

For Immediate Release

Art Jameel launches a new programme designed to cushion the impact of COVID-19 on independent artists and creatives

- **The new Art Jameel Research and Practice Platform supports multiple independent artists, writers, curators and researchers in the Middle East and North Africa through the awarding of micro-fees towards ongoing or new projects**
- **The allocations (of up to \$3000 per artist) will be distributed, via an Open Call and the deliberation of an independent jury, in three cycles between April 1 and June 7, 2020**
- **Art Jameel aims to take a responsive approach to the current crisis, adapting its mandate to *support artists and creative communities*, through an expanded programme that includes support for artists and creatives plus the launch of new digital learning resources**

Dubai, United Arab Emirates | April 1, 2020 — [Art Jameel](#), an independent organisation that supports arts, education and heritage in the Middle East and beyond, today launches the *Art Jameel Research and Practice Platform*, a rapid-response scheme offering artists support through the allocation of micro-fees towards their ongoing or new projects. Artists, writers, curators and researchers based in the Middle East and North Africa can apply online in three cycles, from today, April 1, 2020, through June 7, 2020.

The first deadline is April 10, allowing for a prompt response to those most in need. The Platform recognises the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on independent creatives and aims to play a role – alongside other organisations and colleagues in the field – in supporting the sector at this time of great challenges for all.

The *Art Jameel Research and Practice Platform* aims to support up to 50 practitioners in their development of existing work, as they embark on new projects from home, or adapt their practices and ways of working to the current environment. The scheme invites practitioners to apply via a simple online form; proposals are considered by an independent jury, working to pre-set criteria, and according to three cycles with deadlines of April 10, April 30 and June 7; and the allocations are then distributed to eligible applicants.

“With colleagues in the public and private sector, we’ve been following and discussing the impact that the global health crisis might be having on artists and the creative community in general,” said Antonia Carver, Director, Art Jameel. “We felt Art Jameel’s response could include contributing to efforts to support artists and other independent practitioners – aware that many live project-to-project, and are impacted significantly by the cancellation or postponement of events, locally and

globally. The team at Art Jameel has worked really hard to come up with a rapid-response scheme that contributes, even if on a micro level, to keeping artists afloat during these tough times.”

Applicants are encouraged to apply via an online application form, launched today and open through June 7, 2020 (with interim deadlines on April 10 and 30). The simple application form requests information on the project in question, and the practitioner’s past experience and current situation.

The Art Jameel Research and Practice Platform is open to all independent artists, curators, writers and researchers based in the Middle East and North Africa region. Application forms can be found online at the [Art Jameel website](#) in both Arabic and English. More details available [here](#).

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Notes to Editors:

The Art Jameel Research and Practice Platform sets eligibility as follows:

1. Applicants should live and work in the MENA region at the time of application.
2. Applicants should demonstrate in their online application that they participate actively in their local creative communities.
3. Applicants’ projects should demonstrate integrity, project purposefulness, and originality in thinking.
4. Applicants should be independent artists, writers, curators, researchers (or representing an artist collective or independent group).
5. The Platform is particularly aimed at those experiencing a significant drop in participation opportunities due to the global COVID-19 pandemic impact and/or time-sensitive projects affected by cancellation of exhibitions and events.

For more information visit www.artjameel.org and join the conversation on Art Jameel’s social media channels:

- Instagram [@art_jameel](#)
- Facebook [Art Jameel](#)
- Twitter [@Art_Jameel](#) using the hashtag #artjameel

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 the winter of 2020-21.

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.

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 Art Jameel 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 Jaddaf Waterfront, one of Dubai Holding's mixed-use destinations, 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.

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