



## Tuwaiq Sculpture 2023 opens its exhibition, showcasing 30 large-scale granite and Riyadh stone sculptures for the first time

- International and local artists have created large scale sculptures that are on display for the first time after 26 days of live sculpting
- Sculptures were created using stone sourced from Saudi Arabia

**February 4 2023, Riyadh – Saudi Arabia:** Tuwaiq Sculpture, a Riyadh Art program, announces the opening of its 2023 exhibition, showcasing 30 large-scale public artworks that have just been completed after 26 days of live sculpting on the grounds of Durrat Al Riyadh.

The sculptures will be exhibited in situ for a period of six days, from February 5 – 10. After this, they will be relocated to permanent locations throughout the capital city of Saudi Arabia, enriching the Riyadh Art collection and becoming a permanent feature of Riyadh’s urban fabric. Carved out of granite and Riyadh stone, the sculptures embrace the viewer in a maze of cultural significance as they tour the exhibition.

**Sarah AlRuwayti, Tuwaiq Sculpture Symposium Director, explains:** “For the first time since the launch of Tuwaiq Sculpture in 2019, the symposium has used stone sourced from quarries in Riyadh, specifically granite and sandstone, also known as Riyadh Stone. This choice bears symbolic significance; it is a way to highlight Saudi Arabia’s rich history with the medium, from ancient artifacts to rock carvings and modern-day sculpture. Now these artworks will not only be part of Riyadh, but also part of each artist’s legacy, leaving a momentous mark on the city.”

“For the last month, the public has been able to witness the live sculpting of these artworks here in Durrat Al Riyadh. In the context of our capital city, this is a unique feature of Tuwaiq Sculpture, that visitors can observe the creative process and see for themselves how the material is transformed with skill and artistic dedication.”

A total of 30 artists, chosen based on past experience and the merits of their proposals, have travelled to Riyadh from 20 countries around the world to participate in Tuwaiq Sculpture. The cultural exchange is uniting international and local minds through sculpture and furthering Riyadh as a cultural hub in Saudi Arabia. The artists were selected from an open call by a jury panel of experts, including this edition’s curator **Marek Wolynski**, along with **Alaa Tarabzouni**, **Ali Al-Tokhais**, **Dr. Effat Fadag** and **Johannes von Stumm**.

This year’s theme, ‘Energy of Harmony’, developed by Wolynski, reflects the balance we all strive for in our lives, as well as ideas of cohesion and mutual understanding in the midst of great transformative change. Artists responded to the theme whilst weaving in narratives existing in their practice and drawing inspiration from their physical location in Riyadh. The resulting sculptures speak to the local environment, whilst channelling a narrative that transcends borders.

The exhibition is open to all at Durrat Al Riyadh from 1.30pm – 10pm on Sunday Feb 5, and from 4pm – 10pm on Feb 6 – Feb 10, with on-site tours available. The exhibition is accompanied by a packed agenda of panel talks in both Arabic and English, also taking place at Durrat Al Riyadh from February 5-8. Discussions will cover relevant topics on contemporary sculpture and art, featuring leading experts and artists. The talks, open to all and free of charge, can be booked on the Riyadh Art website.

Tuwaiq Sculpture is part of the broader Riyadh Art program, which seeks to turn Riyadh into a “gallery without walls” with more than 1,000 artworks, to be displayed across the city in the coming years. Launched in 2019, Tuwaiq Sculpture has since engaged with 90 renowned local and international artists and thousands of visitors.



**The full artist list is as follows:**

Agnessa Petrova	Bulgaria
Aleksandre Phophkhadze	Georgia
Ana Maria Negară	Romania
Azhar Saeed	Saudi Arabia
Bertha Shortiss	Switzerland
Damjan Komel	Slovenia
Fahad Aljebreen	Saudi Arabia
Ikram Kabbaj	Morocco
Javier Alvarez	Germany
José Millán	Spain
Liliya Pobornikova	Bulgaria
Lyudmyla Mysko	Ukraine
Marino Di Prospero	Italy
Mohamed Elsayad	Egypt
Mohammad Al-Faris	Saudi Arabia
Mohammed Al Thagafi	Saudi Arabia
Nilhan Sesalan	Turkiye
Noha Alsharif	Saudi Arabia
Qian Sihua	China
Rajaa Alshafae	Saudi Arabia
Rob Good	United Kingdom
Roland Hoeft	Germany
Sasho Sazdovski	North Macedonia
Stefan Esterbauer	Austria
Sylvain Patte	Belgium
Talal Altukhaes	Saudi Arabia
Tatsumi Sakai	Japan
Vasilisa Chugunova	Russia
Wafa Alqunibit	Saudi Arabia
Yannick Robert	France



*Ends*

**For more information regarding Riyadh Art and Tuwaiq Sculpture, please 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](http://www.riyadhart.sa)  
Instagram: [www.instagram.com/riyadhartofficial/](https://www.instagram.com/riyadhartofficial/)  
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#### **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 90 internationally renowned sculptors and thousands of visitors.

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