



TUWAIQ
SCULPTURE
A RIYADH ART PROGRAM

OPEN CALL
FAQs

5th T U W A I Q S C U L P T U R E

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1. About Tuwaiq Sculpture

What is Tuwaiq Sculpture?

Tuwaiq Sculpture is an international sculpture symposium as part of Riyadh Art, one of the largest public art projects undertaken in the world today. Taking place annually since 2019, Tuwaiq Sculpture has so far engaged over 90 internationally renowned sculptors and thousands of visitors.

In 2024, the **5th** edition of Tuwaiq Sculpture will host a group of 30 local and international sculptors from around the world coming together to create original sculptures that will become a permanent part of Riyadh's urban fabric.

What is the aim of Tuwaiq Sculpture?

To promote new dialogues in line with Riyadh Art's vision and create cultural platforms where local and international artists meet and collaborate, effectively contributing to the enrichment of the cultural scene in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

What is the significance of the name Tuwaiq?

Tuwaiq Mountain (Jabal Tuwaiq) is a large series of natural rock and cliff formations in Saudi Arabia. Extending for a distance that reaches 800 km, this narrow escarpment belongs to the world's most prominent geographical landmarks. Many narrow valleys (wadis) run along its sides, such as Wadi Hanifa, and a group of towns lie on its central section, including Riyadh.

The name Tuwaiq comes from the plural of the word 'touq' which means a ring or a collar in Arabic, as Tuwaiq Mountain wraps around the deserts of the Najd plateau in central Arabia. Tuwaiq Mountain, which is said to be familiar to every citizen of Saudi Arabia, often serves as a point of reference for the strength and perseverance of the Saudis' spirit.

When and where is the 5th Tuwaiq Sculpture taking place?

Tuwaiq Sculpture 2024 will take place at a location to be announced in Riyadh and begins on January 14, 2024. Selected artists are scheduled to arrive in Riyadh on January 12, after which they can prepare for the live sculpting event that will take

place alongside workshops, talks, and school visits that are part of the symposium. The sculptures must be finished by February 8, after which the post-symposium exhibition officially opens on February 10 and closes on February 24, 2024.

What is the theme of the 5th edition of Tuwaiq Sculpture?

The curatorial theme for Tuwaiq Sculpture 2024 is “Dimensions of Movement”.

“Dimensions of Movement” evokes the essence of progress and expansion, reflecting the accelerating advancements of modern society. Like a contemporary tribute to Futurism, an artistic and social movement of the early 20th century, this theme captures the vitality of Riyadh's transformation and the ambitious drive towards innovation and new horizons. It beckons sculptors to craft bold, awe-inspiring artworks that transcend boundaries, convey a sense of speed and power, expand perceptions of space and time, and embody the Saudi spirit of progress and boundless potential.

What are the public engagement activities included in the program of the 5th Tuwaiq Sculpture?

Tuwaiq Sculpture features a vast array of workshops, school visits, and panel discussions held by local and international speakers, in line with the artistic and cultural framework of the program.

More information on workshops, school visits, and panel discussions will be announced in due course.

2.About Artists

Who can apply to take part in Tuwaiq Sculpture 2024?

Artists from all over the world are welcome to submit their applications to Tuwaiq Sculpture. To apply, artists must have at least five years of experience in sculpting and exhibiting works permanently or temporarily in outdoor spaces and galleries.

How many artists participated in the previous editions of the symposium?

- The 1st Tuwaiq International Sculpture Symposium (Tuwaiq Sculpture has been adopted as a consolidated name from the fourth edition on) was inaugurated at the Tuwaiq Palace in the Diplomatic Quarter in 2019. The symposium featured 23 sculptors, including three Saudi artists and 20 international sculptors.
- The 2nd edition of the symposium was launched in 2020 and featured 20 sculptors, including two Saudi artists and 18 from abroad. The artists created sculptures in the Diplomatic Quarter, inspired by the famous Jabal Tuwaiq.
- The 3rd edition of the symposium was launched in 2021 and featured 20 sculptors, including four Saudi artists and 16 international artists. The edition was held in the JAX District of Riyadh.
- The 4th edition of Tuwaiq Sculpture took place in 2023 and featured 30 sculptors, including eight Saudi artists and 22 international artists. Tuwaiq Sculpture 2023 was held at Durrat Al Riyadh.

How many artists will participate in the 5th Tuwaiq Sculpture?

Thirty artists will be invited to participate in the 5th edition of Tuwaiq Sculpture.

Will there be an artist fee or a prize for participating in 5th Tuwaiq Sculpture?

All selected artists will receive an artist fee of 37,500 SAR for their participation in the symposium.

The 5th Tuwaiq Sculpture does not follow a competition format and there will be no other special awards or prizes on top of the artist fee outlined above.

Will the travel expenses be paid for?

The following will be provided for each artist: roundtrip economy flight ticket, visa, ground transportation from and to the airport as well as between the hotel and the symposium site, hotel accommodation and food and beverages (three meals a day).

3.About Sculpture Proposals

How many sculpture proposals can I submit?

Artists are invited to submit their proposals for either one or two sculptures.

If selected, artists will be informed which sculpture proposal was selected by the Jury Panel.

Can I propose a sculpture I already created?

Only sculpture proposals for new, original artworks are eligible.

If selected, how many sculptures can I create?

Each selected artist is expected to create one sculpture.

What kind of stones will the artists be sculpting?

Artists participating in Tuwaiq Sculpture 2024 will use granite from the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. Artists will select the granite colours from the following: beige, pink salmon, and green. Artists are encouraged to work with more than one colour.

Each artist will be supplied with approximately **6 cubic metres** of granite. This should be used for both the sculpture and the base.

What are the stone dimensions?

Artists will define the exact measurements for how the stones should be cut, following the guidelines and parameters below:

- i. The standard size of granite is **H3m x L2m x D1m**.
- ii. Artists with extensive expertise in working with granite have a possibility to request pieces of granite up to **4 meters** (in that case, the maximum size of a block of granite cut by the quarry is **H4m x L2m x D1m**).
- iii. The number of pieces of granite, excluding the base, should not exceed 4 (four) pieces.

What tools will be provided?

All the tools and equipment provided by the organisers is outlined in the open call document. However, Artists can bring their own tools (including cutting, polishing and air tools) if they require for their own technical and creative desires.

Will the artists have assistants?

Riyadh Art will provide one professional assistant per artist onsite to support Artists. Artists are not allowed to select their own assistants and the assistants will be rotating between Artists, depending on specific tools and progress in sculpting. Management and rotation of assistants and allocation of additional assistants (more than one per artist) remain at the discretion of the curator, associate curator, and the artist assistants manager. Artists are prohibited from privately financing assistants and other team members.

4. About the Selection Process

What are the selection criteria?

Tuwaiq Sculpture ensures a fair, transparent, and efficient process to select Artists' submissions. The selection process will be conducted by Tuwaiq Sculpture Jury Panel, and is based on the following six criteria:

1. **Artist Experience** – Artist participation in previous symposia, education, and exhibition history.
2. **Concept Presentation** – Artist demonstrates important and contextually relevant aspects of the sculpture proposal.
3. **Relevance** – Artist demonstrates a clear understanding and creative interpretation of the theme and proposes a sculpture relevant to public space.
4. **Artist Approach** – Artist demonstrates a distinct use of the medium with a strong integration of elements and principles of sculpture design.
5. **Originality** – Artist proposes a unique and distinct artwork.
6. **Technique and Style** – Artist demonstrates their own technique, style, and methods of using rough or soft surfaces in the finishing of the work, there is clear evidence of great attention to detail.

Who is on the Jury Panel of Tuwaiq Sculpture?

The Jury Panel for Tuwaiq Sculpture 2024 consists of five renowned experts:

1. **Dr. Khulud Albugami** – Sculptor and academic.
2. **Nojoud Alsudairi** – Cofounder of Syn Architects, an artist and architect whose practice focuses on identities rooted in urban contemporary Saudi culture.
3. **Dr. Fahad Aljebreen** – Sculptor and Assistant Professor of Art Education at King Saud University; Associate Curator of Tuwaiq Sculpture.
4. **Sebatiano Barassi** – Curator and Art Historian, who has held curatorial positions at the Courtauld Gallery, the University of Cambridge, and the Henry Moore Foundation in the UK.
5. **Marek Wolynski** – Curator of Tuwaiq Sculpture, Chair of Jury Panel.

Will there be priority for anyone applying to Tuwaiq Sculpture?

Priority will be given to high-quality proposals by artists who have not participated in previous editions of Tuwaiq Sculpture.

Can I ask the Jury Panel for feedback?

Due to the expected volume of submissions, no feedback will be provided to unsuccessful applicants. All decisions by the Jury Panel are final.

Once I have filled out the application online, can I change or add more files or renders of my work?

If you have already submitted your application and would like to send additional documents, please send an email to tsopencall@riyadhart.sa with the subject line: "[Full Name] - Tuwaiq Sculpture".

If I have a proposal for a workshop or a panel discussion for Tuwaiq Sculpture 2024, who do I contact?

If you would like to propose a workshop or a subject for a panel discussion, please outline your proposal in the "Additional Information" section of your submission.

Once you submit, please also send an email outlining your workshop and/or panel discussion proposal to tsopencall@riyadhart.sa. Please use the following subject line: “[Full Name] - Tuwaiq Sculpture - Workshop/Discussion”

When is the deadline for submissions?

Applications are accepted until September 10, 2023, 23:59 GMT +3.

When are the selected artists going to be announced?

Riyadh Art aims to announce the selection of artists by the end of October 2023.

5. About the Venue and Sculpture Relocation

Where will the 5th Tuwaiq Sculpture be held?

The live sculpting, workshops, talks, and the post-symposium exhibition will be held at a special location in Riyadh to be announced soon.

Is Tuwaiq Sculpture open to the public?

Yes, Tuwaiq Sculpture is open for everyone and is free of charge. All public events will be outlined on the Riyadh Art website in due course.

Where will the post-symposium exhibition take place?

During the exhibition (February 10 to 24, 2024) the sculptures will be on display at a location to be announced soon.

Where will the sculpture be relocated?

After the Exhibition, the sculptures will enrich the Riyadh Art collection and later become a permanent feature of the Saudi capital’s urban fabric. The exact relocation site is going to be announced in due course.

6. About Riyadh Art

What is Riyadh Art?

Riyadh Art is one of the four grand projects launched by the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud on March 19, 2019, under the supervision of the Committee of Grand Projects chaired by His Royal Highness the Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman bin Abdulaziz, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Defense.

Riyadh Art is one of four grand projects being developed by RCRC that collectively transform the capital into an environmentally friendly, sustainable city which offers the highest standards of liveability and lifestyle, in line with the Kingdoms Vision 2030 goals.

Comprising more than 1,000 public art installations and supported by ten programs and two grand annual festivals, the project brings artworks and landmarks created by local and international artists to residential neighborhoods, gardens and parks, squares and public areas, metro and bus stations, bridges and pedestrian pathways, city entrances and tourist destinations in the city.

Riyadh Art is the first national public art initiative in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. Riyadh Art will transform the city of Riyadh into a gallery without walls, and a creative powerhouse for the digital age.

Who should I contact if I have any further questions?

Please read carefully through the FAQ document as it provides a comprehensive overview of the 5th Tuwaiq Sculpture. If you have a specific question, please contact tsopencall@riyadhart.sa