

PRESS RELEASE

Under the patronage of HH Sheikh Khaled bin Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan

Abu Dhabi Art Fair Back in Physical Form for 2021

- *Returning to Manarat Al Saadiyat in a physical format, Abu Dhabi Art 2021 will be open to the public from **18-21 November 2021**, with an opening reception on **17 November 2021***
- *The upcoming **Beyond: Artist Commissions** will see installations and events spread out across the emirate, from Al Ain heritage sites to the Liwa Desert and Saadiyat Island*
- *The 2021 visual campaign is designed by UAE-based artists Ayesha Hahir, Rawdha Khalifa Al Ketbi and Shaikha Fahad Al Ketbi, and explores transformation in different environments*

Abu Dhabi, UAE, 21 May 2021: Under the patronage of HH Sheikh Khaled bin Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Member of the Abu Dhabi Executive Council and Chairman of Abu Dhabi Executive Office, the Department of Culture and Tourism – Abu Dhabi (DCT Abu Dhabi) has announced that this year's edition of Abu Dhabi Art will return to Manarat Al Saadiyat in a physical format and run from 18 to 21 November, with an opening reception on 17 November. The 2021 edition will also capitalise on the success of last year's virtual innovations by continuing to have a strong digital presence through a number of online initiatives.

HE Mohamed Khalifa Al Mubarak, Chairman of DCT Abu Dhabi, said, "Abu Dhabi Art is a platform for cultural connectivity, bringing together artists, galleries, institutions and arts professionals and fostering creativity by connecting them. Whilst the last year has brought up many challenges and issues for the art world, it has also brought forth opportunities to innovate. This pandemic has shown us that our way forward is through collaboration, adaptation and innovation. For any society to blossom, culture must be part of its DNA, and must be integral to its aspirations for progression and development. Abu Dhabi Art has adapted swiftly to the challenges that have faced the art ecosystem during the pandemic and will contribute to cultural growth and to the art market in the UAE with renewed vigour this year. We look forward to welcoming visitors and the community back to the fair this November."

HE Saood Abdulaziz Al Hosani, Undersecretary of DCT Abu Dhabi, said, "Abu Dhabi is one of the safest places in the world to visit in 2021, and we are excited to announce that we will be welcoming visitors to our programme at Manarat Al Saadiyat at the end of the year, and we will be adhering to all necessary health and safety regulations. Abu Dhabi Art is now an important date on the global cultural calendar, and a key initiative that reflects Abu Dhabi as a culturally active and artistically conscious city."

This year Abu Dhabi Art will be also showcasing several new commissioned installations at locations across the emirate of Abu Dhabi. The art-driven experiences will stretch from Liwa and Al Ain to the city centre of Abu Dhabi and is in part a natural extension of the fair's Beyond: Artist Commissions programme, which launched in 2017 and brings site-specific works to world heritage sites in Al Ain each year. Abu Dhabi Art has been working closely with commissioned artists on their new works, as well as with DCT Abu Dhabi, to create eco-driven experiences in these unique locations.

Each year, the fair collaborates with artists to create its [visual campaign](#) and this year it will feature works by Emirati artists Ayesha Hahir, Rawdha Khalifa Al Ketbi and Shaikha Fahad Al Ketbi, which were first created as part of *Beyond: Emerging Artists* in 2019. In these works they jointly explore the idea of transformation in different environments, from seascapes and the desert, to abandoned cityscapes.

Guest Artists and Curators for 2021 will be announced in the coming months, along with further details on the emirate-wide programme for the fair.

[Applications are now open](#) for galleries to exhibit at the 13th edition of the fair in November.

Strict precautionary and hygiene measures will be enforced at Abu Dhabi Art 2021 to ensure the safety and wellbeing of all participants and visitors. Details of these measures will be announced in due course.

For more information on Abu Dhabi Art 2021 and its year-round programmes, visit abudhabiart.ae and follow Abu Dhabi Art on social media: [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) and [Instagram](#).

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Notes to Editors:

About Abu Dhabi Art

Abu Dhabi Art expands beyond the notion of a traditional art fair, in placing strong emphasis on a diverse public engagement programme, including art installations and exhibitions, talks and events that take place in different locations throughout the year. The culmination of this year-long programme is the Abu Dhabi Art event in November, which provides an important sales platform for participating galleries whilst also offering these galleries an opportunity to showcase ambitious installations and site-specific works by their artists to a wide audience. abudhabiart.ae

About the Department of Culture and Tourism - Abu Dhabi

The Department of Culture and Tourism conserves and promotes the heritage and culture of Abu Dhabi emirate and leverages them in the development of a world-class, sustainable destination of distinction that enriches the lives of visitors and residents alike. The Department manages the emirate's tourism sector and markets the destination internationally through a wide range of activities aimed at attracting visitors and investment. Its policies, plans and programmes relate to the preservation of heritage and culture, including protecting archaeological and historical sites and to developing museums, including Louvre Abu Dhabi, Zayed National Museum and Guggenheim Abu Dhabi. The Department of Culture and Tourism supports intellectual and artistic activities and cultural events to nurture a rich cultural environment and honour the emirate's heritage. A key role played by the Department is to create synergy in the destination's development through close co-ordination with its wide-ranging stakeholder base. dctabudhabi.ae

About Dyala Nusseibeh

Dyala Nusseibeh has been the Director of Abu Dhabi Art since 2016. Having graduated with a BA from Cambridge University and an MLitt (with Distinction) from Glasgow University, she spent a year at the Cultural Foundation in Abu Dhabi followed by four years at the Saatchi Gallery in London as Head of Education. In this capacity she organised annual student shows, the education programme at the gallery and a travelling exhibition of works from the Saatchi collection to Ipswich in order to broaden outreach. In 2013, Nusseibeh became founding Director of ArtInternational Istanbul, managed by leading fair organisers Angus Montgomery, a position she held until 2016 when she joined the Department of Culture and Tourism - Abu Dhabi.