

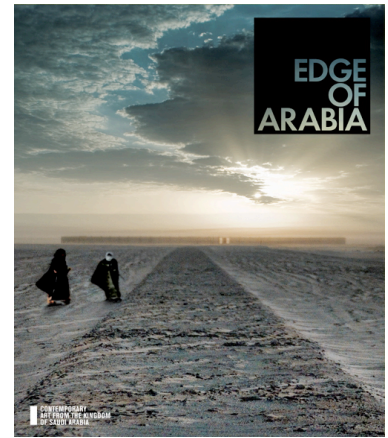
Press Release, 5<sup>th</sup> March 2012

## Edge of Arabia to publish landmark book celebrating the pioneers of Saudi contemporary art

Independent art initiative Edge of Arabia and renowned publisher Booth-Clibborn Editions will launch *Edge of Arabia: Contemporary Art from the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia* at Art Dubai in March 2012.

**LAUNCH: 22 March 2012, 6-7 PM**

Fort Island, next to Global Art Forum, Art Dubai. Open to all.



This lavishly illustrated book explores the extraordinary contemporary arts culture of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. With contributions from art historians, curators, gallerists, collectors and patrons, the book centres around a group of groundbreaking and relatively unknown artists practicing at the center of the Islamic world.

Stephen Stapleton, Director, Edge of Arabia, says: *“Since 2003 a new movement of Saudi contemporary art has arrived. This artistic movement is one of the most dynamic, authentic and challenging to have emerged anywhere in the Middle East in the early 21st century, and we are proud to be a part of it.”*

The featured artists include: **Shadi & Raja Alem, Hala Ali, Ayman Yossri Daydban, Manal Al Dowayan, Abdunasser Gharem, Maha Malluh, Ahmed Mater, Faisal Samra, Jowhara Al Saud, Noha Al Sharif, and Sami Al Turki.**

Besides showing the work of those 12 artists, the book also documents milestone Edge of Arabia exhibitions in London, Venice, Berlin, Istanbul, Dubai, and Jeddah, with the initiative’s very recent home-coming to Saudi Arabia in January 2012. Supported by Abdul Latif Jameel Community Initiatives (ALJCI) and Abraaj Capital, *Edge of Arabia: Contemporary Art from the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia* is an inspiring window into contemporary life of a Kingdom in transition.

Fady Jameel says: *“The Jameel family is especially proud to be supporting this publication, which will bring Saudi contemporary art to the attention of a wider audience than ever before. By sharing the work and stories of this group of artists, we are enabling greater international understanding, and also increased cultural activity within the Kingdom. ALJCI has partnered with Edge of Arabia since its inception and is committed to contributing to a platform that supports and enhances the work of both Saudi men and women into the international arena.”*

Frederic Sicre, Partner, Abraaj Capital comments: *“The initiative of Edge of Arabia, through its exposure of Saudi artists in international exhibitions and most recently in Jeddah, beautifully documented in this ambitious publication, reflects our philosophy at Abraaj Capital, to empower the potential of artists from the MENASA region through the Abraaj Capital Art Prize. We are delighted to be involved.”*

**Edge of Arabia: Contemporary Art from the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia**, is published internationally by Booth-Clibborn Editions and produced by Edge of Arabia. Other books in this series include *Ahmed Mater* (2010) and *Abdunasser Gharem: Art of Survival* (2011).

**Edge of Arabia: Contemporary Art from the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia**

**Edited by Stephen Stapleton & Edward Booth-Clibborn**

**Distributed by Abrams // ISBN-13: 978-1861543233 // Price: \$60.00/£35.00**



BOOK SPONSORS



## NOTES TO EDITORS

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### EDGE OF ARABIA

Edge of Arabia is an independent arts initiative developing the appreciation of contemporary Arab art and culture with a particular focus on Saudi Arabia. As a social enterprise Edge of Arabia is committed to reaching new audiences and improving understanding through touring, non-commercial & free exhibitions, through publications, and through education programs targeting schools & universities. Following its launch in London in 2008, this grassroots initiative has travelled to Riyadh, Berlin, Istanbul, Dubai, Venice, and most recently Jeddah, where it presented the largest Saudi exhibition ever held in the Kingdom. In 2012, Edge of Arabia will travel to London and Beirut before embarking on a tour of the US from 2013. [www.edgeofarabia.com](http://www.edgeofarabia.com)

### BOOTH-CLIBBORN EDITIONS

Booth-Clibborn Editions was founded in 1974 as a privately owned, wholly independent company publishing an outstanding list of books on the fine, media and decorative arts. Titles range from major art catalogues for exhibitions and museums around the world through overviews of contemporary graphic communications techniques. [www.booth-clibborn.com](http://www.booth-clibborn.com)

### FOUNDING SPONSOR: ABDUL LATIF JAMEEL 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 initiatives and social programmes 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. [www.aljci.com](http://www.aljci.com)

### PRINCIPAL PATRON: ABRAAJ CAPITAL

Abraaj Capital is a leading private equity manager investing in the rapidly growing economies of the Middle East, Africa, Turkey and Asia. Since its inception in 2002, Abraaj Capital has raised close to US\$7 billion and distributed almost US\$3 billion to its investors. Abraaj Capital implements a widely recognized stakeholder engagement strategy positively impacting economic, cultural and social welfare across a number of countries, industries and sectors. [www.abraaj.com](http://www.abraaj.com)

The Abraaj Capital Art Prize was founded in 2008. Annually it rewards artists from the MENASA on the basis of a proposal rather than completed works-of-art. The aim of the prize is to reflect Abraaj Capital's dedication to empowering potential in the region, giving talented artists the opportunity to break new ground and work with an international curator to showcase the rich artistic and cultural heritage of the MENASA. Applications are accepted for the 2013 edition until 31 March 2012. [www.abraajcapitalartprize.com](http://www.abraajcapitalartprize.com)

**BOOK PATRONS:** Basma Al-Sulaiman, Rami Al-Turki, Raneem Farsi, Mohammed Hafiz, Fady Jameel, Hamza Serafi.



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