



Noor Riyadh: Annual festival of light and art illuminates Riyadh ‘Under One Sky’ from March 18, 2021

- **Over 60 artists participating from more than 20 countries with almost 40% from Saudi Arabia**
- ***Light Upon Light: Light Art since the 1960s* exhibition is the largest ever retrospective of light art**

March 04, 2021, Riyadh – Saudi Arabia: **Noor Riyadh, a first of its kind annual festival of light and art, illuminates Riyadh ‘Under One Sky’ from March 18. Over 60 artists from more than 20 countries will be exhibited with close to 40% hailing from Saudi Arabia.**

Noor Riyadh’s launch edition includes over 60 artworks comprising large scale public installations across Riyadh, a landmark exhibition *Light Upon Light: Light Art since the 1960s*, and a diverse program of special activities including tours, talks, workshops, family activities, film and music, many of which are available online to reach a wider audience.

The uplifting event is the first program of the Riyadh Art project to launch and is expected to leave a lasting legacy, inspiring creative expression and nurturing the city’s creative economy. Comprising of more than 1,000 public art installations across ten programs and supported by two annual festivals, Riyadh Art is one of the four major projects under the mandate of the Royal Commission for Riyadh City. His Highness Prince Badr bin Farhan Al-Saud, Royal Commission for Riyadh City Board Member and Chairman of the Steering Committee for the Riyadh Art project, states that the project comes to turn Riyadh into a gallery without walls, and to transform the capital into one of the world’s most livable, environmentally friendly and sustainable cities in line with the Kingdom’s Vision 2030 goals.

Noor Riyadh honors Riyadh’s rich cultural heritage and areas of natural beauty through a carefully curated program, whilst creating a dialogue between tradition and modernity and the city’s past and future. The 2021 theme ‘Under One Sky’ reflects Saudi Arabia’s long-held tradition of international exchange at the crossroads of east and west with a program of both international and Saudi artists.

This inaugural edition unites many exciting names in light art, bringing to the city of Riyadh some of the biggest international and regional artists, while providing a transformative platform to an expanding roster of emerging local artists. Among the 63 participating artists are Saudi artists Ahmed Mater, Lulwah Al



Homoud, Ayman Zedani, Rashed AlShashai and Maha Malluh, and international artists Daniel Buren, Carsten Höller, Ilya & Emilia Kabakov, Yayoi Kusama and Dan Flavin.

Noor Riyadh's 2021 theme, 'Under One Sky', is a catalyst for artists to create works that respond to inclusivity and shared humanity. It alludes to the universal human impulse to gather around light, to look into the flames of a campfire and to gaze at the stars. Whilst the theme in its English translation is instantly relatable to an international audience, the words in Arabic (تجمعنا سماء واحدة) literally mean 'we gather under one sky.' Encompassing all forms of light art, including sculptures, projections, interactive shows, kinetic and immersive pieces, Noor Riyadh brings outdoor citywide installations to the residents of Riyadh.

The citywide installations include more than 30 works of art across multiple locations with two main hubs, the King Abdullah Financial District (KAFD) and the King Abdulaziz Historical Center (KAHC), and will illuminate the city from March 18 to April 3, 2021.

Light Upon Light: Light Art since the 1960s is a landmark retrospective exhibition of light art divided into four sectional "rays" that survey light as an artistic medium: "Perceiving Light," "Experiencing Light," "Projecting Light," and "Environmental Light." Each ray blends time and unites established artists of diverse geographic origin. This historic exhibition is a groundbreaking event for culture in Saudi Arabia and will showcase 30 works of art from March 18 until June 12, 2021 and will be held at the King Abdullah Financial District Conference Center.

With inclusivity and access to all at its core, much of Noor Riyadh's program of activities is scheduled virtually and across the city to maximize participation and community engagement through creative, personal and immersive experiences. Talks, tours, workshops, performances and volunteering will provide young participants with increasing opportunities to enter the creative industry and gain professional experience. A schedule of special activities with ticketing details to manage crowds under strict regulations to protect the health and safety of visitors can be found on Noor Riyadh's website.

www.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
Instagram: www.instagram.com/riyadhartofficial/
Twitter: https://twitter.com/Riyadh_Arts
Facebook: 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
Instagram: www.instagram.com/noorriyadhfestival/
Twitter: <https://twitter.com/NoorRiyadhFest>
Facebook: www.facebook.com/NoorRiyadhFestival



**NOOR
RIYADH**
A RIYADH ART PROGRAM

| NOOR RIYADH CITYWIDE INSTALLATIONS | |
|-------------------------------------|--|
| Artist | Artwork |
| Ahmed Mater | <i>Mitochondria: Powerhouses</i> , 2021 |
| Aleksandra Stratimirovic | <i>Northern Lights</i> , 2015 |
| Ali Alruzaiza | <i>Tribute to Ali Alruzaiza</i> , 2021 |
| Amigo & Amigo | <i>Parabolic Lightcloud</i> , 2018 |
| Angelo Bonello | <i>Run Beyond</i> , 2015 |
| Ayman Zedani | <i>Earthseed</i> , 2021 |
| Carsten Höller | <i>Light Wall (Outdoor Version)</i> , 2021 |
| Christopher Bauder and Kangding Ray | <i>SKALAR</i> , 2021 |
| Company New Heroes | <i>We Light Riyadh</i> , 2021 |
| Daan Roosegaarde | <i>Glowing Nature</i> , 2021 |
| Daniel Buren | <i>Colored Triangles by Myriad, for Riyadh work in situ: KAFD Conference Center, Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, 2020-2021</i> |
| Daniel Canogar | <i>Bifurcation</i> , 2020 |
| Felipe Prado | <i>Picto Sender Machine</i> , 2018 |
| Ilya & Emilia Kabakov | <i>The Cupola</i> , 2003 |
| Karolina Halatek | <i>Beacon</i> , 2021 |
| Koert Vermeulen | <i>Star in Motion</i> , 2021 |
| Lulwah Al Homoud | <i>The Infinite Blue</i> , 2021 |
| Marwah AlMugait | بينتنا في السماء, <i>May We Meet Again</i> , 2021 |
| Mohammed Alsaleem | <i>Tribute to Mohammed Alsaleem</i> , 2021 |
| Muhannad Shono | <i>The Mind Ship Exodus</i> , 2021 |
| Nojoud Alsudairi | رسائل مؤقتة, <i>Ricochet</i> , 2021 |
| Ralf Westerhof & Talal Al Zeid | <i>Nocturnal Dialogue</i> , 2021 |
| Robert Wilson | <i>DAYDREAM</i> , 2021 |
| Robert Wilson | <i>PALACE OF LIGHT</i> , 2021 |
| Saeed Gamhawi | <i>My Mother's Rug (Unique Edition)</i> , 2021 |
| Squidsoup | <i>Submergence</i> , 2013-2021 |
| Suliman Al Salem | <i>Will Humans Exceed Their State of Being? (The State of Being Series)</i> , 2021 |
| Tom & Lien Dekyvere | <i>Rhizome</i> , 2021 |
| UxU Studio | <i>Illusion Hole</i> , 2020 |

| NOOR RIYADH 'LIGHT UPON LIGHT' EXHIBITION | |
|---|--|
| Artist | Artwork |
| Abdullah AlOthman | <i>Casino AlRiyadh</i> , 2021 |
| Ahmad Angawi | <i>Proportion of Light</i> , 2021 |
| Ahmed Mater | <i>Antenna (Green)</i> , 2010 |
| Anila Quayyum Agha | <i>Hidden Diamond- Saffron</i> , 2019 |
| Ayman Yossri Daydban | <i>Somewhere Beautiful</i> , 2021 |
| Dan Flavin | <i>Untitled (To Sabine and Holger)</i> , 1966 – 1971 |
| Dana Awartani | <i>Diwans of the Unknown</i> , 2021 |
| Daniel Firman | <i>Butterfly</i> , 2007 |
| Iván Navarro | <i>Podium</i> , 2018 |
| James Clar | <i>Render (Tree)</i> , 2016 |
| James Turrell | <i>Afrum (Pale Pink)</i> , 1967 |
| Julio Le Parc | <i>Continuel lumière cylindre</i> , 1962 |
| Keith Sonnier | <i>Neon Wrapping Incandescent V</i> , 1970 |
| Lara Baladi | <i>Roba Vecchia</i> , 2007 |
| Leo Villareal | <i>Corona</i> , 2018 |
| Lucio Fontana | <i>Ambiente Spaziale a luce rossa</i> , 1967 |
| Maha Malluh | <i>Capturing Light</i> , 2005 |
| Manal AlDowayan | <i>Nostalgia Takes Us to Sea but Desire Keeps Us from the Shore</i> , 2010 |
| Mary Corse | <i>Untitled (Electric Light)</i> , 1968-2019 |
| Mohammad AlFaraj | <i>The Sun, Again</i> , 2017 |
| Nancy Holt | <i>Holes of Light</i> , 1973 |
| Nasser AlSalem | <i>God is Alive, He Shall Not Die</i> , 2012 |
| Rafael Lozano Hemmer | <i>Recurrent Anaximander</i> , 2019 |
| Rashed AlShashai | <i>Searching for Darkness</i> , 2021 |
| Robert Irwin | <i>Buzy Body</i> , 2018 |
| Sarah Abu Abdallah | <i>Trees Speaking With Each Other</i> , 2019 |
| Sultan bin Fahad | <i>Once Was A Ruler</i> , 2017 |
| teamLab | <i>Flowers and People - A Whole Year per Hour</i> , 2020 |
| Urs Fischer | <i>Leo (George and Irmelin)</i> , 2019 |



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| VENIVIDIMULTIPLEX | HALO II, 2021 | Yayoi Kusama | <i>Infinity Mirror Room—Brilliance of the Souls, 2014</i> |
| VOUW | <i>City Gazing Riyadh, 2021</i> | | |
| Wang Yuyang | <i>Artificial Moon, 2007</i> | | |
| Zaman Jassim | <i>When the Moon is Full, 2021</i> | | |

Noor Riyadh is presented by Riyadh Art and Royal Commission for Riyadh City

Noor Riyadh Partners: General Entertainment Authority, Riyadh Municipality, Diriyah Gate Development Authority, King Abdullah Financial District, King Fahad National Library, Riyadh Front, Kingdom Tower, Digital City, JAX District

Noor Riyadh 2021 will take place in the following locations: AlNakheel Sports Park, Digital City, Diplomatic Quarter General Authority, JAX District, King Abdullah Financial District (KAFD), King Abdulaziz Historical Center, Kingdom Tower, King Fahad National Library, Masmak Fort, Riyadh Front, At-Turaif World Heritage Site, Wadi Hanifah Dam Park, Wadi Namar Park

The individual programs being developed by Riyadh Art include:

- 1) **Urban Art Lab:** Galleries for well-known artists in city squares that encourage interaction between artists and citizens. Each pavilion will include one digital artwork and cultural programming, and is a blend of production atelier, gallery, artist studio, open-air classroom, office and lecture space.
- 2) **Joyous Gardens:** Playgrounds designed by famous artists in neighborhood gardens to encourage creative play as a core part of the healthy and vibrant urban life in Riyadh.
- 3) **Jewels of Riyadh:** Permanent, large scale site-specific installations form an ongoing program to enhance public spaces, celebrate cultural heritage, contribute to community building, improve the quality of urban life for residents, and attract international tourism.
- 4) **Welcoming Gateways:** A series of grand “gates of culture” heralding the entrance to Riyadh as a city of culture. Riyadh’s Welcoming Gateways set the tone for a city where the arts and creativity are essential components of a vibrant and inspiring global city.
- 5) **Art on the Move:** A series of distinctive large-scale, high impact, colorful and kinetic art interventions, designed to support the wayfinding experience of Riyadh. Artworks will be integrated into the core infrastructure of the city, such as bridges and overpasses, and placed at major road and rail intersections to provide a truly joyful everyday experience.
- 6) **Art in Transit:** This program integrates public art into the core fabric of Riyadh’s Metro and BRT bus system to create beautiful and distinctive stations, supported by innovative programs that foster interaction amongst citizens.
- 7) **Urban Flow:** Integrates public art into the fabric of the citywide network of pedestrian walkways and footpaths, enticing citizens to experience art and the city on their own terms. Shifting focus from a transport system that privileges the car, the city is making the transition to a new future of public transportation, encouraging its citizens out into the streets and onto the Metro to navigate a city that has become the new creative canvas.
- 8) **The Hidden River - The Illuminated Bridges:** Artists illuminate key bridges across the city and highlight not only the structural configuration of their creative canvas, but the bridge itself as a physical, social and emotional connector within the landscape. A distinctive, vibrant experience for everybody.



- 9) **The Hidden River - Art Trail:** Artists interpret the unique history, heritage and ecology of the wadis of Riyadh, while promoting the artisanal and artistic spirit of the community. The Hidden River is an art trail which explores and reimagines traditional craft-based techniques.
- 10) **Garden City:** This is a sculpture park for the 21st century, inviting new interpretations of art, technology and environmental engagement for Riyadh's residents and visitors. It creates a new environment for experiencing interactive and contemporary art outside of the museum, accessible to all at human scale and a platform for small and medium-sized permanent and temporary outdoor artworks to be programmed as part of the wider park creative experience.
- 11) **Riyadh Icon:** This is dedicated to the creation of a 21st century distinctive icon for the city of Riyadh and for Saudi Arabia. This ambitious international commission is a visual symbol of the cultural aspirations of Vision 2030 and it heralds a new era of Saudi intention to celebrate a global community that sparks creativity, ignites the art movement, encourages self-expression, and creates an inclusive culture.
- 12) **Noor Riyadh:** Noor Riyadh is a new citywide annual festival of light and art that nurtures creativity, promotes talent and delivers awe inspiring experiences. 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: Light Art since the 1960s* exhibition is the largest ever retrospective of Light Art.
- 13) **Tuwaiq International Sculpture Symposium:** Sculptors from around the world coming together to produce a series of permanent public artworks. The entire creative process will be open and accessible to the public with a program of events visits, talks and an opening Gala. The work will be on view for five days at the end of the Symposium before moving to an open-air gallery that will be accessible to the public.