



Tuwaiq Sculpture 2023 received over 650 global applications for its upcoming edition themed ‘Energy of Harmony’

- *4th edition of Tuwaiq Sculpture will begin on January 8, 2023 with a live sculpting event in “Durrat Riyadh”*
- *An exhibition of completed works will take place from February 5 to 10, 2023*
- *65 community engagement programs including school visits, interactive workshops, and panel talks*
- *Architect Khalid Al-Hazani, Executive Director for Riyadh Art: Finished sculptures will be on display permanently around the city of Riyadh*
- *The annual sculpture symposium is held in Riyadh as part of Riyadh Art, one of the largest public art projects undertaken in the world today*

Artists for the 4th edition of Tuwaiq Sculpture will be chosen from more than 650 applications that were received for the edition themed ‘Energy of Harmony’, with the final selection decided by a panel of internationally renowned experts.

Held annually in the capital of Saudi Arabia, the annual sculpture symposium brings local and international sculptors together to create public artworks that become an integral part of Riyadh’s urban fabric.

Taking place since 2019, Tuwaiq Sculpture has so far engaged over 60 world-renowned sculptors, including those in the current edition, and thousands of visitors. The symposium is part of the broader Riyadh Art initiative, one of the largest public art projects undertaken in the world today. Riyadh Art seeks to turn the city into a “gallery without walls”, with more than 1,000 artworks to be displayed across the capital. Sculptures created during the symposium will become an integral part of Riyadh, enriching the historical heart of the city and bolstering the Saudi capital’s cultural scene.

Starting on January 8, 2023, the 4th Tuwaiq Sculpture will include a live sculpture-making event that is open to the public on a dedicated site in the area of Durrat Riyadh, in the north part of the city. In parallel to the creative process, more than 65 community engagement events will take place, including interactive workshops, school visits, and panel discussions, delving into elements of architecture, sculpture, art and design. After the sculptural works have been completed, the program will culminate in an exhibition that runs from February 5 to 10, 2023.



Architect Khalid Al-Hazani, Executive Director for Riyadh Art, said: “Tuwaiq Sculpture encourages artists to create works that contribute to Riyadh’s thriving creative scene. It is one of many cultural platforms for artists emerging from Riyadh today, as well as artists from around the world, so that they may use their talents to leave their legacy on the city’s ever-changing cityscape. In the coming years, works made at Tuwaiq Sculpture will fill Riyadh’s parks, streets, cultural districts, and public spaces, to be experienced by all in years to come.”

Energy of Harmony, the theme of 4th Tuwaiq Sculpture, was developed by **curator Marek Wolynski** and reflects on the fundamental characteristic of human existence – the ongoing synthesis of the opposing forces. It encourages artists to reimagine sculptural possibilities and capture manifestations of ephemeral processes of introducing, witnessing, and experiencing change.

Based in London, Marek specializes in large-scale projects and cross-sector partnerships, having previously worked on creative commissions and seminal exhibitions with the British Council, United Nations, Mayor of London, Verbeke Foundation, European Parliament, Luma Foundation, and Art Rotterdam, among others.

“*Energy of Harmony* establishes points of connection and focus within the urban environment of Riyadh, giving a heightened awareness of co-existing structures, voices, and patterns.”, Marek explained.

“Tuwaiq Sculpture is a world-leading platform for three-dimensional art that encourages self-expression through a dialogue between tradition and modernity. Featuring distinguished artists and an expansive public engagement program, Tuwaiq Sculpture delivers transformative and inspiring experiences, effectively contributing to Riyadh’s position as a thriving cultural hub,” he continued.

Marek is also the chairperson of the jury panel who has selected the Tuwaiq Sculpture artists, consisting of **Alaa Tarabzouni**, Director of ATHR Gallery, an architect and artist whose practice focuses on urbanism and the built environment; **Ali Al-Tokhais**, a sculptor with a practice spanning 40 years and an expert in stones originating from Saudi Arabia; **Dr. Effat Fadag**, an acclaimed academic whose work revolves around the arts, culture, and heritage of Saudi Arabia; and **Johannes von Stumm**, a critically acclaimed sculptor, President of the Oxford Art Society and Past President of the Royal Society of Sculptors in the UK.



Participating artists will contribute to Tuwaiq Sculpture's community engagement program, which will hosts school and university visits, providing students direct exposure to various sculptural practice, as well as sculpting skills, tools, techniques and materials.

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For more information regarding Riyadh Art and Tuwaiq Sculpture 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 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 7.5 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, 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 Tuwaiq Sculpture

Tuwaiq Sculpture is an annual sculpture symposium that brings local and international artists together to create public artworks in a live setting. Through an interactive program of workshops, school visits, and talks, Tuwaiq Sculpture engages diverse communities and bolsters cultural exchanges. The symposium culminates in an on-site exhibition, with the sculptures enriching the Riyadh Art collection and later becoming a permanent feature of the Saudi capital's urban fabric.

Part of Riyadh Art, Tuwaiq Sculpture is a significant contributor to the Riyadh Art collection and the project's goal of commissioning 1,000 public artworks to be displayed across the city. After each edition of the symposium, sculptures are permanently installed in key locations across the city, becoming an integral part of Riyadh's urban fabric.

Tuwaiq Sculpture is a platform where local and international artists meet, collaborate, and create large-scale public artworks in a live setting. The open format of the symposium allows the public to observe the creative process, participate in interactive workshops, and discuss the history and future of public art, effectively contributing to the enrichment of the cultural scene in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. Since its inception in 2019, Tuwaiq Sculpture has engaged over 60 internationally renowned sculptors and thousands of visitors.

Website: <https://riyadhart.sa/en/programs/tuwaiq-sculpture/>

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 that are located 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 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:**
 - a. **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.
 - b. **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.
9. **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.
10. **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.
11. **Noor Riyadh:** Noor Riyadh is a 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.
12. **Tuwaiq Sculpture:** Tuwaiq Sculpture is an annual sculpture symposium that brings local and international artists together to create public artworks in a live setting. Through an interactive program of workshops, school visits, and talks, Tuwaiq Sculpture engages diverse communities and bolsters cultural exchanges. The symposium culminates in an on-site exhibition, with the sculptures enriching the Riyadh Art collection and later becoming a permanent feature of the Saudi capital’s urban fabric.