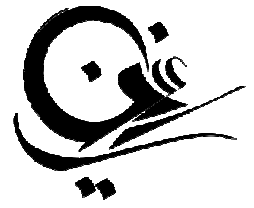


For immediate Release, October 2010



NEW WAVE OF SAUDI CONTEMPORARY ART COMES TO ISTANBUL

Edge of Arabia Istanbul: TRANSITION

Sanat Limani, Antrepo No. 5 , Tophane, İstanbul

5 November – 26 December 2010

Press Reception and Private View: Friday 5th November, 7pm

Gala Reception: Thursday 25th November, 7pm

Edge of Arabia, a pioneering travelling exhibition that has shed new light on the largely unknown contemporary art culture of Saudi Arabia, is coming to Istanbul this November as part of the official programme of the European Capital of Culture 2010 and under the global tour sponsorship of ALJ Community Initiatives. TRANSITION will present up to 20 Saudi artists and 80 artworks, ranging from installation, performance, photography, video and sculpture, in what is set to be the largest ever showing of Gulf artists in Turkey. The exhibition will be co-curated by Stephen Stapleton and Progress Art.

Progress Art comments, 'Saudi contemporary art has taken a big step forward in recent years, and we are very proud to co-curate Edge of Arabia in Istanbul, a Capital city of cultural importance and the symbolic borderland between East and West.'

TRANSITION features both established and previously unseen work by a new generation of Saudi artists who present their visions of a changing world. Housed in Sanat Limani (Antrepo No 5), a renowned contemporary art warehouse on the banks of the Bosphorus and directly opposite Istanbul Modern, the artists work provides a unique and unpredictable perspective on contemporary culture in Saudi Arabia, addressing both local and global issues in a dramatic flux.

Fady Jameel, President of ALJ Community Initiatives International said 'We are delighted to support Saudi Artists to participate in this timely and important project. We are especially pleased to be sponsoring this exhibition whose educational focus allows new and often young international audiences to better understand and engage with contemporary culture and heritage from Saudi Arabia, and allows new developing artists to be appreciated by the international community.'

The exhibition will be divided into four transient themes, with the addition of a guest-curated Video Art installation room. Room 1 will explore the identities of the artists within the context of their local environments and communities and includes works such as *The Choice & I Am* by Manal-Al-Dowayan and *Negative No More* by Shadia & Raja Alem. Moving on from the individual to the more overtly spiritual, Room 2 looks at the artists' subjective expression of faith and devotion, and includes artworks such as Noha Al-Sharif's *Humbly and Devout* and Ahmed Mater's *Illuminations*.

From the spiritual, we move through a connecting passage to Room 3 which examines societies move from tradition (in faith, language, urban surroundings) to modernity and man's obsession with construction, mass production and consumerism including Bassem Al-Shargi's *Jeddah Bacodes* and Sami Al-Turki's *Constructakons*. The final room presents the artists messages of hope and fear for the future, showcasing a series of dramatic works which act as both warning and aspiration, for a rejection of divisions and destruction towards a better, more peaceful and sustainable world.

The Edge of Arabia world tour is globally sponsored by ALJ Community Initiatives and undertaken in partnership with the Saudi Arabian General Investment Authority (SAGIA). TRANSITION is also partnering with and will have a booth, talks, and special art installations at Contemporary Istanbul, Turkey's leading commercial art fair, which will stimulate timely dialogue and collaboration between the Saudi and Turkish arts community.

Artists include: Manal Al-Dowayan, Faisal Samra, Sami Al-Turki, Noha Al-Sharif, Abdunasser Gharem, Hala Ali, Maha Malluh, Ahmed Mater, Hussain Al-Mohsin, Bassem Al-Shargi, Ayman Yossri, Mohammed Al-Ghamdi, Seddiq Wassil, Fahad Al-Gethami, Farouk Kondakji, Bandar Al-Romaih, Yousef Al-Shaikh, Nasser Al-Salim

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NOTES TO EDITORS

Since launching in London in 2008, this grassroots initiative has become a project of international cultural significance. Following successful exhibitions at the 53rd Venice Biennale, the Global Competitiveness Forum in Riyadh and most recently in Berlin, Edge of Arabia will conclude 2010 with its most ambitious exhibition to date in Istanbul.

Exhibition Opening Times

Tuesday - Sunday: 10am-7pm

Closed: Mondays. Admission Free.

Sanat Limani

Meclis-i Mebusan Caddesi, Liman İşletmeleri Sahası

Antrepo No. 5

Tophane, İstanbul

Tel: +90 212 243 90 74

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For map and directions, please click here: www.edgeofarabia.com/gallery-information/

CURATORS: STEPHEN STAPLETON & PROGRESS ART

CREATIVE DIRECTOR: ABDULLAH AL-TURKI

ASSISTANT CURATORS: AYA MOUSAWI & MIRIAM LLOYD-EVANS

FOUNDING SPONSOR:

ALJ COMMUNITY INITIATIVES



ALJ Community Initiatives was established in 2003 as the corporate social responsibility programs provider under the prominent ALJ Group. It has global coverage and through its many successful initiatives and social programmes provides a multitude of successful globally applicable sustainable projects, solutions, schemes and mechanisms. ALJ Community Initiatives have developed and promoted a portfolio of globally applicable sustainable projects and solutions, supported socio-economic development by providing social programs for the needs of communities, and brought about a reduction of unemployment and poverty through novel and innovative schemes and mechanisms.

WORLD TOUR PARTNER:

SAUDI ARABIAN GENERAL INVESTMENT AUTHORITY

EXHIBITION PARTNERS:

EUROPEAN CAPITAL OF CULTURE 2010

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CONTEMPORARY ISTANBUL

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