



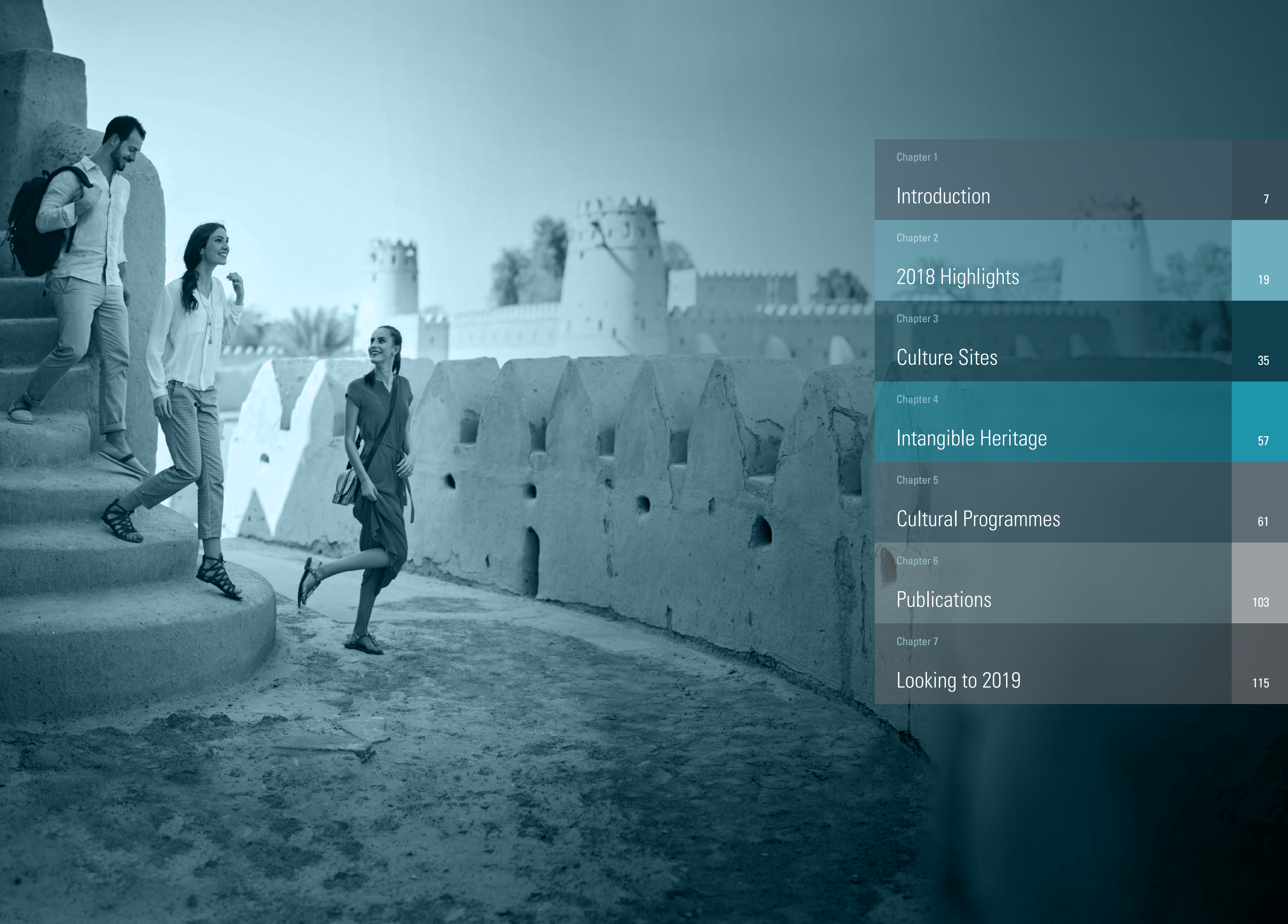
CULTURE

DEPARTMENT OF **CULTURE** AND TOURISM

ABU DHABI

ANNUAL REPORT
2018

VOLUME I
CULTURE



Chapter 1

Introduction

7

Chapter 2

2018 Highlights

19

Chapter 3

Culture Sites

35

Chapter 4

Intangible Heritage

57

Chapter 5

Cultural Programmes

61

Chapter 6

Publications

103

Chapter 7

Looking to 2019

115

INTRODUCTION





FOREWORD FROM THE CHAIRMAN

As we maintain pride in our rich history and deep cultural heritage, we are forging ahead with numerous initiatives aimed at fostering creativity, intercultural dialogue and cultural exchange.

These aims reflect core aspects of the legacy of the father of the nation, the late Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan. 2018 marked the centenary of his birth, an occasion celebrated through the Year of Zayed, an initiative which reinforced our commitment to furthering his mission of protecting and promoting our cultural heritage. During the year, programmes and events inspired by Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan were incorporated into key moments of the cultural calendar, and reflected in exhibitions, concerts and other cultural events that celebrated his life and achievements.

In the spirit of the Founding Father, we have continued to develop the emirate's cultural scene. The past 12 months were memorable for our museum sector, as Louvre Abu Dhabi celebrated both its one-year anniversary and the milestone of one million visitors. Its continued programming of special exhibitions, workshops, talks, and musical events attracted a very diverse audience from across the globe. In the World Heritage Site of Al Ain, the innovative design for the restoration of the Al Ain Museum was unveiled. In December, a much-anticipated launch of the national monument of Abu Dhabi Qasr Al Hosn opened its doors within the Al Hosn site. The original urban

block of the city, Al Hosn features the oldest and most significant landmark, Qasr Al Hosn, now transformed into a museum narrating the history of the emirate and its people.

Signature cultural festivals returned, drawing diverse audiences. One of the country's symbolic events, the Mother of the Nation Festival held its third edition on the Corniche. The fifth Traditional Handicrafts Festival highlighted artisanal handicraft products as vital components of the UAE's cultural heritage, providing a platform for their promotion and preservation.

We have continued to organize and nurture a wide variety of important cultural platforms and initiatives. These include the second edition of Culture Summit Abu Dhabi, at which more than 400 leaders from 80 countries convened to discuss ways in which the power of culture could solve some of the world's most pressing global challenges. Abu Dhabi International Book Fair returned for another successful edition, having named Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan as Personality of the Year, in honour of the Year of Zayed. Also noteworthy was the return of Abu Dhabi's renowned musical platform, Bait Al Oud programme, continuing its essential role in documenting masterpieces of Arab music heritage and restoring music as a fundamental element in the UAE's cultural life.

The initiatives and events launched across the emirate this year served to further our mission of sustaining a robust and diverse culture sector, while demonstrating the power of culture as an instrument of change, progress and unity.

In 2019, we intend to be no less ambitious, as the Department continues to protect and promote the cultural heritage and identity of the emirate, while sharing the understanding and appreciation of art, architecture, music and other modern forms of culture, both with local and international audiences. We are proud to both preserve the past and help build the future of Abu Dhabi, for the enlightenment of generations to come.

Mohamed Khalifa Al Mubarak

FOREWORD FROM THE UNDERSECRETARY

Culture serves as both a beacon for positive transformation and also a force for unity and understanding.

The Department of Culture and Tourism—Abu Dhabi’s Culture Sector works tirelessly to connect both local and international audiences to the emirate’s vast array of cultural assets and initiatives, with programmes geared towards showcasing both the rich heritage of the UAE’s capital and the depth of Abu Dhabi’s contemporary capacity.

A crucial part of the cultural mandate is to preserve heritage and culture, safeguarding it for future generations, but we also strive to build the sites, projects and capabilities needed to enhance intellectual and artistic creativity, and to develop and support cultural tourism.

Main events such as Abu Dhabi Classics, the Abu Dhabi International Book Fair and Abu Dhabi Art grow year on year, and Abu Dhabi’s museums, libraries and community centres continue to offer a diverse calendar of exhibitions, workshops and other engaging and innovative programming.

The newly launched Al Hosn cultural site, which includes Qasr Al Hosn, the Cultural Foundation and the House of Artisans, is another initiative asset that has been enhanced to maintain its relevance as a cultural attraction. The renovation of the original urban block of the city has transformed it into a year-round destination permanently open to visitors, offering unique cultural, educational and immersive experiences for all.

Overseeing the development of Abu Dhabi’s Saadiyat Cultural District is also key to the Department’s ongoing strategy, with the Louvre Abu Dhabi, having recently celebrated its first anniversary. Managing the existing museums in Al Ain, which include the Al Ain Museum, Al Ain Palace Museum, Al Jahili Fort and Qasr Al Muwaiji, also forms a cornerstone of the cultural strategy as we work to expand audiences for cultural undertakings, providing the community with exhibitions, outreach and education programmes.

As we look to the future, we remain focused on communicating the essence of Abu Dhabi, to both inspire awareness and pride locally, as well as promote the unique heritage to the world at large as we continue to transform Abu Dhabi into a cultural destination par excellence.

Saif Saeed Ghobash



BRANDS

THE CULTURAL SITES OF AL AIN:

Hafeet

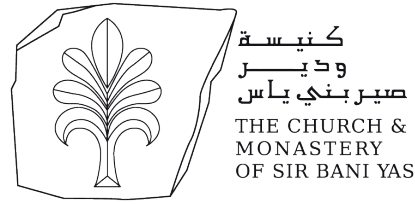
Hili

Oases Bida Bint Saud



ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITE

The Church and Monastery of Sir Bani Yas



HISTORIC BUILDINGS

Al Jahili Fort

Qasr Al Muwaiji

Qasr Al Hosn



MODERN HERITAGE BUILDING

Cultural Foundation



COMMUNITY CENTRES

Al Qattara Arts Centre

Bait Al Oud

Manarat Al Saadiyat

House of Artisans



MUSEUMS

Al Ain Museum

Al Ain Palace Museum

Guggenheim Abu Dhabi

Louvre Abu Dhabi

Zayed National Museum



CULTURAL PROGRAMMES

Abu Dhabi International Book Fair

Al Ain Book Fair

Al Dhafra Book Fair

Bait Al Gahwa

Esdarat

Kalima

Sheikh Zayed Book Award

Abu Dhabi Art

Abu Dhabi Classics

Culture Summit

National Traditional Handicrafts Festival

Al Qattara Heritage Souq

Maktaba

Archaeology Conference

Conservation of Earthen Architecture

GCC Heritage and Oral History Conference





YEAR OF ZAYED

The United Arab Emirates declared 2018 the Year of Zayed, to coincide with the country's celebrations marking the centenary of the birth of its Founding Father, the late Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan.

The Year of Zayed initiative reflected, in multiple forms, the values of unity, solidarity and tolerance taught by Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan, and raised awareness of his life and legacy both locally and abroad.

The Department of Culture and Tourism–Abu Dhabi implemented several initiatives in 2018 to support government and citizen efforts in the Year of Zayed. Some are discussed here, and some are discussed in the tourism volume of the Department's annual report.



عام زايد
YEAR OF ZAYED

CULTURAL DIPLOMACY:

The Department of Culture and Tourism–Abu Dhabi signed an agreement with the British Museum to rename a gallery after the late Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan, in a tribute to his cultural legacy and his mission to build bridges between nations. *'The Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan Gallery for Europe and the Middle East'* explores the history of agriculture in the Middle East and the resulting progress that formed the modern world.

SPECIAL PUBLICATION:

The Department of Culture and Tourism–Abu Dhabi published *Voices of the Emirates*, an Arabic book documenting the oral narratives of those who witnessed the foundation of the UAE during the reign of the late Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan, as well as *Words of a Leader: Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan*, which features selected quotes by the Founding Father, translated from Arabic into several languages.

MUSICAL CELEBRATIONS:

The Department of Culture and Tourism–Abu Dhabi's year-long Music Programme presented a series of concerts aimed at reviving Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan's legacy of poetry, as well as traditional Emirati songs. These included the Cine-Concert 'To Zayed Salam', with music and songs inspired by the poems of Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan accompanied by cinematic footage from the life of the Founding Father.

PERSONALITY OF THE YEAR:

In celebration of the Year of Zayed, and in appreciation of his numerous intellectual and cultural contributions in shaping contemporary UAE society, Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan was chosen as the 'Personality of the Year' for the 28th edition of the Abu Dhabi International Book Fair.

TALKS AND WORKSHOPS:

In collaboration with Louvre Abu Dhabi, the Department of Culture and Tourism–Abu Dhabi developed a programme discussing Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan's poems on the topics of human civilisation and peace, while Zayed National Museum organised a series of talks highlighting the different values adopted by Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan that feature in the museum narrative. Insisting on the importance of education as viewed by Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan, the Guggenheim Abu Dhabi organised educational workshops for students to improve their understanding of art history.

ART EXHIBITIONS:

The annual 'A Touch of Heritage' art exhibition commemorated Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan by featuring artworks inspired by his life, legacy and values, while in the 'My Quest for Zayed' exhibition, artist Mohammed Aljneibi showcased his personal collection of old and rare Arabic magazines and newspapers containing photographs of the UAE's Founding Father.



VISION FOR THE SECTOR

The Department of Culture and Tourism–Abu Dhabi continues to enhance the emirate’s cultural offering, aiming to create a dynamic cultural centre in the capital of the UAE. It aims to preserve and promote the nation’s cultural heritage to both residents and tourists and to develop and curate art, music and museums.

The Department’s Culture Sector’s main objectives: to enhance cultural, intellectual and artistic creativity through a dynamic cultural scene and public engagement programme; to enhance reading and to train UAE nationals in specialised fields, developing a dynamic workforce for the Sector.

The Department also aims to: enhance and promote culture through the creation of policies and regulations to protect the emirate’s heritage; preserve, enhance and establish the emirate’s national collection; research, document, publish and promote the emirate’s intangible heritage; and develop an overarching programme to weave art and heritage into education curriculums.

The museums, libraries, cultural sites, events and programmes covered by this report are key to meeting these goals. The development of museums in the emirate helps to expand art collections, provides a platform for developing cultural heritage and tourism, and encourages cultural vocations among the younger generations in the UAE. The Department of Culture and Tourism–Abu Dhabi has also documented and conserved the archaeological sites and historic buildings described in this report, in order to preserve the UAE’s cultural heritage. The emirate’s diverse exhibitions, programmes and events calendar aims to engage the wider community in its prospering cultural scene.

2018 HIGHLIGHTS



AN INCREASE BY

176% COMPARED TO 2017**TOTAL +147K**
VISITORS ACROSS
LIBRARIES IN 2018**1199%**

% Change from 2017

Library Name:
Al Wathba Library
2018:
+11,200
Location:
Abu Dhabi**120%**

% Change from 2017

Library Name:
Al Bahya Park Library
2018:
+16,500
Location:
Abu Dhabi**137%**

% Change from 2017

Library Name:
Al Marfaa Library
2018:
+10,200
Location:
Abu Dhabi**113%**

% Change from 2017

Library Name:
Khalifa Park Library
2018:
+22,100
Location:
Abu Dhabi**33%**

% Change from 2017

Library Name:
Mazyad Mall Library
2018:
+24,300
Location:
Abu Dhabi**419%**

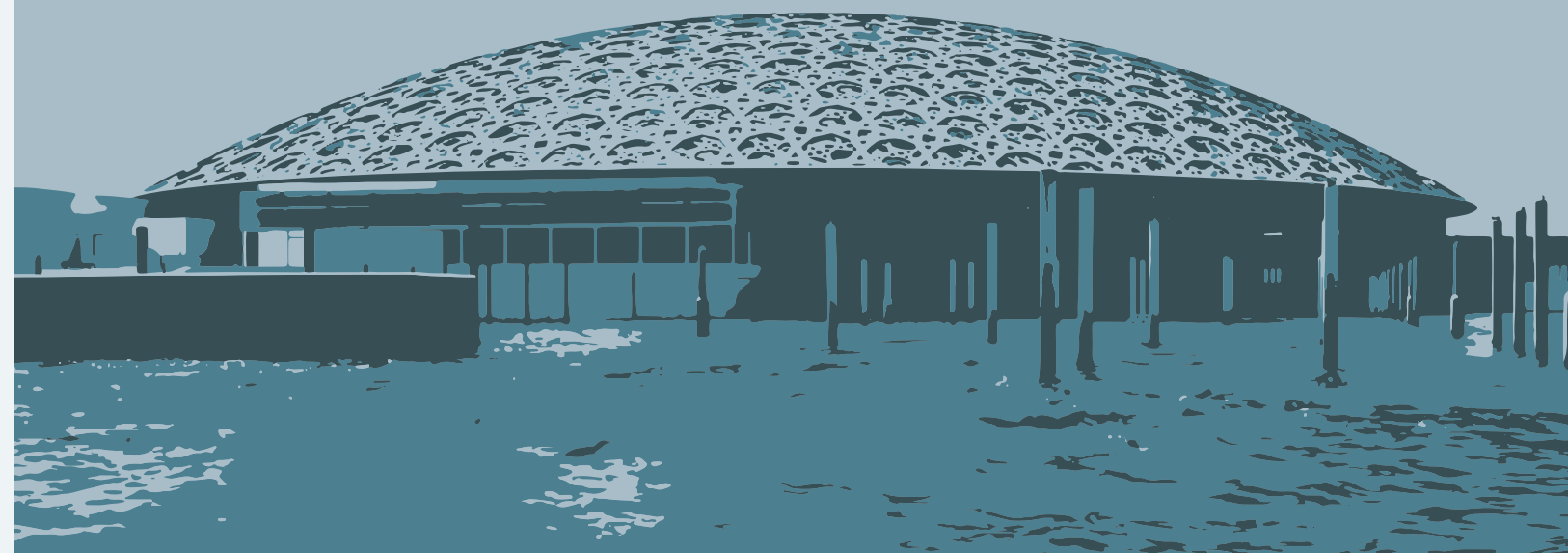
% Change from 2017

Library Name:
Zayed Central Library
2018:
+62,600
Location:
Al AinVISITORS TO KEY
CULTURAL SITES **2018****+1.67M**Visitors across key cultural sites
in 2018

an increase

92%

compared to 2017

**+1,259,000**PEOPLE HAVE VISITED LOUVRE ABU DHABI
MUSEUM SINCE IT OPENED IN NOVEMBER
2017, WITH OVER 1 MILLION IN 2018



AL HOSN

Located in downtown Abu Dhabi, Al Hosn is the original urban block of the city, a witness to its evolution from a traditional pearling settlement to a modern global metropolis. Al Hosn comprises four major interrelated structures: Qasr Al Hosn Fort, Cultural Foundation, the National Consultative Council building and the House of Artisans.

Incorporating the oldest structure in Abu Dhabi, Qasr Al Hosn is the narrator of Abu Dhabi's past, telling stories of diplomacy, history and Emirati traditions, as well as those of the men and women who lived in the ruler's palace. The National Consultative Council building stands as a symbol of the federalisation and unity of the UAE, while the House of Artisans serves to promote and preserve the intangible heritage of the UAE. The Cultural Foundation represents one of the early achievements of the young nation-state – its first cultural centre, which would become the home of cultural and social life in modern Abu Dhabi.

QASR AL HOSN

A HISTORIC LANDMARK

The oldest structure on Abu Dhabi Island is Qasr Al Hosn, which is known for being the ruling family's home. This important site has stood the test of time, as Abu Dhabi Island developed from a small community on the coast to a global city. Over the centuries, Qasr Al Hosn has fulfilled many roles: as a fortified stronghold, the ruling seat, home to the ruling family and as a community centre. Today, the site has many secrets and tales to tell.

THE INNER FORT

The Inner Fort narrative tells the story of the numerous historic events that took place in and around Qasr Al Hosn. The exhibition conveys the experience of everyday life in the Fort, demonstrating how this crucial site was both a ruling family residence and a bustling centre of administration. These insights are enlivened by films, interactives and oral histories, as well as the presence of authentic artefacts and heirlooms from the mists of time.





THE MOVE

A pivotal moment in the history of the region took place just over 250 years ago, when the foundations were laid to build Qasr Al Hosn. A basic shift had taken place in the way people perceived and used this island on the shores of the Gulf, once so empty and overlooked.

At this moment, rule of the emirate, which had once centred on the desert, now re-located to the coast. This was a momentous turning point, as that would change the course of history. Due to the symbolic nature of the decision, the fort became an emblem of both the settlement it guarded and the Bani Yas’s rule as the preferred leaders of the people.

THE OUTER PALACE

The palace, which was built in the 1940s and 50s, came alive in 2018 with year-round programmes and activities. Today, visitors can roam Sheikh Shakhbut bin Sultan Al Nahyan’s Palace and listen to the everyday tales of its residents. Sheikh Shakhbut bin Sultan Al Nahyan’s personal quarters are open, and visitors can send a radio message and join the Ruler’s Majlis.

A NEW PALACE

At three times the size of Qasr Al Hosn, the new Palace signalled that the emirate was moving into a new era. The Great Depression and the downturn in the pearl market were times of hardship, but it was now a time of hope and for a positive outlook.

Qasr Al Hosn’s development into an expansive working Palace to manage the city’s administration and promote regional and international ties, accompanied the rise of Abu Dhabi on the world stage. Visiting foreign dignitaries, politicians and executives all came to the Palace, which symbolised Abu Dhabi’s growing importance.

The new Palace comprised two palatial wings, towers and a large courtyard. Sheikh Shakhbut bin Sultan Al Nahyan’s personal style, which was refined and tasteful, yet sensible, was apparent in the architecture.

The enhancements made to the fort reflected those in the emirate’s infrastructure. The Fort thus became an icon of Emirati pride and optimism. Its role today is potentially just as meaningful, as a compelling and formidable connection between history and our modern lives.

OPENING WEEK CELEBRATIONS

The reopening of Qasr Al Hosn, the oldest and most important heritage site in Abu Dhabi, was a major highlight of 2018. His Highness Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi and Deputy Supreme Commander of the UAE Armed Forces, commemorated the Department’s rebuilding project, which encompassed four linked areas: Qasr Al Hosn, the National Consultative Council, the Cultural Foundation and House of Artisans.

His Highness Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi and Deputy Supreme Commander of the UAE Armed Forces, as well as members of the Ruling Family and other attendees, toured the Fort to get an overview of the conservation work undertaken to repurpose Qasr Al Hosn as a museum presenting Abu Dhabi’s history.

The “Artists and the Cultural Foundation: The Early Years” exhibition, which showcases works by UAE artists, and the House of Artisans, which presents traditional Emirati handicrafts, were also part of the tour.

A delegation of five partners from China, India, Italy, France and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia also attended the official opening.

Several public programmes were implemented during the opening week, including performances, demonstrations of traditional handicrafts and storytelling to provide a glimpse into Abu Dhabi’s past.

• **Landscape Celebrations**

During the opening week, Al Hosn provided a stage upon which skilled artisans demonstrated the traditional arts and crafts of Abu Dhabi, all within an environment that mirrors the one that helped to define Emirati culture.

Rope making, fish net making and casting, khoos weaving, rababa music, fish salting and falconry, were just some of the demonstrations. Visitors

also watched Al Yola performances and enjoyed the finest gahwa - Arabic coffee - in the newly created Bait Al Gahwa.

• **Al Hosn Pavilion**

The Pavilion was created to allow a panoramic audio experience. Visitors gained a 180-degree view over the site, from the food and beverage area of the Cultural Foundation, to the House of Artisans across the Al Hosn site, and then to the Qasr Al Hosn and the National Consultative Council.

As the Pavilion revolves, visitors learn about the story of Al Hosn and how its architecture was shaped and influenced by Abu Dhabi’s history, accompanied by performances highlighting Emirati culture.

THE NATIONAL CONSULTATIVE COUNCIL

The Majlis has always been a fundamental part of the Emirati tradition for discussion and decision-making. In 1968, Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan built a Majlis outside of Qasr Al Hosn, enabling him to receive guests in a building with modern conveniences, in the setting of his ancestral home. Qasr Al Hosn stood witness to a defining moment in the history of the UAE and its people when this Majlis building evolved into the National Consultative Council (NCC), formed specifically as a forum to facilitate discussions and negotiations on the unification of the United Arab Emirates. Following the Union of the UAE on 2 December 1971, this historic chamber then hosted the Federal National Council of the United Arab Emirates.



HOUSE OF ARTISANS

Located alongside Qasr Al Hosn and the Cultural Foundation, the House of Artisans serves as a focal point for the promotion and preservation of the UAE's intangible heritage. In 2011, UNESCO listed the Al-Sadu (weaving) craft on its List of Intangible Cultural Elements for Urgent Safeguarding, and the House of Artisans was founded in a coordinated effort to protect and support the intangible heritage of the UAE and other traditional Emirati crafts and those who practise them.



CULTURAL FOUNDATION

The Cultural Foundation was opened in 1981, under the direction of the late Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan, to foster cultural consciousness. The Cultural Foundation has gained a regional and international reputation as a world-acclaimed venue for culture and the arts. The building itself has gained prominence as a modern heritage landmark, registered as one of Abu Dhabi's cherished cultural heritage resources, and hence was among the first sites to be registered as a modern heritage site in the emirate in Abu Dhabi's Historic Environment Record.

Along with the conservation of nearby Qasr Al Hosn, the renovations to the Cultural Foundation are in line with Abu Dhabi's overall development plans, one of which is the careful conservation of cultural sites, breathing new life into the city's heritage landmarks and keeping them fully functional for all to enjoy. The conservation of the Cultural Foundation was a fundamental element in the overall conservation of the Al Hosn site, revealing the development of Abu Dhabi from tradition to modernity within a single city block.

In 2018, the Cultural Foundation reopened as the focal point of modern and contemporary Emirati architecture, culture, visual and performing arts. It will also house the region's first Children's Library. The reopening of the Cultural Foundation was celebrated with Artists and the Cultural Foundation: The Early Years' exhibition that included artworks by 18 Emirati artists, and the Reflections exhibition that featured artworks in conversation, as well as an insight into the Cultural Foundation residency programme.

THE CULTURAL FOUNDATION'S REOPENING WEEK WAS CELEBRATED BY NUMEROUS PERFORMANCES:

NASEER SHAMMA AND THE GLOBAL PROJECT ENSEMBLE

A renowned master of the Oud, Iraqi-born Naseer Shamma is a former professor of Oud at the Higher Institute of Music, University of Tunisia, and founder of Bait Al Oud, Abu Dhabi.

Naseer was joined by the Global Project Ensemble, which features a diverse range of performers, mixing Middle Eastern music with influences from across the globe.

SALEM SHUKRI AL ATTAS

Salem Al Attas is a 25-year-old Emirati who began reciting poetry in 2012 and has since won several Poetry Slam competitions and awards. He co-hosted the First Annual Abu Dhabi International Poetry Festival and conducted many workshops on poetry performance. An active guest speaker in the community, Attas has also performed in the United States and Kuwait.

MEMORY OF EMIRATI SONG

KHALID MOHAMMED

Since attaining fame in the UAE and Gulf region in the 1980s, the Emirati singer and composer has recorded more than 200 songs. A pioneer of the Oud instrument, his performances include poems by Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan, Mohammed bin Suqat, Kamish bin Noman and many more. He reinterprets traditional UAE songs in his own style and has performed both locally and internationally.

FATIMA ZHRAT AL AIN

Fatima has been performing since the 1990s and has recorded albums with Gulf and Arab production companies.

As well as being an accomplished Oud player, Fatima is a prominent female vocalist in the Emirati music scene. Her most recent album is titled 'Jazaytni', and two of her latest tracks, 'Ah Wayli' and 'Ya Wojodi', are renditions of old Emirati songs.

PERFORMANCES



Chehade Brothers



Souad Massi Trio



Elbrus



Majaz



Yousif Yaseen



Iftah Ya Simsim



AL AIN MUSEUM

Al Ain Museum was established in 1969 under the guidance of the late Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan. The museum stores artefacts from the archaeological sites throughout the region. These objects, such as flint tools and arrowheads from circa 6,000 BCE, allow visitors to trace the history of Al Ain from the Stone Age through to the foundation of the UAE.

The museum was originally located in Sultan bin Zayed Palace before being moved next to the Sultan Fort in 1971. Situated on the eastern side of Al Ain Oasis, the Sultan Fort was once the heart of the former village or “Hara of Al Ain”. It is one of several historic buildings linked with the power, from the end of the 19th century, of the ruling Al Nahyan family in Al Ain. Still well preserved today, the Fort is one of the main attractions for visitors to Al Ain Museum.

During 2018, work continued on the restoration of Al Ain Museum and the Sultan Fort, which should be completed in the last quarter of 2020.

In describing the late Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan’s view regarding the original establishment of the museum, His Highness Sheikh Mohamed

bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi and Deputy Supreme Commander of the UAE Armed Forces, stated that Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan “was keen on building a museum during the early stages of establishing the country to document the nation’s heritage, history and ensure due concern is paid to our archaeological treasures”. In this way, the project reflected the modernisation throughout the emirate of Abu Dhabi, striking a balance between the old and the new.

The revived Al Ain Museum will have an increased capacity, allowing room for more permanent and temporary exhibitions, educational workshops, administrative areas, a cafe and a souvenir shop. The revamp plan also includes the outside area of the museum, a new car park and the historic Sultan Fort.

The development project aims to elevate the cultural standing of this historical site, allow research opportunities, preserve its heritage and capitalise on new technologies to enhance the collection’s presentation.

BAIT AL GAHWA



BAIT AL GAHWA

The serving of Gahwa (Arabic coffee) communally is an Emirati tradition dating back centuries. Bait Al Gahwa provides a modern-day opportunity to experience the traditional preparation and presentation of the Gahwa, which is an evocative part of celebrations, as well as a symbol of unity. Its social, political and cultural relevance reflects the essence of Emirati society, as we know it in modern times.

TRAINING PROGRAMME

To ensure that both roles are performed properly, a training programme has been created to prepare trainees for certification. It includes the traditional techniques and sequence for making Gahwa for Sane' Al Gahwa trainees, and provides the Modheef trainees with the script and storytelling training.

HOUSE OF ARTISANS



HOUSE OF ARTISANS

The crafts represented in House of Artisans celebrate the creative and artistic relationship between the people of the United Arab Emirates and the locally available natural resources. Within the diverse landscapes of the UAE – from the desert, to the oases, to the coast and sea – artisans have developed skills to meet functional and economic needs. The crafts made through these skills show a deep artistic sensitivity. Shared from generation to generation, this intangible heritage now preserves not only the practical skills but also the shared social values associated with Emirati identity. Aiming to bring the traditional crafts of the past to the heart of contemporary culture, House of Artisans offers training courses, educational workshops and other public events.



PHOTOGRAPHY STUDIO



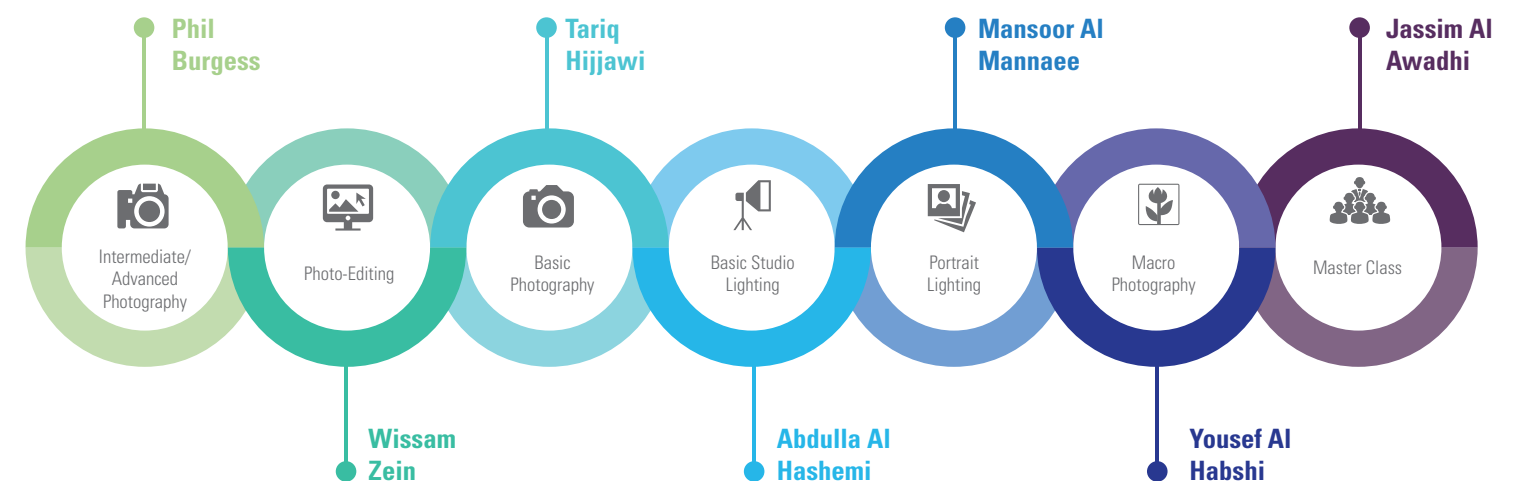
PHOTOGRAPHY STUDIO

In 2018, Manarat Al Saadiyat, an art community centre, launched the Photography Studio to provide a targeted initiative for photography on a local, regional and international scale. The studio hosts community photography exhibitions as part of a year-round schedule of activities and events.

The artistic growth of photographers in Abu Dhabi and beyond will be fostered in this space. Professional photographers will host specialised workshops and courses. In addition to a studio that is available for rent, the photography studio includes a large workshop space, a make-up and dressing room, and a digital lab.

Emirati photographer Jassim Al Awadhi's exhibition, 'The Presence of Absence', marked the launch of the Photography Studio. After 20 years as a crime scene photographer, Jassim Al Awadhi is a celebrated Emirati contemporary and documentary photographer.

COURSE AND WORKSHOP INSTRUCTORS:





CULTURE SITES



MUSEUMS

AL AIN PALACE MUSEUM

The late Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan lived at Al Ain Palace until 1966. He then moved to Abu Dhabi as the emirate's new leader. Today, the Palace Museum gives an insight into the period during which the site was the Ruling Family's residence and a centre for culture in the community, before the 1971 Union. Built in 1937 in Al Ain's architectural style, the Palace was the backdrop to many major changes the oasis city underwent from the mid-20th century.

The Palace was opened to the public in 2001. After renovations, a modern tent was added, similar to the one in which Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan received his guests. This tent is a tribute to the desert life of the past and an evocative symbol of Arab hospitality and UAE heritage.

The Al Ain Palace Museum celebrates Emirati hospitality and culture with 'My Heritage, My Responsibility'. This seasonal outdoor programme brings to life various aspects of the heritage of the UAE through workshops, performances and a traditional craft market. World Audio-Visual Heritage Day in October and World Heritage Day in April provided key opportunities for the Museum to celebrate Emirati heritage.

Ramsa, a weekly community majlis event, is part of the Museum's community engagement efforts and provides a platform for the discussion of Emirati dialect and customs by heritage experts. A Handicrafts Workshop also runs several days a week throughout the year, offering interactive lessons on traditional handicrafts such as Talli, Khoos and Al-Sadu to the community.

GUGGENHEIM ABU DHABI

Located between Europe, Asia and Africa, the Guggenheim Abu Dhabi will take a diverse and expansive view of art history, focusing on the synthesis of local, regional and international creativity. In doing so, it will celebrate the most significant contemporary artistic works, while also acknowledging the particular contributions emanating from the Middle East.

The museum will exhibit all mediums of art from the 1960s to the present day and will encourage research on a variety of subjects, especially Middle Eastern art history of the 20th and 21st centuries. The museum will also commission works that reflect its support for contemporary arts.

COMMISSION

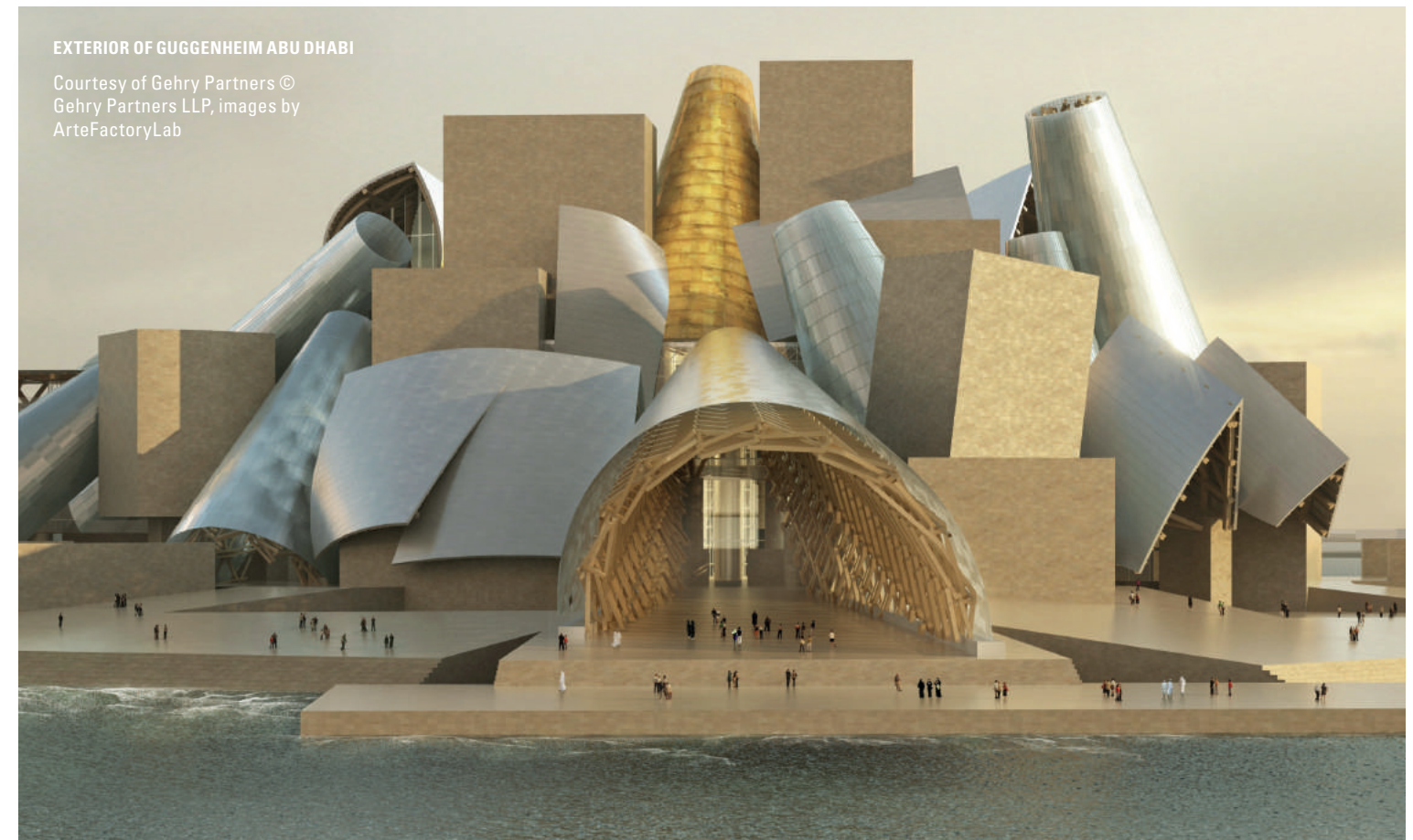
Abu Dhabi (2016), a film by internationally renowned contemporary artist Sarah Morris, was the first commissioned artwork for Guggenheim Abu Dhabi's collection. The film was unveiled at Manarat Al Saadiyat and takes viewers on a visual journey across the capital. Sarah Morris is acclaimed for her use of film to convey filmic portraits of the transformation of locations around the globe at pivotal time periods.

EDUCATION AND OUTREACH

On 19 February 2018, the Guggenheim Abu Dhabi hosted a workshop for students from New York University Abu Dhabi and Zayed University (Abu Dhabi and Dubai campuses). The students were given an introduction to Guggenheim Abu Dhabi. The artist Imran Qureshi gave a presentation on his artistic oeuvre, while Atreyee Gupta shared the stories of Indian artists Ravi Varma and K.G. Subramanyan, and Patrick D. Flores presented the work of contemporary Thai artist Phaptawan Suwannakudt.

In the fall semester of 2018, as part of a University Short Course that engaged with art history, curatorial studies and fine arts, students from the University of Sharjah and Zayed University participated in an outreach programme led by Guggenheim Abu Dhabi.

Art students from the University of Sharjah and Zayed University also attended an outreach programme held at Manarat Al Saadiyat alongside the launch of Abu Dhabi. In a 45-minute presentation, the film's artist, Sarah Morris, gave a detailed explanation of her practice.



EXTERIOR OF GUGGENHEIM ABU DHABI

Courtesy of Gehry Partners ©
Gehry Partners LLP, images by
ArteFactoryLab

GUGGENHEIM ABU DHABI TALKING ART SERIES

The Garden Within. A discussion with the contemporary miniature painter Imran Qureshi's inspired by his project *The Garden Within* (2014).

Pioneering Modernism: Ibrahim El-Salahi. A lecture delivered by Professor Salah Hassan exploring the career of one of the forerunners of modern art in Sudan, Ibrahim El-Salahi.

Transcultural Exchange/ Experimental Practices: Conceptual Art Networks 1960s–Today. A panel discussion featuring artist Mohammed Kazem and art historian Dorothea Van der Koelen, exploring artistic networks from the 1960s to today who have advanced conceptual art practices, especially in the UAE.

Guggenheim Abu Dhabi Collection Artist Sarah Morris in Conversation with Philip Tinari. The artist Sarah Morris was joined by Philip Tinari, Director of UCCA, Beijing, for a conversation about her inspiration and artistic process during Abu Dhabi Art.



ZAYED NATIONAL MUSEUM

This museum will share the life of the late Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan (1918-2004) and celebrate the Founding Father. As the UAE national museum, it will also illustrate the nation's natural and human history through the ages, and its connections with the Middle East and wider world.

INITIATIVES

The Department of Culture and Tourism – Abu Dhabi undertook five research projects in 2018, focusing on the culture and traditions of the Northern emirates, through film and oral history. The findings will form the basis of two galleries in the Zayed National Museum, People and the Heritage.

EDUCATION AND OUTREACH PROGRAMMES

Zayed National Museum ran two programmes in 2018, 'Haji: Memories of a Journey, Exhibition Talk' and 'Mother of the Nation Pavilion: Multaqa', an interactive programme. Zayed National Museum collaborated with several UAE universities, including New York University Abu Dhabi, Zayed

University, University of Sharjah and the American University of Sharjah, to carry out engagement programmes that reach a large student population.

LOUVRE ABU DHABI

“The most beautiful museum in the world”
Beaux Arts Magazine

Louvre Abu Dhabi opened its doors in November 2017, the first universal museum in the Arab world and the first to open in the 21st century. By the time of its first anniversary on 11 November 2018, the museum had welcomed more than one million visitors. Visitors were lured by the growing permanent collection on display in the main galleries, the multiple temporary exhibitions and the remarkable architecture of the museum. Collectively, the museum builds understanding across cultures, presenting a universal narrative through stories of human creativity.

Louvre Abu Dhabi is an important component of Abu Dhabi’s vision to invest in culture, education and tourism. The museum attracted many awards in 2018 and received more than 25,000 press mentions in articles published worldwide.

The museum’s strategy in 2018 was based on three main pillars: collection and content, visitors and education, and operational excellence.

COLLECTION & CONTENT

ACQUISITIONS, LOANS & ROTATIONS

In 2018, Louvre Abu Dhabi acquired 13 monumental artworks and received 40 exceptional loans on rotation from the 13 French partner institutions, regional and international museums, increasing the number of artworks on display to 668. Ranging from ancient precious objects to modern masterpieces, the new acquisitions and loans bolster the universal narrative running through the collection and ensure visitors always find something to fascinate and inspire them. As part of Louvre Abu Dhabi’s first large-scale loan rotation and in partnership with French museum partners, the museum updated its displays, for example by curating a major rehang of its modern and contemporary art galleries. Some major loans, such as Leonardo da Vinci’s La Belle Ferronnière from Musée du Louvre, were extended for another year due to their popularity.

National partnerships were secured with loans from museums in Al Ain, Dubai, Ras Al Khaimah, Umm al-Quwain and international institutions in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Jordan and Oman. The restoration in Amman of an Ain Ghazal statue was launched in partnership with the Department of Antiquities in Jordan.

EXHIBITIONS

Temporary exhibitions give audiences the opportunity to explore specific moments from the universal narrative of the museum in more detail. The first cultural season ‘A World of Exchanges’ demonstrated the connections drawn between different periods of art history and societies.

The museum launched with two exhibitions: From One Louvre to Another in partnership with Musée du Louvre and Co-Lab: Contemporary art and savoir-faire, part of the Emirati-French Cultural Program – Dialogue with the Louvre Abu Dhabi. Globes: Visions of the World in partnership with Bibliothèque Nationale de France ran from March to June 2018.

The autumn season of exhibitions, continuing the thematic ‘A World of Exchanges’ included Japanese Connections: The birth of modern décor presented with Musée d’Orsay (September to December) and Roads of Arabia: Archaeological Treasures of Saudi Arabia (November to February 2019) with the Saudi Commission for Tourism and National Heritage and the Musée du Louvre with artifacts from the United Arab Emirates.

The Children’s Museum opened a new exhibition on the representation of animals throughout art history from all eras and regions: Animals, between real and imaginary (September to July 2019).

To accompany the exhibition Japanese Connections: the birth of modern décor, Louvre Abu Dhabi opened Manga Lab, an experimental, creative zone specifically targeted towards teenagers and young adults around the aesthetic of the popular art of Manga. It recorded more than 30,000 visitors.

VISITORS AND EDUCATION

VISITOR STATISTICS

A balance between local and global audiences has been a target of Louvre Abu Dhabi since its inception. Installing a barometer tool to record and analyse visitor data, the museum has been able to study the public visitor figures and it is clear that a balance was maintained throughout Louvre Abu Dhabi’s first year.

Louvre Abu Dhabi has become a key attraction for international visitors to Abu Dhabi; tourists account for 59% of recorded visits. The museum is driving tourism to the Emirate and visitors come from all parts of the globe, including the Middle East, Europe and Asia, with India, China, UK, France, Germany and the GCC being the top-recorded visitors. Overall, India is the top nationality of visitors, including both Indian tourists and UAE residents.

UAE residents have rapidly adopted the museum and made it a favourite destination to gather with family and friends. They represent 41% of the museum’s total number of visitors. Meanwhile, Emirati visitors represent the second top visitors to the museum with an increasing trend, reaching higher and higher levels since the opening. During the last quarter, the percentage of repeat visits of this segment reached 32%.

The visitor split is equal between males and females. Visitors spend an average of 2 hours 19 minutes in the museum. The overall visitor satisfaction is 89%.

PEOPLE OF DETERMINATION

Louvre Abu Dhabi is a fully accessible museum. In 2018, the museum focused on improving its service for people of determination even further, with more tactile stations and maps added to the permanent galleries and the introduction of a Sensory Tour. During the UN International Week for People of Determination, students from local rehabilitation centres were given tours.

EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMMES

The educational programme provided numerous free-learning resources to visitors, including multimedia guides, audio tour guides, activity booklets,

art kits and online resources. In 2018, more than 50,000 visitors bought the multimedia guide and more than 25,000 downloaded the free application. Four new tours were developed for temporary exhibitions. In addition, 250 audio commentaries on the collection or exhibitions were produced, in multiple languages (German, Mandarin, Hindi and Russian).

In an attempt to engage the wider academic community, more than 1000 schools and university tours took place in 2018. A roadshow to Abu Dhabi, Al Ain and Al Dhafra gave access to more than 14 schools (grades 3-12). An ‘Educator’s Circle’ was also established, with 62 public and private schools, and eight universities hosted at the museum for a dedicated event. In partnership with the Department of Education and Knowledge and the Ministry of Education, Professional Development Week trained teachers to lead their own classroom tours focussing on Louvre Abu Dhabi’s permanent collection.

CULTURAL PROGRAMMES

The cultural programmes that took place at the museum during the first year involved 415 artists from 20 nationalities who gave 115 performances. Key highlights were ‘On the Roads of Arabia’ (as part of the opening of the Roads of Arabia: Archaeological Treasures of Saudi Arabia exhibition), the museum’s one year anniversary celebrations featuring a number of workshops and performances, and finally in December, the Rain of Light Festival.

NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL OUTREACH

As part of its promotional drive, the museum participated in 24 conferences globally, including 10 in the UAE and others in Asia, North Africa, Europe and the United States. Key events included Art Basel Conversations, Switzerland, M+, Hong Kong, Musée de Cluny, France, Frankfurter Buchmesse, Germany and Yale University, USA. In December, the museum launched a road show to present the museum to government entities in Abu Dhabi and to engage with them.



OPERATIONAL EXCELLENCE

TRAINING & EMIRATISATION

As part of the museum’s training and Emiratisation policy, the current staff comprises 46% Emiratis, with the remainder from diverse nationalities. In 2018, Emirati nationals received training and placement opportunities in renowned French museums through the intergovernmental agreement. Furthermore, the second class of the Student Ambassadors programme graduated.

PARTNERSHIPS

2018’s major partners were Etihad Airways, FAB, Masdar, UAE Embassy in the US, Murex and VMWare. The Art Club loyalty programme reached almost 5,000 members, who received special benefits. Partnerships have been established with 91 resellers from the Tourism Trade Industry, accounting for an average of 12% of ticket sales.

Louvre Abu Dhabi attended five trade shows, including London’s World Travel Market and Dubai’s Arabian Travel Market.

Approximately 6,000 guests attended 40 private events for corporate and government partners at the museum, including conferences, evening receptions and gala dinners. In total, there were almost 400 official diplomatic and VIP visits arranged at the museum.

INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM

Louvre Abu Dhabi’s hosted its first symposium ‘Worlds in a Museum’ as part of its first year anniversary events on November 10th and 11th. In collaboration with École du Louvre, the symposium addressed the topic of museums in a globalised world and brought together leaders in the field to discuss contemporary museology in keynote speeches and panel discussions. The symposium featured over 20 important figures from institutions around the world, such as Musée du Louvre, Paris, Aga Khan Museum, Toronto, British Museum, London, J. Paul Getty Trust, Los Angeles, Bahrain Authority for Culture and Antiquities, Asian Civilisations Museum, Singapore and the National Museum of Beirut, Lebanon.

MARKETING & PROMOTION

Social media is integrated across Louvre Abu Dhabi’s marketing and communication strategy. During 2018, the museum’s Instagram followers grew by 56%, and the website attracted 1.4 million visitors.

AWARDS

Louvre Abu Dhabi has won a number of prestigious awards and recognitions in 2018.

Louvre Abu Dhabi’s marketing campaign ‘Highway Gallery’, created to take its art beyond the museum walls, won 10 awards including four prestigious Cannes Lions and others including London International Awards, Dubai Lynx and the Effie Awards MENA.

The museum was featured in Time Magazine’s list of the World’s Greatest Places to visit in 2018. It also received Grazia Style Awards 2018 (editor’s choice), the Cultural Contributor of the Year.



CULTURAL SITES

DISCOVERIES

MARAWAH

Excavations continued at a major Neolithic village on the island of Marawah. This 8000 year old settlement contains the earliest known architecture yet discovered in the UAE. This year's excavations focused on one building which contained a rich assortment of ancient stone tools and painted plaster vessels. More than 80% of the site remains unexcavated and will be focused upon in the coming years.



AL AIN

Al Ain is a UNESCO World Heritage site which contains remains dating from the Neolithic period to the recent past. DCT archaeologists focused their work at several important sites during 2018. Hili 8 is widely considered the earliest known agricultural village in the country and renewed excavations at the site sought to better understand the environment and history of the site before agricultural began at 3000 BCE. At the nearby site of Hili 14, DCT archaeologists excavated a 3000 year old Iron Age fortified building. Their work focused on clarifying the extent of the fortification system and some of the interior buildings. Using satellite-positioning systems they also surveyed the area outside the fort and discovered several new structures, likely dating to the Iron Age.

North of Al Ain at Al Jabeel, work focused on mapping and understanding an ancient falaj system. Excavations revealed that the falaj was incredibly well preserved. Research is continuing on determining the age of the falaj and how environmental conditions have changed during the last 3000 years.

EARLY ISLAMIC MOSQUE

Analysis of the finds from the early Islamic mosque which had been previously discovered near the new Sheikh Khalifa mosque, provided further evidence on the importance of Al Ain during the early Islamic period. It is now clear that the mosque is the earliest securely dated example discovered yet in the UAE. Research on the objects found at the site indicate that during the 9th and 10th centuries CE, the people of Al Ain maintained long-distance trade networks with areas as far away as China.



GHAGHA ISLAND

Historic Environment archaeologists carried out a survey and analysis of archaeological and heritage remains on the island of Ghagha.

Investigations focused on clarifying the history and landscape of restored historic houses. In addition, a survey revealed a nearby settlement dating back to 1,500 years ago. Further research and excavation is planned at the site in 2019.

ACTIVATION

QATTARA BASEMENT

In 2018, the Department of Culture and Tourism–Abu Dhabi continued an extensive archaeological project on the oases of Al Ain, part of the UNESCO World Heritage listed Cultural Site. The pits, post-holes and ditches at Bin Ati show the agricultural and industrial use of the landscape, as well as insights into the economics of the sites at Hili and Rumaila.

The geological findings from this excavation revealed continuity from the Iron Age to today and highlighted Al Ain’s importance in regional trade routes dating from 1,000 BCE.

CONSERVATION OF EARTHEN ARCHITECTURE

Between 28 October and 22 November 2018, the International Training Course on the Conservation of Earthen Architecture, a one month training initiative, was organised by the Getty Heritage Institute in cooperation with the Department of Culture and Tourism–Abu Dhabi. It was held in the World Heritage Site of Al Ain. Centrally located in the region, Al Ain has a wealth of earthen architecture and has demonstrated diverse conservation approaches over the past decade, making it the perfect place for training in this field.

Twenty-two professionals from 11 nations attended the course, representing a diverse range of expertise, that included archaeology, architecture, conservation, restoration, civil engineering and earthen architecture.

The course focused on improving work to protect and restore earthen architecture, providing specific and applied training to participants with intermediate experience in this area. Training of this kind is largely unavailable in the Middle East, North Africa and South Asia and attendees from those regions were the beneficiaries of the lectures, discussions, lab sessions, meetings, visits and field exercises that were led by Emirati and international experts.

Participants learned about fundamental conservation concepts as well as the newest innovations in research and technology for earthen architecture conservation. Exposure to practical scenarios through fieldwork gave participants an insight into multidisciplinary solutions.

THE COURSE INCLUDED:

- Theory and principles of conservation
- Laboratory and field analysis of earthen materials
- Earth as a building material, and techniques for its use and formation
- Evidence and causes of degradation of construction and structural materials
- Record making for documentation and analysis purposes
- Conservation methods, and planning conservation and restoration projects
- Practical conservation methods, both structural and non-structural
- Maintenance and preventive action
- Establishment of rehabilitation projects and appropriate use of earthen buildings
- A field trip to the Sultanate of Oman for training on the conservation of earthen urban settlements



ARCHAEOLOGY OPEN DAYS

Several archaeology open days were held in Al Ain during 2018. On these days, students and general members of the public had the opportunity to hear DCT archaeologists explain the importance of their work and how new discoveries are changing our understanding of ancient life in Abu Dhabi.





COMMUNITY CENTRES

MANARAT AL SAADIYAT

MANARAT AL SAADIYAT PROGRAMME

Manarat Al Saadiyat is a cultural community centre that brings people together around art. The centre strives to provide programmes through which young creatives can be inspired artistically. Highlights of 2018 included: screenings of classic and contemporary world cinema; a weekly Open Mic for the music community; interactive workshops and EndSmallTalk Discussions; and an Emirati film series. The year culminated with the launch of the Photography Studio in October.

RAMADAN ARCADE

From 23 to 31 May 2018

Ramadan Arcade welcomed 7,884 attendees who took part in a variety of special Holy Month cultural activities. An array of games was available, from the traditional games such as Karom, Jakaro and Hokm, to classic arcade games including Pac Man, Mortal Combat and Space Invaders, as well as FIFA tournaments for gamers.

The event emphasised the importance of Islamic values during the Holy Month, through film screenings, musical performances, art installations and workshops. A full retail experience was on offer for the first four days and non-profit organisations contributed to the atmosphere through an old-style souq presented in a modern way.

ABU DHABI THROUGH YOUR EYES

From 16 to 30 September 2018

Since its inception in 2008, this photography competition has tasked

professional and amateur photographers, videographers, writers and artists with capturing the spirit of Abu Dhabi.

In 2018, there were more than 4,000 submissions in the various categories, with more than 90 nationalities represented. From these, 30 winners were selected.

WINGS OF MEXICO

From 1 to 31 August 2018

Created in 2010 by Mexican artist Jorge Marin, *Wings of Mexico* has toured extensively and was installed in the Manarat Al Saadiyat terrace for a month.

MANARAT AL SAADIYAT COLLECTORS PROGRAMME

This programme supports new and established collectors through showcasing their work and, therefore, the development of the UAE's art market and creative economy.

THE QUEST FOR ZAYED

From 10 to 17 December 2018

Young Emirati collector Mohammed Al-Jneibi searched far and wide to compile his collection of old and rare Arabic and foreign publications that feature photographs and articles on Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan – of particular interest during the Year of Zayed.

ART STUDIO

Art Studio at Manarat Al Saadiyat was established in November 2017 as a multi-disciplinary arts space designed to bring hands-on arts education programmes, art classes, drop-in sessions, workshops and outreach initiatives to students, adults, children and families across the UAE.

Art Studio has dedicated spaces for all ages to work both collaboratively and individually. Fully equipped studios for on-going classes, an open plan collaborative space for adults and interactive features make Art Studio the perfect place for learning in, through and about the arts.

In the first year of opening, 19,017 people visited Art Studio and participated in a wide variety of arts enrichment programmes.

Over 9,914 students enrolled in classes and workshops, seasonal camps were held for 357 children, themed birthday parties were celebrated by 589 children and the dedicated team of art teachers held over 20 bespoke corporate events for both private companies and NGOs.



AL QATTARA ARTS CENTRE

Meticulously renovated in 2011 in accordance with local architecture, the Al Qattara Arts Centre is a venue for the study, practice and nurturing of arts and culture. It is set around Bayt Bin Ati al-Darmaki, a mud-brick tower and house with a view over the Qattara Oasis date-palm gardens. The centre serves as an art centre for Al Ain community, and organises a year-long public engagement programme to nurture the artistic scene and develop talents.

AL QATTARA CINEMA

This programme presented a variety of films by UAE, Arab and international filmmakers in all genres and lengths, to an audience eager to learn about UAE cinema and experience a different offering to that of the commercial cinemas. Highlights of the 2018 season included:

- *The Lights of Rome*, directed by Ali Khaled, a documentary that records the success of the UAE football team at the 1990 FIFA World Cup in Italy.
- *Nearby Sky*, directed by Nujoom Al Ghanem, which tells the story of the first female Emirati camel owner, Fatima Ali Alhameli.
- *Sabeel*, directed by Khalid Al-Mahmood, the tale of two boys who earn money selling vegetables on the roadside near the mountains of Ras Al Khaimah.

AL QATTARA SUMMER EXHIBITION

The Al Qattara Summer Exhibition displayed a range of artworks from the centre and from UAE artists. Each artist presents work in a theme of their choice, allowing the audience to gain insight into their perspective, which is often conveyed through dreamlike visions on the edge of reality.

- Abir Tbbara - *Woman from Qasr Al Hosn* (2016)
- Aysha Hasan Al Hashemi - *The Nearest the Farthest* (2018)
- Suzana Arsic Eikmeier - *Silent Anger* (2012)



QATTARA ARCHAEOLOGICAL BASEMENT

The Bayt Bin Ati al-Darmaki comprises a traditional mud-brick house and tower located on a mound overlooking the date-palm gardens of Al Qattara Oasis. These buildings date from the 1990s, when they were rebuilt on the site of the former house of the same name. The Department of Culture and Tourism–Abu Dhabi carried out archaeological investigations alongside its initiative to establish the Al Qattara Arts Centre within the bounds of the existing buildings.

The Centre’s exhibition building is located within the northern courtyard of the Bayt Bin Ati. To the west of the tower, there is another building that contains art workshops. Deep service trenches had to be excavated as part of the project. A semi-subterranean Energy Centre between the southern edge of the Bayt Bin Ati complex and the adjacent palm gardens is linked by these trenches, which formed the foundations for the new structures.

A five-metre sequence of archaeological layers or ‘horizons’ dating from the Late Islamic period to the Iron Age was uncovered by the project. The earliest phase of the sequence, represented by industrial installations from the Iron Age, have been preserved in situ. They have been retained for presentation to the public in a specially redesigned basement, which is the basis for an exhibit on the wider interpretation of archaeology at the site and the Al Ain oases.

Bayt Bin Ati offers a vital perspective on past human activity in the region, as it is among the first sites to have been studied archaeologically within the palm oases of Al Ain. The main archaeological features of the site are pits, post-holes and ditches, which are linked to large quantities of abraded ceramics. Through these elements, the site sheds light on both the landscape itself and the economic basis for the more well known prehistoric sites at Hili and Rumaila.



BAIT AL OUD

Bait Al Oud looks back at another very successful year in 2018. The Academy increased its average student rate by more than 100% and has cemented its position as the centre of Arabic Traditional Music Teaching and Performing in the UAE.

Looking towards the future, Bait Al Oud has started to focus on new instruments and has begun production and teaching of instruments derived from the oud, such as Oudlo (oud equivalent to the cello), Oudlin (equivalent of the violin), oudla (equivalent of the viola) and the Oud bass (an oud resembling the contrabass).

The Bait Al Oud concert series started on the 24th of February with Mohammed Abu Zekrie, a graduate of Bait Al Oud in Egypt, who conducted a one-week master class in Abu Dhabi and performed with students and teachers of Bait Al Oud in Manarat Al Saadiyat. Other highlights of the year were the concerts by Qanun Master Bassam Abdel Satar, who gathered all Bait Al Oud qanun graduates in Bait Al Oud in March, and Samer Abu Reslan's concert with his group in Qasr Al Muwaiji, Al Ain in December. In 2018, Bait Al Oud also organised four graduation concerts, for: Nejma Alkoor and Mary Hatoum, who both sang traditional Arabic Songs, Lucas Saliba and Hani Mahran, who both graduated in the Oud section, and Tareq Al Menhali, who performed Emirati Songs.



LIBRARIES

DIGITAL LIBRARY

The Department of Culture and Tourism–Abu Dhabi Digital Library is a systematic, electronic, internet-enabled platform for storing content. Users can search for and discover books, magazine articles, research, audio files and videos. It also facilitates communication between readers and the library, through provision of information and assistance about the online catalogue and the library’s services, collections and events.

DIGITAL BOOKS

eBooks:

The eBook format is environment-friendly, inexpensive for consumers, takes up little physical space and provides useful functionality like bookmarking and screenshots.

To help readers get the best possible access to the Department’s publications, some key contracts were signed this year with prominent global electronic publishing platforms such as: Amazon, Kobo and Apple.

Audio Books:

For those who are visually impaired or simply have a preference for audio rather than text, audiobooks are a welcome development in the publishing industry. This year, 40 new audio books were released by the Publishing Department.



INTANGIBLE HERITAGE



AL JANADRIYAH FESTIVAL

The United Arab Emirates' participation in the 32nd Janadriyah Festival received considerable attention. The vision underlying the UAE's engagement with Al Janadriyah Festival is the belief that culture represents a crucial part of the country's identity. The festival is a conduit through which the UAE can celebrate the originality of its history and the spirit of its national identity. This enhances and reinforces the ties between the nation's distant past, its present and its future. The 2018's participation focused on the close links between the United Arab Emirates and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, as well as the unity, common pasts and destiny shared by the Gulf Cooperation Council states, in particular their collective cultural heritage.

SOUQ OKAZ

The 12th Souq Okaz Festival was held in Ta'if City, Saudi Arabia, from 27 June to 13 July 2018. A group of artisans represented the UAE in its pavilion located in the Arab Neighbourhood section. The artisans gave live demonstrations of traditional Emirati crafts, such as Al-Sadu, Talli and Khoos, practiced and mastered by Emirati women for generations. The Emirati Pavilion featured a popular souk that showcased traditional products crafted by the artisans to meet modern-day needs. Saa'fiyat and other traditional costumes, as well as Bakhour, were available. The success of the Pavilion, which was visited by more than 10,000 people each day, was capped off by an Emirati performing art group, including Al-Ayyala, Al-Yola and Al-Azi.

NATIONAL TRADITIONAL HANDICRAFTS FESTIVAL

The 5th National Traditional Handicrafts Festival was held at Al Qattara Heritage Souq, Al Ain, in November, attracting 82,559 visitors. This annual event draws owners of handicrafts and traditional industries in the UAE and strives to inform people about the country's heritage. The event promotes the protection of such crafts, the support of artisans and invests in their products as an important source of national income. The festival provided the opportunity for visitors to experience their heritage up close, while learning the means by which their ancestors so effectively adapted and utilised available resources.

INTERNATIONAL HUNTING & EQUESTRIAN EXHIBITION

This year, 18,000 attendees enjoyed Abu Dhabi International Hunting & Equestrian Exhibition, which is a prestigious international event, held annually under the patronage of His Highness Sheikh Hamdan bin Zayed Al Nahyan. ADIHEX is the Middle East's only event specialising in equipping and accessorising the arms trade, equestrian activities, outdoor and marine sports and activities and heritage events. The 2018 event included a variety of activities: a falcon auction, the Arabian Saluki Beauty Contest, drawing and photography, in addition to hunting shows and traditional equestrian displays. The exhibitions draw visitors from both inside and outside Abu Dhabi from all ages and nationalities. Consequently, ADIHEX aims to represent Abu Dhabi as the capital of cultural heritage in the United Arab Emirates by encouraging sustainable hunting and environment preservation, showcasing the cultural heritage and traditions of the UAE, and telling the history of the UAE people.

SHEIKH ZAYED HERITAGE FESTIVAL IN AL WATHBA

The Sheikh Zayed Heritage Festival took place from 30 November 2018 until 26 January 2019 at the Al Wathba Heritage Village. The Festival aligns with the Department of Culture and Tourism – Abu Dhabi's aim to encourage and support the sharing of Emirati heritage, and to assist cultural heritage advocates and experts. Cultural heritage plays a pivotal part in bolstering national identity and enhancing the strength of kinship and allegiance toward the leaders and country as a whole. The forefathers of the country have passed down significant aspects of Emirati cultural heritage to the younger generations, and this festival showcases these beloved traditions. Among the many attractions on show at the Festival are live demonstrations on the traditional sport of falconry, as well as an informative display on Arabic coffee. At the traditional arts and craft pavilion, visitors are able to both observe and engage with the craftsmen and artisans as they practice their old-style techniques. In addition, Emirati folk troupes performed several vibrant traditional performances. The Emirati Majlis, located in the village, acts as a hub of discussion and dialogue on topics regarding national unity for all visitors in attendance at the Festival.



CULTURAL PROGRAMMES





The 10th edition of the Abu Dhabi Art Fair welcomed 43 established and emerging galleries from 19 countries, presenting works by a diverse range of globally-celebrated and emerging artists.

A highlight was the curated section by Dr Omar Kholeif, entitled 'Focus: Icons'. It contemplated the key voices that have shaped and influenced contemporary art over the past five decades, as well as those individuals who are currently paving the way for future generations of artists.

A varied public engagement programme was on offer, including:

- **Beyond:** this section introduced artist commissions for Al Ain. Established contemporary artists Moataz Nasr, Imran Qureshi and Ammar Al Attar were commissioned to make site-specific works for this initiative.
- **Beyond: Emerging Artists:** curated by Mohammed Ahmed Ibrahim, this initiative presented commissioned works by three artists from the UAE: Ahmed Saeed Al Areef Al Dhaheri, Dhabiya Al Romaithi and Taqwa Alnaqbi.

• **Gateway: Structures of Meaning / Architectures of Perception:** curated by Hammad Nasar, this initiative was an extended exhibition that opened during Abu Dhabi Art and continued until January 2019. The exhibition considers artworks as structures through which meaning accumulates.

• **The Talks Programme:** organised by Nada Shabout and Salwa Mikdadi, the programme focused on the circulation of art within the new art market economies, from a global and local perspective.

• **Durub Al Tawaya:** Performing Arts Programme curated by Tarek Abou El Fetouh, included site-



specific performances at Abu Dhabi Art and in different locations around the city.

- **Letters:** an exhibition curated by leading Saudi contemporary art gallery ATHR, inspired by Letters to a Young Muslim, the groundbreaking book by HE Omar Saif Ghobash.

Monira Al Qadiri created the visual campaign for Abu Dhabi Art 2018, while, for the second year in a row, architects Nilson Pflugfelder were appointed as show designers. They created a hybrid typology conceptually merging parliamentary and theatrical layouts into a productive, discursive and social space.

Collaborative projects with key universities once again formed a significant component of the event. This included artist residencies at Khalifa University and a nationwide architecture competition for students, culminating in a

project presented at Abu Dhabi Art. These partnerships encourage new ideas and inspiration in upcoming artists, designers and architects, as well as making connections with previously untapped audiences.

Some other highlights of Abu Dhabi Art 2018 included:

The presentation of Limited Edition Prints, an initiative opened to UAE-based artists. Prints were exhibited and available for sale at Manarat Al Saadiyat's Shop.

The **Majlis Fann** programme provided connections between influential figures in the international and the local art community, while also boosting the profiles of UAE arts professionals.

Galleries Week, a collaboration with Warehouse421 and Festember, opened in March 2018. Participating galleries exhibited art for sale at affordable prices over the course of one week. Designed to encourage visitors to start their own collections, Galleries Week included works by both emerging and established artists.

Gallery Exhibitions, a series of month-long exhibitions hosted by Warehouse421 began in March with 'Letters; Fragments of a Memory' curated by ATHR, followed by a solo exhibition on Kamal Boullata, curated by Meem Gallery. Two further exhibitions were also held in September and October 2018 at the same location.



ABU DHABI INTERNATIONAL BOOK FAIR

The ABDIBF is a popular and long-standing event on the UAE's cultural calendar, reaching its 28th year in 2018. Inaugurated at the Cultural Foundation by the late Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan, this event strives to put Abu Dhabi on the map as a global literary hub recognised equally by publishers, writers and readers. By sparking an appreciation for reading and literary arts within the city, the ADIBF builds a strong foundation for the local publishing industry. The fair's international renown provides it with a platform to create effective trade and cultural links between the MENA region and the world.

Featuring 800 events and 79 workshops and seminars, totalling 165 lectures and cultural programmes in all, in 2018 ADIBF brought together 125,951 readers, authors and publishers in a unique setting.

In 2018, the programme highlighted, among other elements, culture, illustrators, creativity, culinary art and cinema. Attendees enjoyed over 40 book signings, featuring famous authors such as Hans Ruprecht from Germany; Kalliapap from Greece; Bharathi S Pradhan from India; Ute Krause from Germany; Zhang Hong from China; Saad Al

Baz'i from Saudi Arabia; Hadeel Al-Hasawi from Kuwait; and Naser Al Dhahir from UAE.

The fair's guest of honour was Poland, which promoted the theme 'Discover the Polish Soul through its Literature'. Polish publishers presented more than 200 titles and held more than 40 activities. 15 Polish titles were translated into Arabic. Famous Polish authors attended, including Dariusz Jaworski, Maciej Urbanowski, Jacek Kopcinski, Mateusz Werner, Marcin Trzesniok, Andrzej Szczerski, Klara Kantorowicz, Krzysztof Koehler and Tomasz Makowski.

ABU DHABI INTERNATIONAL BOOK FAIR



FUTURE BOOK FORUM – ABU DHABI

The first ever Middle East 'Future Book Forum' took place during the Abu Dhabi International Book Fair (ADIBF) on 28 April 2018. The event is an extension of the annual European Future Book Forum in Germany, which brings together publishers, printers, retailers and readers. The Forum was hosted by the Department of Culture and Tourism–Abu Dhabi, in partnership with Canon, the leader in imaging solutions. More than 60 top publishers from the Middle East region were in attendance.

The objective of the Middle East Forum was to discuss and determine:

- The Middle East's challenges in the publishing industry
- Potential solutions to the challenges faced
- Current technologies supporting the publishing industry

AL DHAFRA BOOK FAIR



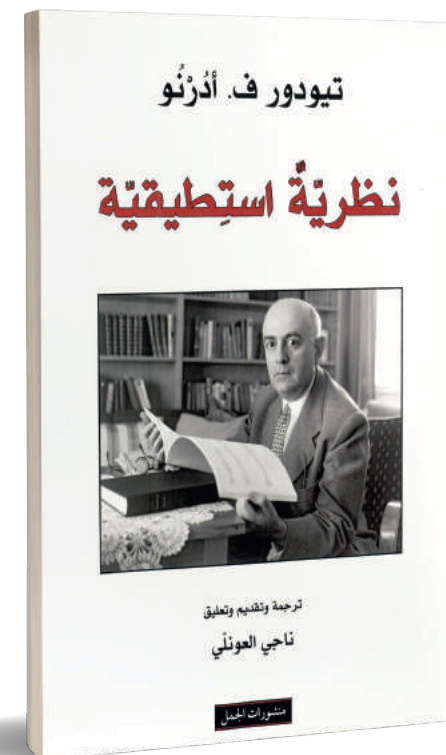
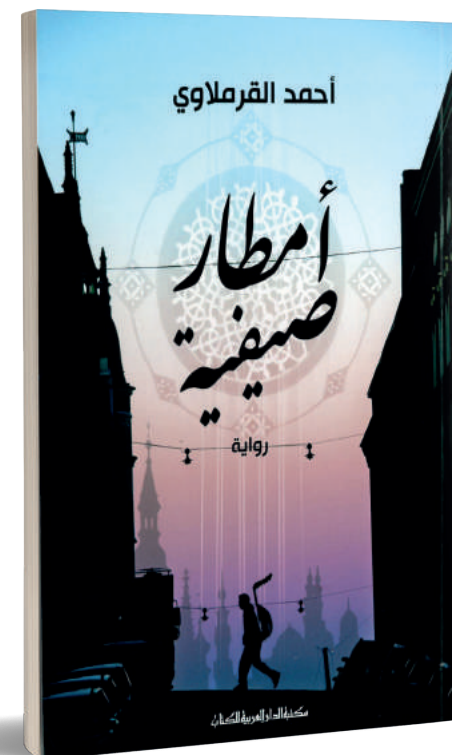
The inaugural Al Dhafra Book Fair, organised by the Department of Culture and Tourism–Abu Dhabi, took place from 18 to 21 March 2018. It aims to support the Al Dhafra Region's cultural movement and bolster its achievements across all fields. The Book Fair, which featured 20 exhibitors, endeavours to enhance opportunities for the publishing industry, pushing it to reach new markets, and further spread a culture of reading and passion for knowledge throughout the UAE community.

Emirati writers are at the forefront of the Fair, encouraging them to explore the ways the cultural and social environment impacts on their creativity and intellectual growth. The event also provides a platform for new authorship experiences, by creating a unique opportunity for visitors to meet their favourite authors at signings.

AL AIN BOOK FAIR



From 23 September to 2 October, 2018, the Al Ain Book Fair returned for its 10th edition, with 36,176 attendees and 92 exhibitors all celebrating the Emirati writer. The event hosted writers from the UAE whose work addresses the impact of cultural and local social environment on their intellectual upbringing. Attendees had the chance to meet and converse with renowned Emirati writers and authors. The Fair continues to grow, with this year's event comprising more than 300 activities and 15 speakers.



SHEIKH ZAYED BOOK AWARD

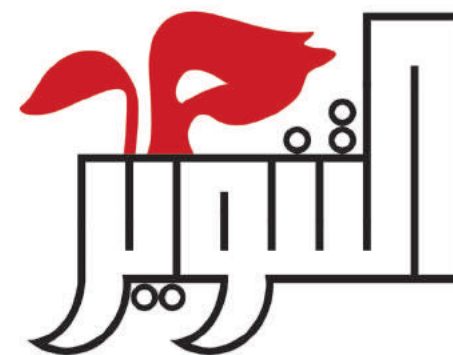
The Sheikh Zayed Book Award commemorates the late Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan, Founding President of the UAE and Ruler of Abu Dhabi, and acknowledges his crucial part in upholding national unity and development. The Award celebrates exceptional writers, intellectuals and publishers, as well as young talent, and is presented annually. In particular, the Award highlights those individuals who enhance Arab intellectual, cultural, literary and social life through their writing and translations. In its 12th year, 1,191 books were nominated for the Award from across the globe. The award ceremony, which took place on 30 April 2018, was held in Manarat Al Saadiyat. Jack Lang, President of Institut Du Monde Arabe, Paris, received the Cultural Personality of the Year Award.

SHEIKH ZAYED BOOK AWARD WINNERS

- Syrian novelist Khalil Sweileh won **The 'Literature' Award** for his novel 'Ikhtibar al-nadam' (Remorse Test) published by Nofal-Hachette Antoine, Beirut (2017).
- Emirati author Hessa Al Muhairi received **The 'Children's Literature' Award** for her story "Al-dinoraf" (The Dinoraf) published by Al Hudhud Publishing and Distribution, UAE (2017).
- The Egyptian writer Ahmad Al Qarmalawi won **the 'Young Author' category** for his novel 'Amtar Sayfiyyah' (Summer Rains), published by Maktabat al-Dar al-Arabiyyah lil-Kitab, Cairo (2017).



- Néji Elounelli from Tunisia was awarded **The 'Translation' Award** for his Arabic translation of the work of German author Theodor W. Adorno, 'natharayya 'astiteeqyya' (Ästhetische Theorie), published by Al-Jamal Publications, Beirut (2017).
- Moroccan academic Mohammad Mishbal won **The 'Literary and Art Criticism' Award** for his work, 'Fi Balaghat Al Hajjaj: nahwa balagha hajjajyyah litahleel al khitab' (The Rhetoric of Al Hajjaj: Towards a rhetoric inspired by Al Hajjaj in analyzing discourse), published by Kunouz Al Ma'refa Publishers, Amman (2017).
- German researcher Dag Nikolaus Hasse received **The 'Arab Culture in Other Languages' Award** for his work Success and Suppression: Arabic Sciences and Philosophy in the Renaissance, published by Harvard Press (2017).
- Dar Al-Tanweer (Beirut/Cairo/ Tunisia) was awarded **The 'Publishing and Technology Award**.



In 2018, the Sheikh Zayed Book Award (SZBA) conducted two seminars. The first, 'Arabic Literature in Translation', was held at the New York Public Library (NYPL) on 11 July. The seminar introduced the Award's Translation Fund, which was launched recently to support publishing houses in translating award-winning titles into English, French and German. 73 high-level experts in publishing, translation and academia attended. The second seminar, 'Dialogue Between Arab and Italian Literature', was held at Milan Villa Necchi Campiglio on 5 October. Experts from the publishing, academic and literary fields provided insightful expertise, with the panel addressing topics such as translation as a means of disseminating cultural awareness and bringing civilisations together. 100 high-level cultural, translation and academic figures attended.



جائزة الشيخ زايد للكتاب
Sheikh Zayed Book Award



CULTURE SUMMIT ABU DHABI

1 to 8 April 2018, at Manarat Al Saadiyat

Attended by influential arts and culture figures in government, policy, institutions, media and the creative fields, the Culture Summit bolsters the UAE's commitment to cultural diplomacy, assists in Abu Dhabi's efforts to stake its claim as a hub of global culture and fulfils the global need for a forum on arts and culture. This year's venue highlighted the establishment on Saadiyat Island of new cultural institutions, which will grow Abu Dhabi's standing in this field.

Culture Summit Abu Dhabi 2018 convened over 400 leaders from 80 countries to discuss the ways that culture can address the world's most pressing challenges and be a force for positive change. Under the theme of **"Unexpected Collaborations: Forging New Connections Between Heritage and Innovation, Near and Far, Creativity and Purpose"**, the action-oriented, four-day agenda saw a series of panel discussions, workshops, performances and interventions driven by decision-makers and creatives from the disparate worlds of arts, government, policy, tech and media, coming together to forge new solutions to old problems through the power of arts and culture.

"Setting an Agenda for the Global Cultural and Media Communities" was a discussion in which participating speakers shared and explored the ever-increasing possibilities of media and arts practitioners to leverage globalised opportunities to empower their communities, preserve their culture, and spark inspiration in their art. The last day of the summit, under the theme **"Celebrating the Fruits of Unexpected Collaborations"**, summarised those ideas and initiatives from the summit that will be taken forward to concretely address, through the power of culture, some of the world's most pressing global challenges. The panels were followed by **Artist Incubator** pitch sessions, in which artist groups put forward proposed new projects that are the result of over 50 artists from around the world meeting throughout the course of Culture Summit to identify new creative collaborations.

INTERNATIONAL PRIZE FOR ARABIC FICTION

Launched in 2007, the highest literary award in the Arab world, The International Prize for Arabic Fiction (IPAF) commends the very best quality Arabic creative writing produced each year. It promotes the translation and publication of the shortlisted and award-winning texts, which in turn fosters global access to acclaimed Arabic literature.

In 2018, authors from 14 countries submitted 124 novels for the prize.

PUBLISHING FORUM

'Transformations and Achievements in the Publishing Industry: The Emirati Experience'

This forum hosted specialists and influencers to discuss and provide insights into the status of creative literary publishing in the UAE and Arab countries, an industry that plays an essential role in sharing each nation's cultures and values. The two-day forum attracted 300 participants and included 8 sessions. 38 participants, 17 of whom were from outside the UAE, took part in two workshops.





EXHIBITIONS

ARTISTS AND THE CULTURAL FOUNDATION: THE EARLY YEARS

7 December 2018 to 8 June 2019 at the Cultural Foundation

The original purpose of the Cultural Foundation was to encourage all forms of intellectual and creative endeavour. The building centred on the exhibition halls and art workshops, and also included a public library and a performing arts area. “The Artists and the Cultural Foundation: The Early Years” is a celebration of the Foundation’s reopening that explores work from a collection of artists who, though already established in those early days, had strong bonds to this space. The exhibition also features artworks from the generation of artists who grew up with the Foundation and for whom it was a formative place.

A FIRST GENERATION: THE CAIRO COHORT

In the 1970s, several UAE artists went overseas to study art. This was prior to the opening of both the Cultural Foundation and the Emirates Fine Arts Society. Many of these students enrolled at the College of Fine Arts in Cairo, assisted by Ministry of Education scholarships. They became some of the most renowned artists of that era. This segment of the gallery was dedicated to their careers and provided a glimpse of what visitors to the Cultural Foundation in the 1980s and 1990s might have experienced. The development of each artist’s individual style was evident, with their recent efforts presented alongside their early works. The individuality within the group persists even today, as does their deep commitment to their artistic vision.

THE CULTURAL FOUNDATION: THREE GENERATIONS

The founding of the Emirates Fine Arts Society (EFAS) in 1980 was the result of an increase in the number of practicing artists. Key founders included Hassan Sharif and Abdul Qader Al Rais. The Cultural Foundation opened in Abu Dhabi one year later. A second generation rose to prominence within the next five years, with many showing their work at the Cultural Foundation. EFAS members usually had annual exhibitions for its members, several of whom also exhibited at the Cultural Foundation in the late 1980s and early 1990s. The Cultural Foundation was thus a major supporter of this new generation. A third generation came into being in the late 1990s. This large group included a strong cohort of Abu Dhabi resident artists. This generation also looked overseas to enhance their education, but tended to study design rather than fine arts, although they developed skills in that area upon their return. The unique voices of this generation can be seen through the vast array of visual arts practices.

A catalogue was published on this occasion, including the artworks on show as well as essays by Maya Allison, Curator of the exhibition and Mohamed Al Mazrouei, one of the represented artists.



ABDUL QADER AL RAIS: 50 YEARS OF ART

20 December 2018 to 23 March 2019 at Manarat Al Saadiyat

This retrospective examines and recognises the development of the artist Abdul Qader Al Rais, one of the most important Emirati artists. It traces his career from his first figurative paintings to the series of calligraphic abstraction that popularised his work. Born in 1951, Al Rais's work began in the late 1960s, and represents a variety of mediums, such as oil, acrylic and, most famously, his large-scale watercolour paintings. This exhibition brings together, for the first time, a complete overview of this groundbreaking artist's techniques and concepts, including his interest in the multi-faceted relationship between man and nature, God's creation, the conceptual nature of Arabic calligraphy, political and social issues, the historic urban landscapes of the UAE, cultural identity and collective memory. The six sections of the exhibition – Early Figures, Home, Earth & Sky, People &

Time, Impressions & Abstractions and Hurufiyyat – delve into the artist's many transformations.

An exhibition catalogue surveying the artist's career was published to accompany the exhibition with essays by Dr Yousif Aidabi (Advisor at the Dr Sultan Al Qasimi Centre for Gulf Studies), Ali Al Abdan (poet, critic, researcher and formative artist), Maisa Al Qassimi (Senior Project Manager, Guggenheim Abu Dhabi) and Sara bin Safwan (Assistant Curator, Guggenheim Abu Dhabi), alongside an interview between Sultan Sooud Al Qassemi (Founder, Barjeel Art Foundation) and Sami Mohammad (Kuwaiti artist and sculptor).



LINES AND STITCHES

15 March 2018 to 14 June 2018 at Al Qattara Arts Centre

An open call to artists, illustrators and designers was the basis for Lines and Stitches, which displayed the works of artists and designers. In the past, the ascent of fashion photography relegated illustrations to preliminary designs, however, they are now recognised as a form of art that doesn't just transfer the designers' ideas but conveys them to the viewer. This exhibition brought fashion illustrations to the forefront in the UAE art community.



MOTHER OF THE NATION

22 March 2018 to 31 March 2018 at the Mother of the Nation Festival

An exhibition retracing the role that women played across generations and history was curated at the Mother of the Nation Festival.

Women's creativity has always been a focal point of cultural life in the UAE, expressing and retaining the nation's history and values through their inventive use of local resources and contributions to art and poetry. Her Highness Sheikha Fatima bint Mubarak, "Mother of the Nation", has supported many cultural programmes that safeguard, document and preserve women's roles in the UAE's rich history and traditions, such as

the General Women's Union, the Family Development Foundation and the Supreme Council for Motherhood and Childhood.

"The women of our nation ... should be proud of the vital role they play in the service of our country. Women are partners in the struggle; in the past, present and future. There is nothing achieved by the Union of our State that has not benefited women." *Her Highness Sheikha Fatima bint Mubarak.*

EXHIBITIONS

EMIRATI TRADITIONAL GAMES

1 November 2018 to 1 July 2019 at Al Qattara Arts Centre

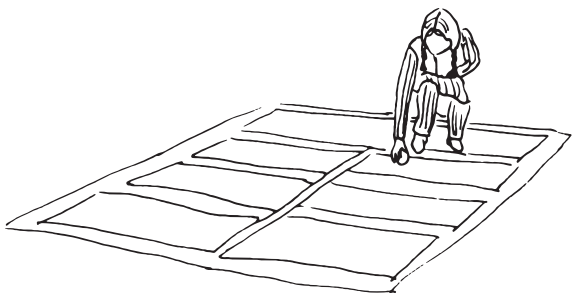
In its second edition, the Emirati Traditional Games exhibition focused on five popular games: Um Al Iyal, Khoosa Boosa, Al Sagala, Adim Al Sira and Al Gaheef. The imagination and creativity in these games reflect the global universality of childhood experiences, as well as shared and collective national heritage. To link the traditional with the contemporary, the exhibition highlights traditional games through commissioned works by artists who were inspired by these

games. Each of the artists selected one of the games and adapted a work that merges the artists’ unique technical and artistic attributes with the traditional and authentic thematic and media to create a new understanding and interpretation of heritage. With this fusion of the past and the current, a new form emerges to stand as a symbol of the continuation and resilience of heritage.



KHOOSA BOOSA

UM AL IYAL



AL GAHEEF



ADIM AL SIRA



AL SAGALA

THE PRESENCE OF ABSENCE
EXHIBITION, BY JASSIM AL AWADHI

3 October 2018 to 3 November 2018 at Manarat Al Saadiyat

The Photography Studio opened to the public on 3 October 2018, with an exhibition by renowned Emirati artist Jassim Al Awadhi titled ‘The Presence of Absence’. Al Awadhi also led workshops attended by over 1,000 participants on 5 and 6 October. In this exhibition, Jassim Al Awadhi actively explores through his work the forsaken settlements left in the desert and skilfully fits them in a frame to echo the existence of the people who once lived in them. In each image, he aims to channel the presence of the people who filled the space, as he believes that the energy is still there at all times. Jassim is ultimately trying to represent the human traces felt in these settlements by framing what he finds captivating, but also using his aesthetic to achieve an avant-garde quality that blends with his overall modernist approach.

EXHIBITIONS

10 YEARS OF EMIRATES PHOTOGRAPHY COMPETITION

27 November 2017 to 12 April 2018 at Manarat Al Saadiyat

The “10 Years of Emirates Photography Competition” provided a retrospective on the previous winners of this international competition. With ‘Ten’ as its theme, it featured “Spotlight”, an array of works by 10 of the best Emirati and international photographers, including selected portfolios, plus “Through Time”, a compilation of the shortlisted works from the last decade. The exhibiting artists have immortalised moments of humanity that will be carried throughout time as the Department of Culture and Tourism–Abu Dhabi entered a new phase of its strategy to encourage and nurture this form of art that reflects reality. This initiative has expanded into a comprehensive opportunity for competition, training, growth and the exchange of experience. Through the photography studio launched in Manarat Al Saadiyat, the Department of Culture and Tourism–Abu Dhabi aims to support the role that photography plays in the cultural scene of Abu Dhabi and the nation in a wider context.

THE TRUCIAL SCOUTS: LIFE AND TIMES

1 November 2017 to 28 April 2018 at Al Jahili Fort

The Trucial Scouts: Life and Times exhibition is another step towards deepening the understanding of the history and heritage of the United Arab Emirates and its development into the modern country that it is today. The exhibition included a rare collection of artefacts associated with the Trucial Scouts, commemorating the legacy of the Trucial Scouts, the multiple roles played by its members and their original base at the historic Al Jahili Fort, to celebrate the history of the land and its people.



MUSIC PROGRAMMES

ABU DHABI CLASSICS

This programme provided a window into the uniqueness of the classical music world, bringing together foremost contemporary Arabic and Western classical musicians. Presenting numerous talents, the programme established an authentic artistic setting at venues across the emirate.

Seong-Jin Cho

In a first for the region, South Korean pianist Seong-Jin Cho, performed for Abu Dhabi Classics, at New York University, Abu Dhabi on 7 February, and at the Qasr Al Sarab Desert Resort in the Al Dhafra Region on 8 February. Seong-Jin Cho came to international attention in 2015 when he won First Prize at the Chopin International Piano Competition in Warsaw. For these performances in Abu Dhabi, he chose a programme that aligned impeccably with his individual style, including an exploration of Beethoven, both in the classic sonata form plus its later adaptations.

Donetsk Ballet

20 April 2018, Emirates Palace

A performance of the adventurous and romantic ballet *Le Corsaire* by the Donetsk Opera and Ballet Theatre was the climax of the 2017–2018 Abu Dhabi Classics season. Prominent ballet dancers from the famed Bolshoi Theatre, Ivan Vasiliev and Maria Vinogradova, performed with Alia Al Neyadi, the first UAE Ballerina, to tell the story of the chief of the pirates, Conrad, and the young Greek woman he loves, Medora.

Camerata Salzburg with Renaud Capuçon

11 – 12 October 2018, Manarat Al Saadiyat

The admired Camerata Salzburg and violin virtuoso Renaud Capuçon commenced the Abu Dhabi Classics 2018–2019 season with a performance of pieces by Mozart and Satie, as well as works from the late 19th to early 20th century minimalist composer, Erik Satie. Satie’s work influenced not only several musical genres, such as jazz, but also surrealism. The concert thus conveyed a deep appreciation of the splendour of classical music but also its resilience and development over time.



Alia Abdulla Ali Al Neyadi

Alia started ballet as a three-year-old and at five was one of a small group taking part in ballet training at the Cultural Foundation in Abu Dhabi. At nine, Alia stood ‘en pointe’ and was thereafter known as the very first Emirati ballerina, later becoming a member of the country’s first ballet school, Fantasia Ballet. With a repertoire including classical ballet, modern, jazz and Latin, Alia has performed in numerous competitions and festivals, locally and internationally. In 2009, she was named ‘Talent of the Year’ at the L’Officiel Middle East: Arab Woman Awards and in 2013, she was named ‘Best Talent’ at the GR8 Middle East Awards. Alia says: “When I dance, there’s a point to every piece. I base dancing on my experiences – this is what helps me embody the piece.”



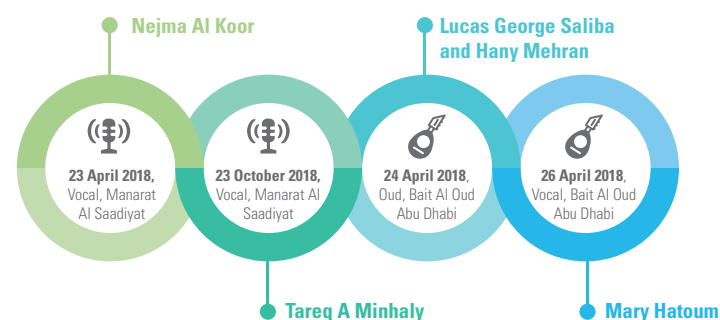
MUSIC PROGRAMMES

BAIT AL OUD

Bait Al Oud Concert

On 24 March 2018, Bait Al Oud in Abu Dhabi organised a concert demonstrating the remarkable talents of its graduates in Arabic musical heritage and its instruments. The concert featured Yasmina Khaled Mansour, Layla Abdulbaki and Miriam Abdulbaki from the US, Hana Boukhris from Tunisia and Ahmed Hussein al-Sheikh from Syria.

BAIT AL OUD GRADUATION CONCERT



SOUNDS OF UAE

14 January 2018, held at Abu Dhabi Theatre

Sounds of UAE is an ambitious project under the guidance of Faisal Al Saari, UAE musician and composer, that strives to bring together Emirati and Middle Eastern musicians for the preservation and renewal of the UAE's vocal traditions. Faisal Al Saari is an Emirati artist from Abu Dhabi, who grew fond of playing the oud in 1986. Faisal studied solfège and western operatic singing for two years, and oriental solfège including "Qudood", "Muwashahat", and "Kulthoumiyat". In 2008, he joined Bait Al Oud in Abu Dhabi, and in 2011, he graduated with an honours degree in the oud instrument as a Soloist instructor. He specialises in oud playing as well as composition and scientific research.

In recognition of the Year of Zayed, the vocal group presented to the public songs reflecting traditional and modern themes inspired by Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan's poetry. The project blended the Muwashahat style with Emirati culture. In experimenting with the Al Qudud Al Halabiya tradition, and mixing the old-style melodies with an appreciation of the new, listeners were awakened to the UAE musical heritage and its potential for innovation.

TO ZAYED SALAM

24 – 25 October 2018 at Manarat Al Saadiyat.

Celebrating the Year of Zayed, the Department of Culture and Tourism–Abu Dhabi presented "To Zayed, Salam" on 23 and 24 October 2018, a cine-concert featuring Emirati oud master and singer Faisal Al Saari with a group of professional musicians from the UAE and the region to perform traditional songs inspired by the poems of the late Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan. The Sounds of UAE 2018 is a dedicated musical programme for the development of new approaches and expressions, and for the protection of the rich heritage of Emirati music. An exclusive compilation of footage from the life and memories of Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan was screened, interlacing with the music and recreating the late leader's symbolic presence in the culture and values of the UAE today.

OTHER MUSIC PROGRAMMES

9 November	Abu Dhabi Classics: Scala Academy Ballet
6-7 December	Abu Dhabi Classics: Xavier de Maistre solo Harp recitals
8 November	Memory of Emirati Song: Aryam
1 November	Sounds of UAE: Saeed Al Salem
14 December	Bait Al Oud: Arabic Taht Concerto
24 February	Bait Al Oud: Mohamed Abu Zekrie with Bait Al Oud Musicians
Bait Al Oud as part of Ramadan Programme: Jam Sessions and Celebration Concert	
3 October	Tareq Al Menhali concert
13 December	Naseer Shamma and the Global Music Ensemble



CONFERENCES

CONFERENCE ON HERITAGE AND ORAL HISTORY

23 – 24 October 2018, Abu Dhabi

The sixth Conference on Heritage and Oral History was titled “Zayed and Heritage through History”. The conference shed light on the life and work of Sheikh Zayed and his efforts to safeguard heritage and traditions as key elements of national identity, and underlined the importance of oral history sources in preserving the shared heritage of the GCC. It also explored the late Founding Father’s vision and practices to further cultural collaboration in GCC countries, and the sustainability of such practices, with a focus on a comprehensive national strategy for safeguarding heritage.

ABU DHABI INTERNATIONAL TRANSLATION CONFERENCE

26 - 29 April 2018, Abu Dhabi

240 people attended the 2018 Translation Conference over 4 days. It included 7 sessions and 3 workshops for 33 participants, 21 of which were from outside the UAE. The conference theme was “Scientific Translation and the Development of Knowledge” and discussions centred on this challenging area of modern translation.

ARAB BOOK FAIRS DIRECTORS CONFERENCE

In its 3rd year, the event took place for the first time in Abu Dhabi. Organised by the Department of Culture and Tourism–Abu Dhabi, 16 Arab Book Fair directors, including the Arab Publishers’ Association president and 14 board members, met to review the current status of the Arab Book Fairs. Discussion focused on how these events can be improved, the relations between them, as well as copyright and publishing industry issues.

ARCHAEOLOGY ‘18 CONFERENCE

26 – 28 March 2018, Al Ain.

Papers on the archaeology of several sites in Abu Dhabi were the key highlights of 2018’s conference. A paper on Marawah detailed the latest discoveries at this groundbreaking 8,000-year-old settlement, which has the earliest stone architecture yet discovered in the country. Finds from the site included finely worked stone-tools and arrowheads, the study of which will revolutionise our understanding of the Neolithic economy. Several papers detailed developments in the archaeology of Al Ain; including the ongoing conservation of the 3,000-year-old settlement of Hili 2, which is part of the UNESCO World Heritage Site of Al Ain. Two papers dealt with new discoveries in Al Dhafra: these included a detailed examination of a camel slaughter site dating about 6,000 years ago. New information from this site shows how a now extinct species of wild camel was hunted by Neolithic communities. From elsewhere in Al Dhafra, a new Miocene (7-million-year-old) trackway has been discovered and was presented for the first time at the conference. This discovery positions Abu Dhabi as a key location for

understanding Miocene fauna on a global level. Lastly, two papers on the Christian church and monastery of Sir Bani Yas detailed the excavation results and the subsequent conservation and presentation to the public of this 1,300-year-old settlement. Up to 300 attendees listened and discussed these papers and others which covered recent developments in the archaeology of the UAE. In total 35 papers were presented over 3 days at the conference.



LIBRARY PROGRAMMES

CREATIVE READER COMPETITION (11 MARCH 2018)

The Creative Reader Competition Award Ceremony in Abu Dhabi honoured the 40 students who were announced as winners of the fifth edition of this event, which attempts to get young children reading. School students from across the emirate of Abu Dhabi were eligible to enter the competition. The Department of Culture and Tourism–Abu Dhabi announced that this was the largest participation rate ever, with over 500 entries. The event coincided with the UAE’s Month of Reading in March, an annual countrywide initiative focused on encouraging a reading culture.

THE SILENT BOOKS COLLECTION 2018 (16 SEPTEMBER - 18 OCTOBER 2018)

As waves of refugees from Africa and the Middle East began arriving on the Italian island of Lampedusa in 2012, International Board on Books for Young People responded with the project “Silent Books, from the world to Lampedusa and back”. Silent books (wordless picture books) help overcome the language barrier so any child can understand and enjoy them.

This year, the UAE reached a new literary breakthrough by introducing a collection of eight Emirati silent picture books. These books will encourage UAE illustrators and writers of children’s literature to connect with children, regardless of their language or reading skills.

With UAEBBY’s support, a group of Emirati illustrators worked with Finnish illustrator Emmi Jormalainen before the launch of the third “Silent Book Exhibition”. With the theme “Discover Stories Beyond Words!” the interactive exhibition was held at Al Ain’s Zayed Central Library, and included activities for children and families.

NATIONAL READING MONTH (1 TO 31 MARCH)

To celebrate the UAE’s National Month of Reading, the Department presented a series of cultural reading events. These activities were aimed at all parts of society and had the slogan “The UAE Reads, The UAE Develops”. In an attempt to encourage community members to adopt a reading lifestyle, the events related to an array of interests.

One of the many events and activities on reading, as part of the Year of Zayed, was a poetry event entitled “Zayed: The Pulse of Hearts” which took place on March 9th at Zayed Central Library, Al Ain. It was presented by Hussein Al Ameri and featured poets Sheikh Majid bin Sultan Al Khatri and Ali Al Khawar.

OTHER LIBRARY PROGRAMMES:

Winter Programmes

Summer Programmes

Spring Programmes

Back-to-school Programmes

Adult Programmes

Innovation month Programmes

EDUCATION AND OUTREACH

The education programme is intrinsic to the overall culture programme of the Department of Culture and Tourism–Abu Dhabi. Tangible and intangible heritage and visual and performing arts programmes are all supported by interpretation and educational tools that aim to create awareness among different segments of the audience, notably youth and students. Educational activities and resources aim to provide educators, families and parents with the tools to encourage awareness of art and heritage and create a generation of creative and innovative individuals proud of their identity and able to understand cultural differences.



INTERPRETATION

Department of Culture and Tourism–Abu Dhabi supports its exhibitions, museums and cultural and heritage events by creating a range of interpretive collateral that includes Educator Resources for teachers, Activity Guides for children and families, Exploratory Guides and Sketchbooks for general visitors, as well as creating and delivering tour guide content and training sessions.

EDUCATOR RESOURCE GUIDES

Educator Resources Guides are designed for teachers to enable them to use proposed exhibitions, museums and other Department of Culture and Tourism–Abu Dhabi sites as teaching tools in their K-12 classroom. Educators are encouraged to familiarise themselves prior to leading the activities in their classroom by using the guides to highlight the main points in the description for the selected and prompting questions and activities to meet their teaching objectives and students' needs.

ACTIVITY GUIDES AND EXPLORATORY GUIDES

Activity Guides, Exploratory Guides and Sketchbook Guides can be picked up at Department of Culture and Tourism–Abu Dhabi's sites and events and present information for visitors on various arts and cultural subjects in a fun and engaging way alongside challenging hands-on activities.

TOUR GUIDE MANUALS AND TRAINING MATERIALS

Department of Culture and Tourism–Abu Dhabi provides comprehensive tour manuals and training sessions for Visitor Experience Specialists, tour guides and volunteers in order to engage visitors in new and innovative ways while delivering on-site tours.



OUTREACH PROGRAMMES

JUVENILE DETENTION CENTRE PROGRAMME

The Juvenile Detention Centre programme continues its second year of activities in providing art therapy and writing programmes targeted to developing the emotional well being of 50 at-risk youth. In addition to the on-going art classes, this year witnessed the launch of the writing programme, in which the teens were encouraged to explore their emotions by expressing them through writing and poetry.

Both boys and girls enrolled in the programme showcased their artwork during the 2018 Annual Student Showcase at Manarat Al Sadiyat. The poetry will be published by the Department and will be launched in the Abu Dhabi Book Fair in 2019.

TALENTS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

Since the launch of the Talents Development Programme in 2017, Department of Culture and Tourism–Abu Dhabi has identified hundreds of students that have shown notable artistic skill and interest. The programme aims to foster the gifted student's mind, skills and creativity by providing arts classes and access to cultural events. The programme focuses on collaborating with several community partners and national educational institutions through the Department of Education and Knowledge, in order to implement intensive training programmes and classes that contribute to nurturing the emerging skills and talents of these dedicated students.

The first year of the Talents Development Programme took 89 students on board in the fields of visual and performing arts. The second open call to students in 2018 received over 950 applicants. 120 students were accepted into the second year of the programme.

ABU DHABI CLASSICS – SCHOOL OUTREACH PROGRAMME

Abu Dhabi Classics usually runs from October through to April and thus far in 2018, 553 K-12 students as well as their families have attended open rehearsals with world-renowned orchestras and musicians. The main aim of this programme is to introduce students to classical music, dance and the performing arts through direct interaction with the artists to encourage understanding of the different components within the field and comprehension of the nuances of the different instruments used in orchestras, movements choreographed in dance and concepts behind a performance as a whole.

The interaction between the students and musicians were often meaningful and profound. Many students had one-on-one time and were able to interact with the artists at a more intimate level so they could each share their own practice and interest. This was offered to talented and aspiring students who were specifically selected to be part of in-depth, hands-on master classes.

ARTWORKS: TEACHING ARTIST RESIDENCY PROGRAMME

ArtWorks was established in 2013 to develop a cadre of teaching artists that can practice and work in museums, arts centres and schools. The programme team works closely with universities to identify recent graduates with strong skills in the arts and that have an interest in teaching. The aim of the residency is to provide UAE-based emerging artists with internship opportunities, mentorship and potential employment. ArtWorks takes place in the Art Studio at Manarat Al Saadiyat where artists work alongside a group of experienced arts educators and have access to a large network of creators and artists. This year, Art Studio hosted **12 teaching artists**.

Department of Culture and Tourism–Abu Dhabi introduced the following interpretive Education collateral in 2018:

Falconry Activity Guide

The Emirati Majlis Activity Guide

Al Ain Oasis Journal

Traditional Handicrafts of the UAE Activity Guide

Sheikh Zayed and Heritage Activity Guide

Bait al Gahwa Exploratory Guide

Abu Dhabi Art 2018 Activity Guide

Abu Dhabi Classics: Brilliant Ballet

Qasr Al Hosn Exploratory Guide

Qasr Al Hosn School Visits Guide

Qasr Al Hosn Passport - In-Gallery Activity

Artists and the Cultural Foundation: The Early Years Activity Board

Abdul Qader Al Rais Activity Guide

CAPACITY BUILDING

12 ARTISTS PARTICIPATED
IN THE **TEACHING
ARTISTS
RESIDENCY
PROGRAMME**

80 ART TEACHERS
RECEIVED SPECIALISED
TRAINING CONDUCTED
BY **CARAN D'ACHE**

450 TEACHERS
TOOK PART IN
**TALENTS
DEVELOPMENT
ART TEACHER TRAINING**

85 TOUR
GUIDES &
VOLUNTEERS
WERE TRAINED
FOR **DCT EVENTS**



OUTREACH PROGRAMMES

1,274 CHILDREN ATTENDED ART WORKSHOPS ON THE WEEKEND AT AL AIN OASIS EVENTS

60 WOMEN PARTICIPATED IN HERITAGE OUTREACH PROGRAMMES DURING THE ANNUAL WOMEN'S HERITAGE WALK FROM AL AIN TO ABU DHABI

350 STUDENTS ATTENDED THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION'S STUDENT THEATRE FESTIVAL AT MANARAT AL SAADIYAT

3,060 STUDENTS PARTICIPATED IN POTTERY WORKSHOPS

OVER **592** STUDENTS ATTENDED THE WORKSHOPS AT AL DHAFRA BOOK FAIR

422 STUDENT VISITED THE DCT FALCONRY & STORYTELLING PROGRAMME AT THE ABU DHABI INTERNATIONAL HUNTING & EQUESTRIAN EXHIBITION

939 ATTENDED THE ART WORKSHOPS AT AL AIN READS

553 STUDENTS ATTENDED CONCERTS & MASTERCLASSES UNDER THE MUSIC OUTREACH PROGRAMME

19,279 STUDENTS VISITED THE TRADITIONAL HANDICRAFTS FESTIVAL IN AL AIN



OVER **1000** ARTWORKS WERE DISPLAYED AT THE ANNUAL ADEK STUDENT SHOWCASE

AT MANARAT AL SAADIYAT, WITH OVER **3800** STUDENT VISITORS

50 JUVENILES PARTICIPATED IN THE JUVENILE DETENTION CENTRE ARTS EDUCATION PROGRAMME

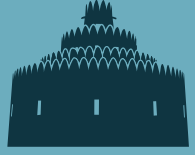
822 STUDENTS ATTENDED ABU DHABI ART TOURS

457 STUDENTS TOOK PART IN THE ART WORKSHOPS AT THE ABU DHABI BOOK FAIR

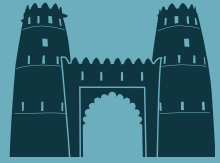
120 STUDENTS ARE ENROLLED IN THE TALENTS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

65 STUDENTS ATTENDED A DAY OF DISCOVERY AT HILI ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITE

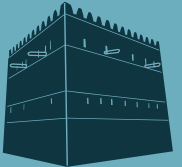
MUSEUM
EDUCATIONAL
TOURS



**AL AIN PALACE
MUSEUM:**
7,766 STUDENTS &
TEACHERS



AL JAHILI FORT:
1,616 STUDENTS &
TEACHERS



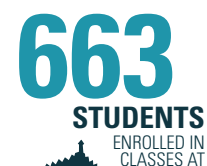
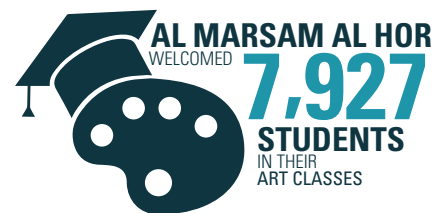
QASR AL MUWAIJI:
2,224 STUDENTS &
TEACHERS



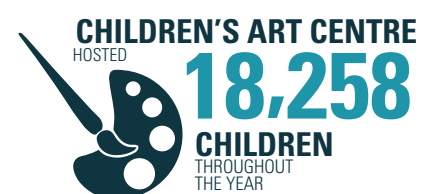
AL AIN MUSEUM:
3,701 STUDENTS &
TEACHERS



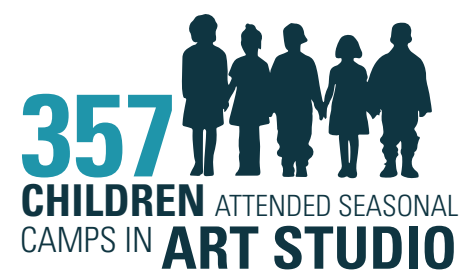
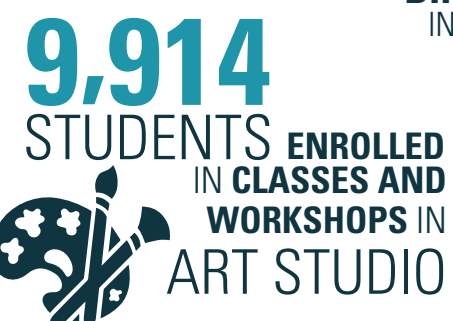
ART CENTRES



AL QATTARA
ARTS CENTRE



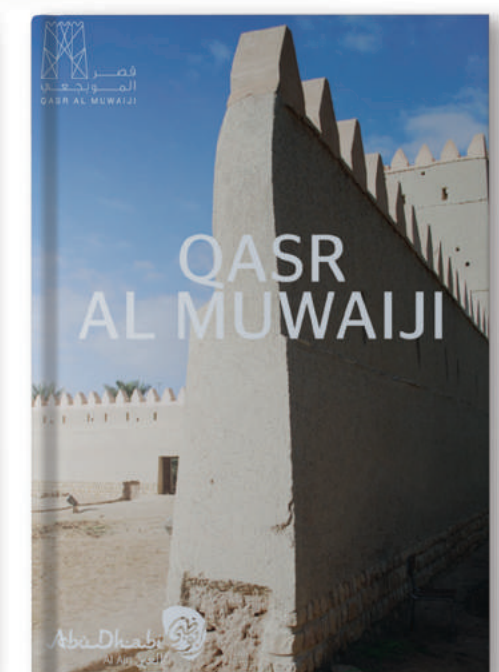
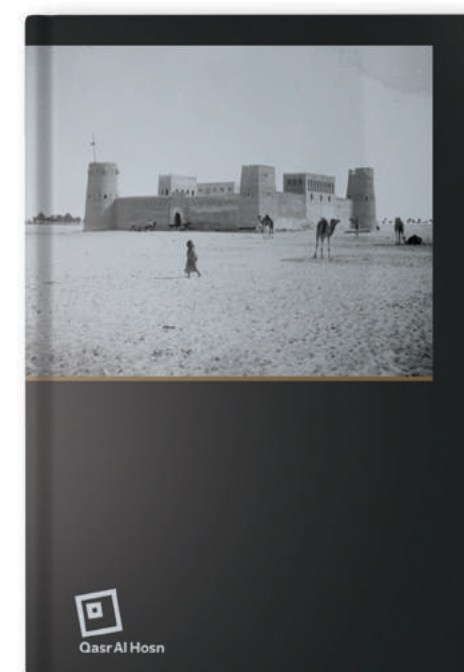
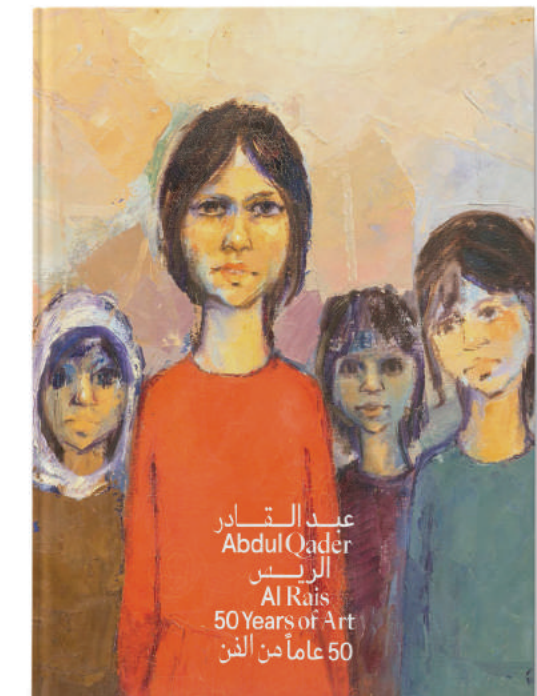
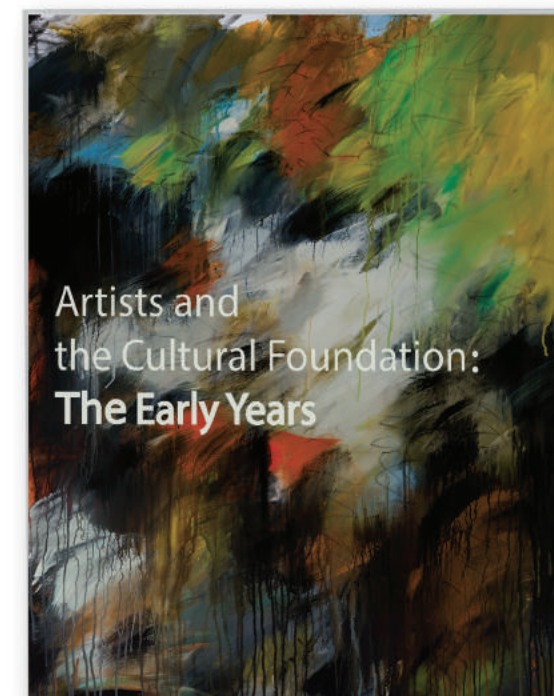
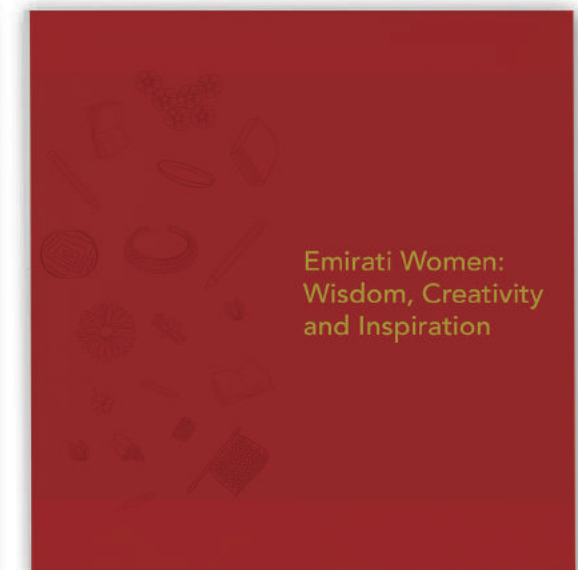
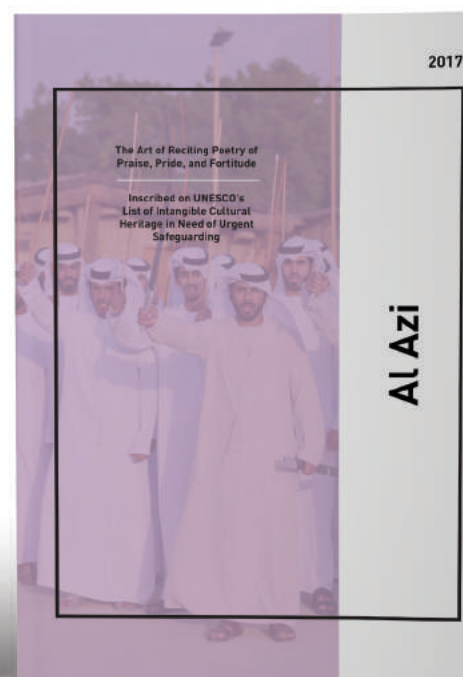
ART STUDIO





PUBLICATIONS

2018 PUBLICATIONS



MAP FOR THE PUBLISHING HOUSES AND THEIR COUNTRIES
FROM WHICH KALIMA TRANSLATED BOOKS THIS YEAR

in **2018** Kalima Project translated **25** books into five languages:



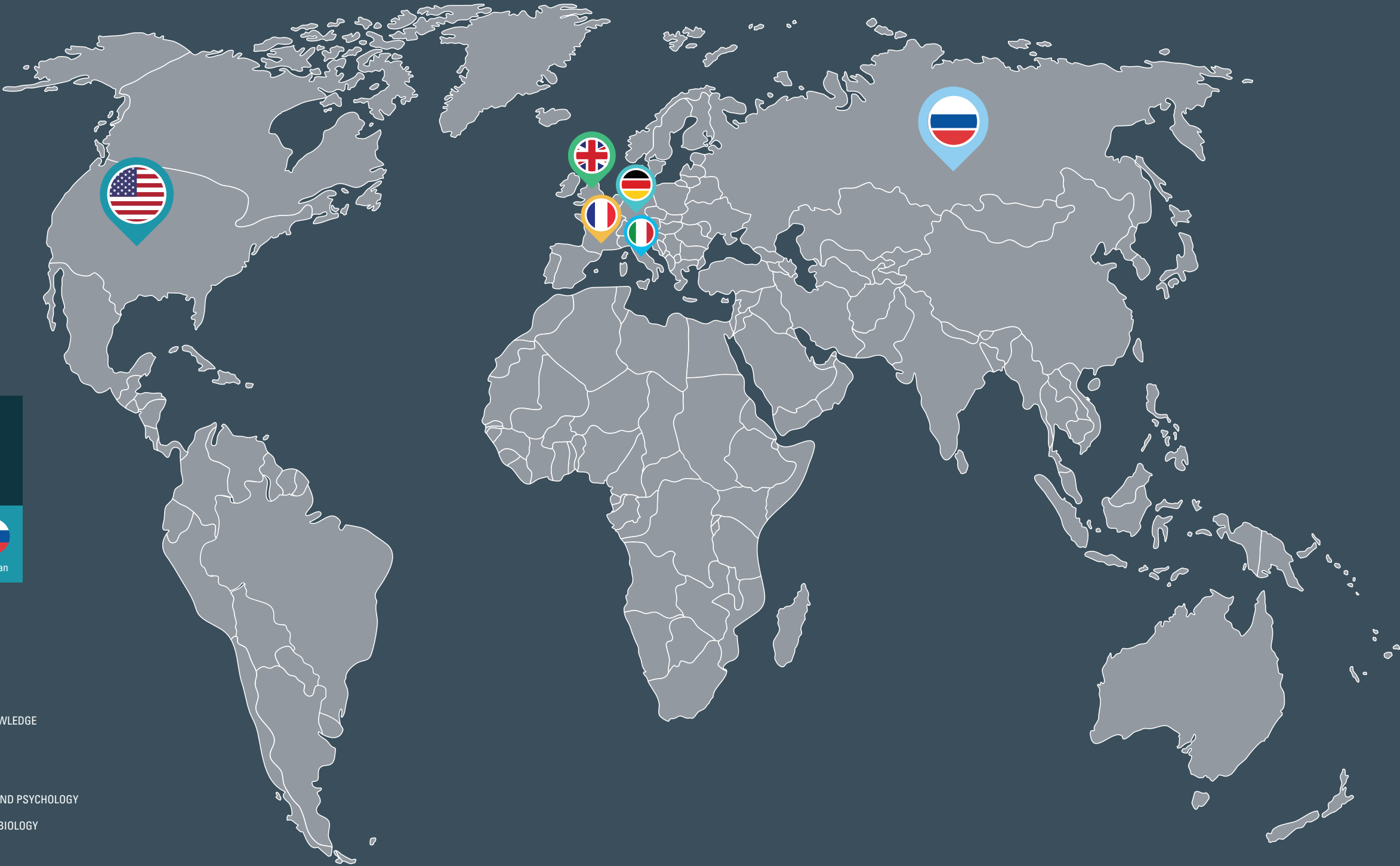
English French German Italian Russian

THE BOOKS WERE ON A RANGE OF TOPICS, INCLUDING:



- 6 ARTS
- 5 GENERAL KNOWLEDGE
- 4 LITERATURE
- 3 BIOGRAPHY
- 3 PHILOSOPHY AND PSYCHOLOGY
- 2 HISTORY AND BIOLOGY
- 1 SOCIOLOGY
- 1 YOUTH LITERATURE

+950 TOTAL INCEPTION SINCE 1997



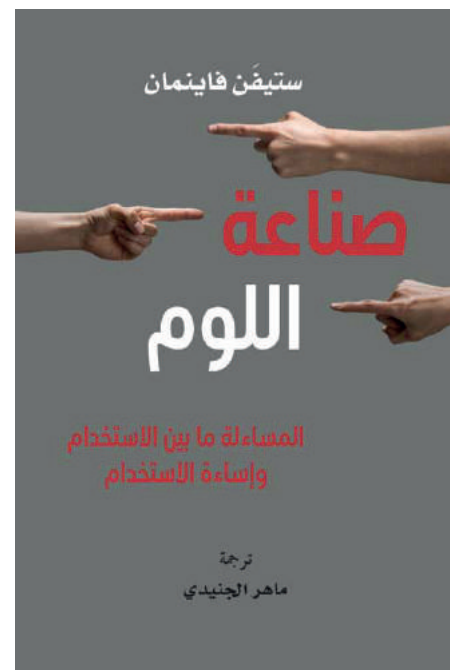
KALIMA PUBLICATION HIGHLIGHTS 2018

The Kalima Reading Club was unveiled at the 2018 Abu Dhabi International Book Fair (ADIBF). Aside from providing a gathering point for the reading public, the Club is a platform for writers published by Department of Culture and Tourism–Abu Dhabi to discuss the writing and publication process, promote their work to other intellectuals and readers, and gauge opinion on the latest publications. In 2018, the Reading Club conducted over 30 events at book fairs: locally in Abu Dhabi, Al Ain and Sharjah; regionally at Tunis Book Fair; and internationally at Frankfurt Book Fair. These included: 15 book discussions, 13 book launches and signings, plus kids reading sessions.



ELEMENTS

A Visual Exploration of Every Known Atom in the Universe by Theodore Gray. An entertaining atlas that present each of the elements of the Periodic Table to a popular science audience.



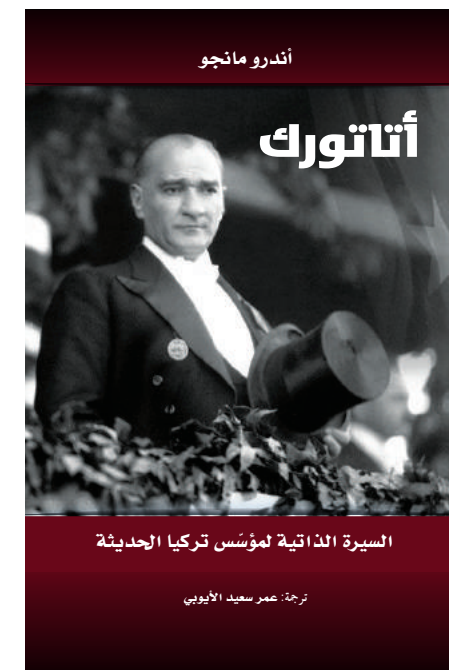
THE BLAME BUSINESS

The Uses and Misuses of Accountability by Stephen Fineman. A best-selling exploration of the concept of blame, from witch-hunts to scapegoating and the modern-day culture of blame.



MON COEUR À L'ÉTROIT BY MARIE NDIAYE

A novel from the perspective of a female Bordeaux school teacher who, along with her husband, becomes the target of an unsettling campaign of harassment.



ATATURK

The Biography of the Founder of Modern Turkey by Andrew Mango. The story of this pivotal figure in Turkey's history that guided the Ottoman Empire into the relatively progressive country it became in the 20th century.

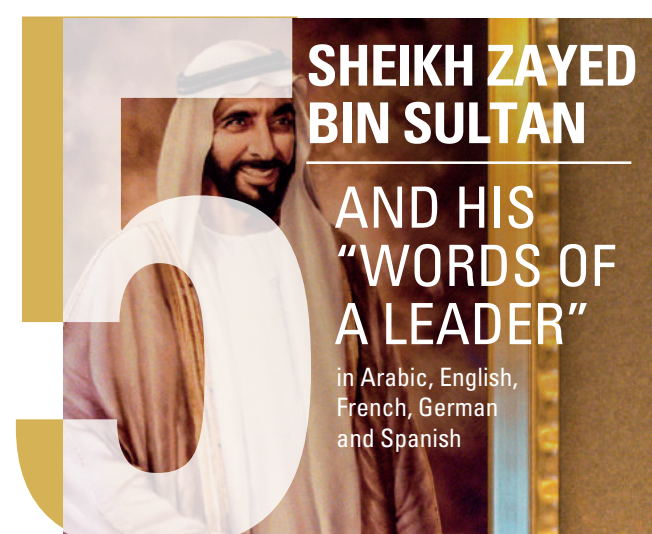


THE BARBER OF DAMASCUS

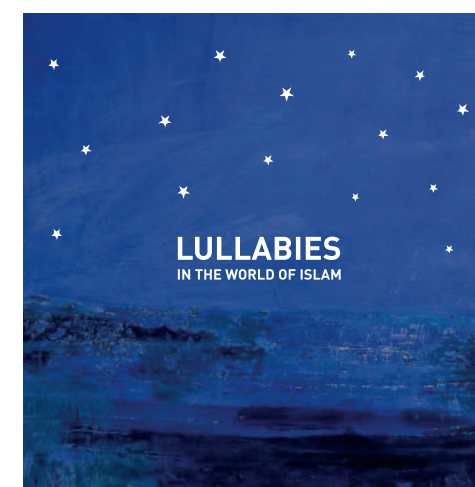
Nouveau Literacy in the Eighteenth – Century Ottoman Levant by Dana Sajdi. A groundbreaking interdisciplinary study that brings a literary lens to the historiography of eighteenth-century Ottoman Levant. Kalima Reading Club.

In 2018, Esdarat published 21 books, 12 of which were by authors from the UAE.

TOPICS AND GENRES INCLUDED:



HIGHLIGHTS 2018:



Intangible cultural heritage is the practice, representation, expression, knowledge and skills that is transmitted from generation to another, and that is constantly recreated by communities in response to their environment, interaction with nature and their history. Music, including the spoken words, is perhaps the most universal form of the performing arts, which is found in every society, most often as a central element of intangible cultural heritage. Lullabies embody mothers' fundamental responsibility through transmitting values via tales. Mothers are the true storytellers, and their songs and lullabies play the ultimate role in the conveying of the notion of love and acceptance. This publication represents the limitless opportunities to place emphasis on a living heritage that is performed by people, often collectively, and communicated through shared experiences. The research and documentation in this publication and recordings is a highlight of Abu Dhabi Tourism & Culture Authority's continuous efforts in safeguarding such heritage, to ensure its essential status, and to encourage reflection about its importance.



SHEIKH ZAYED TRILOGY

The Publishing Department at the National Library Sector (Dar Al Kutub) published The Sheikh Zayed Trilogy in Arabic and English. This educational publication is for children aged 9 and above, covering the biography of the late Sheikh Zayed Bin Sultan Al Nahyan, which was published in three parts:

1. Najm Al Sa'ad, covering Sheikh Zayed's life from birth to 1946
2. Al Ghazala Al Oula (the First Gazelle), which covers his life between 1946 and 1966
3. Jannat Al Ahlam (Paradise of Dreams), covering his life from 1966 to 2004

The book chronicles key events in the life of the UAE's Founding Father, highlighting his personality, insightful vision and the initiatives that secured the future of the UAE

ORAL NARRATION IN THE UAE



A collection that includes the oral heritage of Emirati tales, which were collected, authenticated and documented by the late author Ahmed Rashid Thani. The collection was published in four parts as follows.

1. Hasat Al Sabr (The Stone of Patience): 15 Emirati stories
2. Dredmees: Eight Emirati stories
3. Ella Jamal Hamdan Fi Thilli Barek (Only Hamdan's Camel is in the Shade): 24 Emirati stories
4. Zaman Yedhrob Zaman (Time Beating Time): Emirati stories' terminologies

DISTRIBUTION

The Department of Culture and Tourism—Abu Dhabi took part in eight local book fairs, including the Traditional Handicrafts Festival, the Judicial Department Festival, the Sharjah Children’s Reading Festival and the Sheikh Zayed Heritage Festival. It also participated in 10 overseas exhibitions: in Jeddah, Riyadh, Bahrain, Kuwait, Iraq, Muscat, Tunis, Cairo, Erbil and Khartoum.

At present, there are 29 agents from the Distribution Department operating in the GCC, Arab and European countries. Domestically, there are 50 sales points, such as ADNOC service stations, libraries and cooperative societies. There are also permanent points of sale in Mazyad Mall, Zayed Central Library, Al Jahili Fort in Al Ain and Al Seef Village Mall.

In the online space, there are six websites that are authorised to sell Department of Culture and Tourism—Abu Dhabi publications: Jamalon platform, Neelwafurat.com, Noon E Commerce – Dubai, E-Bidi Ltd. – London, United Printing & Publishing and Souk.com.

In 2018, the “We Support Culture” programme boosted sales and sponsorship profits to AED 2,214,000. The best-selling titles were: *Words of a Leader; Man, the State, and War; The Struggle for Mastery in Europe; The True Believer; and A New Earth.*





LOOKING TO 2019

THIRD EDITION OF CULTURE SUMMIT ABU DHABI

7 - 11 APRIL 2019, MANARAT AL SAADIYAT, ABU DHABI

In December 2018, it was announced that the Department of Culture and Tourism—Abu Dhabi will hold the third edition of the Culture Summit Abu Dhabi in 2019. The Summit’s programme will include discussions, performances and interactive workshops, plus an annual cultural agenda that will identify issues and devise practical solutions. Chairman His Excellency Mohamed Khalifa Al Mubarak welcomes “the global partners who will support the Summit with their extensive knowledge in the domains of culture, arts, media, heritage and museums, and to drive dialogue on ways to contribute to the growth of contemporary societies in sustainable ways”.

2019’s cultural partners, their roles and expertise are: The Economist Events – the media stream, information and its policies; UNESCO – the impact of tangible and intangible heritage on societal change; the Royal Academy of Arts—the arts stream; the Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum and Foundation – how museums can shape the future of culture; and Google – the technology stream, technology, arts and cultural change.

As a unique global platform that links leaders in the arts, heritage, media, museums, public policy and technology, the Culture Summit is a prime opportunity to ascertain how culture can raise awareness, foster collaboration and promote positive change.

HISTORIC URBAN LANDSCAPE APPROACH WORKSHOP

4-5 February 2019, Al Ain

In 2011, UNESCO issued its Recommendations on the Historic Urban Landscape (HUL).

The Cultural Site of Al Ain World Heritage Site Management Plan calls for the consideration of a HUL approach in the Department of Urban Planning and Municipalities’ (DPM) planning efforts. The aim is to put culture and cultural heritage at the centre of new planning initiatives and to use this methodology as a guide for Al Ain city’s future developments.

The expected outcomes of the workshop are:

Increased awareness on the contribution of culture and cultural heritage to a city’s economy and sustainable development

An understanding of HUL’s concept and the adoption of this approach in the revision of the 2030 plan (and establishment of a working group to this end)

Acknowledgment of the Department of Culture and Tourism—Abu Dhabi’s work on the Urban Development Guidelines for the Buffer Zones of the Oases as a component of a HUL approach to urban development

Stricter collaboration between stakeholders, especially in issues concerning urban development in the vicinity of Al Ain’s World Heritage components

Practical knowledge on the implementation of planning and operational activities in Al Ain that adopt a HUL approach



MODERN HERITAGE BUILDING CLASSIFICATION

The Modern Heritage Survey is an inventory of Abu Dhabi’s Modern Heritage throughout the emirate. It will be undertaken through a mobile application on an iPad registered to the Department of Culture and Tourism—Abu Dhabi. Field surveyors will take photographs and videos of external facades of buildings in the emirate and will fill out a survey form on the iPad. The information collected on the commercial, governmental, religious and private buildings will be stored on the Department of Culture and Tourism—Abu Dhabi’s servers. The field survey will take three years to complete, as it covers the entire Emirate of Abu Dhabi.

The data collated will inform the study and understanding of Abu Dhabi’s built environment and the identification of modern heritage, which will then be inscribed as cultural heritage for the Emirate of Abu Dhabi, as required by the Cultural Heritage Law 4/2016 and as set out in the Department of Culture and Tourism—Abu Dhabi’s strategic plan.

CHILDREN’S LIBRARY

The Children’s Library will be newest addition to Abu Dhabi’s Cultural Foundation. Located in Al Hosn site, the library is established with the unique aim to serve as a dynamic and creative space, dedicated to interactive education for children of all ages. The library operates several facilities and offers programmes that are designed to promote literacy, lifelong learning, creative thinking and community development. Through a wide range of public activities, workshops and reading classes, the space provides a rich source of inspiration on the grounds of the most important historic site in the city. Spread over three floors, the Library is divided into several age-appropriate, immersive social spaces, with each floor having a different design concept inspired by the diverse landscapes of the UAE. The Abu Dhabi Children’s Library will house a large and diverse collection of books, including fiction, non-fiction, graphic novels, autobiographies and audio-books.

JEBEL HAFIT DESERT PARK

Jebel Hafit Desert Park contains a rich array of heritage and natural resources. Located on the eastern flanks of Jebel Hafit, the Park contains archaeological remains that stretch from the Neolithic periods until the recent day. These include Mezyad Fort; an impressive mudbrick structure which, together with Mezyad village, was an important settlement during the 20th century and earlier. The Park is also home to a diverse assemblage of flora and fauna.



دائرة الثقافة والسياحة
DEPARTMENT OF CULTURE
AND TOURISM