum Foundation team have spent the past few weeks in **Al-Balad** in Jeddah, scanning and documenting the architectural heritage of the old city, a UNESCO World Heritage Site (and home to the Jameel House of Traditional Arts / Jeddah).

The Factum Arte studio is also highly admired for its role in working with **contemporary artists** – including Anish Kapoor, Mark Quinn, Rashid Koraichi, Louise Bourgeois, Ahmed Mater and Abdunasser Gharem – to produce the most complex of artworks.

The founders of Factum Arte, **Adam Lowe** and **James Macmillan-Scott**, deliver their first public talk in the UAE on **Thursday April 13, 6pm**, at **Project Space Art Jameel, Alserkal Avenue**, Dubai.

Meanwhile, Factum’s previous work and ongoing concerns are reflected in a **Research Studio** – a work-in-progress-style informational exhibition – which runs through until April 20.

Art Jameel’s presentation of Factum Arte in Dubai also includes a series of **roundtable discussions** with members of the local arts and heritage communities, focusing on specific points of debate in those areas – and the potential for a centre for technology and art production in the UAE.

Art Jameel is a not-for-profit organisation that supports artists and creative communities. Our programmes foster the role of the arts in building open, connected communities; at a time of flux and dramatic societal shifts, we see this role as more crucial than ever.

Art Jameel’s current initiatives include running heritage arts schools and restoration programmes, plus a broad range of arts and educational initiatives for all ages. In 2018, we open the Jameel Arts Centre, a not-for-profit contemporary arts institution in Jadaf, Culture Village, Dubai.

Our model is collaborative: major institutional partners include the Victoria and Albert Museum, the Metropolitan Museum of Art and the Prince’s School of Traditional Arts; locally, the foundation 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.

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