

Art Jameel Commissions

Art Jameel has a longstanding interest in commissioning artists to make new works, often for the public realm, as well as in media or situations that further their ongoing artistic practice. In 2017, Art Jameel launched a commissioning programme anchored at its forthcoming contemporary arts institution in Dubai, UAE. The programme runs in a 3-year cycle, focusing on Sculpture (2018); Arts Writing and Research (2019); and Drawing and Painting (2020). Jameel Arts Centre opens on November 11, 2018.

Each commission will play a central role in Jameel Arts Centre's programming, and should embrace the institution's aims to be a multidisciplinary, exploratory space dedicated to contemporary artists, writers and researchers from across the Middle East and beyond, and to welcome a broad local, regional and international audience.

Art Jameel Commissions: Arts Writing and Research

The second round of Art Jameel Commissions aims to support the production of arts writing and innovative research. This commission aims to support candidates from the arts and humanities in their pursuit of an innovative research area, and in the production of a substantial piece of writing or body of written work. The Arts Writing and Research Commission will include support towards the development of a published outcome, which can take the form of a booklet, magazine, pamphlet or other experimental format—either digital or print. The final outcome should be produced in a timely way, dependent on its format, and agreed upon in advance by the practitioner and commissioner. In addition, awardees are expected to instigate, and participate in, at least two public events at Jameel Arts Centre and Jameel Library.

Jameel Library is an open contemporary arts research centre dedicated to cultural histories of the Gulf and its neighbouring regions, located at the heart of Jameel Arts Centre. The growing multimedia library collection features books, journals, catalogues, theses, artists' files and ephemera in both English and Arabic.

The Library's collection is dedicated to making accessible the knowledge embedded in arts and culture; enabling the construction of multiple narratives; and making visible the fluidity of these ideas. Key content subjects include: exhibition histories, pedagogy and alternative arts education projects, contemporary discourse and theory from and about the region, in addition to selected artists' monographs and mapped journeys of practice and influence.

Jameel Library is an active and dynamic learning platform, home to programmes, reading groups, curated bibliographies, symposia and interventions. Free and open to all, the library is home to students, artists, researchers, writers, professionals and the curious.

A central component of the Arts Writing and Research Commission is a three-month residency at Jameel Arts Centre in Dubai between September to December 2019. It is expected that the bulk of the commission will be realised then. The commission is open to all areas of inquiry, though preference will be given to those that intersect or complement the current thematic focusses of Jameel Arts Centre's programming.

These are:

* Inspired by its location in Dubai and on the waterfront at Dubai Creek, a strand of the Centre's programme and collection will explore the notion of **Confluence**: the space of coming together, meeting points, exchange across geographies and temporalities, and the specific identity of port cities in a global world- both historically and in the present.

* As a new independent arts institution, Jameel Arts Centre is invested in critically exploring modes of art production and exhibition making, and as such a strand of programming will be devoted to exploring **Museology** in its broadest sense. This includes histories of exhibition and art-making, audience and artwork dynamics, forms of display, and revisiting regional and global art histories.

* While the Centre's programme is international in scope, Jameel Arts Centre is also rooted in its local context, that of the UAE and of the GCC in general. As such it is interested in exploring what it means to live and work in the **GCC** in the present moment.

As part of the Arts Writing and Research Commission, grantees will have access to the Centre's network of academic, arts, and cultural organisations in the UAE and across the region. In addition, access to original research material, collections, archives, or sites of interest will be facilitated where possible. In addition, Art Jameel partners with Delfina Foundation and has access to its networks, expertise and space in London.

Art Jameel invites writers, critics, art historians, curators, and artists whose primary medium is writing to respond to the brief for this exciting opportunity – specifically those from or based in the Middle East, North Africa and Turkey. The commission is, however, open to practitioners around the world (regardless of nationality) who have links to, and have a meaningful understanding of the wider 'Middle East region'. Applicants may originate from the region, reside either in the region or diaspora, and/or have contributed to the various cultural scenes across this diverse and nuances region.

The jury includes writers and curators **Omar Berrada** and **Nida Ghouse**, and independent writer and editor, **Negar Azimi**.

Application Process

Applicants should submit:

- A summary of their area of interest in 50 words
- A more detailed brief (up to 500 words)

- A list of possible interlocutors and collaborators, based in the UAE or internationally, that are relevant to the proposal
- A short bibliography relevant to the proposal
- A bio of up to 150 words
- A one-page CV highlighting relevant experience
- Samples of previous writing, published or unpublished (up to 5)

Eligibility

The commission is open to art writers, curators, critics, art historians, and artists who have writing as their primary medium:

- Have at least five years of professional practice, which includes, for example, writing, exhibition-making, publishing or lecturing
- Demonstrate an ability to see a project through to completion. This can be a book, public event, exhibition or otherwise
- Can articulate a clear idea of where the proposed project fits within their overall practice
- Are of any nationality or age but have links to, and a grasp of, the environmental and cultural nuances of the location and the wider Middle Eastern region
- Are able to be based in Dubai for a consecutive 3-month period during the duration of the commission
- Though there are no geographic restrictions on applicants, proposals must be submitted in English. Writing and research during the residency may be conducted in Arabic or English.

Desired Outcomes

As part of the commission the awardee will be expected to:

- Develop a published outcome, which can take the form of a booklet, magazine, pamphlet or other experimental format—either digital or print. The final outcome should be produced in a timely way, dependent on its format, and agreed upon in advance by the practitioner and commissioner. If the final outcome is print, the practitioner will be invited to apply for special funds to support the production of the final product
- Instigate and participate in at least two public events at Jameel Arts Centre in 2019. These can include lectures, seminars, round-tables, workshops or other more experimental forms of event making
- Share the research process with Centre staff and stakeholders through internal meetings or seminars

- Leave a material trace of the research at Jameel Library. This can take the form of a research folder with images and notes, a bibliography, or other forms of documentation, both print and digital
- Host an Open Studio for the general public during the timeframe of the commission
- Engage with special visitors to Jameel Arts Centre who would like to learn about the residency and meet with the resident
- The resident will use Jameel Arts Centre as his/her daily studio to research and produce

Art Jameel will provide:

- 2,000 USD stipend per month to cover living costs in Dubai for 3 months
- Accommodation in Dubai for the 3-month period between September and December 2019
- Up to 2 return tickets to Dubai
- The cost of the UAE visa and support in the visa application process where needed
- Up to 3,000 USD for research
- Dedicated budget for the proposed public programmes [Budget to be administered at the discretion of Jameel Arts Centre programming team]
- The selected writer may apply for special funds to produce a printed outcome related to the residency. [Budget to be administered by Art Jameel]

Application Timeline and Commission timeframe

Applicants are invited to submit their proposals and accompanying materials online by **December 1, 2018**. Applicants should be available for questions and clarifications during February 2019. Successful applicants will be informed by **March 2019** and the public announcement will be made by the end of March 2019.

The successful candidate will be expected to be in Dubai for a consecutive three-month period between September and December 2019.

You may complete the application form [here](#).

Should you have any technical difficulties please email: commissions@artjameel.org.

Jury Biographies

Negar Azimi is a writer and the senior editor of *Bidoun*, an award-winning magazine and curatorial project with a focus on the Middle East and its diasporas. Her writing has appeared in *Artforum*, *Frieze*, *Harper's*, *The New Yorker*, *The New York Review of Books* and *The New York Times Magazine* among other venues. In 2014-2015, she was fellow at the Cullman Center for Scholars and Writers at the New York Public Library. She is also a recipient of the Andy Warhol Foundation's Arts Writers Grant.

Omar Berrada is a writer and curator, and the director of Dar al-Ma'mûn, a library and artists residency in Marrakech. He recently edited *The Africans*, a book on migration and racial politics in Morocco, and curated exhibitions centering on Ahmed Bouanani's work and archive. Omar was the guest curator of the 2017 Abraaj Group Art Prize as well as a co-editor of Sharjah Biennial's web journal tamawuj.org. Currently living in New York, he teaches at The Cooper Union where he co-organises the IDS Lecture Series.

Nida Ghouse is a writer and curator. She recently co-curated *Parapolitics: Cultural Freedom and the Cold War* (with Anselm Franke, Paz Guevara, and Antonia Majaca, 2017), and is currently working on an exhibition project *The Matrix of All Possible Narratives* (with Anselm Franke and Erhard Schüttpelz, slated 2020), both at Haus der Kulturen der Welt in Berlin. She was previously director of Mumbai Art Room.

Frequently Asked Questions

Q. Can a collective or duo apply?

A. Yes, but they will be considered as one artist with a shared budget and accommodation.

Q. If I have participated in an Art Jameel-affiliated programme in the past, am I still eligible to apply?

A. Yes, the Commission is open to everyone who meets the criteria.

Q. Can I apply with a project that is already in progress?

A. Yes, an artist may use the Commission to work on a project that is already in progress.

Q. Can I travel in the GCC / region during the residency?

A. The practitioner may use part of the research budget to visit institutions in the region that have resources that could contribute to the project.

Q. Who owns the outcome?

A. The copyright to the published outcome will remain with the practitioner. Any documentation or interventions intended for Jameel Library will be owned by Art Jameel.

Q. Can I bring in additional funding or partners? Are you open to research that is embedded/stems from another institution (say a museum or magazine)?

A. This may be possible. If the suggested partner is relevant and presented in the proposal for discussion with the jury and the curatorial team.

Q. What kind of accommodation will be provided?

A. Art Jameel will arrange for a serviced apartment that is within reasonable proximity to Jameel Arts Centre.

Q. Do I need to be of a certain nationality or from MENA to apply?

A. Applicants may originate from the MENA, reside either in the region or diaspora, and/or have contributed to the various cultural scenes across this diverse and nuanced region.

*If you have any questions that have not been addressed above, please contact: commissions@artjameel.org

Terms and Conditions

Stage One

I) A panel of eminent jurors will select the winning commission. By registering his/her interest and submitting his/her details and concept proposals, the practitioner agrees to be bound by the rules and terms and conditions of entry and by the decision of the judging organisation, which is final and binding in all aspects, being specified that jurors are not obliged to provide reasons for their decision.

II) Jurors will not enter into correspondence with practitioners.

III) Only one practitioner (or collective, should the application be made as a duo/group) will be commissioned.

IV) Proposals must be the applicant's own work and not breach any third party's intellectual property rights in any way. Applicants must declare the names of any third parties who may have intellectual property, moral or other rights in any part of the work submitted. Practitioners must be able to demonstrate on demand that any third party rights have been assigned, licensed or waived as appropriate for all relevant purposes. In the case of copyright infringement, the commissioned practitioners will assume full responsibility, the commission will be cancelled and the commissioner will be reimbursed any fees paid and costs incurred.

V) All submissions must comply with the rules and if they do not comply they shall be disqualified.

VI) By completing a submission, the practitioner's will opt into being added into the Art Jameel database in accordance with the GDPR-compliant [privacy policy](#).

Stage Two

I) Commissioned residents shall agree to take part in related promotional photographs, interviews and similar publicity activities as may be reasonably requested. Notably the use of the practitioner's name, biography and image of work may be used for publicity.

II) Should there be a published outcome, a separate rights agreement will be drawn up between Art Jameel and the commissioned practitioner.

III) A commissioning contract and any other necessary contracts will be executed by the commissioned practitioner and Art Jameel setting out each parties' rights and obligations under the Commission.