

Annual festival of light and art Noor Riyadh returns on a grander scale to illuminate Saudi Arabia's Capital, November 3 - 19, 2022

Accompanying exhibition '*From Spark to Spirit*' runs from November 3, 2022 - February 4, 2023

- Following the success of Noor Riyadh 2021, the 2022 edition will see the festival almost triple in size, with more than 120 installations by over 100 artists from more than 40 countries, on view across 40 locations
- The festival explores the theme '**We Dream of New Horizons**' centered around a sense of hopefulness for the future, with connotations that are positive, optimistic and reflective of a confidence in renewal and transformation

October 16 2022, Riyadh – Saudi Arabia: Noor Riyadh, the groundbreaking annual festival of light and art, will launch on November 3, 2022 (until 19 November 2022), accompanied by a 3-month art exhibition (November 3, 2022 - February 4, 2023) and dynamic public program. Following the success of the festival's inaugural edition in 2021, this edition will see the festival triple in size, with activations in 40 locations across the city of Riyadh.

As one of the world's most ambitious festivals of its kind, Noor Riyadh transforms the city into a dazzling night-time 'gallery without walls' across the largest city footprint of any light art festival worldwide. The festival brings together local communities, from families to artists, students, professionals and more, with international audiences from across the globe. Noor Riyadh creates unique moments of joy across the city, nurtures artistic talent and delivers awe inspiring immersive experiences that provide visitors with an opportunity to appreciate world-class light artworks and rediscover the city of Riyadh in a new light.

The much anticipated second edition showcases over 120 installations, building projections, and drone shows by more than 100 Saudi and international artists. The festival is co-curated by **Hervé Mikaeloff**, **Dorothy Di Stefano** and **Jumana Ghouth**. Many renowned names in light art are united with an expanding roster of emerging and established local artists, with over 40 nationalities. Example artworks and installations include a large-scale sculptural work by **Jean-Michel Othoniel** and a series of lightboxes that relay the theme of this year's festival by **Zineb Sedira**. World renowned artists such as **teamLab**, **Daniel Buren**, **Douglas Gordon** and **Alicja Kwade** will be joined by Saudi talent including **Muhannad Shono**, **Ayman Zedani**, **Sarah Brahim** and **Ahaad Alamoudi**. The diverse forms of light art on show include immersive site-specific installations, monumental public artworks, ephemeral sculptures, art trails and virtual reality.

Noor Riyadh's 2022 theme is '**We Dream of New Horizons**', responding to a motif that is both literal and metaphorical in meaning. It alludes to the distant glow of sunrise or sunset and the shining light of our dreams, with a sense of hopefulness for the future inherent in the phrase. Its connotations are positive, optimistic and reflective of a confidence in renewal and transformation. Through a sense of wonder, the artists will explore the use of illumination, luminosity and their own encounters with materials as staging relations to otherness and hope in the form of light.

Additional highlights include the festival's accompanying exhibition entitled '*From Spark to Spirit*', taking place from November 3, 2022 to February 4, 2023 at JAX 03 (JAX District), Riyadh, curated by **Neville**

Wakefield (lead curator) and **Gaida AlMogren** (associate curator). The exhibition traces the role light plays in shaping our relationship to a world for which light itself has become the signal of change, exploring themes such as the 'Technologies of Light', 'Architectonics of Light' and 'Consciousness of Light'.

Just as the Light and Space Movement (1960s California, USA) reflected changes in the established order, this exhibition explores a landscape of light inflected by the rapid cultural transformations shaping the Middle East. While the exhibition acknowledges the histories that have been shaped by the experience of West Coast America and the West in general, the show is structured as a cultural dialogue. Example artists include **Doug Aitken, Zahrah Al Ghamdi, Refik Anadol, Larry Bell, Jim Campbell, John Edmark, Walaa Fadul, Lina Gazzaz, Phillip K. Smith III** and **Haroon Mirza**.

A core element of Noor Riyadh is community engagement and inclusivity, with this year's edition offering a comprehensive public program of over 500 events ranging from tours to talks, workshops, family activities and music. These will take place both across the city and online, via the Riyadh Art website and mobile app, to maximize participation through creative, personal and immersive experiences. Noor Riyadh's public program aligns with Riyadh Art's values, centered around enriching the lives of the city's residents and visitors, by creating a global community which sparks creativity, ignites the art movement, encourages self-expression and creates an inclusive culture.

Noor Riyadh was the first of the Riyadh Art programs to launch, inaugurating what is becoming the project's legacy of transforming Riyadh into a gallery without walls. Comprising of 10 programs, delivering more than 1,000 public art installations across the city created by local and international artists, and supported by two annual festivals, including Noor Riyadh, Riyadh Art is working to transform the Capital into a vibrant, cosmopolitan city and enrich lives through creative joyful experiences, in line with Saudi Arabia's Vision 2030 goals.

Noor Riyadh is a citywide festival of light and art as a Riyadh Art program, November 3 – 19, 2022, <http://noorriyadh.sa>.

'*From Spark to Spirit*' at JAX 03 (JAX District), Riyadh, as part of Noor Riyadh, a Riyadh Art program, November 3, 2022 - February 4, 2023, <http://noorriyadh.sa>.

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Notes to editors

About Noor Riyadh

Noor Riyadh is a citywide annual festival of light and art which launched in March 2021. The 2022 theme, **‘We Dream of New Horizons’**, alludes to a reflective hopeful future and refers to the shining light of dreams. The 2022 edition of the festival includes over 120 artworks by more than 100 artists – with over 30% from Saudi Arabia – including large scale public installations, projections and interventions across the city of Riyadh and a world-class exhibition entitled **‘From Spark to Spirit’**. Artworks will be accompanied by a diverse public and community program including tours, talks, workshops, family activities and music.

Noor Riyadh combines the highest quality light artworks from leading international and Saudi artists across the largest city footprint of any light art festival worldwide. Staged under Riyadh Art, the festival aims to nurture local talent and inspire youth to drive Saudi Arabia’s creative economy.

Noor Riyadh 2022 will take place in the following locations: Diplomatic Quarter, Salam Park, King Abdullah Park, King Abdullah Financial District (KAFFD), Al Faisaliah Tower, Kingdom Tower, Majdoul Tower, JAX Riyadh Art, Beyt Al Malaz, Masmak Palace Museum, Qasr Al Hukm, Masmak Palace Square, Safa Square, Imam Mohammad Ibn Saud Square, Riyadh General Court, Wadi Namar, Ghadeer Walking Trail, Digital City, JAX Warehouse, JAX Wadi, Al Nakheel Park, Riyadh City BLVRD, U-Walk, The Zone, Centria Mall, Narcissus Hotel, King Fahad National Library, Olaya Park, Al Waha Park, Prince Abdulaziz bin Muhammad bin Ayyaf Park, Riyadh Front, Asheeh Park, AlYamamah Park, Oud Square, King Khalid International Airport, Al Hayer Lake Park, Riyadh Exhibition & Convention Centre (RECC).

Website: <http://noorriyadh.sa>
Instagram: [@noorriyadhfestival](https://www.instagram.com/noorriyadhfestival)
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Noor Riyadh is presented by Riyadh Art and the Royal Commission for Riyadh City.

About Riyadh Art

Riyadh, the capital city of Saudi Arabia, is on a ten-year mission to become one of the world's most livable 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.

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