

## Noor Riyadh exhibition From Spark to Spirit extends for 35 days until March 10, 2023

- *Detailed and fascinating exhibit continues Noor Riyadh seasonal offerings that began with incredible festival in November*
- *From Spark to Spirit furthers organizer Riyadh Art's ambition of ensuring that art is for everyone*

**Riyadh, November 5, 2022** – The second edition of the Noor Riyadh festival, the largest light art festival in the world, may have concluded its citywide activations last month, but the accompanying exhibition From Spark to Spirit continues until March 10, 2023. The exhibition has delighted viewers for three months and has been extended to provide the public with more opportunity to engage with the light-based artworks.

From Spark to Spirit, held at Riyadh Art, JAX District, traces the role light plays in shaping our relationship to a world for which light itself has become the signal of change.

The fascinating and detailed exhibition, collating work by 30 artists, is curated by Neville Wakefield (lead curator) and Gaida AlMogren (associate curator) and explores the three themes of the 'Technologies of Light', 'Architectonics of Light' and 'Consciousness of Light'.

The exhibition furthers both Riyadh Art's ambition of ensuring art is for everyone, and the incredible offerings seen during the second edition of the Noor Riyadh festival – held under the 2022 theme 'We Dream of New Horizons'.

**Khaled Al-Hazani, Executive Director for Riyadh Art, said:** "From Spark to Spirit is a beautiful and thought-provoking exhibition that aptly follows the success of the Noor Riyadh festival, which almost tripled in size from the inaugural edition".

"Light is a universally appreciated medium, which is incredibly moving and engaging. But it is perhaps only when you see the range of inspirations within the three themes at From Spark to Spirit that you appreciate our relationship with light, which spans from the dawn of times to the digital age.

"As engaging for the art aficionado as it is for children or first-time art gallery visitors, From Spark to Spirit is a wonderful addition to both Riyadh and the Kingdom's burgeoning art and culture scene and recommended for all", he added.

Examples of just some of the 30 pieces at From Spark to Spirit include *Thnan*, Saudi Arabian artist Moath Alofi's interactive connection to light using inspiration from one of the Kingdom's dormant volcanoes. Norma Jeane's *Self*, however, is an interactive piece gathering inspiration from a far more modern source of light – the disco. But in *Self*, as the wannabe clubber is drawn to the light and sound of the disco, all is not quite as it seems.

Multi-channel immersive installation *Machine Dreams: Space*, meanwhile, is a machine-induced communal dream based on recorded visual impressions of Riyadh. Ideal for pictures and videos to post on social media, Refik Anadol's piece has been a huge favorite so far at From Spark to



Spirit. The final artwork in the exhibition is *The River* by the renowned American artist Doug Aitken, a beautiful sculpture featuring three figures with their foreheads connecting and light revolving around their bodies. The artwork asks the pertinent question of whether the digital world brings us together or separates us.

**AlMogren said:** “The journey across the three zones in From Spark to Spirit is a dialogue between the generations, lighting up inspirations from both Saudi Arabia and across the world, and from both established and emerging artists. In addition, the exhibition also shines a light on the rapid cultural transformations shaping the Middle East, particularly here in the Kingdom.

“Light is the source of all life on the planet and essential to our health and wellbeing. From Spark to Spirit illuminates how we see distinguishing details, individual colors, movement, brightness and more, and the feedback we have received from the many members of the public attending the exhibit so far has been excellent.”

The Teachers Pack, inspired by From Spark to Spirit, is designed to be used as an educational resource guide inside the classroom. This pack provides educators with interpretation materials and prompts to encourage discussion relatable to the STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Mathematics) method and includes engaging classroom activities that respond to themes found within the exhibition.

In addition, the Learning Kit is an engaging, interactive and user-friendly tool designed to navigate From Spark to Spirit. The guide is designed for families visiting the exhibition and features a series of in-gallery and at-home art activities inspired by the artworks in the exhibition. Both are available for download on [NoorRiyadh.sa](http://NoorRiyadh.sa).

From Spark to Spirit, open daily from 4pm to 12pm, continues at JAX 03 in the JAX District in Riyadh until March 10, 2023. For more information, please visit [NoorRiyadh.sa](http://NoorRiyadh.sa).

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### **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 included 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 the world-class exhibition entitled ‘From Spark to Spirit’. Artworks are accompanied by a diverse public and community program, including tours, talks and workshops.

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 took 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, Yamamah Park, Asheeh Park, Cultural Palace, Wadi Hanifah, The RitzCarlton 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, AlNada 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>  
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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 everyday 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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