

More than 100 local and international artists will create over 120 public light pieces for Noor Riyadh 2023, the biggest annual festival of light and art in the world

- Under the theme '*The Bright Side of The Desert Moon*', Noor Riyadh will showcase more than **120 artworks** by over **100 artists** from around **35 nationalities**, including prominent pieces by **Ange Leccia, Bruno Ribeiro, Carsten Höller, Chris Levine, Christopher Bauder, Dana-Fiona Armour, Diana Thater, Drift, Janet Echelman, Iván Argote, Laurent Grasso, Muhannad Shono, Philippe Parreno, Random International, Shoplifter, Superflex, Ugo Schiavi, Zahrah Al Ghamdi** and more.
- The festival will run from **November 30, 2023 until December 16, 2023**. The curatorial team is composed of **Jérôme Sans** as Lead Curator, and **Pedro Alonzo, Fahad Bin Naif** and **Alaa Tarabzouni** as Curators.
- Running alongside the festival from November 30, 2023, until March 2, 2024, is the Noor Riyadh exhibition '*Refracted Identities, Shared Futures*'. Curated by **Neville Wakefield** and **Maya Al Athel**, it features artists such as **Abdullah Al Othman, Ahaad Alamoudi, Conrad Shawcross, Farah Al Qasimi, Julian Charrière, Kim Farkas, Mariko Mori, Rashed AlShashai, Sarah Brahim, Sophia Al-Maria** and more.



Images L-R: Christopher Bauder, *Axion*, 2022; Rashed Al Shashai, *100 Million*, 2022; Ahaad Alamoudi, *Ghosts of Today and Tomorrow*, 2022. All images courtesy of the artists. Photos © Noor Riyadh 2022, a Riyadh Art program.

Riyadh, November 13, 2023 – For the third edition of Noor Riyadh, the largest festival of light and art in the world, renowned and up-and-coming artists from more than 35 countries are convening in the capital of Saudi Arabia, joining over 35 emerging and established Saudi talents. This diverse group features art practitioners boasting various backgrounds that include performance art, architecture, engineering, graphic design and even medicine.

Artworks will be exhibited across five main hubs and additional locations throughout Riyadh City, with the central hub located at the **King Abdullah Financial District (KAFD)**, the prestigious business and lifestyle destination in the beating heart of the capital.

New site-specific commissions will be produced by artists including **Ayman Yossri Daydban, Aziz Jamal, Erwin Wurm, Jose Dávila** and **Younes Rahmoun** in response to this year's theme '*The Bright Side of the Desert Moon*', exploring the desert as a place of reconnection where our differences dissipate. A plethora of outstanding Saudi and international female artists features **Angelika Markul, Claudia Comte, Huda Alnasir, Marinella Senatore, Nevin Aladağ, Sarah Abu Abdallah, Shilpa Gupta, Sophie Laly** and **Vivian Caccuri**, among others.

The participants represent the following countries: **Argentina, Australia, Austria, Bahrain, Brazil, Belgium, Canada, China, Colombia, Cuba, Denmark, Egypt, El Salvador, Estonia, France,**



Germany, Iceland, India, Italy, Japan, Kuwait, Mexico, Morocco, Netherlands, Oman, Palestine, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Qatar, Spain, Switzerland, Syria, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom, United States and Venezuela.

The festival's accompanying exhibition, '*Refracted Identities, Shared Futures*' at JAX District, is curated by **Neville Wakefield** and **Maya Al Athel**. Artists **Abdulmohsen Al Bin Ali**, **Artur Weber**, **Bashaer Hawsawi**, **Cecilia Bengolea**, **Federico Acciardi**, **Leo Villareal**, **Shaikha Al Mazrou** and others celebrate light as a dynamic force, akin to a river of time, shaping and reshaping the contours of our human and cultural identities. In a world that is constantly evolving, light serves as a profound metaphor for the fluid nature of who we are and where we come from.

Led by world-renowned art practitioner **Jérôme Sans**, curators **Pedro Alonzo**, **Alaa Tarabzouni** and **Fahad Bin Naif** conceived the festival as a journey across various locations transporting visitors from the heart of the city to the doors of the desert through **five main hubs**. In the **King Abdullah Financial District (KAJD)**, a futuristic metropolis within the capital, immersive and interactive works transform the business destination into a night-time hub of creativity. Once an industrial area in Ad-Diriyah and now the ultimate artistic nexus, the **JAX District** features a route spanning indoor and outdoor spaces, giving visitors an opportunity to experience an exhibition without borders. Family oriented and interactive, **Salam Park** is one of Riyadh's urban oases, where installations and projections offer families, friends and wanderers a chance to share and indulge in moments of playfulness and calm. In **Wadi Namar**, the visitor is invited to stroll alongside the cliffs and the water's edge, admiring spectacular artworks reminiscent of voyages and adventures. Finally, at **Wadi Hanifa** artworks become portals to other worlds, transporting the audience to parallel universes and temporalities. During the festival the five hubs will host tours, creative experiences, family activities, workshops, talks and lectures.

Khaled Al-Hazani, Executive Director of the Riyadh Art Program, said: "Riyadh's evolution into a dynamic global metropolis is tied to our country's rich artistic tapestry. Riyadh Art and the Noor Riyadh festival enhance livability in Saudi Arabia's capital city by celebrating local and international creativity and bringing art to the people. From families to budding artists, students to established professionals, Noor Riyadh offers a platform for artistic exchange, unites residents and visitors in creative expression, and weaves an intricate cultural narrative that resonates globally, bridging communities and transcending boundaries."

Committed to developing opportunities for the local community, Noor Riyadh 2023 will feature more than 40 talks, over 100 workshops and family activities, over 1,000 guided tours, while deeply engaging with 450 schools and having 60 university ambassadors as well as 43 apprentices join the festival teams. Through this, Noor Riyadh not only drives cultural transformation and community involvement but also contributes to making Riyadh one of the world's most livable cities, revitalizing public spaces to unite communities.

Created to foster local artistic talent and ignite Saudi Arabia's cultural economy, Noor Riyadh is part of Riyadh Art, one of the largest public art initiatives in the world. The ambition of Riyadh Art is to transform the Saudi capital into an awe-inspiring "gallery without walls", showcasing over 1,000 public artworks dispersed citywide through 10 programs and two annual events.

Across its editions, Noor Riyadh has created unique moments of joy throughout the city, granting millions the chance to appreciate exceptional public light artworks and admire Riyadh in a new light. In **2022**, Noor Riyadh marked several milestones, notably drawing in **2.8 million** attendees and winning **six Guinness World Records**, one of which being the largest celebration of light art in the world.

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Noor Riyadh 2023 press kit is available here: <https://rb.gy/dk7tt>

Noor Riyadh 2023 KVs are available here: <https://rb.gy/81erry>

Noor Riyadh 2023 TVC is available here: <https://rb.gy/4w7znr>

For more information regarding Riyadh Art and Noor Riyadh contact:

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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. Noor Riyadh includes a festival and world-class exhibition, along with a public program of community activities, featuring educational workshops, talks and performances. Noor Riyadh is the largest light art festival in the world.

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.

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.

NOOR RIYADH CITYWIDE FESTIVAL INSTALLATIONS			
Country	Artist, YOB	Artwork title, year	Hub
Australia	Mel O'Callaghan (1975)	<i>The Source</i> , 2023	KAFD
Austria	Erwin Wurm (1954)	<i>One Minute</i> , 2023	KAFD
Belgium	Carsten Höller (1961)	<i>Decimal Clock (Blue and Orange)</i> , 2023	JAX
Belgium	Gauthier Roumagne (1984)	<i>Photosynthesis</i> , 2023	VIA Riyadh
Brazil	Lucia Koch (1966)	<i>Picnic Cones</i> , 2023	Wadi Namar; Salam Park
Brazil	OSGEMEOS (1974)	<i>Experience</i> , 2002-2023	Salam Park
Brazil	Vivian Caccuri (1986)	<i>Fourth World</i> , 2023	Wadi Namar
Canada	Chris Levine (1960)	<i>Molecule of Light</i> , 2021	Wadi Namar
China	Li Qing (1981)	<i>The House East of Eden</i> , 2023	KAFD
Colombia	Iván Argote (1983)	<i>The Other, Me & the Others</i> , 2023	KAFD
Cuba	Rafael Domenech (1989)	<i>Meeting at the Edge of the Heat</i> , 2023	KAFD
Denmark	Jakob Kudsk Steensen (1987)	<i>Catharsis</i> , 2019-2020	Wadi Hanifa
Denmark	Jeppe Hein (1974)	<i>Red Modified Street Lights</i> , 2022	Wadi Hanifa
Denmark	Superflex (1993) - Bjørnstjerne Christiansen (1969), Jakob Fenger (1968) and Rasmus Rosengren Nielsen (1969)	<i>Vertical Migration</i> , 2021	KAFD
El Salvador	Guadalupe Maravilla (1976)	<i>Falling Lightning Bolt</i> , 2023	Wadi Hanifa
France	Ange Leccia (1952)	<i>Arrangement. Terrestrial Globes</i> , 1991-2023; <i>The Sea</i> , 1991-2003	JAX; JAX
France	Bruno Ribeiro (1980)	<i>All Is Well</i> , 2023	Wadi Hanifa
France	Laurent Grasso (1972)	<i>Future Herbarium</i> , 2023	Digital City

France	Miguel Chevalier (1959)	<i>Magic Carpet, Origin of the World</i> , 2023	KAFD
France	Sophie Laly (1973)	<i>FADING #10</i> , 2023	Salam Park
France	Ugo Schiavi (1987)	<i>The Day the Sand Caught Fire</i> , 2023	Wadi Hanifa
Germany	Christopher Bauder (1973)	<i>DIALOGUE</i> , 2023	Kingdom Center
Germany	Dana-Fiona Armour (1988)	<i>Solenoglyphous C.C.</i> , 2023	Wadi Hanifa
Germany	Gregor Hildebrandt (1974)	<i>Behind the curtain shines the light</i> , 2023	JAX
Germany	Julius von Bismarck (1983)	<i>Geh aus mein Herz! (Go forth, my heart!)</i> , 2023; <i>Public Face</i> , 2008	Salam Park; KAFD
Germany	Random International (2005) - Hannes Koch (1975) and Florian Ortkrass (1975)	<i>Living Room</i> , 2022	Wadi Hanifa
Germany	Tobias Rehberger (1966)	<i>Lost to Find</i> , 2023	Salam Park
Iceland	Shoplifter - Hrafnhildur Arnardóttir (1969)	<i>Xanadu II</i> , 2023	Salam Park
India	Shilpa Gupta (1976)	<i>We Change Each Other</i> , 2023	Wadi Hanifa
Italy	Bianca Bondi (1986)	<i>Beltane Oracle</i> , 2022-2023, <i>Tidal Spill</i> , 2023	JAX
Italy	Marinella Senatore (1977)	<i>We Rise by Lifting Others</i> , 2023	Wadi Namar
Italy	Quayola (1982)	<i>Jardins d'Eté (Summer Gardens)</i> , 2017	KAFD
Japan	Mariko Mori (1967)	<i>At the Beginning</i> , 2023	Salam Park
Kuwait	Monira Al Qadiri (1983)	<i>Monument</i> , 2023; <i>The Guardian</i> , 2023	Wadi Namar; Wadi Namar
Mexico	Jose Dávila (1974)	<i>Luminous Whispers</i> , 2023	Wadi Hanifa
Mexico	Stefan Brüggemann (1975)	<i>Obliteration (Make it Pop)</i> , 2023	JAX
Morocco	Chourouk Hriech (1977)	<i>Cities of Stars</i> , 2023	Salam Park
Morocco	Younes Rahmoun (1975)	<i>Khasla-Zoujaja</i> , 2023	Wadi Hanifa
Netherlands	Drift - Lonneke Gordijn (1980) and Ralph Nauta (1978)	<i>Desert Swarm</i> , 2023	KAFD
Netherlands	Rafael Rozendaal (1980)	<i>Diagram</i> , 2023; <i>Non Either</i> , 2023; <i>Through</i> , 2023; <i>Double Room</i> , 2023; <i>Shape Squeeze</i> , 2023	JAX; JAX; JAX; JAX
Netherlands	Simon Heijdens (1978)	<i>Lightweeds</i> , 2005	KAFD
Palestine; Saudi Arabia	Ayman Yossri Daydban (1966)	<i>Tree House</i> , 2019-2023	Wadi Hanifa
Poland	Angelika Markul (1977)	<i>Zone Iguazu</i> , 2013	Wadi Namar
Portugal	Alexandre Farto (known as VHLS) (1987)	<i>Prisma</i> , 2022	Salam Park
Puerto Rico	Edra Soto (1971)	<i>Casas-Isla</i> , 2022	Salam Park
Republic of Korea	Kyung-Won Moon (1969) and Joonho Jeon (1969)	<i>News from Nowhere: Eclipse</i> , 2022-2023	JAX
Saudi Arabia	Abdullah Alamoudi (1996)	<i>Look Up and You'll Find Me</i> , 2023	Wadi Namar
Saudi Arabia	Arwa Al Neami (1985)	<i>Memo Light</i> , 2023	Salam Park
Saudi Arabia	Aziz Jamal (1992)	<i>The Whites of Their Eyes</i> , 2023	Wadi Namar
Saudi Arabia	bytwo - (Abdullah Kenani (1992) and Mohammed Alruways (1996)	<i>Exit 11</i> , 2023	Wadi Namar
Saudi Arabia	Dur Kattan (1988)	<i>Closer Than They Appear</i> , 2023	KAFD
Saudi Arabia	Hana Almilli (1996)	<i>Journey Through the Ripples of the Sand</i> , 2023	Wadi Namar
Saudi Arabia	Hayat Osamah (1992)	<i>Dust to Dust</i> , 2023	KAFD
Saudi Arabia	Huda Alnasir (1986)	<i>Last Seen</i> , 2023	Wadi Hanifa
Saudi Arabia	Ibrahim Romman (1995)	<i>Like Moths to a Flame</i> , 2023	Wadi Hanifa

Saudi Arabia	Khaled Makhshoush (1992)	<i>Untitled</i> , 2023	Wadi Hanifa
Saudi Arabia	Madhawi AlGwaiz (1995)	<i>Thurayya</i> , 2023	Wadi Namar
Saudi Arabia	Mohammad Alfaraj (1993)	<i>Where are you, my shadow?</i> 2023	KAFD
Saudi Arabia	Muhannad Shono (1977)	<i>Absent Sky</i> , 2023	JAX
Saudi Arabia	Nawaf Alkuhaimi	<i>Chromalusion</i> , 2023	KAFD
Saudi Arabia	Pharah Al-Ghalib (1998) and Amr Abuzaid (1995)	<i>Through Urban Flux</i> , 2023	KAFD
Saudi Arabia	PHI Studio (2017) - Saeed Gebaan (1989) and Hatem Al Ahmed (1998)	<i>Still from here</i> , 2023	Wadi Namar
Saudi Arabia	Sara Almutlaq (1993)	<i>Do We Ever Really Remember the Same?</i> , 2023	Salam Park
Saudi Arabia	Sarah Abu Abdullah (1990)	<i>Deep Waters</i> , 2023	Wadi Hanifa
Saudi Arabia	Studio Bound (2015) - Basmah Kaki, Hessa Al Bader and Hussam Dakkak	<i>Resonance</i> , 2023	Wadi Hanifa
Saudi Arabia	Suliman Alsalem (1993)	<i>Tunnel</i> , 2023	Wadi Namar
Saudi Arabia	Sultan Bin Fahad (1971)	<i>V1:S1:ONS</i> , 2023	Wadi Namar
Saudi Arabia	Zahrah Al Ghamdi (1977)	<i>In Life</i> , 2023	Wadi Hanifa
Spain	Alicia Framis (1967)	<i>Leave Here Your Fears</i> , 2023	JAX
Switzerland	Claudia Comte (1983)	<i>Monument to the Disappearing Forests</i> , 2023	Wadi Namar
Switzerland	Julian Charrière (1987)	<i>Controlled Burn</i> , 2022; <i>Mignight Zone</i> , 2023	JAX
Turkey; Germany	Nevin Aladağ (1972)	<i>Pattern Kinship</i> , 2023	KAFD
United Kingdom	Melanie Smith (1965)	<i>Spiral City</i> , 2023	JAX
USA	Diana Thater (1962)	<i>A Wild Kingdom</i> , 2023	Wadi Namar
USA, Cuba	FriendsWithYou – Samuel Borkson (1979) and Arturo Sandoval III (1976)	<i>Nature's Gift</i> , 2017	Salam Park
USA	Janet Echelman (1966)	<i>Earthtime 1.26 Riyadh</i> , 2023	JAX
USA	Max Hooper Schneider (1982)	<i>Falling Angel</i> , 2023	JAX
USA	Oscar Tuazon (1975)	<i>Light Rings</i> , 2023	Wadi Hanifa
USA	Sam Durant (1961)	<i>Seven Electric Signs</i> , 2002-2019	KAFD
USA	Sam Samore (1953)	<i>EYES</i> , 2023	KAFD
Venezuela	Carlos Crus-Diez (1923-2019)	<i>Environnement Chromointerférent</i> , 1974–2016	JAX

NOOR RIYADH EXHIBITION		
Country	Artist, YOB	Artwork title, year
Argentina	Cecilia Bengolea (1979)	<i>Astrophysical Light</i> , 2023
Bahrain	Mashaal Al Saie (1994)	<i>Sea of Tears</i> , 2023
Egypt, USA	Aidha Badr (1996)	<i>Please don't leave me yet, we know so little about each other</i> , 2023
Estonia	Artur Weber (1981)	<i>Inner Waves</i> , 2023
France	Kim Farkas (1988)	<i>22-20</i> , 2022
France	Philippe Parreno (1964)	<i>Marquee</i> , 2015

Germany	Random International - Hannes Koch (1975) and Florian Ortkrass (1975)	<i>When Tomorrow Comes / I</i> , 2023
Italy	Federico Acciardi (1998)	Nocturnal Visions, 2023
Japan	Mariko Mori (1967)	<i>Genesis IV</i> , 2022; <i>Radiant Being VI</i> , 2019; <i>Spirifer III</i> , 2018
Kuwait	Monira Al Qadiri (1983)	<i>Zephyr (series)</i> , 2023
Qatar	Amna Al Baker (1996)	<i>Story of Land, Sea, and Stars</i> , 2023
Qatar	Sophia Al Maria (1983)	<i>Cathartic Fantasies (Revisions)</i> , 2022; <i>Aural Futures</i> , 2022
Saudi Arabia	Abdelrahman Elshahed (1993)	<i>Light Upon Light</i> , 2023
Saudi Arabia	Abdullah Al Othman (1985)	<i>Language and the City</i> , 2023
Saudi Arabia	Abdulmohsen Al Bin Ali (1988)	<i>The Dreamer Dreams</i> , 2023
Saudi Arabia	Abeer Sultan (1999)	<i>I Will Take The Sun Into My Eyes</i> , 2023
Saudi Arabia	Ahaad Alamoudi (1991)	<i>It's Really Hard to See From Here</i> , 2023
Saudi Arabia	Ayman Zedani (1984)	<i>The Ancient Ones</i> , 2023
Saudi Arabia	Bashaer Hawsawi (1992)	<i>Let's Play Well</i> , 2023
Saudi Arabia	Rashed AlShashai (1977)	<i>Liquid Light</i> , 2023
Saudi Arabia	Sarah Brahim (1992)	<i>Memory Machine</i> , 2023
Saudi Arabia; Oman	Badiya Studio - Mohammed Al Hamdan (1993) and Mohamed Al Kindi (1991)	<i>Symphony of Light</i> , 2023
Switzerland	Julian Charrière (1987)	<i>Vertigo</i> , 2021
Syria	Talin Hazbar (1988)	<i>Earth Records</i> , 2023
United Arab Emirates	Farah Al Qasimi (1991)	<i>The Swarm</i> , 2021
United Arab Emirates	Shaikha Al Mazrou (1988)	<i>Beyond All Measures</i> , 2023
United Kingdom	Conrad Shawcross (1977)	<i>Slow Arc Inside a Cube XI</i> , 2020
USA	Lachlan Turczan (1993)	<i>Wavespace</i> , 2023
USA	Leo Villareal (1976)	<i>Blush Nebula</i> , 2023; <i>Sol Nebula</i> , 2023; <i>Ether Nebula</i> , 2023; <i>Noise Nebula</i> , 2022; <i>Fog Nebula</i> , 2021
USA	Madeline Hollander (1986)	<i>Sunrise/Sunset</i> , 2021

About Riyadh Art

Riyadh, the capital city of Saudi Arabia, is on a 10-year mission to become one of the world's most livable and competitive cities, a global center 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 metropolis.

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 sense of 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 on attracting new businesses to invest in the city.

Website: www.riyadhart.sa

Instagram: [@riyadhartofficial](https://www.instagram.com/riyadhartofficial)

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