

## V&A, Art Jameel exhibition **Maps of Defiance** opens at XXII Triennale di Milano presenting documentation of destruction of Yazidi heritage and genocide

**Milan, Italy | February 28, 2019** – The Victoria and Albert Museum and Art Jameel announced the opening today of [Maps of Defiance](#), an exhibition that presents [Forensic Architecture](#)'s ongoing work with [Yazda](#) in northern Iraq, where it is providing a local documentation team with a toolkit to record spatial data from sites of violence and trauma as evidence of war crimes. The exhibition is the United Kingdom's pavilion at the XXII Triennale di Milano, running from March 1 to September 1, 2019, and was supported by the British Council, with additional support provided by Arts Council England.

Forensic Architecture – an interdisciplinary team of investigators, including artists, architects, archaeologists, filmmakers, software developers, lawyers and journalists – uses innovative digital tools and image capture to enable on-the-ground DIY recording and preservation of evidence genocide and the destruction of cultural heritage. This installation presents how design can directly inform new perspectives and lines of investigation in post-conflict zones.

In August 2014, the Islamic State, or Daesh, invaded the Sinjar region of northern Iraq. Their campaign of violence against the ethnic and religious minority, the Yazidi, included systematic killing, torture, and sexual enslavement, and the widespread destruction of their cultural sites.

In April 2018, Forensic Architecture, in collaboration with Yazda, the global Yazidi organization, set out to document crimes committed by Daesh, and to train a ground team to collect evidence to support legal cases against its members.

The exhibition, produced by the V&A in collaboration with Art Jameel, presents the process by which this evidence is collected and reconstructed, and insights into the toolkit of DIY methods and advanced digital techniques used with local investigators to recreate three-dimensional models of the destroyed Yazidi sites.

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For more information visit [www.artjameel.org](http://www.artjameel.org) and join the conversation:

Art Jameel: Instagram [@art\\_jameel](#) | Facebook [Art Jameel](#) | Twitter [@Art\\_Jameel](#) using the hashtag #artjameeldxb



### **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.