



Noor Riyadh returns: Biggest edition of light and art festival will illuminate Saudi Arabia's arts and culture scene with over 190 artworks and more than 500 activities

- *Held under the theme 'We Dream of New Horizons', artworks at the annual festival of light and art will adorn Riyadh from Nov 3-19 across five main city hubs and 40 locations in the Saudi capital*
- *The exhibition *From Spark to Spirit*, to be held at the JAX 03, runs until Feb 4, 2023*
- *Spectacular Noor Riyadh works include the phenomenal nightly laser performance 'Pulse of Light' and Marc Brickman's incredible drone shows*
- *Over 130 artists – with more than a third from Saudi Arabia – are showcasing a program developed for all and designed to showcase Riyadh in a unique manner*

Riyadh, October 30, 2022 – Noor Riyadh, one of the most exciting and ambitious festivals of light and art in the world, is to illuminate Saudi Arabia's arts and culture scene with over 190 artworks and more than 500 activities.

Held under the theme 'We Dream of New Horizons', the citywide artworks will light up Riyadh from November 3 to 19 across 40 locations and five main hubs. These hubs are: The Diplomatic Quarter (DQ), King Abdullah Financial District (KAJD), Salam Park, JAX District – a new creative zone in the capital city – and King Abdullah Park. In addition, the exhibition *From Spark to Spirit*, to be held at the JAX 03, will open on November 3 and run until February 4 next year.

Part of the Riyadh Art program, the annual festival features inspirational work from more than 130 artists from 40 countries. The festival aims at nurturing local talent and inspiring youth to drive Saudi Arabia's creative economy. More than a third of artists taking part in Noor Riyadh are from Saudi Arabia.

Architect Khalid Al-Hazani, Riyadh Art Program Director, explained: "Noor Riyadh is a big part of plans to creatively transform the Kingdom's capital into a vibrant, cosmopolitan global city through arts and culture. Supported by Riyadh Art, Noor Riyadh's parent body, the ambition is to turn the city into "a gallery without walls", featuring public artworks and diverse community activities, aimed at artists and the people of the city."

This year, Noor Riyadh is larger in scale and scope, increasing not only the number of participating artists and artworks, but also the list of community activities.

Monumental and site-specific artworks

Among the highlights at Noor Riyadh are the selection of artworks that will be presented for the duration of the festival. At least 90 artworks are new commissions, which have been specifically created for this edition. These include *The Garden of Light* by Charles Sandison, a video projection in the Diplomatic Quarter hub that investigates the virtual horizon created between history and the digital world. On view just around the corner

is *AMPLEXUS* by Grimanesa Amorós, a light sculpture that radiates light through the air, enveloping and embracing the architecture, space and the viewer.

Another fascinating piece is Daan Roosegaarde's *Waterlicht* installation that turns water into light. The work at Salam Park encompasses a dream landscape about the power and poetry of water with an ecological message.

Elsewhere at Salam Park, *Cupid's Koi Garden*, the world's first inflatable fountain, is a fantastical artwork by art company Eness that draws inspiration from formal civic fountains and classical statues.

At KAFD, Asaad Badawi's *Chasing the Sun* showcases brightly colored fiberglass shapes that conjure planetary motions. On a similar theme of ingenuity, multidisciplinary artist Zahra Bundakji creates a sound portrait of women who have shaped and supported dance floors in Saudi Arabia, supported by the universal symbol of dance culture, the disco ball. The work, entitled *The Voice of Listening*, will be on view at the JAX District.

Spectacular artist-led presentations

Spectacular is but one of many applicable superlatives for *Pulse of Light*, a nightly laser show being performed in central Riyadh that unites Kingdom Tower, Faisaliyah Tower and Majdoul Tower. Created by Yann Kersale in collaboration with show designer Martin Arnaud, *Pulse of Light* is accompanied by music from Grammy award-winning artist Zedd.

Marc Brickman's drone show at King Abdullah Park will also be truly spectacular. For this year's edition of Noor Riyadh, Brickman, artist in residence at the Empire State Building, brings two aerial light installations – the first entitled *The order of chaos: Chaos in order*, featuring a swarm of 2,000 drones. The second drone show *KALEIDOSCOPE*, explores the absurdity of human constriction through technology, and features an interactive element in its choreography.

Public program

The comprehensive public program of over 500 events at Noor Riyadh ranges from tours to talks, workshops, family activities, volunteering programs, and live music.

Full details of the incredible Noor Riyadh experiences that are ready to be showcased across the city will be released in due course. The festival is curated by Hervé Mikaeloff, Dorothy Di Stefano, and Jumana Ghouth. The exhibition *From Spark to Spirit*, which will explore the history of light art as a medium, is curated by Neville Wakefield from the UK and Gaida AlMogren from Saudi Arabia.

Online charity auction

Noor Riyadh also has a charity auction bringing together four major Saudi artists – Ahmed Mater, Moath AIOfi, Rashed AlShashai, and Saad AlHowede – in collaboration with the charities Aleradah Org, Saudi Alzheimer's Disease Association, AlNahda, and



International Rehabilitation Team. All are working together to produce pieces that will be displayed and eventually put up for auction to benefit the charities' art programs. The artworks will go on sale through the Saudi-based art market platform Atrum from November 14 – 15.

Tickets and attendance at Noor Riyadh

Most of the outdoor citywide artworks for Noor Riyadh are non-ticketed and open to all. However, some artworks require prior booking. Special activities such as workshops and talks may be ticketed with a nominal charge. Noor Riyadh aims to donate all the funds raised through ticket sales to charitable causes. The full program and ticketing details will be available soon on Noor Riyadh's app and website www.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 190 artworks by more than 130 artists – with 34% from Saudi Arabia – including large scale public installations, projections and interventions across the city of Riyadh, as well as 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: King Abdullah Park, Salam Park, Diplomatic Quarter, JAX District, KAFD, Bayt AlMalaz, Al Masmak, Aladel Square, Imam Muhammad bin Saud Square, Riyadh High Court, Wadi Namar, Kindi Square, Oud Square, Yamamh Park, Asheeh Park, Cultural Palace, Wadi Hanifah, The Ritz-Carlton, Riyadh, Olaya Park, King Fahad National Library, Narcissus Riyadh Hotel, Centria Mall, Al Faisaliah Tower, Kingdom Centre, Majdoul Tower, Ghadeer Walking Trail, The Zone, Digital City, U Walk, Al Nakheel Park, Boulevard Riyadh City, JAX District Valley, King Abdulaziz Center for National Dialogue, AnNada South Park, Alwaha Park, as well as Prince Abdulaziz bin Muhammad bin Ayyaf Park, Riyadh Front, King Khalid International Airport, Riyadh Exhibition & Convention Center, and Lakes Park

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 and cosmopolitan global city.

Art and culture reflect the spirit of a city. That's why 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 and 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 every day moments of joy to residents and visitors alike, while instilling a greater sense of civic pride and creating a more beautiful city for everyone to enjoy. It will also spark the development of the new creative economy and have a positive effect in attracting new businesses to invest in the city.

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