

Art Jameel and Dubai Holding Introduce Jaddaf Waterfront Sculpture Park, the Gulf's first open-air art park

Situated next to Jameel Arts Centre in Jaddaf Waterfront, Dubai Holding's latest community

- *Jaddaf Waterfront Sculpture Park opens to the public with the launch of Jameel Arts Centre on November 11, 2018*
- *The park is developed in partnership with Dubai Holding to further the group's commitment towards enhancing Dubai's socio-economic development*
- *Spread across 5,200 square metres, Jaddaf Waterfront Sculpture Park was designed as a sustainable space by award-winning ibda design and features large-scale artworks and a robust programme of community-oriented events and activations curated by Art Jameel*
- *The inaugural exhibition of sculptures includes works by Helaine Blumenfeld, Talin Hazbar and Latifa Saeed, Mohammed Ahmed Ibrahim, David Nash and Slavs and Tatars*

Dubai, United Arab Emirates | November 10, 2018 – [Art Jameel](#), the independent organisation that supports arts, education and heritage in the Middle East, today announces the line-up of artworks for Jaddaf Waterfront Sculpture Park, the UAE's first open-air art and sculpture park located in Jaddaf Waterfront, Dubai Holding's mixed-use destination located along the banks of the Dubai Creek.

Designed by the award-winning, UAE-based architecture studio **ibda design**, and programmed and curated by Art Jameel, the Park was built by Dubai Holding, as an anchor to their latest community Jaddaf Waterfront. The Park serves as a bridge between the public corniche that wraps around Jaddaf Waterfront and the new [Jameel Arts Centre](#). An innovative cultural destination opening in Dubai on November 11, 2018, Jameel Arts Centre is the first non-governmental contemporary arts institution of its kind in the Gulf.

Inaugural Exhibition

Jaddaf Waterfront Sculpture Park features works from the Art Jameel Collection, works on loan and commissions by local and international artists. The works installed for the opening of the Park reflect themes of nature and transformation, as well as local and regional traditional forms.

Drawing upon the natural landscape surrounding his hometown of Khorfakkan (an area in the Emirate of Sharjah), **Mohammed Ahmed Ibrahim's** installation *Mountain Rock Wrapped with Copper Wire* (2007) is comprised of nearly five tons of rock collected over the course of several years. Each rock is wrapped with copper wire in an act of obsessive repetition that evokes both archaeology and the artist's memory of a space before it is irrevocably changed by urban development.

Renowned British ‘Land Art’ pioneer **David Nash** has transformed 700 kilos of tree bark through industrial and organic processes to produce a dark carbonised work, *Charred Column*, 1993. The stacked sculpture, located next to the Park’s amphitheatre, reflects the inherent tension between humans and nature, and is designed to further evolve as the outdoor environment transforms the material over time.

Inspired by Cycladic sculpture and futurism, **Helaine Blumenfeld** brings a mass of hard bronze to life with the fluid form of *Tempesta*, 2013 – a unique crossover between figuration and abstraction – that will feature as a major, permanent work for the Park.

Talin Hazbar and Latifa Saeed reimagine the majlis – a site where family, neighbours and members of a community gather – with a seating installation crafted in terracotta clay. Created in close collaboration with local craftsmen, *Left Impression* (2018), is comprised of a series of purposefully deformed geometric forms, emphasising their origin in artistic handicraft rather than industrial process.

Molla Nasreddin: The Antimodern (2012) by the collective **Slavs and Tatars** is both a working playground ‘ride’ for adults and children, and a smartly layered satirical reference to the legendary Azerbaijani periodical of the early 20th century. Here a life-size figure of the popular 13th century Sufi philosopher Molla Nasreddin faces backwards while riding a donkey walking towards the future. The work is characteristic of Slavs and Tatar’s oeuvre, which often invites direct audience participation and regularly uses humour to excavate and explore the geography of Eurasia that is equally imagined and political.

Designing Jaddaf Waterfront Sculpture Park

Jaddaf Waterfront Sculpture Park was designed to balance the rippling water of Jaddaf Creek with the stacked geometry of Jameel Arts Centre. The result, a fluid and easily navigated criss-cross of paths, reflects a hidden geometry that both defines distinct zones and builds an organic flow between them. The site-specific approach of park creators **ibda design**, an architecture studio founded in the UAE by **Wael Al Awar** (Lebanon) and **Kenichi Teramoto** (Japan), places a premium on accommodating both human behaviour and the aesthetic needs of the featured art works.

Designed as an active and lively outdoor gallery space that welcomes community engagement, the Park transitions seamlessly from the open walkway around the corniche and features zones of fixed furniture with speciality tables for board games or chess, as well as an area designed for food trucks, where vendors can set up temporary stalls. A playground – with a child-centric topography, flexible rubber surface and sand station for experiential play – creates a safe and inviting space for families. A central feature of the park is the 200-seat amphitheatre for film screenings, performances, and talks; organically integrated into the surrounding landscape, the amphitheatre will host programming curated by Jameel Arts Centre and community partners.



END

Sculpture Park List of Works

Helaine Blumenfeld
Tempesta, 2013
Bronze
451 x 280 x 334 cm
Art Jameel Collection

Talin Hazbar and Latifa Saeed
Left Impression, 2018
Terracotta clay
Dimensions variable
Courtesy of the artists

Mohammed Ahmed Ibrahim
Mountain Rock Wrapped with Copper Wire, 2007
Rock and copper wire
Dimensions variable
Courtesy of the artist and Cuadro Gallery

David Nash
Charred Column, 1993
Charred oak
608 cm high
Art Jameel Collection

Slavs and Tatars
Molla Nasreddin: The Antimodern, 2012
Fibreglass, lacquer paint and steel
180 x 180 x 80 cm
Courtesy of the artists and The Third Line

Further details on **Jameel Arts Centre** can be found [here](#).

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For more information visit www.artjameel.org and jameelartscentre.org and join the conversation:

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About Art Jameel

Art Jameel supports artists and creative communities. Current initiatives include running heritage institutes and restoration programmes, plus a broad range of arts and educational initiatives for all ages. The organisation's programmes foster the role of the arts in building open, connected communities; at a time of flux and dramatic societal shifts, this role is understood as more crucial than ever.

[Jameel Arts Centre](#), an innovative contemporary institution in Dubai, UAE, opened on November 11, 2018; [Hayy: Creative Hub](#), a major complex for the creative industries in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, is set to launch in 2020.

Art Jameel's model is collaborative: major institutional partners include [Delfina Foundation](#), [the Metropolitan Museum of Art](#), the [Prince's Foundation School of Traditional Arts](#) and [the Victoria and Albert Museum](#). Locally, the organisation 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.

Art Jameel is positioned alongside [Community Jameel](#), and complements its sister organisation's work in promoting positive social change, job creation and poverty alleviation across the Middle East, North Africa and Turkey.

www.artjameel.org

About Jameel Arts Centre

One of the first contemporary arts institutions in Dubai, [Jameel Arts Centre](#) presents curated solo and group exhibitions, drawn both from the Jameel Art 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.

Located by the creek in Dubai's Jaddaf Waterfront neighbourhood, the Centre'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 Centre also includes project and commissions spaces, a writer's studio, a restaurant and shop.

The Centre 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 ibda design

ibda design is a design-driven architecture studio with a focus towards a project's specific context, and a close attention to detail. The two partners, Wael Al Awar (Lebanon) and Kenichi Teramoto (Japan), each own unique biographical stories that first led them away from their home countries, then later to collaborate in Dubai. Thus, they share a mutual ability to observe a city up-close and intimately, yet also from afar, with the attentive eye of an "outsider". With no first-language shared between them, the two are required to communicate through architecture, using design as a language. Upon merging their individual sensibilities of form and natural landscape, they reach an architectural consensus amongst themselves, and the context.

ibda design was recently recognised by Architectural Record's "Design Vanguard" as a top emerging firm in the world, and by Architectural Digest in 2017, as a Top 50 office within the Middle East. ibda design has won numerous awards for projects, including: 2018 Hong Kong Design Award for Hayy: Creative Hub in Jeddah; 2016 London Design Award for Hai d3; 2016 Faith and Form Religious Architecture Award and 2018 Arab Architects Award for Al Warqa'a Mosque; and in 2016, was shortlisted in the international competition for Beirut Museum of Art. For further information: <http://ibdadesign.com/>; <https://www.facebook.com/ibdadesign/>; <https://www.instagram.com/ibdadesign.architects/>

About Jaddaf Waterfront

Jaddaf Waterfront is one of Dubai Holding's iconic mixed-use destinations, located along the banks of the Dubai Creek. With its relaxed creek-side lifestyle and waterfront promenades, this hip, new, family-friendly community is set to become Dubai's new neighborhood for contemporary art.

This eclectic district offers a number of unique attractions including Jameel Arts Centre – a leading contemporary art institution with open access for all; Jaddaf Waterfront Sculpture Park – a first-of-its-kind arts and sculpture park in the UAE; as well as the region's largest, living Green Wall that features



more than 80,000 plants that help to reduce ambient temperatures, offset pollution and provide a soothing backdrop for a morning jog.

Flanked by the Dubai canal on one side with its own marina, the district is seamlessly connected by roads, boats and bridges to both the arterial highways of Sheikh Zayed Road and Al Khail Road.

A tranquil residential, retail and commercial district minutes away from many of Dubai's main destinations, this modern and cohesive community is set amongst meandering canals and connected pedestrian bridges that are reminiscent of popular European cities. With stunning marina and creek views set among lush green spaces, this master development is already home to two distinct residential communities - Dubai Wharf and Manazel Al Khor - and provides luxurious purchase and rental options for those looking for serenity in the heart of the city.

The district is also overlooked by exclusive five-star hotels, including the Palazzo Versace, a Neoclassical masterpiece with a range of well-crafted Italian furnishings, signature al-fresco dining and entertainment to suit every vibe, as well as the trendy Form Hotel, which features design focused architecture and original art photography.