



## **Magnificent light and art festival ready to launch in Riyadh with spectacular installations by more than 60 international artists**

***Noor Riyadh festival runs from March 18-June 12 with a Citywide installation program from March 18-April 3. The Light Upon Light: Light Art since the 1960s exhibition and citywide activities run from March 18- June 12.***

***Festival line-up includes international icons Daniel Buren, Carsten Höller, Ilya & Emilia Kabakov, Yayoi Kusama, Dan Flavin and Robert Wilson, alongside Saudi artists Ahmed Mater, Lulwah Al Homoud, Ayman Zedani, Rashed AlShashai and Maha Malluh***

***Theme of ‘Under One Sky’ chosen as a symbol of unity***

**17 March 2021, Riyadh – Saudi Arabia:** Noor Riyadh, one of the world’s most exciting festivals of light and art combining the highest quality of light artworks across the largest city footprint, will ignite tomorrow for the first time and start 17 days filled with spectacular installations lighting up the night sky of the Saudi Arabian capital.

Over 60 celebrated global artists from as far and wide as Argentina, China, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, Netherlands, Spain, Sweden, United Kingdom and United States and including 23 leading Saudi artists have been selected to display significant works of light art under the theme of ‘Under One Sky.’

Noor Riyadh is part of the larger Riyadh Art program that is investing in more than 1,000 pieces of public art to turn the city into a gallery without walls. It was inaugurated as one of the four mega-projects of Riyadh City by the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud and initiated by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman.

Advisor of brand and marketing to the Royal Commission for Riyadh City Hosam Al-Qurashi said: “This magnificent festival is a metaphor for the transformation of Riyadh. It illuminates our ambition to become one of the world’s most competitive and liveable cities by 2030.

“We believe this initiative will have a profound and positive effect on enriching the lives of citizens, residents and visitors alike, bringing together a global community which sparks creative expression and creates an inclusive culture. Riyadh Art will also positively contribute to the economic development of the city as a place for investment and where the new creative economy flourishes, while having a positive impact on developing Riyadh as a beautiful, vibrant and cosmopolitan city for everyone to enjoy.”

The Noor Riyadh festival features 33 citywide installations encompassing all forms of light art, including sculptures, projections, interactive shows, kinetic and immersive pieces placed in



numerous locations across the city to excite and entertain residents and visitors. Alongside the citywide installations the *Light Upon Light: Light Art since the 1960s*, the largest retrospective exhibition of lightworks featuring the work of 30 artists.

The festival also includes a program of over 270 special activities of tours, talks, workshops, family activities, film screenings and music, many of which are available online allowing the festival to be enjoyed by a wider audience outside of Riyadh and Saudi Arabia.

Director of Riyadh Art Khaled Al-Hazani said: “Noor Riyadh is a celebration of light and art on an unparalleled scale. Art is a universal language and light is a symbol of hope and, in these challenging times, it is my hope that this festival shines like a beacon to the world and illuminates our path to a brighter future reflecting our theme of ‘Under One Sky’.

“Noor Riyadh has been designed as an immersive, interactive festival of light and art and, whether you are here in-person or engaging with us online around the world, this is an opportunity to connect with people from across the globe, sharing experiences based on the warmth of personality, generosity of spirit and creative thought.”

The magnificent installations will be visible to all in public spaces across the city and a complete list of the exhibitions and special events can be found online at <http://noorriyadh.sa>. Some events, such as workshops, film screenings and talks are ticketed with a nominal charge to manage capacity and ensure public safety and compliance with social distancing regulations.

Noor Riyadh is a citywide festival of light and art as a Riyadh Art program, March 18 – April 3, 2021, <http://noorriyadh.sa/>

Light Upon Light: Light Art since the 1960s exhibition at King Abdullah Financial District Conference Center (KAFFD), Riyadh, as part of Noor Riyadh, a Riyadh Art program, March 18 – June 12, 2021, <http://noorriyadh.sa/>

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***For more information regarding Riyadh Art and Noor Riyadh contact:***

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## **Notes to editors**

### **About Riyadh Art**

Riyadh, the capital city of Saudi Arabia, is on a ten-year mission to become one of the world's most liveable and competitive cities, a global city which is open for business and that welcomes the world. With a young and rapidly growing population of 7+ million residents, Riyadh is transforming into a vibrant, cosmopolitan global city.

Art and culture reflect the spirit of a city and so the Riyadh Art project has been developed to turn the whole capital into a creative canvas - a gallery without walls - to enrich lives, ignite creative expression and kindle the creative economy. Riyadh Art is a demonstration of the open, accessible, creative transformation of the capital where the exchange of ideas through creative expression develops a deeper mutual understanding and respect.

The Riyadh Art project will have a positive impact on people, bringing moments of joy to residents and visitors every day, while instilling a greater sense of civic pride and creating a more beautiful city for everyone to enjoy. It will also spark development of the new creative economy and have a positive effect in attracting new businesses to invest in the city.

- Website:** [www.riyadhart.sa](http://www.riyadhart.sa)
- Instagram:** [www.instagram.com/riyadhartofficial/](https://www.instagram.com/riyadhartofficial/)
- Twitter:** [https://twitter.com/Riyadh\\_Arts](https://twitter.com/Riyadh_Arts)
- Facebook:** [www.facebook.com/RiyadhArtOfficial](https://www.facebook.com/RiyadhArtOfficial)

### **About Noor Riyadh**

Noor Riyadh is the new citywide annual festival of light and art launching in March 2021. The 2021 theme, Under One Sky, alludes to the universal human impulse to gather around light, to look into the flames of a campfire and to gaze at the stars. The launch edition's program includes over 60 artworks comprising large-scale public installations across Riyadh, a landmark exhibition of light art since the 1960s *Light Upon Light: Light Art since the 1960s* and a diverse program of special activities including tours, talks, workshops, family activities, film and music.

Noor Riyadh is the most exciting light art festival in the world combining the highest quality of light artworks from leading international and Saudi artists across the largest city footprint of any light festival worldwide. The *Light Upon Light* exhibition is the largest ever retrospective of Light Art. Noor Riyadh is a Riyadh Art program.

- Website:** [www.noorriyadh.sa](http://www.noorriyadh.sa)
- Instagram:** [www.instagram.com/noorriyadhfestival/](https://www.instagram.com/noorriyadhfestival/)
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