

Press Release

Art Jameel continues second year of Artist Residencies in New York with the International Studio and Curatorial Program (ISCP)

2015 selected artists include Ayman Yossri Daydban, Zeinab Shahidi, and Sara Ouhaddou

Brooklyn, New York, USA – March 31, 2015

Art Jameel, in partnership with **Edge of Arabia**, is pleased to announce the participants of their second annual artist residency program with the International Studio and Curatorial Program (ISCP) in Brooklyn, New York. From the over 200 applications submitted by artists living and working across the Middle East and North Africa, three artists were selected: Ayman Yossri Daydban (Palestine / Saudi Arabia), Zeinab Shahidi Marnani (Iran), and Sara Ouhaddou (Morocco).

The Art Jameel Artist Residency is a continually developing project, created in partnership with Edge of Arabia, which aims to support artists from the Middle East and North Africa by providing them with a platform in New York City to further develop their practice, share their work with new audiences, and collaborate with locally based artists.

This year's first residency artist, **Ayman Yossri Daydban** (b. 1966 in Palestine, lives and works in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia), is a conceptual artist whose work comments on his own connection to the environment he grew up in. Daydban is in residence at ISCP through the end of March 2015, focusing on the latest iteration of his *Subtitle* series, which draws inspiration from Malcolm X's speech after his return from Mecca in 1964. Daydban's residency has enabled him to undertake on-site investigations of historic sites in New York City that he has previously only been able to research from afar, including The Malcolm X and Dr. Betty Shabazz Memorial and Educational Center in Harlem. Daydban's project, created in collaboration with Hazim Tawfiq, a Harlem based artist and street vendor, will be the subject of a short film directed by Husam Al Sayed for *FREEWAY*, the broadcast program of Edge of Arabia's US Tour in partnership with Art Jameel. Daydban will hold an open studio at the ISCP on April 2.

In residence at ISCP from April - May 2015, **Zeinab Shahidi Marnani** (b. 1983 in Iran, lives and works in Tehran) is a conceptual artist. Since 2012 Shahidi has participated in facilitating a program of classes geared towards introducing Australian culture to Afghan refugees whose cases have been approved for immigration to Australia. Through this work she has conducted extensive research on the life of the Afghan refugee population in Iran, a subject that neither state nor privately run media in the region or abroad have investigated. Shahidi will continue her investigations on the subject matter from an external spectrum while developing a new body of work about the nuanced meaning and history related to her last name *Shahidi (Martyr)*.

The third residency participant, **Sara Ouhaddou** (b. 1986 in Morocco, lives and works between Paris and Morocco), is an artist and designer with an interest in preserving and reinterpreting dying craft techniques and using them as the base of her contemporary art practice. During her residency from June - August 2015, she will act as a bridge for Middle Eastern artisans based within the greater metropolitan area. Ouhaddou will also produce a special project for the *CULTURUNNERS* RV in its trek across the US, utilizing the technical craft-knowledge that Ouhaddou has accumulated, paired with her knowledge of historical patterns as well as contemporary architectural design to augment the cabinetry and textiles of the RV itself.

Art Jameel's ongoing residency program strives 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 its first US based artist residency in collaboration with ISCP in Summer 2014. The inaugural residency awardees were Taysir Batniji (b. 1966, Gaza, Palestine) and Foundland – a collective comprised of Ghalia Elsrakbi (b. 1978, Damascus, Syria) and Lauren Alexander (b. 1983, Cape Town, South Africa). In early 2015 Art Jameel in partnership with Edge of Arabia announced their first residency in collaboration with the **Elizabeth Foundation for the Arts (EFA)**, which has brought two artists to New York for a three-month residency this spring. Residents include filmmaker **Husam Al-Sayed** (b. 1984 in Palestine, lives and works in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia) and multidisciplinary artist and composer **SALAR** (b.1990 in Iran, lives and works in Dubai, U.A.E.), who from February to April 2015 have jointly created three original video pieces: viewable [here](#).

Open Studio:

On Thursday, April 2, 2015 from 4-6pm, Ayman Yossri Daydban will hold an open studio at the ISCP. Visitors are welcomed to contribute to the artist's on-going project by taking part in a collective reading of selected texts. Location: 1040 Metropolitan Ave, Brooklyn, NY 11211

Future open studios to be announced on the Edge of Arabia and ISCP websites.

Facebook: [Abdul Latif Jameel Community Initiatives](#) | [Edge of Arabia](#)

Instagram: [@ALJ_CI](#), [@edgeofarabia](#) | **Twitter:** [@ALJCI](#), [@edgeofarabia](#)

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-Ends

Art Jameel

Art Jameel, one of [Abdul Latif Jameel Community Initiatives](#), fosters and promotes contemporary art and creative entrepreneurship across the MENAT region. In partnership with arts organizations worldwide, ART JAMEEL is developing two arts centres and cultural exchange programs to encourage networking and knowledge sharing. ART JAMEEL is the founding partner of Edge of Arabia, The Crossway Foundation, Jeddah Art Week, and The Archive. In partnership with the Victoria & Albert Museum in London, it awards the biannual Jameel Prize for contemporary art and design inspired by Islamic traditions. Additional projects include: Art Jameel Photography Award; Jeddah Sculpture Museum, a public park established in collaboration with Jeddah Municipality; Art Jameel Olympics, in collaboration with the Ministry of Education in Saudi Arabia; and Art Jameel Program for Traditional Arts and Crafts in Fustat, Egypt, 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.

For further information, please visit www.aljci.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 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 and New York, 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.

International Studio and Curatorial Program (ISCP)

The International Studio and Curatorial Program (ISCP) is a leading nonprofit, residency-based contemporary art institution for emerging to mid-career artists and curators from around the world, including the United States. With more than 30 artists and curators in residence at all times, the program provides residents with the space, time, and support to develop new projects. With additional activities tailored for professional development and public engagement, ISCP is a platform to produce, present and contextualize contemporary art through a diverse range of international perspectives. ISCP's public programs encourage dialogue and integrate residents into the cultural community of New York City. The residency includes 24-hour access to a private studio space, studio visits from Visiting Critics; Field Trips to museums, galleries and other cultural institutions; and participation in ISCP Talks. Residents at ISCP are also invited to take part in ISCP's Exhibition Program and Participatory Projects.

For more information, please contact:

About ALJCI:

Mariam Keblawi
Abdul Latif Jameel Community Initiatives
International
Mobile: +971-50-477-9923
Email: m.keblawi@alj.ae

About Art Jameel and the residency program:

Katrina Weber Ashour
Phone: +1-212-627- 1653
Email: katrina@fitzandco.com