

7th Edition of Tuwaiq Sculpture **FAQs**

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1. About Riyadh Art

What is Riyadh Art?

The rapid population growth and subsequent urban expansion of Riyadh, the capital of Saudi Arabia, over the past two decades, coupled with a booming economy, have created an opportunity to reshape the city's landscape through cultural transformation. Riyadh Art was launched in March 2019 as one of Riyadh's Four Grand Projects, under the patronage of the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Salman bin Abdulaziz. It is supervised by the Committee of Grand Projects, chaired by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman bin Abdulaziz, Prime Minister and Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Royal Commission for Riyadh City. The initiative aims to position Riyadh as a leading cultural capital.

The Royal Commission for Riyadh City is committed to realizing the vision of Riyadh Art by encouraging excellence in the design of artistic interventions, public buildings, parks, streets, and infrastructure. It recognizes that public art, alongside architecture, landscape architecture, urban design, environmental design, and historic preservation, is a key tool for shaping the city's identity and enriching its public realm.

Riyadh Art engages with the city's landscape, urban form, history, and culture, making Riyadh distinct among world capitals. The program also reflects Saudi Arabia's Vision 2030, aiming to build meaningful connections between the people of Riyadh, their communities, and civic life.

Riyadh Art encompasses a growing permanent collection, dynamic cultural collaborations, and two annual festivals: Tuwaiq Sculpture and Noor Riyadh.

2. Tuwaiq Sculpture

What is Tuwaiq Sculpture?

Tuwaiq Sculpture is an international sculpture symposium under Riyadh Art, one of the largest public art projects in the world today. Since its inception in 2019, Tuwaiq Sculpture has engaged over 150 internationally renowned sculptors and attracted thousands of visitors.

Now entering its seventh edition, Tuwaiq Sculpture 2026 will bring together 25 local and international sculptors, working in stone and reclaimed metal, to create original works that will become part of Riyadh's evolving public realm. The entire creative process will take place on site in a dedicated location in Riyadh and will be open to the public, offering an opportunity to witness the transformation of raw material into finished artwork in real time.

What is the aim of Tuwaiq Sculpture?

The aim is to encourage new artistic dialogues in line with Riyadh Art's vision, and to provide a platform where local and international artists can exchange ideas, collaborate, and contribute

meaningfully to the cultural landscape of 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 located in Saudi Arabia. It is considered a masterpiece in its form, containing many types of rocks, and is thus viewed as a natural sculpture in itself. Tuwaiq is one of the world's most prominent geographical landmarks and has been featured by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Mohammed Bin Salman as a symbol of the strength and perseverance of the Saudi spirit.

What is the theme of the 7th edition of Tuwaiq Sculpture?

The curatorial theme for Tuwaiq Sculpture 2026 is "*Traces of What Will Be.*"

What public engagement activities will be included in the 7th edition program?

More information on workshops, school visits, and panel discussions will be announced in the near future on Riyadh Art's official website and social media platforms.

3. Artists

Who can apply to take part in Tuwaiq Sculpture 2026?

Artists from all over the world are welcome to submit their applications to the Tuwaiq Sculpture Symposium. To apply, artists must have at least 3 years of experience in sculpting and exhibiting works, either permanently or temporarily, in outdoor spaces and galleries. If you have participated in previous editions, priority in the 7th edition will be given to applicants who have not been previously selected.

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

- The 1st Tuwaiq International Sculpture Symposium was inaugurated at Tuwaiq Palace in the Diplomatic Quarter in 2019, featuring 23 sculptors, including 3 Saudi artists and 20 international sculptors.
- The 2nd edition of the symposium, launched in 2020, featured 20 sculptors, including 2 Saudi and 18 international artists. The artists created sculptures in the Diplomatic Quarter, inspired by the famous Jabal Tuwaiq.
- The 3rd edition, held in 2021, featured 20 sculptors, including 4 Saudi artists and 16 international artists. It was held in the JAX District of Riyadh.
- The 4th edition took place in 2023, featuring 30 sculptors, including 8 Saudi artists and 22 international artists. It was held in Durrat Al Riyadh.
- The 5th edition, held in Roshn Front in 2024, featured 30 artists from 20 countries, including 10 Saudi and 20 international artists.
- The 6th edition, held in Roshn Front in 2025, featured 30 artists from 23 countries, including 7 Saudi and 23 international artists.

How many artists will participate in Tuwaiq Sculpture 2026?

Twenty five artists will be invited to participate in the 7th edition of the Tuwaiq Symposium.

Will there be an artist fee or a prize for participating in the 7th Tuwaiq Sculpture?

All selected artists will receive an artist fee of **SAR 37,500** for their participation in the symposium. The service provider will pay the fee within 30 business days of the closing of the Tuwaiq Sculpture Exhibition 2026, following the required working conditions. However, if the artist is unable to complete the sculpture for any reason, the fee will not be paid.

Will travel expenses be covered?

The following will be provided for each participating artist:

- An economy-class flight ticket (including two checked bags with a total combined weight of up to 50 kilograms)
- Ground transportation between the airport, hotel, and symposium site
- Hotel accommodation for the full duration of the symposium
- Daily meals (breakfast, lunch, and dinner).

Note: The artist must ensure that checked bags comply with size and weight limits, are declared in advance, and are properly secured to avoid any problems during transportation.

4. Sculpture Proposals

How many sculpture proposals can I submit?

Artists are invited to submit proposals for either one or two sculptures. If selected, artists will be informed which sculpture proposal was chosen by the Curatorial team.

Can I propose a sculpture I already created?

Only 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 materials will the stone artists be sculpting?

Stone artists will select the **granite** colours from the following: **royal rose, royal gold, and green**. They also have the option to incorporate **stainless steel** in their sculptures. Artists are encouraged to work with more than one colour.

Each artist will be supplied with approximately **10 cubic meters** of granite, which should be used for both the sculpture and its 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. Granite (royal rose, royal gold, green granite):

- Height: 300 cm
- Length: 200 cm
- Depth: 100 cm

ii. Stainless steel: *Please note that stainless steel is considered a secondary material and must not exceed 12 percent of the total artwork.*

iii. The number of pieces of stone, excluding the base, should not exceed four.

What kind of materials will the reclaimed metal artists sculpt with?

Artists will be taken to the reclamation site to select the metal pieces that best suit their artwork designs upon their arrival in Riyadh. The final artwork should have a height or width ranging between **3 to 4 meters**.

What tools will be provided?

All the tools and equipment provided by the organizers are outlined in the open call document. However, artists may bring their own tools (including cutting, polishing, and air tools) if they require them for their own technical and creative needs.

Will the artists have assistants?

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

5. 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 the Tuwaiq Sculpture Curatorial Team and is based on the following six criteria:

1. **Artist Experience**
2. **Concept Presentation and Relevance to theme**
3. **Artistic Approach and Originality**

Will there be a 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 Curatorial Team for feedback?

Unfortunately, due to the expected volume of submissions, no feedback will be provided to unsuccessful applicants. All decisions by the Curatorial Team 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 with your full personal information to:

tsopencall@riyadhart.sa

If I have a proposal for a workshop or a panel discussion for Tuwaiq Sculpture 2026, 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 17 September, 2025.

When will the selected artists be announced?

The names of the selected participants will be announced early October 2025.

6. Venue and Sculpture Relocation

When and where is Tuwaiq Sculpture 2026 taking place?

The Tuwaiq Sculpture Symposium will take place from **5 January to 18 February 2026 in Tahlia**. The final working day for artists on site will be **Saturday, 31 January 2026**. The on-site exhibition will open on **4 February and close on 18 February 2026**.

Artists are expected to arrive in Riyadh on **Thursday, 3 January 2026**, and depart upon completion of their sculptures. They are required to work on site throughout the duration of the symposium and be present for the opening of the exhibition.

Is the Tuwaiq Sculpture Symposium open to the public?

As art is for everyone, entry will be free of charge for all visitors. Reservations and ticketing can be made through the Riyadh Art website during the symposium period.

Where will the post-symposium exhibition take place?

The sculptures will be displayed at the symposium's location in Tahlia during the exhibition period.

Where will the sculptures be relocated?

Following 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 of each sculpture will be announced in due course.

Who should I contact if I have any further questions?

If you have a specific question that is not answered within these FAQs, please contact tsopencall@riyadhart.sa