

Press Release

Art Jameel announces artist residency in collaboration with Elizabeth Foundation for the Arts

Selected artists include Husam Al-Sayed, filmmaker and member of Telfaz11, and SALAR, performance artist and electronic composer



New York, USA – February 12, 2015

Art Jameel, in partnership with **Edge of Arabia**, is pleased to announce the participants of their 2015 artist residency in collaboration with the Elizabeth Foundation for the Arts (EFA). Selected artists include filmmaker **Husam Al-Sayed** and multidisciplinary artist and composer **SALAR**. From **February to April, 2015** the two artists will live, create and present new work in New York City.

Husam Al-Sayed is a Saudi-based Palestinian filmmaker, musician and founding member of the [Telfaz11](#), one of the Middle East's most influential Arabic online video networks based in Riyadh. With over seven million subscribers and over 750 million views throughout its network, Telfaz11 has attracted and helped launch some of the most popular creative talent in the Middle East. SALAR is a Dubai-based Iranian multidisciplinary artist, electronic music composer and founding member of the Analog Room, a DJ and music platform in the Middle East with an international residency program for electronic music composers. Since launching in 2012, Analog Room has cultivated an extensive network of regional-grown electronic music composers and generated increased awareness about the medium.

The three month long residency includes access to EFA's Studio spaces, introductions to artists and curators through studio visits and collaborations, accommodation and travel costs, as well as a stipend for living expenses in New York City. Art Jameel's ongoing residency programs aim to connect Middle Eastern artists with new audiences, and to explore interconnected stories that link ideas and people across physical and psychological borders. Art Jameel, in partnership with Edge of Arabia, launched their first US based artist residency in collaboration with the International Studio & Curatorial Program (ISCP) in Summer 2014.

During the EFA residency Husam Al-Sayed will direct three short films, for which SALAR will compose original scores. Two of the films will take viewers on a journey into New York City's neighbourhoods of Little Syria and Harlem through the perspective of selected artists whose practice is inspired by these historical landscapes. The third film will be a Telfaz11 video diary of the Armory Show through the perspective of artists participating in the FOCUS: MENAM section of the fair.

These films will screen via FREEWAY, the online broadcast platform of Edge of Arabia's ongoing US Tour in partnership with Art Jameel. FREEWAY will launch in New York in March 2015, in conjunction of The Armory Show Focus: Middle East, North Africa, and the Mediterranean (MENAM), of which Art Jameel is Education Partner and Edge of Arabia is Lead Cultural Partner.

Facebook: Abdul Latif Jameel Community Initiatives | Edge of Arabia
Instagram: @ALJ_CI, @edgeofarabia | **Twitter:** @ALJCI, @edgeofarabia

#ARTJAMEEL | #ALJCI | #EOAUSA

Images: Husam Al-Sayed and SALAR. Courtesy of Art Jameel and Edge of Arabia.

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Art Jameel

Art Jameel – Abdul Latif Jameel Community Initiatives (ALJCI) arts and culture initiative – aims to foster and promote a thriving arts scene within the Middle East, North Africa and Turkey (MENAT) region and to support the development of creative enterprises. In partnership with art organizations worldwide, Art Jameel develops cultural exchange programs to encourage networking and knowledge sharing. Art Jameel is the founding partner of Edge of Arabia, The Crossway Foundation, Arabian Wings, Jeddah Art Week and The Archive. In partnership with the Victoria & Albert Museum in London it provides the biannual Jameel Prize for contemporary art inspired by Islamic traditions. Additional projects include: Jeddah Sculptures Museum, a public park established in collaboration with Jeddah Municipality; the Art Jameel Photography Award; the Art Jameel Art Olympics in collaboration with the Ministry of Education in Saudi Arabia; and the Art Jameel Program for Traditional Arts and Crafts in collaboration with the Prince's School of Traditional Arts.

ALJCI was established in 2003 to promote positive social change through the establishment of long-term partnerships with international institutions, and the creation of initiatives in the fields of Job Creation – Bab Rizq Jameel; Global Poverty Alleviation; Arts and Culture – Art Jameel; Education and Training – Education Jameel; and Health and Social – Social Jameel. More information on ALJCI's considerable set of initiatives can be found online at www.aljci.org.

Elizabeth Foundation for the Arts (EFA)

EFA is dedicated to providing artists across all disciplines with space, tools and a cooperative forum for the development of individual practice. EFA is a catalyst for cultural growth, stimulating new interactions between artists, creative communities, and the public. The EFA Studio Program, initiated in November 1998, is an open-submission, juried membership program for professional visual artists, providing subsidized workspace in midtown Manhattan. Individual studio practice within the EFA community is enriched by career development opportunities including open studio events, exhibitions, professional seminars and collaborative projects with collectors and curators. Other core projects include the EFA Robert Blackburn Printmaking Workshop Program, a fully equipped, professional, cooperative print workspace offering affordable studio access, classes, lectures, demonstrations and skilled staff assistance that opened in September 2005. The EFA Project Space Program, launched in September 2008, is a public forum that expands beyond the activities in the studios and the workshop, and encourages a critical engagement with the world at large. EFA is more than the sum of its programs, creating a welcoming and engaging community in the center of New York City.

For more information, please visit www.efanyc.org

Edge of Arabia

Edge of Arabia is an independent, non-profit arts initiative, which connects artists and cultural communities between the MENA (Middle East & North Africa) region, Europe and United States. It is the vision of a group of British and Saudi artists who met in the mountains of South-West Saudi Arabia in 2003 and shared a common desire "to start a real cultural movement from the periphery of the international art world." With its exhibitions, expeditions, educational programs, and publications, it seeks to foster new audiences, create expanded networks and inspire artists to develop independent and authentic practices, which unite people across physical and psychological borders. Based between London and Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, Edge of Arabia is a registered UK Social Enterprise, which maintains creative independence and has, to date, welcomed over 250,000 visitors to its exhibitions and distributed over 50,000 publications worldwide. In 2014 Edge of Arabia launched a grassroots tour across the United States in partnership with Art Jameel. International exhibitions include: Rhizoma, 55th Venice Biennale (2013); #COMETOGETHER, East London (2012); We Need to Talk, Jeddah (2012); The Future of a Promise, 54th Venice Biennale (2011); Terminal, Dubai (2011); Transition, Istanbul: European Capital of Culture (2010); Grey Borders/Grey Frontiers, Berlin (2010); Edge of Arabia, Riyadh (2010); Edge of Arabia, 53rd Venice Biennale (2009); and Edge of Arabia, University of London (2008). More information can be found online at edgeofarabia.com.

For more information, please visit www.edgeofarabia.com.

For more information, please contact:

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