



# CULTURE

A N N U A L R E P O R T 2 0 1 9 V O L U M E 1

DEPARTMENT  
OF **CULTURE**  
AND TOURISM  
**ABU DHABI**

ANNUAL  
REPORT  
2019  
**VOLUME 1**





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## FOREWORD FROM THE CHAIRMAN

We can proudly look back on 2019 as a year in which Abu Dhabi confirmed itself to be a world-leading cultural city. The depth and diversity of all our cultural endeavours have been inspirational and have continued to anchor our city in its heritage while nurturing creativity and building capacity of the culture sector.

2019 was also a year in which we looked to the future, with the development of a five-year cultural strategy to strengthen and enhance the culture sector's foundations and infrastructure. The strategic objectives were defined based on a rich legacy and targeting ambitious goals. Preserving our heritage is one of our key objectives and the Department emphasised our initiatives related to the conservation of the emirate's modern heritage, as well as the dissemination of Intangible Cultural Heritage that celebrates the achievements of our recent past. Development of guidelines, regulations, financial and non-financial incentives to celebrate, protect, and maintain our cultural heritage were clearly defined for the next five years.

With these strong foundations in place, we remain focused on growing a sustainable culture sector that contributes to economic growth and diversification. Hence, we are

dedicated to further nurturing the market, creating a lasting social and economic impact, and extending the culture value chain to include the dissemination and transfer of knowledge, capacity building and strong cultural partnerships across the world.

The execution of the Culture Sector Strategy will not only position Abu Dhabi as a global cultural capital but as a key driver of economic change. Our aim will be to track the contributions of the cultural creative industries to the city and be able to quantify the socio-economic impact of the culture sector to the nation.

Therefore, and as we look forward to 2020 and our preparations for the 50th anniversary of the United Arab Emirates in 2021, we are proud to share our vision on the way to preserve and promote the cultural heritage and identity of Abu Dhabi to both those living here and the international audience. We anticipate another fruitful year, in which we can increase the understanding of Abu Dhabi's unique culture, both in its heritage and future manifestations, and welcoming more visitors to experience our culture and to visit our emirate.

**Mohamed Khalifa Al Mubarak**





## FOREWORD FROM THE ACTING UNDERSECRETARY

The Department of Culture and Tourism - Abu Dhabi believes in the importance of the role that culture plays in transforming our society at all levels. Our Culture Sector is firmly dedicated to enhancing the cultural scene and to curate platforms and programmes to engage with the diverse audience of the United Arab Emirates, with the aim of cementing appreciation of Emirati and Arabian culture at all levels.

In 2019, the Department has organised major cultural events that have translated our mandate in pioneering initiatives to enhance the culture scene and cultural engagement with the public. Abu Dhabi International Book Fair, Abu Dhabi Classics, Abu Dhabi Art and the Culture Summit grew in stature to become the region's most important cultural events.

Diverse platforms have contributed to the positioning of the Abu Dhabi culture scene including the Louvre Abu Dhabi, Manarat Al Saadiyat and Qasr Al Hosn. An undoubted highlight of the year was the reopening of the Cultural Foundation at the Al Hosn site as a creative and immersive space for cultural expression. Meanwhile,

in Al Ain, the museums, cultural centres and UNESCO World Heritage Site proved to be spaces that showcase the richness of Abu Dhabi's history and heritage. These sites were activated and interpreted through a year-round calendar of exhibitions, festivals, heritage activities and a robust public engagement programme.

We are also making progress in our ongoing projects, including the further development of the Saadiyat Cultural District, with the upcoming Zayed National Museum and Guggenheim Abu Dhabi. Al Ain's cultural offering will also be bolstered by the restored Bait Mohammed bin Khalifa House, Jebel Hafit Desert Park, Murabba'a Fort and many other new cultural landscapes.

As we look back on our accomplishments, we are firmly focused on the future while promoting the essence of Abu Dhabi both at home and abroad, highlighting its deep heritage and hospitality values, which furthers our mandate to become a world-leading destination of distinction.

**Saood Al Hosani**



# CULTURAL SITES AND PROGRAMMES

## Al Ain World Heritage Site

Hafit  
Hili  
Bidaa Bint Saud  
Al Ain Oases



## Al Dhafra Archaeological Site

The Church and Monastery of Sir Bani Yas



## Modern Heritage Building

Cultural Foundation



## Historic Buildings and Museums

Al Jahili Fort  
Qasr Al Muwaiji  
Qasr Al Hosn  
Al Ain Palace Museum



## Saadiyat Cultural District Museums

Louvre Abu Dhabi  
Guggenheim Abu Dhabi  
Zayed National Museum



## Community Centres

Al Qattara Arts Centre  
Bait Al Gahwa  
Bait Al Oud  
Manarat Al Saadiyat  
House of Artisans



## Cultural Programmes

Abu Dhabi Art  
Abu Dhabi Classics  
Abu Dhabi International Book Fair  
Al Ain Book Fair  
Al Dhafra Book Fair  
Al Qattara Heritage Souq  
Culture Summit  
Esdarat  
Gahwa Championships  
GCC Heritage and Oral History Conference  
Kalima  
Maktaba  
Memory of Emirati Songs  
National Traditional Handicrafts Festival  
Ramadan Evenings  
Sheikh Zayed Book Award  
Sounds of UAE  
Umsiyat





CHAPTER

# VISION AND STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES



## VISION AND STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES OF THE CULTURE SECTOR

The Department of Culture and Tourism - Abu Dhabi's Culture Sector vision is to create a recognised cultural capital rooted in cultural heritage and creativity, a place where culture is a driver of social and economic development. The Department achieves this vision through its mandate to preserve and promote Abu Dhabi's cultural heritage, to stimulate creativity through arts and cultural programs, and to build capacity across the sector.

DCT Abu Dhabi's objectives aim for intellectual and artistic excellence by creating a dynamic and holistic cultural scene with a range of public engagement programmes to nurture creativity and to support growth in the culture and creative industries, one of the fastest growing economic sectors in the world today. Working alongside cultural professionals and specialists, the Department also works to preserve traditional artistic practices, the Emirate cultural heritage and to develop an inspiring and innovative cultural scene.

### CULTURE SECTOR STRATEGIC PLAN 2020-2024

The Culture Sector Strategic Plan 2020-2024 Plan seeks to advance Government priorities of enhanced quality of life, city liveability and economic growth and diversification. These objectives guided the development of a 5-year agenda of strategic initiatives and inform the development of Departmental plans across the Culture Sector.







## VISION

A recognised cultural capital rooted in cultural heritage and creativity, a place where culture is a driver of social and economic development.

## MISSION

Preserve and promote Abu Dhabi's cultural heritage, stimulate creativity through arts and cultural programmes, and build capacity across the sector.

## STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

- 1 Preserve and sustain Abu Dhabi's cultural heritage
- 2 Increase participation and engagement with cultural heritage and the arts
- 3 Stimulate creativity as a driver for education and social change
- 4 Build and enable capacity in Abu Dhabi's culture sector
- 5 Contribute to economic growth and diversification





## PRESERVE AND SUSTAIN ABU DHABI'S CULTURAL HERITAGE

### CULTURAL HERITAGE POLICIES

In 2019, the Department of Culture and Tourism - Abu Dhabi developed 26 cultural heritage policy initiatives resulting from the publication of the Cultural Heritage Law in 2016 and the Executive By-Law in 2018. These policies provide a legislative foundation and policy framework to preserve Abu Dhabi heritage and support wider cultural development goals. Implementation of an integrated system of policies and guidelines across 2019-2021 will allow the Culture Sector to contribute to the preservation, dissemination and management of cultural sites. These include policies governing elements of the historic building environment, intangible heritage, collections and licensing museums and galleries.

**The Department of Culture and Tourism - Abu Dhabi has supported in past years the inscription of nine Intangible Cultural Heritage elements on UNESCO's Intangible Cultural Heritage lists.**

**Al-Sadu, Al-Ayyala, Al-Razfa, Al-Azi, Arabic coffee (Gahwa), Falconry, Majlis and Al-Taghrooda, with the Palm Tree the latest element, inscribed in 2019.** The Culture Sector aims to inscribe six additional Intangible Cultural Heritage elements.

**Important platforms for intangible heritage practices were created in 2019 to build capacity and support the dissemination of handicrafts skills and heritage practices to the wider audience.**

Two House of Artisans were created in Abu Dhabi and Al Ain celebrating the creative and artistic relationship between people of the United Arab Emirates and the locally available natural resources within the diverse landscapes of the UAE.

The new concept of Bait Al Gahwa has also been developed to translate an in-depth exploration of Arabic coffee distinctive technique. Bait Al Gahwa was curated to present to the public the different stages of the Arabic Gahwa making including roasting, cooling, grounding, and brewing the coffee, all interpreted in traditional tools and techniques.

Bait Al Gahwa and House of Artisans Abu Dhabi are located at Al Hosn site and House of Artisans of Al Ain is included in the Al Ain Oasis landscape.

### DEVELOPMENT OF ABU DHABI HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT RECORD (ADHER)

Culture Sector has initiated the first phase development of the Abu Dhabi Historic Environment Record (ADHER) as a comprehensive geospatial database of Abu Dhabi's historic environment. By 2024, all sites noted on the map will be entered into ADHER

The Modern Heritage Conservation initiative continues to being developed with the aim to protect, maintain and celebrate the recent history of urban development in Abu Dhabi. More than 326 Modern heritage sites have been registered, and the Culture Sector managed to successfully protect modern heritage buildings such as **Abu Dhabi Bus Station, Le Méridien, Hilton Abu Dhabi, Hilton Al Ain, UAE University, and Zayed Sports City Stadium** to name a few.





## STIMULATE CREATIVITY AS A DRIVER FOR EDUCATION AND SOCIAL CHANGE

## BUILD AND ENABLE CAPACITY IN ABU DHABI'S CULTURE SECTOR

## CONTRIBUTE TO ECONOMIC GROWTH AND DIVERSIFICATION

## INCREASE PARTICIPATION AND ENGAGEMENT WITH CULTURAL HERITAGE AND THE ARTS

## CULTURESTATS-ABU DHABI

The Sector started in 2019 the CultureSTATS-ABU DHABI project that aims to be a knowledge platform that produces internationally recognisable and comparable cultural statistics in the emirate of Abu Dhabi. By structuring pre-existing cultural data and by exploring the new approaches to data collection and analysis, the project seeks to understand how to enhance the impact of culture and cultural assets on the social and economic growth of Abu Dhabi, and how to discover, analyse and support cultural phenomena that makes Abu Dhabi unique.

### The Sector developed in co-operation with many other Abu Dhabi stakeholders the Culture and Creative Industries framework strategy.

The Culture and Creative Industries (CCI) are among the fastest growing economic sectors in the world today, and the sector is growing fastest in the Middle East. In 2019, the Culture Sector developed a 5-year culture and creative industries strategy, working in collaboration with key sector partners. The Strategy seeks to strengthen Abu Dhabi's position as a globally recognised centre of creative talent and a leading regional producer and exporter of creative and cultural content.

Five strategic pillars provide a framework for recommended initiatives to be implemented over the term of the Strategy – Governance, Talent, Innovation, Business Development and Place. While DCT Abu Dhabi will lead the implementation of the Strategy in the emirates of Abu Dhabi, the majority of initiatives will be implemented by sector partners. The vision is to position CCI as a critical contributor to liveability and vitality in the community, and to economic development and diversification, including job creation.





CHAPTER  
**2019**  
**HIGHLIGHTS**





# VISITORS TO DCT ABU DHABI CULTURAL SITES



**~2.12M visitors** ▲ **27%** (from 2018)



Museums

**+1,202,000**  
visitors



Community  
Centres

**+504,000**  
visitors



World Heritage Sites  
& National Monuments

**+410,000**  
visitors

## VISITORS ACROSS KEY DCT ABU DHABI CULTURAL SITES

Louvre Abu Dhabi  
**+975,000**  
visitors

Qasr Al Hosn  
**+221,000**  
visitors

Cultural  
Foundation  
**+197,000**  
visitors

Manarat  
Al Saadiyat  
**+176,000**  
visitors

Al Ain Oasis  
**+141,000**  
visitors

Al Ain  
Palace Museum  
**+148,000**  
visitors



# VISITORS TO DCT ABU DHABI LIBRARIES



**+389,100**

visitors

**+206,400**

visitors have benefited from the services offered at DCT Abu Dhabi libraries



**+1,400**

events were hosted in DCT Abu Dhabi libraries in 2019

attracting

**+74,800**

attendees





## PALM TREE INSCRIPTION ON UNESCO'S REPRESENTATIVE LIST OF INTANGIBLE CULTURAL HERITAGE

The 14th session of the Intergovernmental Committee for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of UNESCO, held in the Colombian capital of Bogota on 2 December 2019, approved the inscription of date palm on the UNESCO's Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of UNESCO. This was the result of efforts made by the Department of Culture and Tourism - Abu Dhabi to promote and preserve the cultural heritage of the emirate of Abu Dhabi and ensure its sustainability and transmit it to future generations. The Department had submitted the date palm file to be registered with UNESCO as a joint nomination on behalf of 14 Arab countries headed by the United Arab Emirates. This was carried out under the auspices of the Arab League Educational, Cultural and Scientific Organization (ALECSO). Notably, between 2010 and 2019, the Department of Culture and Tourism - Abu Dhabi successfully registered nine elements of Emirati cultural heritage in UNESCO's Representative List of Intangible Cultural Heritage. These include Al-Sadu, Al-Ayyala, Al-Razfa, Al-Azi, Arabic coffee (Gahwa), Falconry, Majlis, Al-Taghrooda and lastly the Palm Tree.



## QASR AL WATAN OPENING

Qasr Al Watan ('Palace of the Nation') opened its doors to the public in March 2019. The Presidential Palace is a unique testament to the spirit of the people of the United Arab Emirates and its leaders. The palace celebrates Arab heritage, architecture and artistry and invites visitors to be introduced to the UAE culture, knowledge and the nation's inspiring journey. The interactive exhibits illustrate and provide information on governance, knowledge and craftsmanship in the United Arab Emirates and the wider Arab world.



## QASR AL WATAN LIBRARY



Qasr Al Watan Library is one of the key components of the Qasr Al Watan and it reflects the United Arab Emirates vision, to promote and sustain5 development through investment in minds and human resources. The library is an impressive addition to the public library network in the emirate, which provides knowledge sources through the latest technology and techniques. The library has a large collection of knowledge resources collected over a span of 35 years, covering history, geography and the social, economic and political development of the nation. A series of panel discussions and musical performances, stimulated dialogue and knowledge exchange, supported by the 'Award-Winning Author', 'Cross-Border Literature' and 'Creative Pens' programmes.



## SIR BANI YAS CHURCH AND MONASTERY ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITE OPENING

The Church and Monastery on Sir Bani Yas Island, the first Christian site discovered in the UAE, reopened its doors to visitors in May 2019, following the implementation of conservation measures and site enhancements by the Department of Culture and Tourism - Abu Dhabi.

In the early 1990s a church, a monastery and a series of courtyard houses were discovered on the eastern side of Sir Bani Yas Island. Dating to the 7th and 8th centuries CE, these buildings are the earliest known evidence for Christianity in the United Arab Emirates. The church was identified by the presence of plaster crosses and its plan, which resembles ancient churches known from elsewhere in the Arabian Gulf.

Hundreds of artefacts found at the site reveal that the people exploited the sea for food and also kept cattle, sheep and goat. Glass and ceramic objects indicate that they traded widely across the Arabian Gulf and into the Indian Ocean. The most important finds are plaster stucco fragments that originally decorated the outside and inside of the church. Fine plaster stucco panels were also used within the interiors of the church as decorative and architectural design elements.

Similar churches to the one found on Sir Bani Yas are known from other areas in the Arabian Gulf. It is believed all these places were linked by trade and monasticism and were part of the Church of the East. The church and monastery continued to exist after Islam became the main religion in the region in the 7th century CE. This reflects the belief in tolerance and acceptance practised by the early Islamic leaders of the time, and which continues till today.

In 2018, Department of Culture and Tourism - Abu Dhabi began the design and implementation of a new sheltering solution that would ensure optimum protection of the site's archaeological remains from current environmental threats, minimise visual and physical impact on the archaeological remains, and enhance the visitor experience. With the inauguration of this new shelter in 2019, sections of the monastery never seen before are now visible to the public. These remains, mostly of the northern dormitory, provide an understanding of daily life in the monastery. All the exposed archaeological remains were stabilised, repaired, and consolidated and an ongoing programme of monitoring has been initiated.



## MODERN HERITAGE CONSERVATION INITIATIVE

The Modern Heritage Conservation Initiative aims to identify, evaluate and assess the significance and condition of Abu Dhabi's post-oil heritage and to develop recommendations, guidelines, policies and incentives to celebrate, protect and maintain the recent history of urban development of Abu Dhabi.

An application and web-based database were developed to enable the field survey and evaluation process to support the inventory of Abu Dhabi's modern heritage.

BUILDINGS  
SURVEYED  
IN 2019



1,350

## CONSERVATION OF THE FIRST MODERN HERITAGE SITE IN ABU DHABI

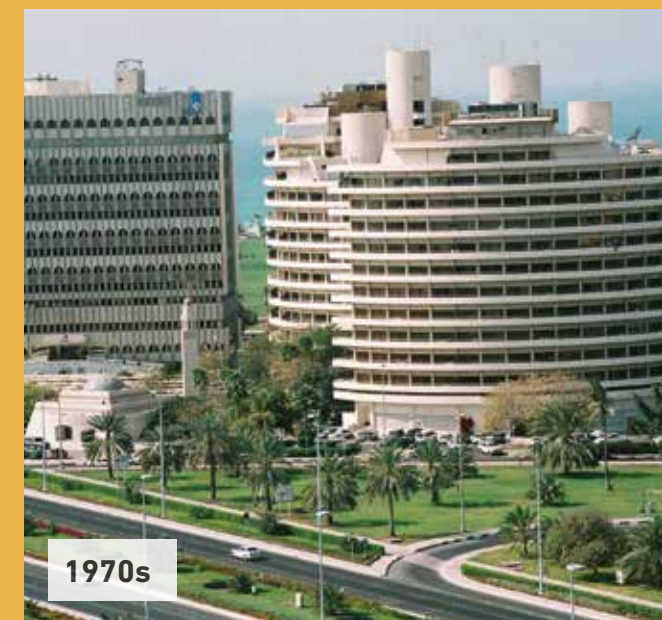
Opened in 1981 under the directives of the late Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan, the Cultural Foundation was the United Arab Emirates' first multi-purpose cultural centre, a public institution with a mandate to foster and nurture cultural consciousness for all citizens of the recently unified emirates. Designed in the 1970s by Walter Gropius's firm The Architects Collaborative, the Cultural Foundation's modern landmark building was the first registered modern heritage site to be rehabilitated between 2009 and 2018 according to international best practice. It underwent extensive conservation measures including repairs, rehabilitation and some adaptive reuse. It was successfully re-opened on 4 September 2019 to fulfil its mission as the transformative, stimulating and participatory platform for arts and creativity within the heart of Abu Dhabi.



1950s



1960s



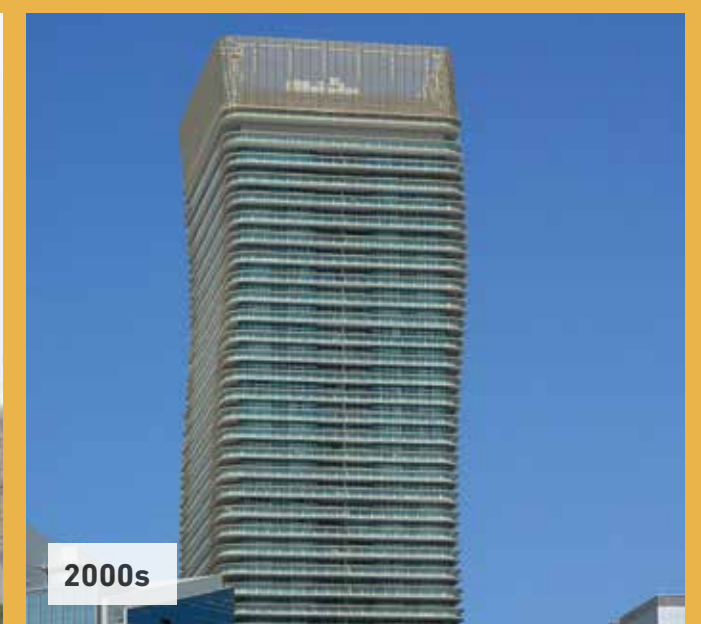
1970s



1980s



1990s



2000s



## REOPENING OF THE CULTURAL FOUNDATION

The Cultural Foundation launched a cutting-edge visual arts programme of exhibitions that focus on contemporary and modern art from the United Arab Emirates, the region and internationally. As part of the Foundation's mission to foster and promote creativity, spaces have been dedicated to host community exhibitions, children exhibitions and art residencies. The Cultural Foundation launched a world-class, contemporary and home-grown performing arts programme in its newly renovated 900-seat theatre. It has transformed its library to become the **Abu Dhabi Children's Library**. This state-of-art facility offers innovative hands-on learning programmes for children and families.





## EDUCATIONAL PLATFORMS AT THE CULTURAL FOUNDATION

### Bait Al Khatt

Bait Al Khatt is a new space within the Cultural Foundation dedicated to the intricate art of traditional Arabic calligraphy and is led by renowned artist and calligrapher Mohammed Mandi. It offers an ongoing programme that takes both a theoretical and practical approach, with a view towards enhancing the development of Arabic calligraphy within the United Arab Emirates.

### Al Marsam Al Hor

Al Marsam Al Hor officially reopened to the public in their original home at the Cultural Foundation. The new studio spaces offer a dynamic variety of classes and workshops that focus on a wide array of artistic disciplines. The studio welcomes teens and adults of all skill levels to drop in and use the space or register for a weekly art class.

#### ART CLASSES

  
**3,167**  
PARTICIPANTS

#### MASTERCLASSES AND WORKSHOPS

  
**5,745**  
STUDENTS AND  
TEACHERS



### Children's Art Centre

In September 2019, the Children's Art Centre also reopened to the public in their original home at the Cultural Foundation and is celebrating over 20 years as the oldest arts centre for children in Abu Dhabi. The centre welcomes children ages 5 – 14 years and offers classes and courses in arts, crafts and music.

#### ART CLASSES

  
**1,388**  
PARTICIPANTS

#### MASTERCLASSES AND WORKSHOPS

  
**8,549**  
STUDENTS AND  
TEACHERS





# PERFORMING ARTS AT THE CULTURAL FOUNDATION

In its goal to constantly promote and support the creative fields and grow its audiences, the Cultural Foundation has built up a contemporary, popular and home-grown performing arts programme that includes music, dance and theatre. It has hosted an artistic programme dedicated to families and young people, with a mix of classical and contemporary productions featuring local, regional and international artists in its new theatre and outdoor amphitheatre in the heart of the city. It has also dedicated the second Tuesday of every month to present Emirati theatre productions as part of its ongoing mission to support artists from the United Arab Emirates.

## PERFORMANCES



27

## ATTENDEES



12,834

# 2019 INAUGURAL SEASON HIGHLIGHTS:

Performances from the Saudi Arabian superstar **Mohammed Abdo**

World-renowned oud master **Naseer Shamma**

Internationally acclaimed Tunisian instrumentalist and composer **Anouar Brahem**

Electro Arabic dabke (Shamstep) band **47Soul**

Emirati theatre from the **Sharjah National Theatre Company**, the **Kalba Society for Folklore and Theatre** and the **Ras Al Khaimah National Theatre**

International dance from **Caracalla Dance Theatre**, **Cie Samuel Mathieu** and **Che Malambo**

Hala BilKhaleej with **Mehad Hamad**

United Arab Emirates premiere by **Aziz Maraka**



Caracalla Dance Theatre



47Soul



Guerre by Samuel Mathieu



Khawater Al Dalam CF theatre



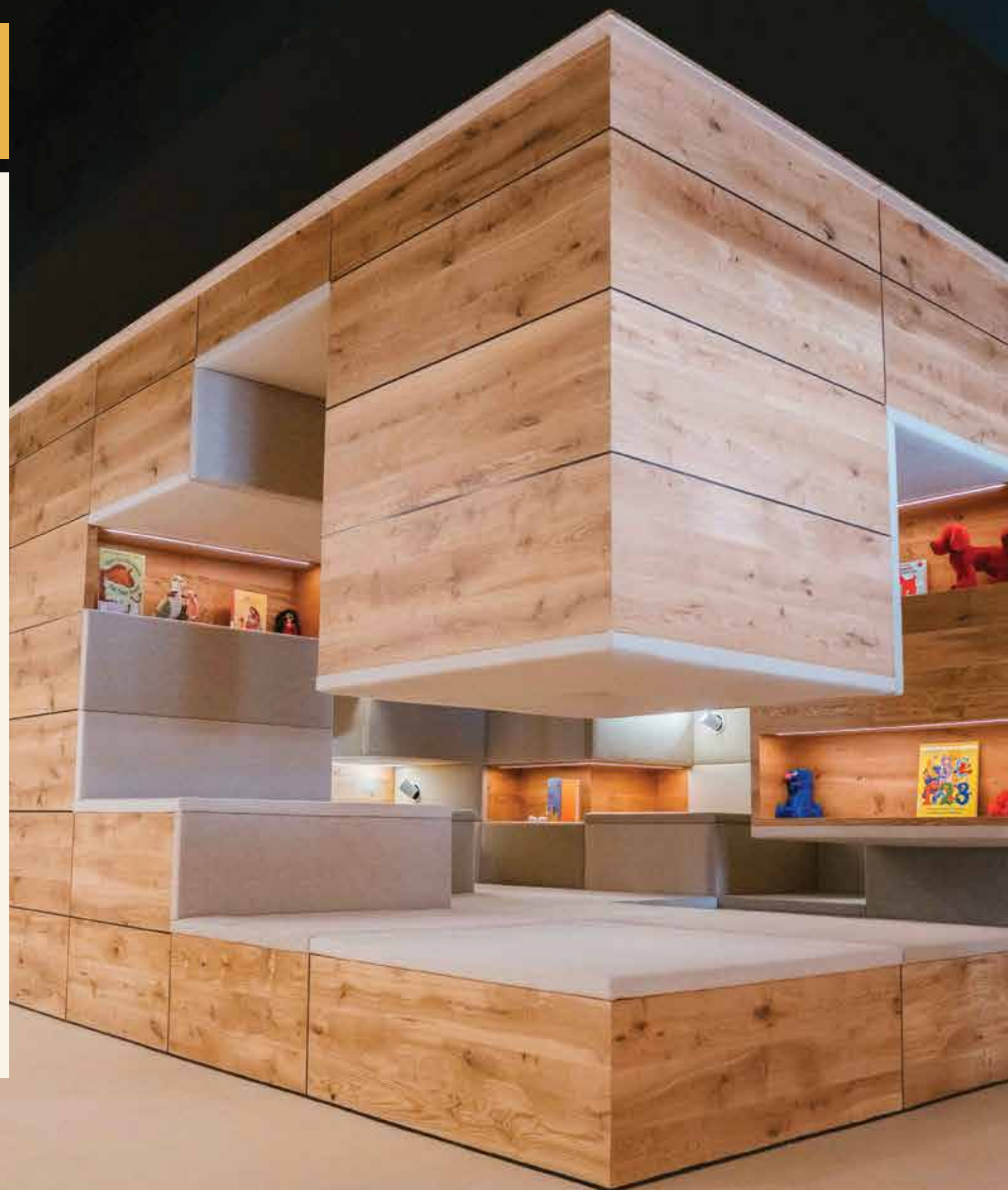
Mohammed Abdo



## ABU DHABI CHILDREN'S LIBRARY

The Abu Dhabi Children's Library is the latest addition to the newly inaugurated Cultural Foundation in the historic Al Hosn site. It is a creative hub, which connects people, information and ideas through learning and play. The library, which opened on 4 September 2019, is innovatively designed into several age-appropriate, immersive social spaces, inspired by the diverse landscapes of the United Arab Emirates. It boasts a large and diverse collection of print materials and electronic resources, including fiction, non-fiction, graphic novels, autobiographies and audio books. Its hands-on interactive programmes promote literacy and a love of reading, creative thinking and community development. It connects children with the arts, technology and each other in ways to enrich their lives and help them to realise their dreams.

With an emphasis on excellence and innovation, the Abu Dhabi Children's Library facilities and STREAM (Science, Technology, Reading, Engineering, Arts and Mathematics) programmes are designed to promote literacy, lifelong learning, creative thinking and community development to assure the best quality of life. The programmes challenge children to think, analyse, problem solve and make meaning of what they have learned. The facilities are designed so that every area has a pedagogical purpose. The facility spans three floors and includes a maker space, early childhood exploration room, stop motion animation area, computer instruction, area, film studio, VR/Film room, art workshop area and 11 interactives.





The Creature Space contains two aquariums, four terrariums and reproductions of 97 real and imaginary animals to teach about nature and the environment. Story Time plays an important role in developing a child's love of books and fosters a close relationship between parent and child. Young Coders programme introduces children to basic website and games programming and learning to enrich their design, logic and problem-solving abilities.



VISITORS



LANGUAGES

## PROGRAMMES



PROGRAMMES



PARTICIPANTS



CHILDREN



ADULTS

## CIRCULATION



## SCHOOL VISITS





## AL HOSN FESTIVAL

Al Hosn Festival is an annual cultural event that has launched in 2019 and is designed to celebrate Abu Dhabi's history and heritage through an immersive and dynamic programme of music, film, art and heritage initiatives, that aids capturing a parallel narrative of Abu Dhabi's journey from its birth to the creative space it has become today. A traditional crafts, painting and patches customisation station was also set-up during the festival to encourage cross-generational collaborations. Visitors were offered innovative workshops including traditional doll making, henna art, creating bookmarks using Al-Sadu and palm weaving.





## FLANERIE COLBERT ABU DHABI: FRENCH LUXURY IN THE 21ST CENTURY WITH THE HOUSE OF ARTISANS

As part of the House of Artisans efforts to serve as a platform for cross-cultural exchange, through a collaboration with Comité Colbert, an association of French luxury houses and cultural institutions, a programme celebrating the relationship between Emirati and French crafts was designed to create an opportunity to share artisanal skills, and highlighting the importance of preserving them, through a range of workshops and public talks. World renowned brand artisans as **Hermes, Christian Dior, Chanel** and **Van Cleef** created a dialogue and skills 'conversations' with UAE artisans of **Al-Sadu, Talli, Gargoor** and **Bisht** making, in an initiative that highlighted the aesthetics and savoir-faire of each of the experts through different techniques.







## GAHWA CHAMPIONSHIPS

The inaugural Gahwa Championships were held in December 2019, organised by the Department of Culture and Tourism - Abu Dhabi to celebrate the rich traditions and heritage of Gahwa (Arabic coffee), an intangible heritage inscribed in the UNESCO Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity. Gahwa's importance in Emirati and regional culture and Arab hospitality was apparent in the 380 entries from across the region for the 2019 championship, with women making up a third of the applications. One of the successes of the championships was the meeting of Gahwa practitioners from the region and the world, for the first time in history in one platform where knowledge and traditions from diverse Arab communities were shared and celebrated.



PRIZES  
AED 125,000  
AED 40,000

**Sane' Al Gahwa Awards**  
in Light Roast and  
Medium/Dark Roast categories



PRIZES  
AED 25,000

**Gahwa Roaster Awards**  
in Light Roast and  
Medium/Dark Roast categories



PRIZES  
AED 20,000

**Gahwa Beverage  
Concept Award**







CHAPTER

**CULTURAL  
SITES**





# AL AIN PALACE MUSEUM

An annual programme of cultural initiatives was created to celebrate Al Ain sites and engage the community in the mission of each of the World Heritage city cultural sites.

The late Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan, Founding Father and first President of the United Arab Emirates, lived at Al Ain Palace until 1966, when he moved to Abu Dhabi as the emirate's new ruler. Built in 1937 in Al Ain's traditional architectural style, the palace is associated with Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan's 20 years-story as Ruler's Representative in Al Ain. It stands witness to the great transformations that the oasis city went through from the middle of the experience Emirati life in the past, the former residence of Abu Dhabi's Royal Family and the emirate's culture and history, through interactive programmes and experiences.





**Freej Laowl** 'our old neighbourhoods' programme brought to life the pre-oil Al Ain city neighbourhood from the 1960s and early 1970s, through a series of performances on tradition, marriage customs and voluntary educational system. The 1970s until the early 1990s period was represented through storytelling, traditional performances, games, food, screenings and competitions, in palm leaves houses as part of the **Weekends at the Palace** programme.



As part of the 'Year of Tolerance' initiatives run by the Department, the **Cultural Connection** programme emphasised the importance of peaceful co-existence in the United Arab Emirates, as well its multiculturalism, freedom and security, through discussions about traditional performing arts by representatives from the United Arab Emirates, Egypt, Lebanon, Palestine, India, Kenya and Russia.







# QASR AL MUWAIJI

Qasr Al Muwaiji is the birthplace of His Highness Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan, President of the United Arab Emirates, in 1948. The museum is located within the boundaries of the UNESCO World Heritage Site of Al Ain, offering visitors a variety of historical and traditional experiences.





**Falconry Hunting Trip** introduced the sport and its practices to families, through cultural and educational activities, including workshops on falconry and Arabic coffee, Al-Ayyala performances and documentaries on falconry. The musical **Shadow Show** with the music academy Bait Al Oud celebrated the “Year of Tolerance”, and was accompanied by melodies from different cultures, representing co-existence and friendship values shared by people in the United Arab Emirates. The **Emirati Dagger** programme provided information and answers that revolve around the materials used in making daggers, the different colours and styles, and how it differs from the ones made in other GCC countries.





# AL JAHILI FORT

Al Jahili Fort is one of the largest traditional forts in Al Ain. The different elements of this ancient mud-brick fortification provide a strong physical and visual link to important local and regional events in both the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. Today, the fort's prominent location at the centre of Al Ain city and its landmark status have come to symbolise the traditional architecture and cultural heritage of Abu Dhabi. Al Jahili Fort enjoys special significance, as it is strongly associated with Sheikh Zayed bin Khalifa Al Nahyan, also known as Zayed the First, who ruled from 1855 to 1909. The construction of Al Jahili Fort began during his reign in 1891 and was completed by 1898.







Celebrating the Year of Tolerance, Al Jahili Fort welcomed visitors to the **Cultural Diversity** programme that offered educational workshops, traditional crafts and performances, culinary arts and activities from different countries. The **Military Collectibles** narrated the story of Trucial Scouts in Al Ain from 1955, when Al Jahili Fort was their headquarters. Objects from the 1950s, 1960s and 1970s were loaned by Abu Dhabi Armed Forces Museum and Military History Centre. **Al Jahili Through Young Eyes** exhibition showed student artworks inspired by their visits to the fort.







# ZAYED NATIONAL MUSEUM



Zayed National Museum, the national museum of the United Arab Emirates, will narrate the rich history of the land and region and will tell the story of the Founding Father, the late Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan, his unification of the Emirates and the country's long-standing cultural connections across the world. A museum for the whole community, Zayed National Museum will tell stories inspired by Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan's strongly held values, and will be a centre of learning, discussion and exchange.



# Collections

In 2019, Zayed National Museum acquired 15 objects, received 9 donations and instigated 3 major commissions. National partnerships were developed by providing project updates to potential lenders and stakeholders. Work began on identifying and securing loans with international lenders. Zayed National Museum reached out to cultural institutions, heritage experts and individuals to familiarise them with the museum and to set the foundations for future collaborations. During the visits, oral history interviews were conducted and objects that could be donated towards the collection for the museum.

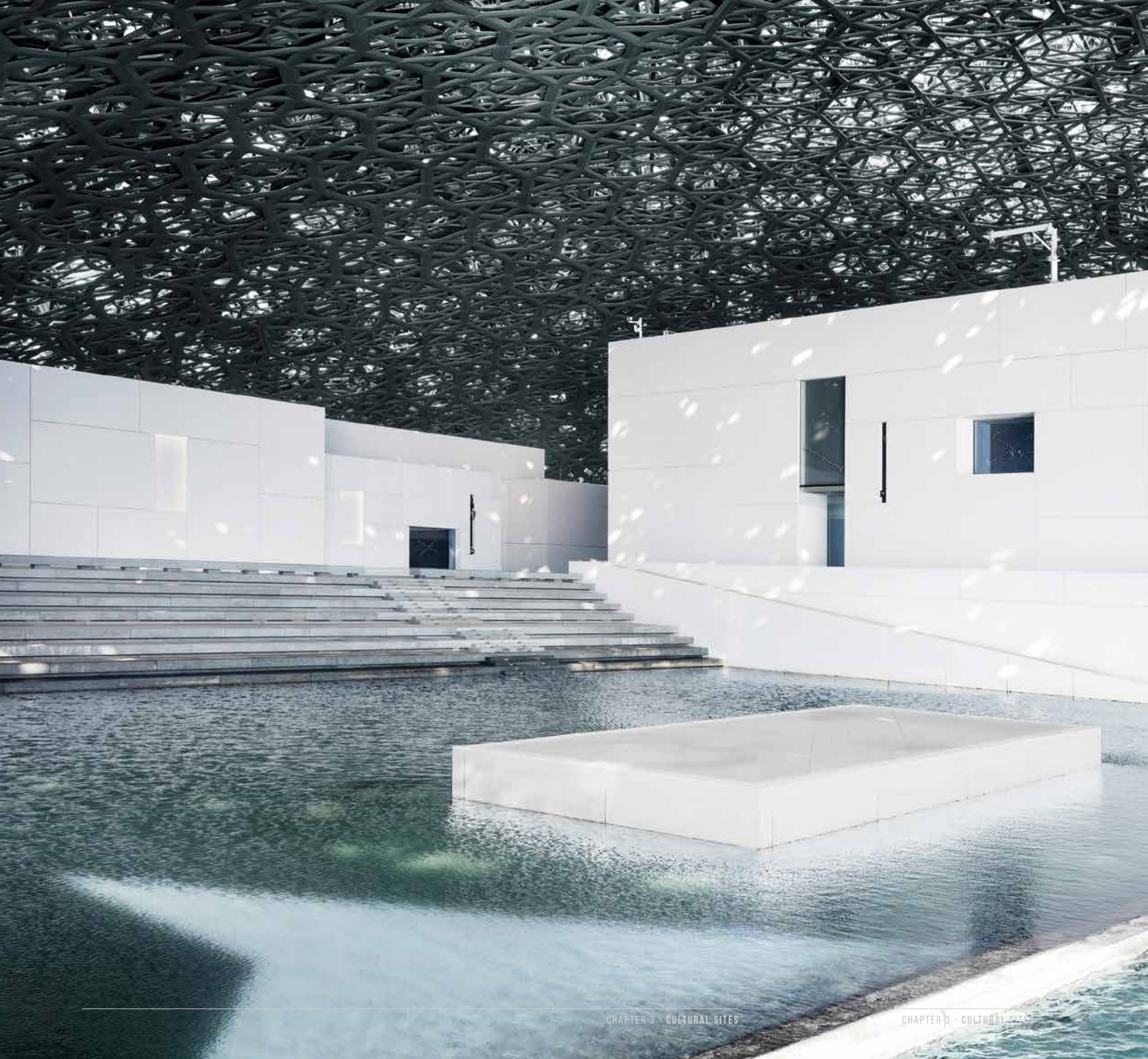
# Public engagement programme

Zayed National Museum visited schools to introduce students to the different narratives and objects of museum, through an engaging educational programme. This offered a range of interactive activities related to the museum's galleries, tailored to inspire children to become future museum ambassadors. A workshop was given on traditional doll making using simple materials which would have been available at the time, to introduce students to the different traditional crafts in Emirati heritage. Students created their own dolls, using fabric, cotton and coloured threads.

## 6 INTERACTIVE SESSIONS INTRODUCING ZAYED NATIONAL MUSEUM IN SCHOOLS FOR GIRLS

- Al Reem Primary School
- Fatima bint Mubarak Primary School
- Al Asayel Primary School
- Al Reef Primary School
- Al Zallaqa Primary School
- Al Erteqa'a Primary School





# LOUVRE ABU DHABI

*A “truly once-in-a-lifetime” experience*

Architectural Digest USA

The first universal museum in the Arab world and the first new universal museum in the 21st century, Louvre Abu Dhabi opened its doors in November 2017. By the time the museum had celebrated its second anniversary, it had welcomed more than two million visitors from across the world.

Alongside its world-class international exhibitions and innovative programming, Louvre Abu Dhabi’s unique permanent collection and display tell a history of the world through artistic objects. These contribute to making the museum an attractive destination for tourists and residents alike.





Set in Jean Nouvel's breathtaking architectural masterpiece, which, in the short time of its existence, has become one of the most famous museum buildings in the world, Louvre Abu Dhabi's main goal is to foster understanding and dialogue across cultures and civilisations.

The museum is also at the heart of Abu Dhabi's vision to create a cultural, educational and touristic hub within the region. Its efforts have been celebrated globally through a variety of awards and more than 25,000 press mentions across the world in 2019.

Louvre Abu Dhabi's 2019 mission followed three key pillars: collection and content, visitors and education, and operational excellence.

## Collections and Content

### Acquisitions, loans and rotations



In 2019, Louvre Abu Dhabi announced its acquisition of Rembrandt's *Head of a Young Man in Prayer* (c. 1655).

The announcement achieved widespread praise in international and local press. The Italian national newspaper *Il Sole 24 Ore* commented that, through "this latest acquisition, the first of Rembrandt to enter a collection of museums in the Gulf, visitors will experience the power of his first-hand creations", while the United Arab Emirates-based daily newspaper *The National* described it as "a key acquisition for Louvre Abu Dhabi".

Rembrandt's small but captivating work epitomises the museum's pioneering role in being the first museum in the Gulf to own a work by the Dutch master, as well as its quest for excellence demonstrated by its acquisition of a rare work by one of the most renowned artists in Western art history.

Complementing its ever-growing permanent collection, the museum received 418 loans from its 13 French partner institutions as well as 36 from its new regional and international partners, highlighting its increasing role as a global hub for art

and culture. Through a number of partnerships with United Arab Emirates-based and other regional countries, the museum was able to secure loans from Dubai, Ras Al Khaimah and Umm Al Quwain, as well as Saudi Arabia and Jordan.

Covering prehistoric times up to the 21st century, the new works in Louvre Abu Dhabi's permanent display reinforce the museum's universal narrative and ensure that each visitor, no matter where they are from, find a work that is relevant to them. In its second annual rotation of works in the permanent display, Louvre Abu Dhabi saw new narratives in the gallery halls, from the 'strange and marvellous' in Medieval art to a history of the 'Grand Tour' in Europe.

In a renewed focus on contemporary art in the United Arab Emirates, the Modern and Contemporary galleries saw three new works by renowned Emirati artist Mohammed Ahmed Ibrahim join their ranks. Following the rehang, the visitors' journey through the history of humanity now ends with an immersive work by Austrian conceptual artist Susanna Fritscher. On loan from the Centre Pompidou, the work invites visitors to reflect on their own and other cultures as they wander around the installation.



# Exhibitions



Department of Culture and Tourism – Abu Dhabi  
Photo: Jonathan Gibbons

Alongside its permanent display, Louvre Abu Dhabi hosts four international temporary exhibitions a year, which allow visitors to explore a certain period or topic in more depth.

Part of its 2018/19 cultural season ‘A World of Exchange’, the museum’s first exhibition in 2019 was ‘Rembrandt, Vermeer & the Dutch Golden Age: Masterpieces from the Leiden collection and the Musée du Louvre’, from 14 February to 18 May 2019. The success and international interest in the exhibition led to nearly 1,000 press articles from across the world in 11 languages.

‘Photographs 1842–896: An Early Album of the World’, in partnership with Musée du quai Branly, ran from 25 April to 13 July 2019, achieving more than 450 articles, with 100 from the Gulf Cooperation Council area alone.

Entitled ‘Changing Societies’, the museum’s 2019/20 cultural season explores key turning points in history and how these have influenced or manifest themselves in the creative output of their time.

The first in the current cultural season was ‘Rendez-vous in Paris: Picasso, Chagall, Modigliani & Co (1900-1939)’, held in partnership with Centre Pompidou from 18 September to 7 December 2019, which saw coverage in more than 12 markets. ‘10,000 Years of Luxury’ also opened its doors to the public, in a partnership with Musée des Arts Décoratifs in Paris which ran from 18th October 2019 to 18th February 2020. The exhibition has received press across 17 markets to date including BBC World and the New York Times.

This year also saw the opening of the second exhibition in Louvre Abu Dhabi’s Children’s Museum. ‘A Costume Adventure’ combines multimedia technology with interactive experiences for families, inviting children to engage with real objects. This new exhibition has received more than 80,000 visitors since its opening on 9 July 2019.

# Visitors and Education



Department of Culture and Tourism – Abu Dhabi  
Photo: Carlo Carlo Damalerio

## Visitor Statistics

Since Louvre Abu Dhabi’s opening, one of its goals was to achieve a balance between local, regional and global visitors. Louvre Abu Dhabi’s visitor barometer, an innovative research tool, records and analyses visitor data, allowing the museum to study public visitor figures year-round.

Louvre Abu Dhabi has become a must-see highlight in the city. The museum’s visitor figures for 2019 saw about 70 per cent international and regional tourists, and 30 per cent Emiratis and residents. International visitors come from all over the world, with the top recorded visitors originating from China, India, France, the United Kingdom, the United States, Russia, Germany and South Korea.

In 2019, Emiratis were the top group of repeat visitors to Louvre Abu Dhabi, which speaks to the museum’s success with the local community. Most Emirati visitors came from Abu Dhabi and Dubai. The average time spent in the museum is 2 hours and 20 minutes and overall visitor satisfaction has been measured at 93 per cent.



# People of Determination



©24.ae

Louvre Abu Dhabi's quest is to be as inclusive as possible, and the museum prides itself on being fully accessible and a welcoming experience for everyone.

Louvre Abu Dhabi's Academic and Community Engagement team organises site visits to local centres and organisations for people of determination and invites groups to experience the museum in one of the specialised Sensory Tactile Tours.

In 2019, Louvre Abu Dhabi's outreach team also launched a volunteering base led by people of determination, the Volunteers of Determination, an initiative in collaboration with a number of centres and schools across the United Arab Emirates. The volunteers were invited to assist during events and activities as well as to support the Visitors Experience team inside the museum.

# Educational Programmes



© Department of Culture and Tourism – Abu Dhabi

Education is one of the key missions of Louvre Abu Dhabi and an important element in the museum's quest to create a cultural ecosystem. In 2019, the museum welcomed more than 43,000 students from across the United Arab Emirates.

2019 saw the launch of Louvre Abu Dhabi's 'Young Guides: Museum Voices' programme, allowing children from different schools across the United Arab Emirates to learn how to present to and educate a museum-going audience about the artworks on display.

In addition to the museum's work with schools, Louvre Abu Dhabi offers programmes dedicated to university students, as well as special programmes for children with its organisation of monthly family weekends.

Numerous learning resources are provided to children and adult visitors as well as people of determination to help them better understand and engage with the works on show. Multimedia guides, activity booklets, art kits and online resources are just some of the many tools provided to visitors.

In 2019, more than 73,000 visitors rented the multimedia guide and more than 20,000 downloaded the free application that is available in seven languages (English, Arabic, French, German, Mandarin, Hindi and Russian).

# Cultural Programmes



© Department of Culture and Tourism – Abu Dhabi  
Photo: Siddharth Siva

Educational outreach and community engagement are part of Louvre Abu Dhabi's key missions. Throughout 2019, Louvre Abu Dhabi presented a variety of cultural programming, from musical performances under the dome to creative workshops, as well as film screenings, curatorial conferences and panel discussions.

All programming aims to complement the works on show in the permanent display and temporary exhibitions, and serve to entertain and educate the museum's visitors as well as the wider Abu Dhabi community.

# National and International Outreach



© Department of Culture and Tourism – Abu Dhabi

As part of Louvre Abu Dhabi's quest to establish itself as a key member of the international cultural community, the museum staff participated in 19 conferences across the globe, including seven in the United Arab Emirates and others in Asia, Europe and the United States.

As part of this outreach programme, Louvre Abu Dhabi also undertook five government school roadshows, a university roadshow as well as ten government entity roadshows.

In 2019, the museum hosted 60 private events for corporate and government partners at the museum, including conferences, evening receptions and gala dinners. In total, the museum welcomed 507 diplomatic and VIP visits.



# Training and Emiratisation



© Department of Culture and Tourism – Abu Dhabi

Staff training and Emiratisation are two key elements in Louvre Abu Dhabi’s operational goals.

As part of the museum’s training and Emiratisation policy, its current staff members comprise nearly 52 per cent Emiratis, with the remainder from a variety of different nationalities, reflecting the multicultural fabric of the museum’s home city.

The number of training hours in 2019 was 4,140, which speaks for the value the museum places on training its staff as well as the next generation of museum professionals.

# Partnerships



© Department of Culture and Tourism – Abu Dhabi

Louvre Abu Dhabi’s main partners for 2019 were First Abu Dhabi Bank, Etihad Airways, Total, Mubadala and CNN.

The Art Club loyalty programme welcomed more than 2,000 members, who received special benefits, including free access to the museum as well as invitations to exclusive previews.

# Marketing and Promotion

Throughout 2019, Louvre Abu Dhabi’s social media platforms had more than 400,000 followers and the museum’s website saw 2,311,087 visitors. There were more than 25,000 media articles secured internationally.

Louvre Abu Dhabi attended seven trade shows in 2019; including SATTE (New Delhi, India), ITB (Berlin, Germany), Arabian Travel Market (Dubai, United Arab Emirates), ITB (Shanghai, China), ITB (Singapore), World Travel Market (London, UK) and Meet China (Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates).

# Awards



© Hamad Al Kaabi / Ministry of Presidential Affairs

Louvre Abu Dhabi received several prestigious awards in 2019. The museum was presented with the Best Cultural Opening Award by Condé Nast Traveller Middle East and the museum’s Universal Religions Hall received the United Arab Emirates Pioneers Award.

The museum also won the Community, Culture & Tourism Project Award given by the Cityscape Awards for Emerging Markets. The marketing efforts for the ‘Rembrandt, Vermeer & the Dutch Golden Age: Masterpieces from the Leiden collection and the Musée du Louvre’ exhibition scored the museum a bronze at the Middle East Public Relations Association awards.





Image courtesy of Gehry Partners, LLP

# GUGGENHEIM ABU DHABI

The Guggenheim Abu Dhabi will be a pre-eminent platform for contemporary art and culture that presents the most important artistic achievements of our time. From its location in West Asia, a central axis between Europe, Asia, and Africa, the Guggenheim Abu Dhabi will contribute to a more inclusive and expansive view of art history that emphasises the convergence of local, regional and international sources of creative inspiration rather than geography or nationality.

The Guggenheim Abu Dhabi will take a diverse and expansive view of art history, focusing on the synthesis of local, regional and international creativity. The museum will exhibit contemporary art from the 1960s to the present and will encourage research, particularly on the West Africa, North Africa and South Asia (WANASA) art history canon of the 20th and 21st centuries. Guggenheim Abu Dhabi is an active participant in the international art landscape and continues to expand and provide scholarly research of art and history across the globe. Additionally, it will host a dynamic programme of changing exhibitions and will explore common themes and affinities among the work of artists across time and place. Commissions created specifically for the Guggenheim Abu Dhabi collection will reinforce the museum's commitment to working with artists and supporting contemporary artistic production.



# BUILDING THE COLLECTION AND ARCHIVE

Guggenheim Abu Dhabi continues to build its museum collection to expand and deepen the collection narrative.

Every year, Guggenheim Abu Dhabi conducts and documents recorded interviews with selected artists from its collection, in order to provide an insight into the artist's life and practice whilst also gaining knowledge about the particular work in the permanent collection.

2019 ARTIST  
HASSAN HAJJAJ

ARTWORKS  
ACQUIRED

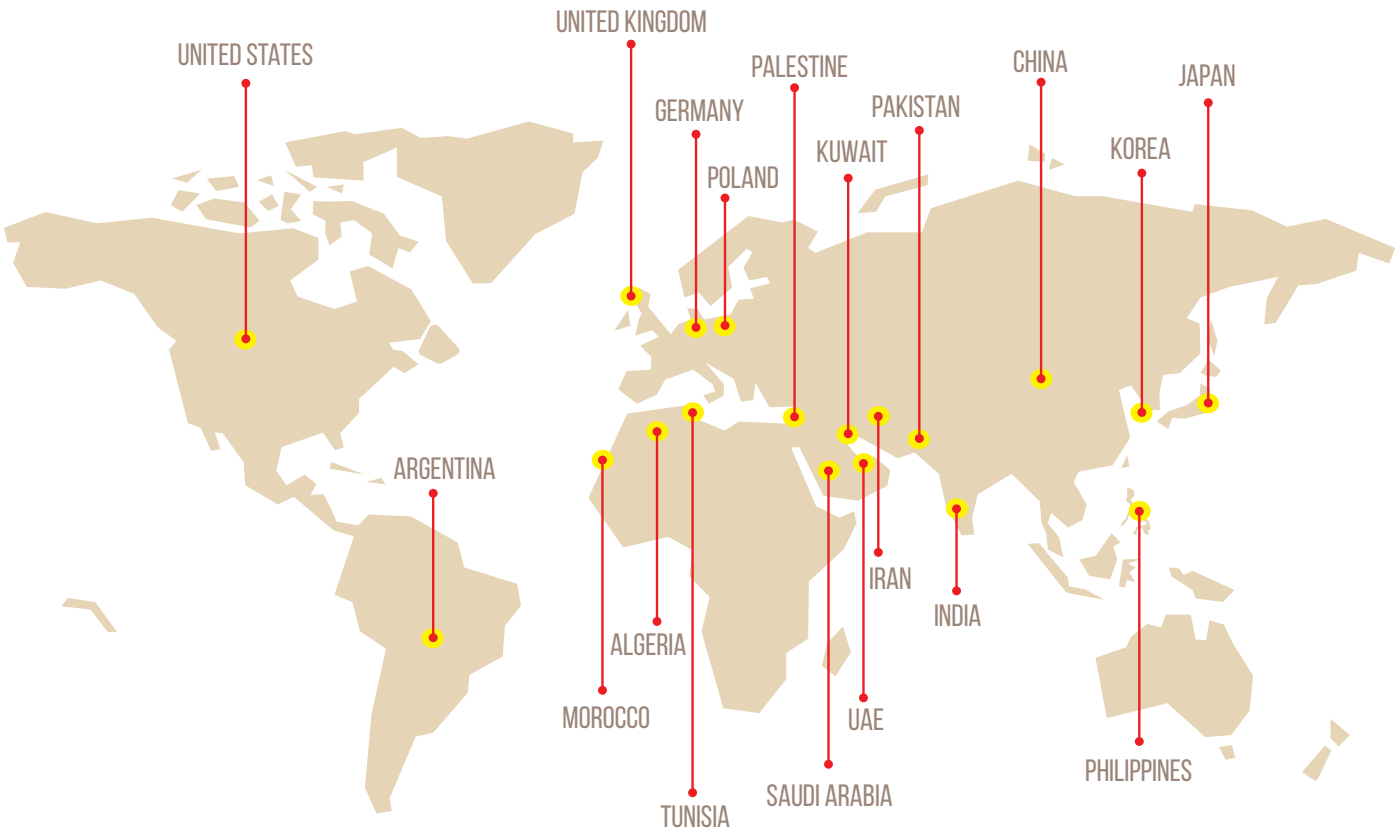


77

ARTISTS



38



# COLLECTION LOANS



El Anatsui, *Earth's Skin*, 2007, loaned to:  
El Anatsui: Triumphant Scale at Haus der Kunst

2019  
Loans 4

Guggenheim Abu Dhabi's global role in the international network of museums is to be an active contributor in dispersing knowledge and culture, through loaning works from its collection to be exhibited in prominent institutions.

## OTHER LOANS

Bridget Riley, *Exposure*, 1966, loaned to:  
**Bridget Riley: Seven Decades at Hayward Gallery**

Julie Mehretu, *Mogamma (A Painting in Four Parts)*, 2012, loaned to:  
**Julie Mehretu at Los Angeles County Museum of Art**



# PUBLIC PROGRAMME

Jeffrey Deitch and Leonard 'Futura' Hilton McGurr shared their personal experiences of Internationally-acclaimed American artist **Jean-Michel Basquiat**. The **Canal Zone Party Remix**, inspired by the original 1979 party in New York, highlighted Basquiat's debut to the art world. Moroccan-British artist **Hassan Hajjaj** set up an interactive 'pop-up' photography studio in the Cultural Foundation courtyard and invited the public to pose in exuberant costumes and sets that fused Khaleeji and Moroccan aesthetics. In **'GNAWA NOW!'** with **Masters Marouane Lbahja and Simo Lagnawi**, audiences experienced a rhythmic performance of ancient African-Moroccan music that brings together poetry and traditional music and dance.



# UNIVERSITY ENGAGEMENT PROGRAMMES



Guggenheim Abu Dhabi led two university engagement programmes in 2019 as part of the broader Guggenheim Abu Dhabi outreach initiative, to expand and sustain the academic community's engagement with the museum. The programme targeted art students from Zayed University Abu Dhabi, Sorbonne University Abu Dhabi, New York University Abu Dhabi, Khalifa University and American University of Sharjah. The first discussion on Guggenheim Abu Dhabi's acquired Jean-Michel Basquiat's *Cabra* (1981-82), while the second one, led by Hassan Hajjaj, focused on his pop-up studio, the Gnawa concert and the artworks in the Guggenheim Abu Dhabi permanent collection.

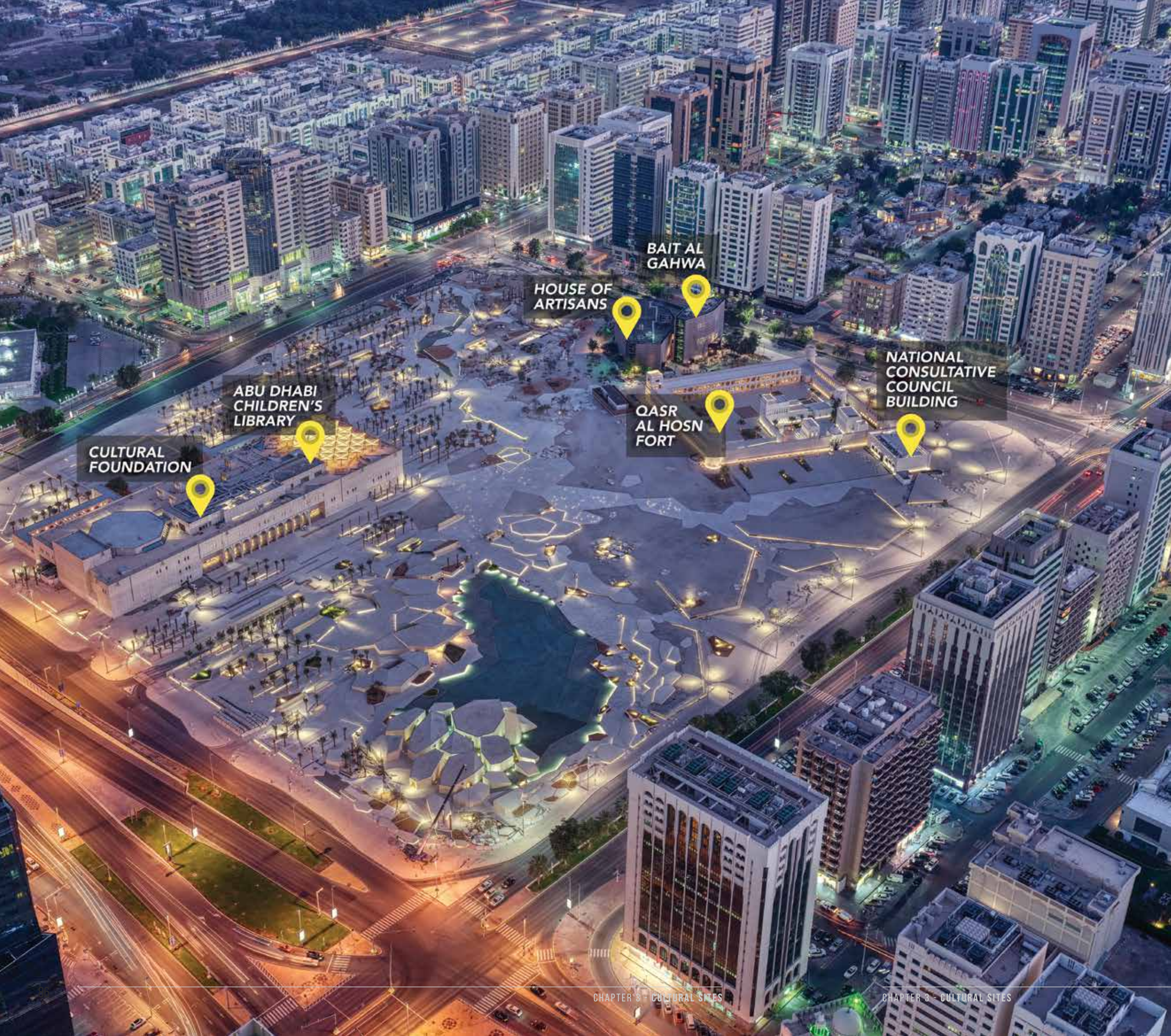




# AL HOSN

The original urban block of the city of Abu Dhabi, witness to its evolution from a traditional pearling settlement to a modern global metropolis.





## AL HOSN SITE

- Qasr Al Hosn Fort
- Cultural Foundation
- National Consultative Council Building
- House of Artisans
- Bait Al Gahwa
- Abu Dhabi Children's Library



## AL HOSN VISITORS

217,426

CULTURAL FOUNDATION

143,608

QASR AL HOSN

58,645

HOUSE OF ARTISANS

16,774

BAIT AL GAHWA

INCLUDING  
ABU DHABI  
CHILDREN'S LIBRARY

67,770





# QASR AL HOSN

Transformed into a museum in 2018 following more than eleven years of intensive conservation and restoration work, Qasr Al Hosn is a national monument that encapsulates the development of Abu Dhabi from a settlement reliant on fishing and pearling in the 18th century, to a modern, global metropolis, with displays of artefacts and archival materials dating back to as far as 6,000 BCE. Comprising of two major iconic buildings: The Inner Fort (originally constructed in 1795) and the Outer Palace (1939-45), they are major reference points to the history of Abu Dhabi, telling the story of the city, its people, their history and modern heritage.

Over the centuries, it has been home to the ruling family, the seat of government, a consultative council and a national archive; it now stands as the nation’s living memorial and

the narrator of Abu Dhabi’s history, providing insights into the lives of who lived there; and the story of the conservation and restoration of the fort’s structures. This story is brought to life by media ranging from artefacts, archival materials, audio-visuals and interactive experiences.

The programme of Qasr Al Hosn is designed to promote this narrative through a wide range of events and activations, as well as serve as a platform to celebrate the intangible heritage of the United Arab Emirates by highlighting elements on UNESCO’s Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity, offering demonstrations and performances of Al-Ayyala, Al-Razfa, Majlis, Gahwa, Al-Taghrooda, Falconry and marine traditions.

## NATIONAL CONSULTATIVE COUNCIL BUILDING

National Consultative Council building is a symbol of the federalisation and unity of the United Arab Emirates, while the House of Artisans promotes and preserves the intangible heritage of the nation. The Cultural Foundation was the country’s first cultural centre and became the home of cultural and social life in modern Abu Dhabi.





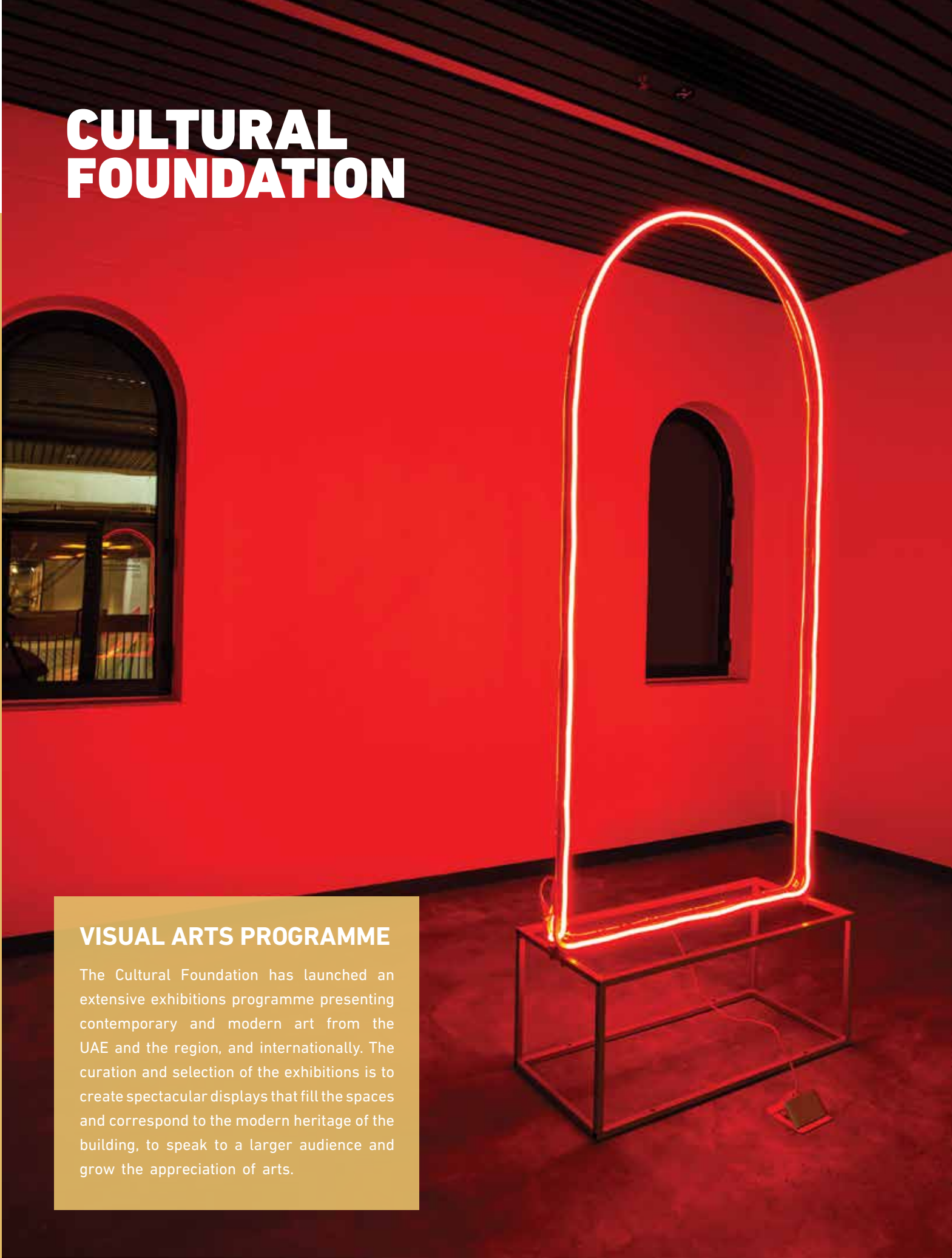
# HOUSE OF ARTISANS



House of Artisans aims to sustain and promote Emirati culture and heritage to protect and support the intangible heritage of the United Arab Emirates, the traditional Emirati handicrafts and the artisans who practice them, by bringing traditional crafts to the heart of contemporary culture through a programme designed to encourage knowledge transfer, promote cross-cultural collaborations.

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. Because of the United Arab Emirates' diverse landscapes – from the desert, to the oases, to the coast and sea, artisans have developed skills to meet functional and economic needs. Passed from generation to generation, this intangible heritage now preserves not only the practical skills but also the shared social values associated with Emirati identity.

# CULTURAL FOUNDATION



## VISUAL ARTS PROGRAMME

The Cultural Foundation has launched an extensive exhibitions programme presenting contemporary and modern art from the UAE and the region, and internationally. The curation and selection of the exhibitions is to create spectacular displays that fill the spaces and correspond to the modern heritage of the building, to speak to a larger audience and grow the appreciation of arts.

Zayed Temash, Cultural Foundation Art Residency Programme

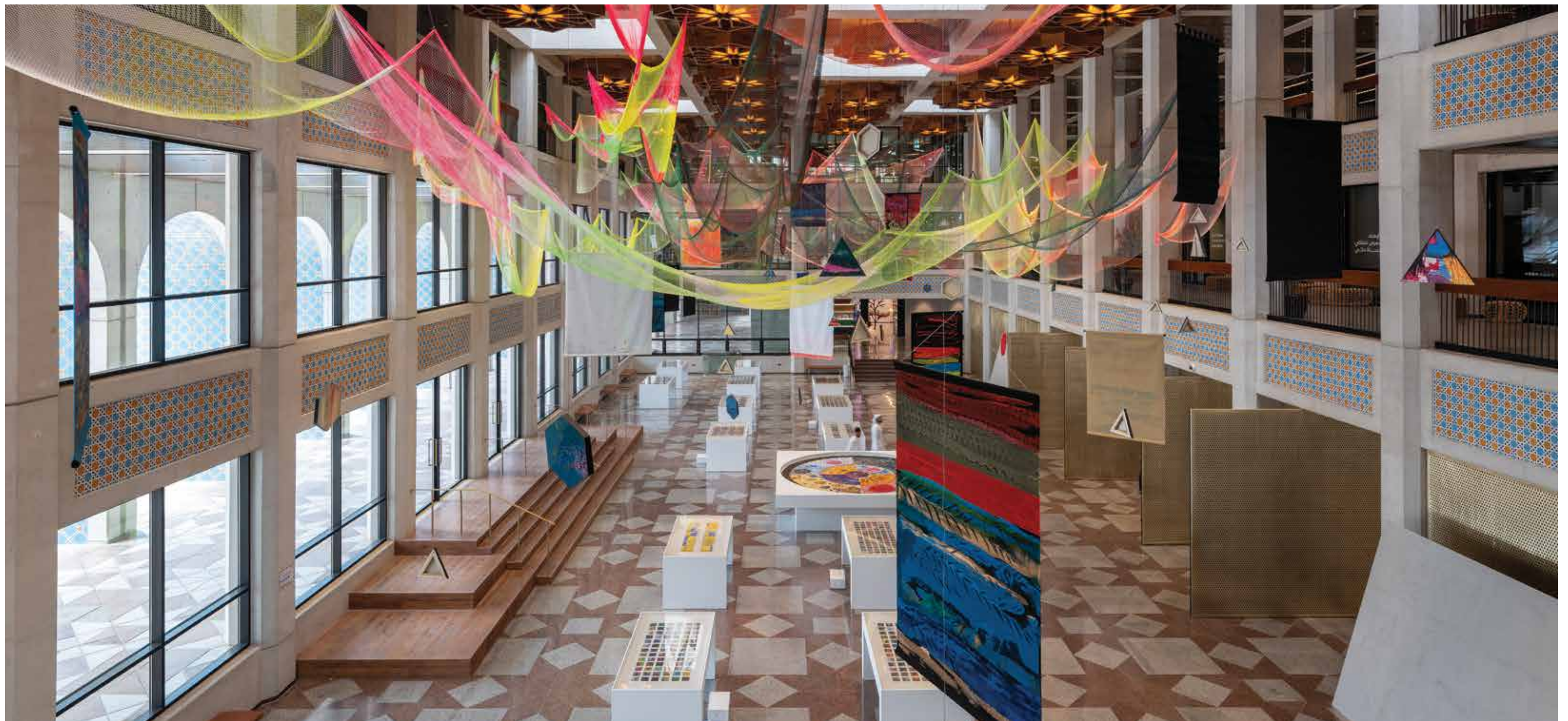


# EXHIBITIONS

## Najat Makki: Luminescence

Retrospective of the UAE artist Najat Makki at the Cultural Foundation reopening

The debut solo exhibition at the Cultural Foundation presented the spectrum of work of one of the leading painters of the UAE, Najat Makki and her variation of her abstract styles across nearly 40 years of her practice. The works showed Makki as a contemporary open and experimental artist, influenced by her studies, travels and social issues. It was divided into seven sections and presented an innovative hanging of her works from the ceiling.





# The Tribute: A dedication to Najat Makki

Cultural Foundation community exhibition

‘The Tribute: A dedication to Najat Makki’ community exhibition commissioned and showed works by 19 Emirati artists who appreciated her artistic practice and techniques, while honouring her contributions as an influential member of the artistic scene in the United Arab Emirates.



# Step into a Story Abu Dhabi Children’s Library exhibition

The Abu Dhabi Children’s Library opening exhibition, ‘Step into a Story’, translated the ‘learning through play’ process with pop-up and interactive books, by Emirati authors and from around the world.



# CULTURAL FOUNDATION ART RESIDENCY PROGRAMME

The Cultural Foundation has dedicated studio spaces for a comprehensive art residency programme to support and advance professional artists, who are nationals or residents of the United Arab Emirates to produce and exhibit work with unparalleled visibility and endorsement. The artists in residence from the first year of the programme — Ayesha Haddir, Ahmad Saeed Al Areef Al Dhaheri, Saoud Al Dhaheri and Zayed Temash — exhibited their work in the dedicated studio spaces from 4 September to 20 December 2019.



Ayesha Haddir, Cultural Foundation Art Residency Programme



Saoud Al Dhaheri, Cultural Foundation Art Residency Programme



Saoud Al Dhaheri, Cultural Foundation Art Residency Programme





# MANARAT AL SAADIYAT

Manarat Al Saadiyat is a cultural community centre that brings people together through art and programmes aimed at inspiring young creatives.





# Popular Culture and the City

This exhibition presented works from the collection of the Department of Culture and Tourism - Abu Dhabi which embody the meaning of popular culture and its synchronistic relationship with the city. The exhibition gave the audience first-hand access to the Department's collection, which included artworks by Alighiero Boetti, Erwin Wurm, Fabrice Hybert, Frank Stella, Hassan Sharif, Jacques Villeglé, Jean-Michel Basquiat, Jeff Koons, Keith Haring, Rokni Haerizadeh, Robert Hammond, Robert Therrien, Wafa Hourani and Taysir Batniji.



# Ramadan Arcade

Ramadan Arcade brought the community together for eight days to enjoy the late hours of Suhoor, through a variety of activities to entertain, educate and inspire creativity. The event embraced cultural traditions in a contemporary setting and invited the community to come together. A series of talks highlighted Majlis traditions, Gahwa importance as well the use of photography in astronomy. The initiative aimed to celebrate the Holy month of Ramadan with Manarat Al Saadiyat community.

# Ramadan Music Celebration Training Programme and Ibtihalat Vocal Concert

Bait Al Oud played a central part in the Ramadan programme at Manarat Al Saadiyat. The participation of Bait Al Oud included open classes and jam sessions as well as a concert inspired by the Holy Month of Ramadan, with teachers and students of Bait Al Oud.



Bait Al Oud Ibtihalat Concert



# MAS Mash: Arab animation

'MAS Mash': Arab animation: brought together animators, studios and illustrators to showcase and celebrate Arab animation. The event included unique talks, screenings, workshops, exhibits and retail, providing a holistic look at the field as both a practice and a form of cultural entertainment. Visitors also experienced the nostalgia of Japanese Arab-dubbed anime from the 1980s, with screenings and voice actors at the event. Workshops by the Art Studio also allowed visitors to get creative with animation and illustration techniques.



# Global Re:Mix

This community event celebrated the multicultural city of Abu Dhabi by bringing together various cultural expressions in a festival format. It featured art, culture and culinary experience and enabled visitors to immerse themselves in different experiences. Through various artistic mediums, Global Re:Mix showed how culture can be preserved in an ever-changing world.





# ART STUDIO



Art Studio is a multidisciplinary 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 United Arab Emirates. 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.

# PHOTOGRAPHY STUDIO

Manarat Al Saadiyat launched its Photography Studio in 2018. The studio encourages the participation of all photographers through its community-driven exhibitions. It also develops and promotes a year-round calendar of activities and programmes. The Photography Studio is committed to developing and enhancing the professional growth of talent in Abu Dhabi and beyond.



**‘Above: Aerial Photography Exhibition’**

‘Above: Aerial Photography Exhibition’ was the Photography Studio’s first exhibition of 2019, and also the first ‘drone’ exhibition in Abu Dhabi, featuring Emirati, regional and international artists.

## Unseen

‘Unseen’, a solo exhibition by Emirati photographer Yousef Al Habshi, in collaboration with Nikon and National Geographic Al Arabiya Magazine. ‘Unseen’ demonstrated the artistry behind photographing delicate living forms, and the techniques used to magnify them and transform them into artistic pieces.



### EXHIBITIONS

Above: Aerial Photography  
The Unseen: Yousef Al Habshi  
East to East: Mous Lamrabat

### TALKS

Beautiful Earth: Landscape Photography with Nikon  
Nature & Wildlife with Nikon  
Aerial Photography  
Mous Lamrabat  
Yousef Al Habshi & National Geographic  
ADgrammers: iPhone vs DSLR





# AL QATTARA ARTS CENTRE

Opened in 2011, Al Qattara Arts Centre was developed around the earlier Bayt bin Ati Al Darmaki, a traditional mud-brick tower and house located on a mound overlooking the date palm gardens of Qattara Oasis. Qattara Archaeological Basement is a permanent multimedia exhibition, opened in 2018, presenting the archaeology revealed during the construction of the Arts Centre. With carefully restored traditional local architecture, the centre's mandate is to provide a venue where arts and culture can be studied, practised and developed by the community. The centre organises a year-long public engagement programme to nurture the artistic scene and to develop talent.







# Studio 6 Artists in Residence

Two artists were each offered free space for two months to create a collection of two to four artworks inspired by the city of Al Ain. They each curated two workshops and the resulting artworks were shown in a small exhibition to showcase people’s artistic achievements at the centre. The programme supported Emirati artists and allowed the artists in residence to share their experiences. The artists in residence were Hamdan Buti Al Shamsi and Saoud Al Dhaheri, both born in Al Ain.



# Ramsah programme by New York University Abu Dhabi

The sixth edition of Ramsah, New York University Abu Dhabi’s Emirati dialect course was hosted by the Al Qattara Arts Centre. Eleven students pledged to communicate exclusively in Emirati Arabic for three weeks. The course aimed to provide an immersive experience for students. During the three weeks, the students lived with Emirati families, met Emirati artists and prepared a performance in the Emirati dialect.



# Family Day

A family-oriented programme to create artistic engagement for the whole family, allowing them to gather create and share artworks. The programme promoted Al Qattara Arts Centre to the community. People of determination were also invited to join the event, in co-operation with the Al Ain Centre for Care and Rehabilitation.



# Al Qattara Cinema

The Al Qattara Cinema programme introduced audiences and film fans to independent films from the region and the Arab world. In 2019, it included films produced by Emirati, Arab and international film-makers in all genres, from shorts to features to documentaries to fiction. Viewers experienced an offering different to that of the films in commercial cinemas.







# BAIT AL OUD

Bait Al Oud preserves the songs and techniques of the oud but also other Arabic instruments such as the qanun, cello, violin and rebabah. As a centre of teaching and research, it aims to preserve Arabic musical heritage while also nurturing a new generation of professional musicians. The centre also encourages craftsmanship, making ouds by hand and even developing new adaptations of the oud, one of the oldest string instruments in the world.





# Bait Al Oud Concert Series

Bait Al Oud Abu Dhabi aims to preserve and develop the practice of Arabic music through a classical music concert series and at the same time to promote Bait Al Oud as an international high-profile music academy.

## OTHER BAIT AL OUD CONCERT SERIES PROGRAMMES:

- Bait Al Oud Concert with Carlos Pinana**  
21 February, Manarat Al Saadiyat
- Bait Al Oud Melodies Concert**  
21 November, Manarat Al Saadiyat
- Bait Al Oud concert with Naseer Shamma:**  
28 November, Qasr Al Muwajji, Al Ain
- Bait Al Oud, oud graduation concert with Yamen Alawar, Galal Kassam and Tawfik Zrek**  
27 November, Manarat Al Saadiyat
- Bait Al Oud, vocal graduation concert with Sarah Shawky**  
26 September, Manarat Al Saadiyat

## BAIT AL OUD GRADUATION CONCERTS



**VOCAL**  
Sarah Shawky



**LOUD**  
Yamen Alawar, Galal Kassam and Tawfik Zrek



## BAIT AL OUD MELODIES CONCERT

Teachers and musicians from Bait Al Oud performed as part of the Abu Dhabi Art programme. Other musicians invited to perform included the Egyptian Jazz Piano Player Faisal Fouad and the Iraqi oud star Sadiq Jafaar.

## BAIT AL OUD CONCERT WITH NASEER SHAMMA

Oud legend Naseer Shamma performed live in Qasr Al Muwajji in Al Ain with the talented graduates of Bait Al Oud and its distinguished instructors.



BAIT  
AL OUD  
IN  
2019



+20

CONCERTS, WORKSHOPS  
AND PROGRAMMES  
IN THE UNITED ARAB EMIRATES  
AND INTERNATIONALLY



4

STUDENTS  
GRADUATED



3

LOUD



1

VOCAL



199

STUDENTS  
REGISTERED



# 2019 COLLECTIONS



Number of new records added

12,475

Number of new records updated

440,760

Recording collections on EMu (Electronic Museum), the collection management system used to record DCT Abu Dhabi collections.



# CULTURAL HERITAGE



CHAPTER





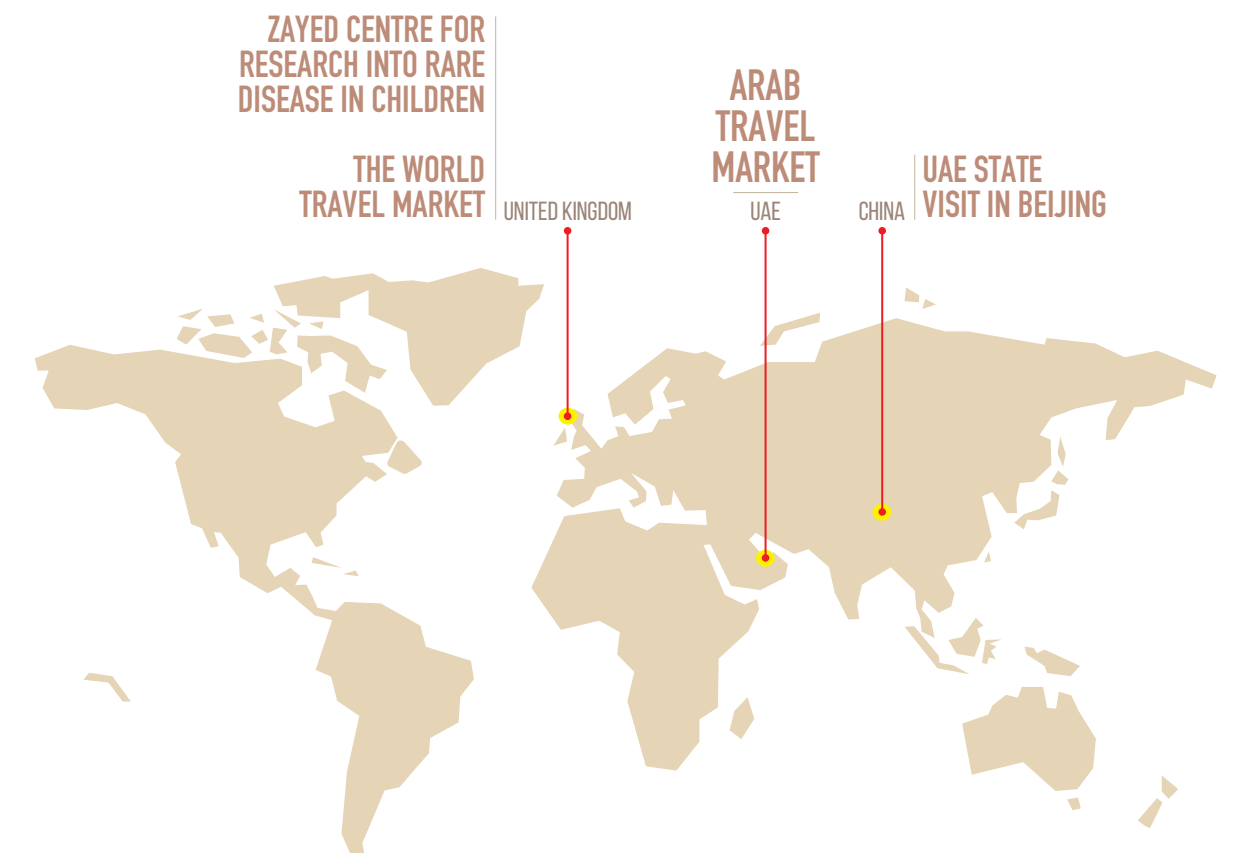
# INTANGIBLE HERITAGE

## BAIT AL GAHWA

In December 2015, Arabic coffee, or Gahwa, was inscribed on UNESCO's Representative List of Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity. Bait Al Gahwa is a platform designed to showcase an interactive experience through recreating traditional coffee preparation and presentation practices of Gahwa. Each step throughout the experience, including serving, has distinctive techniques, traditional tools and unique etiquette to the United Arab Emirates.



## 2019 BAIT AL GAHWA REPRESENTATIONS





# NATIONAL TRADITIONAL HANDICRAFTS FESTIVAL

The 6th National Traditional Handicrafts Festival was held from 30 October to November 16, 2019 at Al Qattara Heritage Souq in Al Ain. The festival is part of the strategy adopted by the Department of Culture and Tourism - Abu Dhabi to preserve vital components of Emirati cultural heritage, especially heritage associated with traditional crafts and industries. In 2019, the festival supported the promotion of date palm products through the exhibition of dates and the tools used to care for them. 120 practicing families were given support through exhibiting and marketing their traditional products to more than 105,000 visitors who attended this year. The festival also featured a variety of cultural events and activities to help in preserving Emirati cultural heritage and transmitting it to future generations. Featured events and activities included traditional performances such as Al-Ayyala, Al-Razfa and Al-Azi, in addition to educational workshops for children on traditional crafts and industries such as Al-Sadu, wicker weaving and pottery. There were also workshops to introduce falconry and ways of developing the skills of young generations in this traditional sport. A number of poetry evenings were also held in order to highlight traditional Emirati literature.





# ARCHAEOLOGICAL DISCOVERIES

Excavations across Abu Dhabi have resulted in a number of archaeological discoveries. These discoveries, made from the coast to the inland oases of Al Ain, highlight the rich and deep history of Abu Dhabi. From uncovering the earliest stone structures yet known on the western island of Ghagha to excavating the remarkably preserved 3,000-year buildings of Hili in Al Ain, the Department of Culture and Tourism - Abu Dhabi continues to add new evidence that enriches the understanding of Abu Dhabi's cultural heritage.



## MARAWAH ISLAND

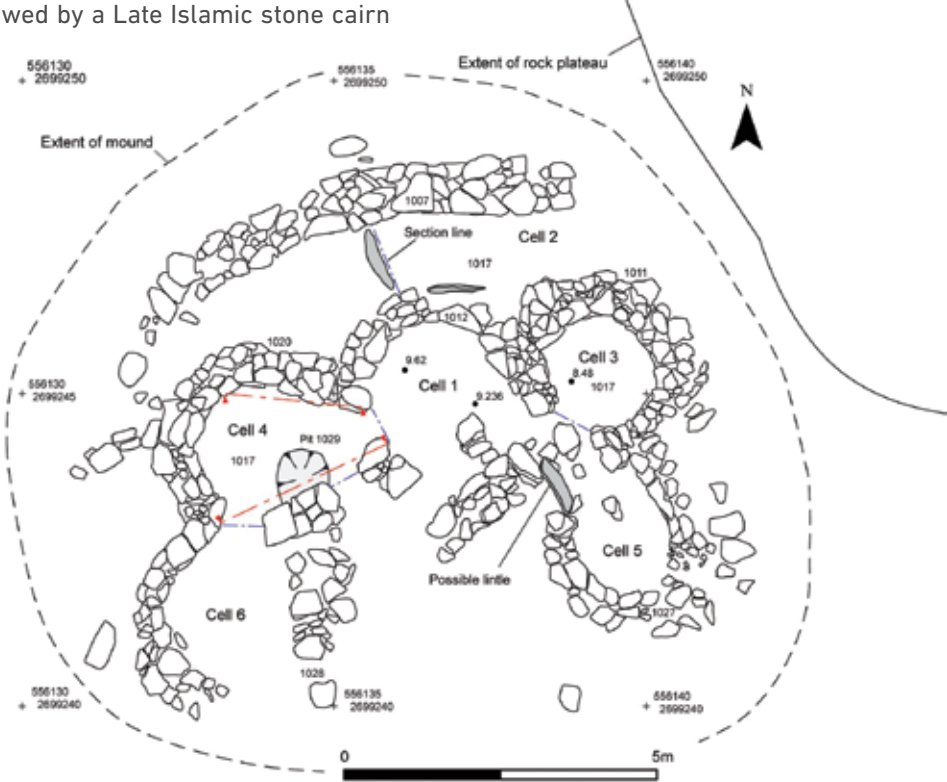
Discovered in 1992, the Neolithic settlement of Marawah continues to reveal new secrets.

Radiocarbon dating shows that the site was occupied around 8,000 to 6,500 years ago. In the most recent excavation, two areas have been focused upon. In Area A, excavations revealed part of a nearly 8,000-year-old stone tri-partite building. It was within this building that the Marawah vessel, now displayed in the Louvre Abu Dhabi was found. In 2019, a multi room building was further investigated in Area B. Two pearls had been previously found in this building. The better-preserved example known as the 'Abu Dhabi Pearl' was displayed in the '10,000 Years of Luxury' exhibition at Louvre Abu Dhabi and is now part of the touring exhibit to soon appear in the Musee des Arts Decoratifs in Paris. The results so far obtained from the Marawah excavations provide valuable new insights into the architecture and planning of Arabian Neolithic settlements in the region, as well as the earliest known evidence for pearling. In combination with the discoveries from Ghagha island, a new chapter is being written in our understanding of Abu Dhabi's first settlements.

## GHAGHA ISLAND

In 2019, excavations and survey began on Ghagha island as part of a Capital Project to produce a Site Master Plan for the whole island. This work includes the investigation of key archaeological sites to develop a better understanding of the chronology and characterisation of human settlement on the island, as well as the conservation and restoration of the traditional houses located on the southern and north-western coasts. The investigations of one of the archaeological sites revealed a highly significant prehistoric site of national importance. Excavations at site GHG0014 revealed a structure with at least three phases, consisting of a Neolithic stone-built multi-celled structure, followed by a later burial of a juvenile which possibly dates to the Bronze Age, followed by a Late Islamic stone cairn

mound. Radiocarbon samples from this site indicate the original building dates as early as 6,500 BCE. This makes it the earliest stone structure building yet discovered in the United Arab Emirates. This discovery combines with evidence from islands like Marawah, to indicate that there is a distinct Neolithic culture, located on the islands of Abu Dhabi, which includes the earliest known villages in the Arabian Gulf. These pioneering settlements appear to be focused on utilizing the rich economic resources of the Arabian Gulf for both sustenance and trade. Continuing work on these sites has the potential to fundamentally alter our perspective of early human history in the Arabian Gulf and beyond.





# HUDAYRIAT ISLAND SURVEY

In advance of development of the island by Modon Properties, a comprehensive archaeological survey and mapping was carried out of Hudayriat Island between 2017 and 2019. This provided an opportunity to balance the need for preserving archaeological sites with the desire to develop the island into a residential and leisure destination. A series of more than 20 well-preserved pearl oyster shell middens with associated Late Islamic period pottery were discovered on the south coast of the island. These represent traces of historic settlement on the island when the population was involved with pearling, one of the traditional economic activities of Abu Dhabi. The Department of Culture and Tourism - Abu Dhabi has been working with Modon, Hilalco and the Department of Municipalities and Transport to ensure the protection of these sites and to advise on the proposed heritage trail for future visitors. This will allow people to visit the sites and understand more about the importance of pearling in Abu Dhabi's recent past.

Archaeological areas in Hudayriat Island



# AL AIN: UNESCO WORLD HERITAGE SITE



## HILI 2

Hili 2 is part of the UNESCO World Heritage Site in Al Ain. It consists of several well-preserved Iron Age (c. 1000 BCE) houses. A project to conserve and present the site to the public was initiated in 2019. To help this goal, archaeologists carried out several excavations in 2018 and 2019. These revealed new details in the structures' construction techniques, including the finger impressions to bond the bricks and the mortar. In addition to Iron Age ceramics, a stamp seal depicted the clear impression of a gazelle. Of particular note was the discovery of several complete Iron Age tannours, or clay cooking ovens. This information will provide the framework to further expand our understanding of not only Hili 2 but also the construction and function of Iron Age settlements within the United Arab Emirates. The project also serves as an exemplar of how archaeology and conservation complement each other to provide opportunities for public engagement with important cultural remains.



# HILI 14

Hili 14 is one of the largest Iron Age fortified settlements in the United Arab Emirates, forming a core component of the UNESCO World Heritage Site of Al Ain. It had been noted as an important archaeological site already in the 1980s but remained un-investigated. In 2019, research began at the site so as to determine its function and its relationship to nearby archaeological sites. Using technologies that were unavailable in the 1980s, the extent remains of the site were mapped, and targeted excavations were carried out at several locations. These revealed a well-preserved building. Excavations and survey away from the site indicated the existence of several previously undiscovered buildings. A picture is now emerging of a 3,000-year-old village which is connected with the nearby ancient falaj system. In revealing more on the history of settlement, falaj irrigation, and agriculture the excavations are thus playing an important role in augmenting emphasising a key feature of the UNESCO World Heritage Site of Al Ain.



# AL NAQFA

Situated immediately to the south of Al Ain Oasis, Al Naqfa Ridge is a component of the UNESCO World Heritage Site of Al Ain. Archaeological investigations in 2004 revealed the remains of Islamic period fortifications at the northern end of the ridge. An initial survey of the site identified significant quantities of Islamic period and Iron Age II period pottery. Fieldwork started in February 2019 with the aim of gaining a greater understanding of when the site was first settled. In particular, excavations sought to identify secure prehistoric deposits and to assess their relationship to the more recent occupation. The work is on-going but will illuminate shifting patterns of land use on the edge of the Al Ain oasis over a period of three millennia and further enrich the historical narrative of the oasis and its associated settlement.



# AL AIN OASIS

The historic Al Ain Oasis sprawls across 3,000 acres and provides a unique insight into the region’s inhabitants who began taming the desert 4,000 years ago. The Al Ain Oasis has been a UNESCO World Heritage Site since 2011, but only recently, with the construction of an educational eco-centre and an extensive system of shaded pathways that wind through some 147,000 date palms, is it open to the public. The site houses up to 100 different varieties of vegetation that surround the impressive oasis, with widespread plantations that are also working farms.

TOTAL VISITORS TO THE SITES



141,039



## AGRICULTURE PRACTICES AT THE OASIS

This weekly programme for students highlights the important role the Oasis plays in the history of the city. Activities included the study of plants and seeds, the ancient falaj irrigation system, agricultural practices, and social life in the oasis. It also raised awareness of Emirati traditions in general, particularly those central to the fabric of Al Ain’s community.



## WEEKENDS AT THE OASIS

Running throughout the winter months, this popular weekend programme features a variety of engaging programmes for visitors that raise awareness of the importance of Al Ain Oasis as part of a UNESCO World Heritage Site.



## HANDICRAFTS AT THE OASIS

Run by the oasis artisans, this programme highlighted different community handicrafts in and around the oasis. Held every Wednesday, students participated in hands-on handicraft workshops and guided tours of the Oasis.





# HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT

CONSERVATION OF BIN AATI MOSQUE



BEFORE



AFTER

## CONSERVATION CYCLES 2019

Conservation cycles are the Department of Culture and Tourism - Abu Dhabi's management model to plan, implement, follow up and report on all the conservation sites actions within Abu Dhabi. Every year, two conservation cycles are implemented across the emirate based on the assessment done at the beginning of each cycle and include holistic conservation and task-based interventions.

### Holistic Conservation and Task-based Conservation

**Holistic conservation** aims to implement comprehensive curative and preventive measures to the site with possibility to open it to public.

**Task-based conservation** deals with a particular case or issue on a cultural heritage site, based on emergency, urgency and needs through applying a specific and targeted curative or preventive measures.

## 2019 CONSERVATION WORKS

HOLISTIC CONSERVATION COMPLETED ON 4 SITES

HOLISTIC CONSERVATION BEGAN IN 8 SITES, TO BE COMPLETED IN 2020

TASK-BASED CONSERVATION COMPLETED ON 16 SITES WITH 80 CONSERVATION TASKS



## HISTORIC URBAN LANDSCAPE WORKSHOP

The Department of Culture and Tourism - Abu Dhabi organised a workshop on Historic Urban Landscape, with the participation of local and international archaeologists and heritage experts. The aim of the workshop was to enhance the efforts of heritage conservation operations, by merging and consolidating joint endeavours between the various agencies working in the field of preserving Al Ain Cultural Sites listed on the UNESCO World Heritage List. The Historic Urban Landscape methodology promotes the concept that cultural and natural heritage should lead the process of modernisation and development in cities through coordination between all bodies and institutions responsible for setting and implementing development plans. The application of the methodology has resulted in many benefits, including improved economic and societal conditions, increased competitiveness, sustainable development that takes into account the needs of all segments of the population, and encouraging the participation of all stakeholders in the planning and development process. It also stresses the inclusion of culture and heritage in the mainstream planning initiatives and the use of this methodology as a compass for future development in Al Ain. The main incentive for this methodology is to find a way to reconcile the need for the protection of archaeological sites with urban development in historic cities.



## CONSERVATION OF AL JAHILI MOSQUE

Located to the south west beyond the walls of Al Jahili Fort, the mosque is probably contemporary with the inner fort built by Sheikh Zayed the First at the end of the nineteenth century. The mosque, in its entirety, reflects the traditional style of the historic mosques in the Al Ain area, which are characterised by their simplicity. The mosque comprises of a single room with an open arcade on the eastern side and can be entered from an enclosed courtyard. Within the courtyard stands a low platform from which the call

to prayer was made, along with a small room, which was originally probably used for ritual ablutions. The historic fabric of the building survives intact below a new layer of mud plaster added during its conservation process. The Department of Culture and Tourism - Abu Dhabi completed repairs and restoration of the building. Ablutions, lighting and cooling were also introduced. In 2019, the mosque was opened officially to the community for prayer.





# COLLECTIONS

The Department of Culture and Tourism - Abu Dhabi manages and cares for over 40,000 artworks and artefacts in its collections across all cultural sites. The Department has also put in place processes and procedures to manage loans, acquisitions, storage and display. It also ensures that the collections are kept in the appropriate environment for their long-term preservation, and that they are put on exhibition in the best conditions.



Early oil exploration. Photograph from the Ronald Codrai historical photograph collection. Shows Ronald Codrai with Sheikh Shakhbut bin Sultan Al Nahyan

## DIGITISING DCT ABU DHABI COLLECTION

The Ronald Codrai collection of historical photographs comprises more than 4,500 images, taken throughout the United Arab Emirates area in the years between 1945 and 1954. These images have been digitised and added to EMu (DCT Abu Dhabi's collections management database).

Once the images are digitised and uploaded on the collections management database with the associated details and information, they can be readily accessed by researchers, curators and cultural practitioners. They can also be promptly and easily used in exhibitions to produce graphics, as well as publications, without any additional processes or consultations. It is also an essential tool to document and preserve the tangible and intangible cultural heritage of Abu Dhabi.



Stone lid found at Bida bint Saud tomb 1  
Iron Age  
Diameter: 6 cm

## EMU AND REGISTRATION PROCESSES DEVELOPMENT

The number of objects in the collections that are on EMu has been increased with the creation of 12,475 new records during the year. There have also been 440,760 individual record updates. These figures include extensive numbers of objects from the archaeology, manuscripts and photographic and archive collections that have been added to the collections management system. Axiell Go, a portable version of EMu in the form of a mobile phone compatible interface has been rolled out, as has a process of bar coding to improve collections location recording for objects in storage.



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# **CULTURAL PROGRAMMES**

CHAPTER





The cultural platforms stimulate creativity as a driver for education and social change. This is achieved through a multi-disciplinary public engagement programme offering an art fair and extended visual arts programme, alongside platforms for performing arts; classical music programmes; Culture Summit and festivals.

Abu Dhabi Art Fair 2019: New Horizons China Today



# ABU DHABI ART



Beyond: Emerging Artists: Ayesha Hadhir, Rawdha Al Ketbi and Shaikha Al Ketbi, *Naseej*, 2019, Archival pigment print, Courtesy Abu Dhabi Art

TOTAL VISITORS 2019  
(INCLUDING YEAR-ROUND AND OFF-SITE PROGRAMMES)

100,831

# ABU DHABI ART FAIR

20-23 NOVEMBER 2019

Abu Dhabi Art expands beyond the scope of a traditional art fair through its diverse public engagement programme, including art installations and exhibitions, talks and events throughout the year in the Emirate of Abu Dhabi. The culmination of this year-long programme is the annual Abu Dhabi Art fair in November, which provides an important sales platform for participating galleries, while also offering them an opportunity to showcase ambitious installations and site-specific works by their artists to a wide audience.

2019 saw the introduction of two new curated gallery sections at the fair that focused on specific geographies, with commercial gallery booths presenting key emerging and established artists from China and India. The guest curated sections drew new audiences, provided thoughtfully curated commercial gallery booths for collectors in attendance and signposted a strategic new focus on visual arts from East and South Asia. Abu Dhabi Art's year-round programme included a curated exhibition with works on loan for the first time from the Al Ain Museum alongside contemporary artists.

The Emerging Artists commissions brought promising Emirati artists to the fore, gaining recognition and a public platform for them through Abu Dhabi Art. Art residencies and a nationwide architecture competition for students where both done in collaboration with key universities. These partnerships encourage new ideas in upcoming artists, designers and architects, as well as building connections with previously untapped audiences.

Abu Dhabi Art also supports local partners in commissioning public artworks for the city. In 2019 six major permanent public artworks were commissioned by Special Olympics World Games Abu Dhabi 2019 to celebrate people of determination as part of the legacy of the Games.

Aldar Properties PJSC (Aldar), in partnership with Abu Dhabi Art, organised by the Department of Culture and Tourism - Abu Dhabi, commissioned two public artworks for the new Reem Central Park as part of its ongoing efforts to enhance Abu Dhabi's urban landscape with public art at its properties across the emirate.

To activate important heritage sites and engage contemporary artists meaningfully in these places, Abu Dhabi Art commissioned Oliver Beer and Leandro Erlich in 2019 to create site-specific works in exhibition for two months in Abu Dhabi and Al Ain. Oliver Beer studied both music and fine art which led to his interest in the relationship between sound and space and the voice of architecture. His installation at UNESCO World Heritage Site of Al Ain Oasis, Al Jahili Fort and Qasr Al Hosn was created in collaboration with over 2,000 children from across Abu Dhabi. The exhibition referenced anthropologist Joseph Campbell's text 'Hero with a Thousand Faces', a comparative mythology questioning the shared narratives to be found across different cultures. Leandro Erlich is a conceptual artist whose work explores the perceptual bases of reality and our capacity to interrogate these same foundations through a visual framework. His installation "The Heart of Water" combines the delicate ephemeral beauty of a cloud with the more rugged play of the surrounding areesh structure and its natural environment, the Al Ain Oasis.



Oliver Beer  
*Recomposition (Lutte)*, 2019  
Oud, sectioned and set in resin;  
Gesso



Leandro Erlich, *The Heart of Water* (2019), Al Ain Oasis, UAE  
Courtesy the artist and GALLERIA CONTINUA,  
San Gimignano / Beijing / Les Moulins / Habana

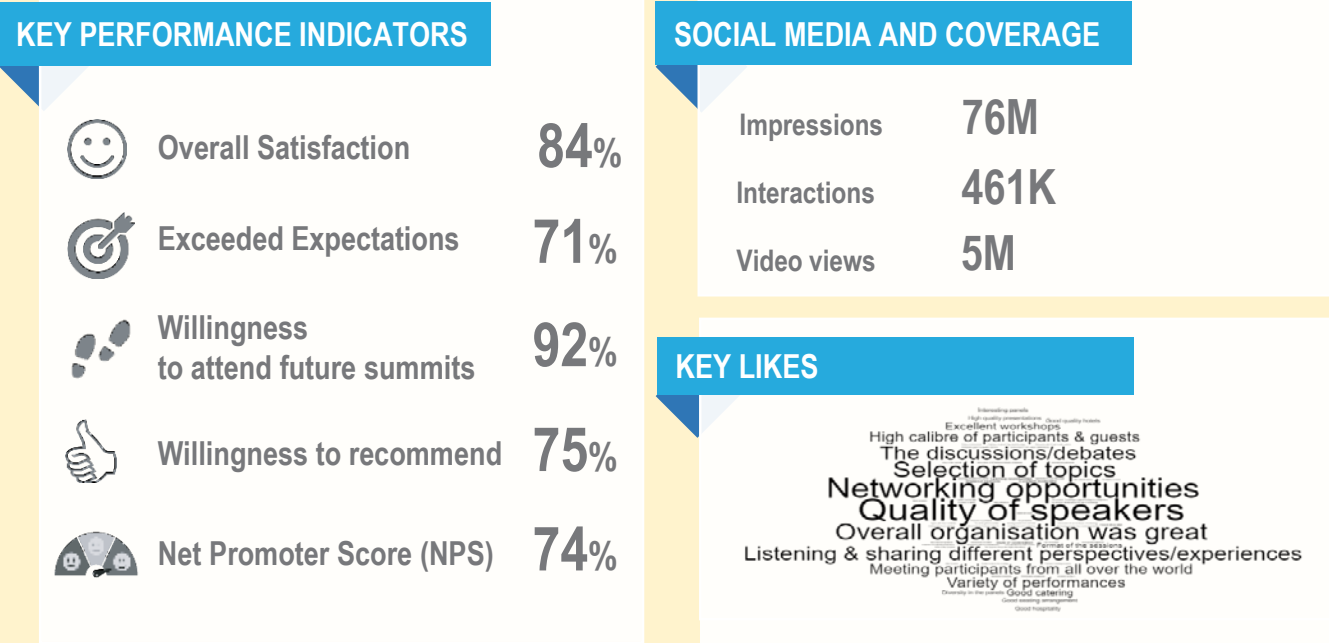
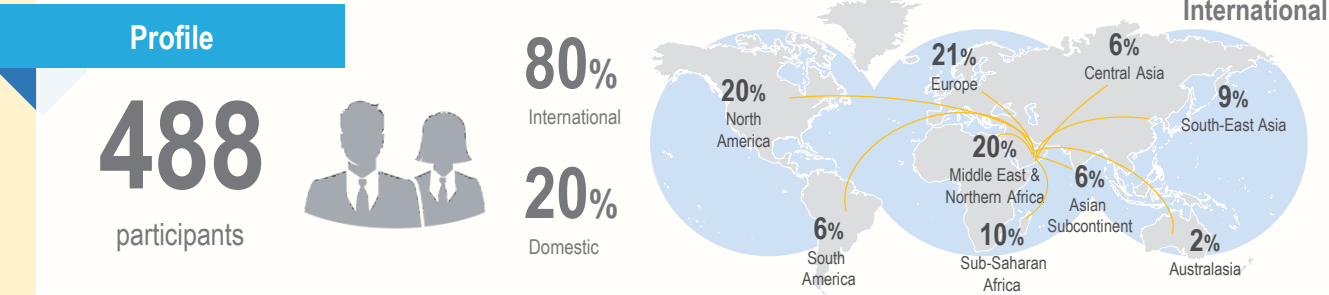




# CULTURE SUMMIT ABU DHABI

MANARAT AL SAADIYAT  
7-11 APRIL 2019

Culture Summit Abu Dhabi is a forum that convenes leaders from the arts, museums, heritage, media, public policy and technology to identify ways in which culture can promote positive change in our global society. Culture Summit Abu Dhabi 2019 was attended by 488 people from more than 90 countries. 2019's theme was 'Cultural Responsibility & New Technology', and the four-day agenda was packed with panel discussions, workshops, performances and interventions, driven by decision-makers and creatives from the arts, government, policy, technology and media. The summit sought policy recommendations and ideas on cultural responsibility and society in the 21st century and showcased creative solutions and new strategies on topics such as cultural diversity, heritage protection, artistic freedom, public art and digital activation. The summit was organised by the Department of Culture and Tourism - Abu Dhabi in collaboration with five global partners, who curated and led on their area of expertise: the Royal Academy of Arts, UNESCO, Guggenheim Museum and Foundation, The Economist Events and Google.



QUOTES FROM THE PARTICIPANTS

"It was such an enriching experience, both personally and professionally....and to meet with people from all over the world, who have a common passion about art, culture and education."  
Participant, France

"It was a remarkable event. Excellent sessions and diverse participants.... it truly can be the Davos of the cultural world."  
Participant, Canada

"The Summit was inspiring; I can still feel the energy that the encounters with old friends and new friends gave me. The panels were extremely interesting. I left with a feeling of optimism-- the sense that we can pool our thoughts and find solutions to the challenges ahead for our heritage and art. Taking part to the Summit was a truly high moment."  
Participant, Switzerland





## GCC HERITAGE AND ORAL HISTORY CONFERENCE

Under the patronage and presence of His Excellency Sheikh Nahyan bin Mubarak Al Nahyan, Minister of Tolerance, the 7th GCC Heritage and Oral History Conference was held in Manarat Al Saadiyat under the theme 'Zayed and Tolerance: Society Culture, Leadership Approach', to mark 2019's designation as the Year of Tolerance. The conference aims to highlight the role of having a common Gulf heritage, in order to enhance the efforts to preserve it, particularly a heritage that is based on oral traditions and the human treasures that bear this heritage.



## INTERNATIONAL PRIZE FOR ARABIC FICTION

The International Prize for Arabic Fiction (IPAF) is the most prestigious and important literary prize in the Arab world. Launched in 2007, its aim is to reward excellence in contemporary Arabic creative writing and to encourage the readership of high-quality Arabic literature internationally through the translation and publication of winning and shortlisted novels in other major languages. This fosters global access to acclaimed Arabic literature. In 2019, authors from 23 countries submitted 134 novels for the prize.

### SHORTLIST

**Hoda Barakat, The Night Mail**  
Lebanon – Dar al-Adab (winner)

**Adel Esmat, The Commandments**  
Egypt – Kotob Khan

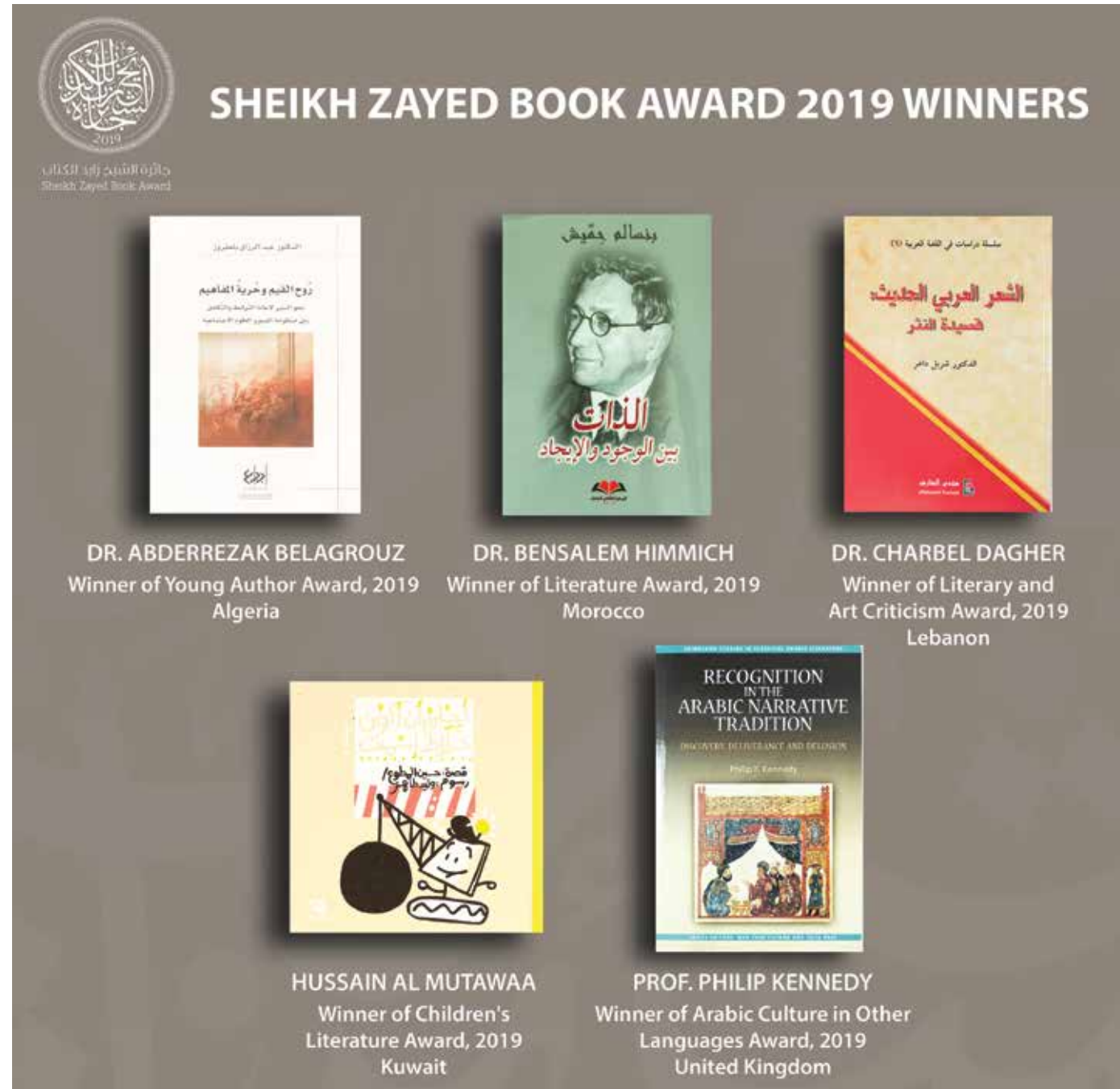
**Inaam Kachachi, The Outcast**  
Iraq – Dar al-Jadid

**Mohammed Al-Maazuz, What Sin Caused Her to Die?**  
Morocco – Cultural Book Centre

**Shahla Ujayli, Summer With the Enemy**  
Syria – Difaf Publishing

**Kafa Al-Zou'bi, Cold White Sun**  
Jordan – Dar al-Adab





## SHEIKH ZAYED BOOK AWARD

The Sheikh Zayed Book Award (SZBA) commemorates the late Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan, Founding Father of the United Arab Emirates 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, it highlights individuals who enhance Arab intellectual, cultural, literary and social life through their writing and translations.

The SZBA is one of the world's leading prizes dedicated to Arabic literature and culture, and has brought recognition, reward and readership to outstanding work and individuals in the fields of literature, academia and publishing since 2006. The award not only recognises major literary and cultural achievements, but also aims to boost the publishing industry. The Sheikh Zayed Translation Fund was launched last year, to help produce more quality Arabic books that are translated, published and distributed outside the Arab World, with a focus on English, German and French languages.



## HIGHLIGHTS

13 cultural seminars organised in major capitals of the world – Moscow, Frankfurt, London and New York

25 per cent increase in nominations from last year – 1,900 in 2019 compared to 1,500 nominations in 2018

7 countries represented by the winners from Lebanon, the United States, Kuwait, United Kingdom, Algeria, Morocco and United Arab Emirates

Agreements in negotiation to fund the translation of seven winning Arabic titles – completion of two. Languages: Russian, Ukrainian, English, French, German and Uzbek

## NEW PARTNERSHIPS

**Russian Academy of Sciences, to translate books from Arabic to Russian and vice versa, with the co-operation of the Federal Agency for Press and Mass Communication**

**Frankfurt Book Fair New York**

**Publishing Perspectives**

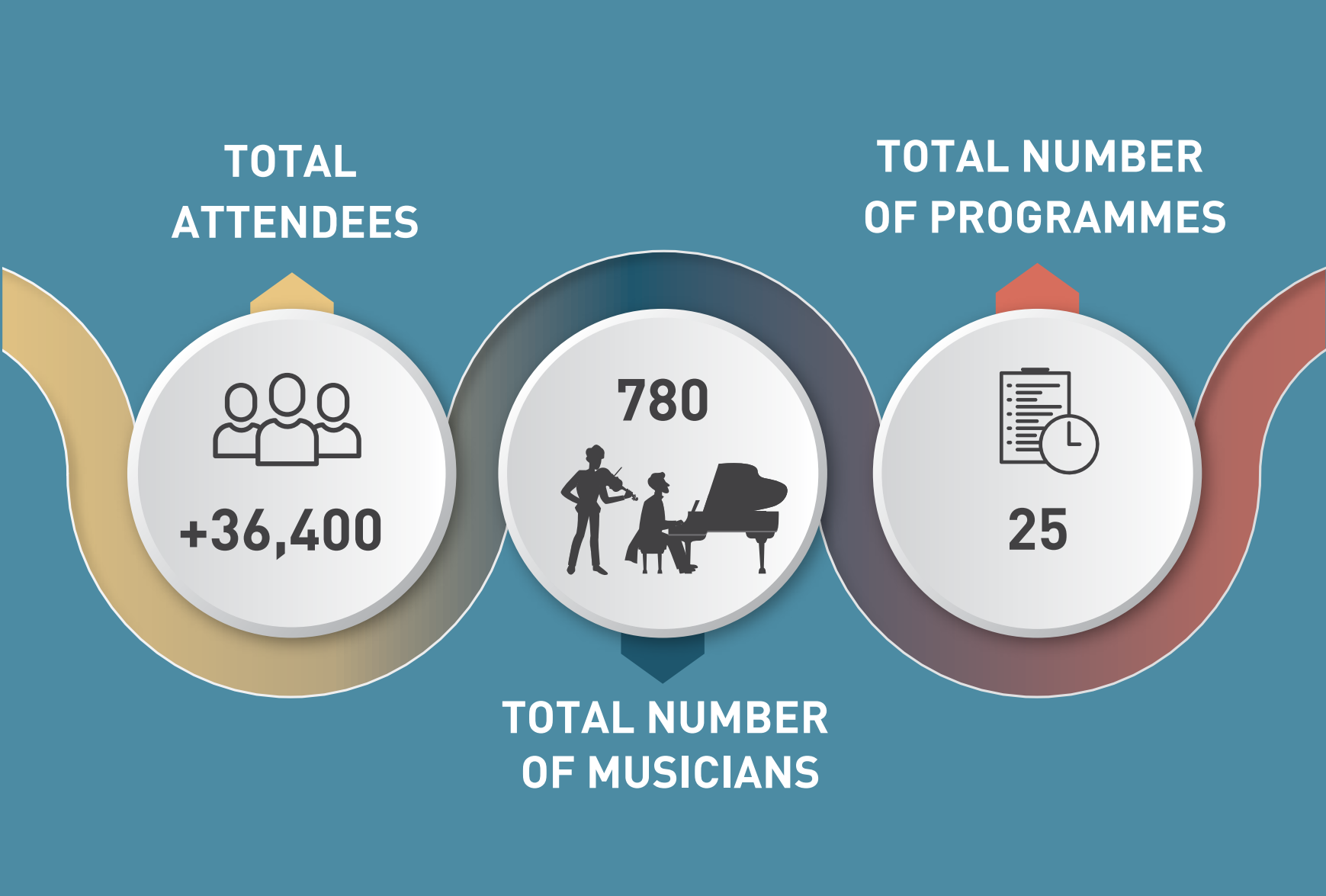
**LitProm in Germany to promote winners in Europe**



# MUSIC PROGRAMMES







# MUSIC PROGRAMMES

The music programmes of DCT Abu Dhabi follow one vision, that irradiates five musical programmes. This vision aims to present high quality musical events in different artistic genres to develop the musical scene in Abu Dhabi, preserve the musical heritage of the United Arab Emirates and encourage the artistic creativity in the Emirate. The general focus is also aimed at the music education for children and adults.

TOTAL CONCERT VISITORS 2019  
 25,132

# ABU DHABI CLASSICS

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

## BAYREUTH FESTIVAL – THE VALKYRIE

For the first time since its launch in 1876, the legendary Bayreuth Festival travelled outside Germany, presenting not only its orchestra but also its singing cast and artistic vision, in a performance under the supervision of Bayreuth Festival Director and great-granddaughter of Richard Wagner, Katharina Wagner.

The two performances at Emirates Palace in the city of Abu Dhabi, marked an artistic milestone, not only for Abu Dhabi Classics, but also for Wagner’s music and the classical music world in general. The opera chosen was Wagner’s Die Walküre (The Valkyrie), the second of the four works that constitute the epic Ring of the Nibelung. The Bayreuth Festival Orchestra played under the direction of Markus Poschner, with the singing cast of the Bayreuth Festival. The performances also marked the world premiere of the Valkyrie-film from director Katharina Wagner, bringing Wagner’s mythological world to life.



## OTHER ABU DHABI CLASSICS PROGRAMMES:

- Ran Jia: Solo Piano Recital, 19 April, Abu Dhabi Theatre
- Russian National Orchestra with Mikhail Pletnev and Lucas Debargue: Works of Tchaikovsky, Glazunov, Shostakovich, 9-11 October, Cultural Foundation Auditorium
- On 9 October, the Russian National Orchestra (RNO) hosted an open rehearsal at the United Arab Emirates University campus in Al Ain





# SOUNDS OF UAE

The Sounds of UAE concert programme aims at safeguarding the musical traditions and heritage of the UAE through regular performances by Emirati musicians. It also aims at encouraging innovation in the Emirati music field and help young artists to build their careers.

## ‘MEMORY OF EMIRATI SONGS 2019’: FATMA ZHRAT AL AIN AND HARBI AL AMRI

LOCATION	VISITORS	VISITORS
 AL QATTARA ARTS CENTRE, AL AIN	 FATMA ZHRAT AL AIN 11,400	 HARBI AL AMRI 13,032

‘Memory of Emirati Songs’ took place as part of the National Traditional Handicrafts Festival.

Fatma Zahrat Al Ain performed Emirati heritage songs as she revived these songs through her choice of words, melodies and orchestration and is a main figure of folkloric music in the United Arab Emirates.

Harbi Al Ameri, born in Al Ain, also sang Emirati heritage songs. He is considered one of the most successful Emirati singers in ‘Shalla’ records and showed again why his songs are among the most sought-after on radio and music programmes. Both concerts were attended by a very important crowd and showed how dynamic Emirati music is today.

Other Sounds of UAE Programmes: To Zayed Salam with Faisal Al Saari & Choir, 23 March, Mother of the Nation Festival



# CULTURAL FOUNDATION CLASSICS

The classic music programme of the Cultural Foundation is a community-based music programme with the objective to support musical innovation in Abu Dhabi.

## Opening concert of Cultural Foundation: 2350 BC Orchestra with Naseer Shamma: ‘From Assyria to Seville’

World-renowned master of the oud Naseer Shamma, who also founded Bait Al Oud, took the stage to open the Cultural Foundation Theatre Auditorium. The concert showcased the crossover of civilisations through the oud and displayed the new instruments of the oud family that were crafted in Bait Al Oud Abu Dhabi. Led by composer Shamma, the 2,350 BC Orchestra took the public on a journey through music, culture and time, in a unique performance of unprecedented musical forms.

### Other Cultural Foundation Classics:

- Bait Al Oud Takht with Naseer Shamma  
The Art of Arabic Classical Music, 6 September
- Tchalik Quartet  
A Family Story I, 17 October
- 3MA: Ballaké Sissoko, Driss El Maloumi and Rajery  
Anarouz (Hope), 29 October
- Moreau Trio  
A Family Story II, 31 October



# UMSIYAT

Umsiyat is a once a Year concert series presenting a cross-cultural musical programme with the addition of poetry elements, delivering a message of co-existence and mutual understanding between people.

**WAED BOUHASSOUN  
'THE PASSION OF  
POETRY',  
8 JANUARY 2019**

Waed Bouhassoun and Bait Al Oud musicians presented a programme featuring love poetry and poetry from the Nabatean age.



Other Sounds of UAE Programmes:  
Mugham Souls with Goshag Askarov and Pierre de Trégomain, 9 January 2019, Cultural Foundation Amphitheatre





## BOOK FAIRS

### ABU DHABI INTERNATIONAL BOOK FAIR



24-30 April 2019

 **149,712**  
(AN INCREASE OF 19% ON 125,954 IN 2018)

 **1,066**  
EXHIBITORS

The Abu Dhabi International Book Fair (ADIBBF) is a popular and long-standing event on the emirate's cultural calendar, reaching its 29th year in 2019. 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 in 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 Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region and the world.

### AL DHAFRA BOOK FAIR

25-29 November 2019

 **3,889**  
(AN INCREASE OF 56 PER CENT ON 2,500 IN 2018)

 **31**  
EXHIBITORS

Al Dhafra aims to support Al Dhafra Region's cultural movement and to bolster its achievements across all fields. The second book fair aimed to enhance opportunities for the publishing industry, pushing it to reach new markets, and to spread a culture of reading and passion for knowledge throughout the United Arab Emirates. Emirati writers were at the forefront of the fair, which encouraged them to explore the ways the cultural and social environment impacts on their creativity and intellectual growth. The event also provided a platform for new authorship experiences, by creating a unique opportunity for visitors to meet their favourite authors at signings.



### AL AIN BOOK FAIR



24 September to 3 October 2019  
Al Ain Conference Centre

 **35,413**  
VISITORS

 **117**  
EXHIBITORS

The Al Ain Book Fair returned for its 11th edition, an event celebrating the Emirati writer.

Attendees had the chance to meet and converse with renowned writers and authors from the United Arab Emirates. Visitors also had the opportunity to learn more about the United Arab Emirates' intangible cultural heritage, through questions and explanations about the contents of the publications.





## ABU DHABI PUBLISHING FORUM

28-30 January 2019  
Manarat Al Saadiyat

The annual Abu Dhabi Publishing Forum enhances joint co-operation and discussions of the most important developments and trends related to publishing, and the challenges involved, while exploring future prospects in this field.

The second edition of the Abu Dhabi Publishing Forum drew more than 55 specialists in the publishing world, from 28 countries across the Arab region and beyond. It included 10 discussion sessions on the reality of publishing and on solutions that can help to overcome the challenges of electronic publishing. There were also five diverse workshops.

## ORIENT PIONEERS: WESTERN TRAVELLERS IN ARABIA

24-25 November 2019  
Cultural Foundation



The 2019 'Orient Pioneers: Western Travellers in Arabia' forum featured 27 speakers from 27 countries, with eight sessions and an exhibition of 129 images. The conference theme was 'Five Centuries of Adventure and Entrepreneurship: Western Travellers in Arabia Exhibition'.

The forum attracted prominent orientalist, scholars of regional history, culture specialists, writers and academics from the United Arab Emirates and around the world. They discussed the writings and experiences of western travellers in the region over the centuries.

The accompanying exhibition featured displays of rare historical images and a range of historical publications and documents on the experiences of western travellers in Arabia.



## ABU DHABI INTERNATIONAL TRANSLATION CONFERENCE

26-27 November 2019  
Cultural Foundation

The 2019 Translation Conference included 34 speakers from 27 countries, eight sessions and four workshops. The seventh edition of the Abu Dhabi International Translation Conference, titled 'Kalima to the World', featured panel discussions and presentations by specialists, academics and publishers on the significance of translation in aiding cultural exchange, alongside a variety of training workshops.



# LIBRARIES



With more footfall to library sites, variety of programmes were created based on the needs of different groups and in partnership with organisations ranging from government departments to cultural and educational centres, social clubs and other community groups who use the libraries for awareness sessions and public education.

Following the principles of tolerance and acceptance of others, projects were co-ordinated with Emirates Red Crescent and the Zakat Fund, to assist families in need and orphans. These initiatives reflected 2019 as the ‘Year of Tolerance’ in the United Arab Emirates. These groups received invitations from the libraries and were offered the full range of services for library patrons. Up to 850 people benefited from these programmes.

**The Bridges of Hope** programme provides cultural, psychological and recreational support for sick children in hospitals across the emirate. As part of the community, the programme gives these children the same level of services as other people, with a focus on accessibility. Sessions such as storytelling, art and other programmes are held in the hospitals.

The ‘Window on Korea’ section at Khalifa Park Library in Abu Dhabi has 1,900 Korean titles, 1,187 titles in English and 60 audible and visual materials in both languages. The collection includes literature, history, education, technology and translation.

The Korean Library introduces Korean culture to Emiratis and United Arab Emirates residents and is updated regularly with the latest books, publications, audible and visual materials. It is also an important source for the Korean expatriate community.

Makerspace was established at Khalifa Park Library in January 2019 to encourage children to take more interest in science, technology, engineering, the arts and mathematics and to encourage innovation.

Children learn through the tools provided and are given the chance to showcase their ideas and to complete whole projects. They are given a community space in which to interact, innovate and curate, expanding their curiosity. By empowering society through knowledge, public libraries play a vital role in national development. Makerspace gives children the opportunity to design, invent and learn through tools and technology, thus helping to create the leaders of the future.

TOTAL PROGRAMMES FOR BRANCHES  51,903

The Department of Culture and Tourism - Abu Dhabi fosters reading among all members of society, regardless of nationalities, by providing access to the latest books and publications, in both Arabic and English. These are organised by community members who decide on their topics, themes and book titles and are supported by the libraries, who provide the space and books. The clubs have between five and 30 members.

The Little Writer in the Big Book Competition, organised by the Department of Culture and Tourism - Abu Dhabi, contributes to the Emirati cultural scene by motivating students to compete in story writing, enriching the imagination and empowering their mental and psychological capacities at this critical childhood stage. The competition focusses on the Arabic language and Dar Al Kutub (the National Library) publishes the winning stories in a book.

*In 2019, there were 422 entrants (compared to 50 in 2012 when the competition first took place) and the book of the winning stories was called Our Sheikhs, Our Role Model.*

The People of Determination Programme provides activities in the libraries and social and psychological support to parents of people of determination. The initiative gives these people the same rights and benefits as regular citizens, providing them with equal opportunities to attend workshops and events relevant to their capabilities. There is training to support them through personal development, with workshops, initiatives and competitions throughout the year, both in and outside of the libraries.

**The numbers of visitors and activities have increased significantly in the last few years – from 133 people of determination visitors and 12 activities in 2017, to 1,603 visitors and 77 activities in 2019.**

Community Schools are provided by Abu Dhabi Department of Education and Knowledge and enable the community to use school facilities for sports, entertainment and education. The initiative is a partnership effort in which the libraries provide visits and programmes.

In 2019, there were 1,325 visitors to Community Schools and 83 activities.

## LIBRARIES PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

TOTAL LIBRARIANS IN ATTENDANCE: 753  753

This programme focused on the professional development of teachers and librarians in schools, universities and other institutions. The aim was to enhance and strengthen their expertise while supporting efforts to remain up-to-date with developments in their field. Specialists passed on their expertise to trainees.



## ‘CODICES OF MEXICO: THE OLD BOOK OF THE NEW WORLD’

This exhibition showed the ancestral wisdom of the original people of Mexico. The codices are one of the most important sources in approaching the ancient cultures of Mexico, as they are a memory of the high degree of cultural, scientific and artistic development of its native people. Elaborated on different materials such as amate paper, skin, maguey fibre, cotton and European paper, they represent complex systems of beliefs and knowledge that cover all areas of life: geographical, historical, economic, calendrical and symbolic records.



## MOSAIC OF MARKS, WORDS, MATERIAL:

14 OCTOBER TO 15 NOVEMBER 2019

VISITORS  2,700

This exhibition was organised with civic centres in the Italian city of Reggio Emilia and presented drawing as the language through which children express themselves and tell their stories. The exhibition highlighted the art of smart mosaics, as it included several artworks that tell remarkable stories.



### LIBRARIES STATISTICS

Preparation of 47,303 titles in 60,541 volumes for the new Qasr Al Watan collection.  
42,677 titles in 93,347 volumes, catalogues or re-catalogued.

Books  
acquired  
in print

7,768 TITLES IN 36,900 VOLUMES: ARABIC  
8,080 TITLES IN 19,038 VOLUMES: ENGLISH  
CULTURAL FOUNDATION LIBRARY: ACQUISITION OF 8,352 TITLES  
10 MAIN SUBSCRIPTIONS WITH MORE THAN 30 DATABASES  
160 PERIODICAL SUBSCRIPTIONS



# LIBRARIES PROGRAMMES 2019

### Heritage Programme

18 January 2019

'Heritage Pulses' various events are designed to introduce the general public to the heritage of the United Arab Emirates and its integral role in the formation of an Emirati national identity. The programme aims to instil pride, particularly among the younger generation, in the country's local culture, establishing a link between the past and the present as the country looks as it builds its future. 'Heritage Pulses' highlighted the value of reading in strengthening the bonds between family members, through various social and interactive activities.

531  
total number of visitors

### Spring Break Programme

30 March 2019 to 9 April 2019

Spring Break Programme offers fun, themed day programmes and activities. In MAKTABA branches, kids and families have a chance to spend their breaks meeting new friends and learning new things.

590  
total number of visitors

### Innovation Programme

15 December 2018 to 28 February 2019

The Innovation Programme offers STEAM workshops in science, technology and engineering, Japanese Mathematics, robotics programming, critical thinking, creativity skills, and principles of innovation. It also includes lectures on artificial intelligence in our lives, and events on space exploration.

250  
total number of visitors

### MAKTABA Summer Camp

6 July 2019 to 8 August 2019

Maktaba Summer Camp 2019 had the theme 'When I Grow Up', this was an educational and entertainment programme aimed at children and young adults during the summer season. The programme featured a variety of activities on this theme. It focused on future professions, as well as skills and crafts to teach young adults the methods and bases of psychological, environmental and social support, as well as expose them to a wide range of skills that can be applied in different industries.

26,550  
total number of visitors

### National Reading Month Programme

1 March 2019 to 30 March 2019

In celebration of the National Month of Reading, MAKTABA aims to promote reading as an integral part of life by offering a series of cultural reading events and activities targeting all segments of society. The varied roster of 340 activities includes storytelling, events, poetry readings, Meet the Author sessions, creative reading workshops, and a creative reader competition.

14,000  
total number of visitors

### Back to School Programme

15 September 2019 to 26 September 2019

MAKTABA launched the Back to School programme, featuring a diverse range of activities and initiatives to encourage, which encourages children to read more regularly and and to motivate them. It's aimed at public and private school students from kindergarten age upwards, especially those who live near MAKTABA branches, and will include classes for People of Determination.

3,369  
total number of visitors

### MAKTABA Winter Camp

15 December 2019 to 28 December 2019

MAKTABA Winter Camp targets children aged 5 - 12, and is designed to build confidence, friendships and skills. Participants can join workshops in environment and sustainability. The camp offers various workshops that combine entertainment and learning such as designing an environmental warning system, designing a water quality testing device, collecting plant data and analysing plants in clay works, as well as creating art from recycled materials and a Winter Reading Challenge.

1,992  
total number of visitors

### The Cultural Programme

This seeks to further exploit the efforts of the pioneers of cultural work in in the United Arab Emirates, the Gulf and other Arab countries. It includes the implementation and hosting of three programmes, the first of which is the 'Award-Winning Author' programme. The second programme is called 'Cross-border Literature', in which an Arab host or foreign writer is invited to establish a direct dialogue with talents outside regular training workshops. 'Creative Pens' specialises in creative writing training, and runs for three days each month. The goal of this programme is to serve the 'Dar Al Kutub' sector, effective and achieves success in the country's cultural scene, as well as being a platform for just about anyone that loves exploring cultures.

131  
total number of visitors

### Creativity Hall

Throughout the year

This programme supports and empowers children's book authors and illustrators in their creative journey. It offers workshops conducted by experts and specialists in the various fields of creativity and knowledge. Participants can also join MAKTABA events throughout the year.

1,953  
total participants and attendees

### Creative Reader Competition – Sixth Cycle

Announcement 15 November 2018  
Judging 15 February 2019  
Ceremony 5 March 2019

This competition aims to encourage students to read continuously and to promote visits to public libraries. It also highlights the importance of Arabic as an intellectual and cultural tool, thus encouraging the creativity of talented people in the field of reading. It targets students in the public and private sectors from Cycle One to Two to read in both Arabic and English.

600 no. of participants  
24 no. of winners  
3 winners from kids with determination





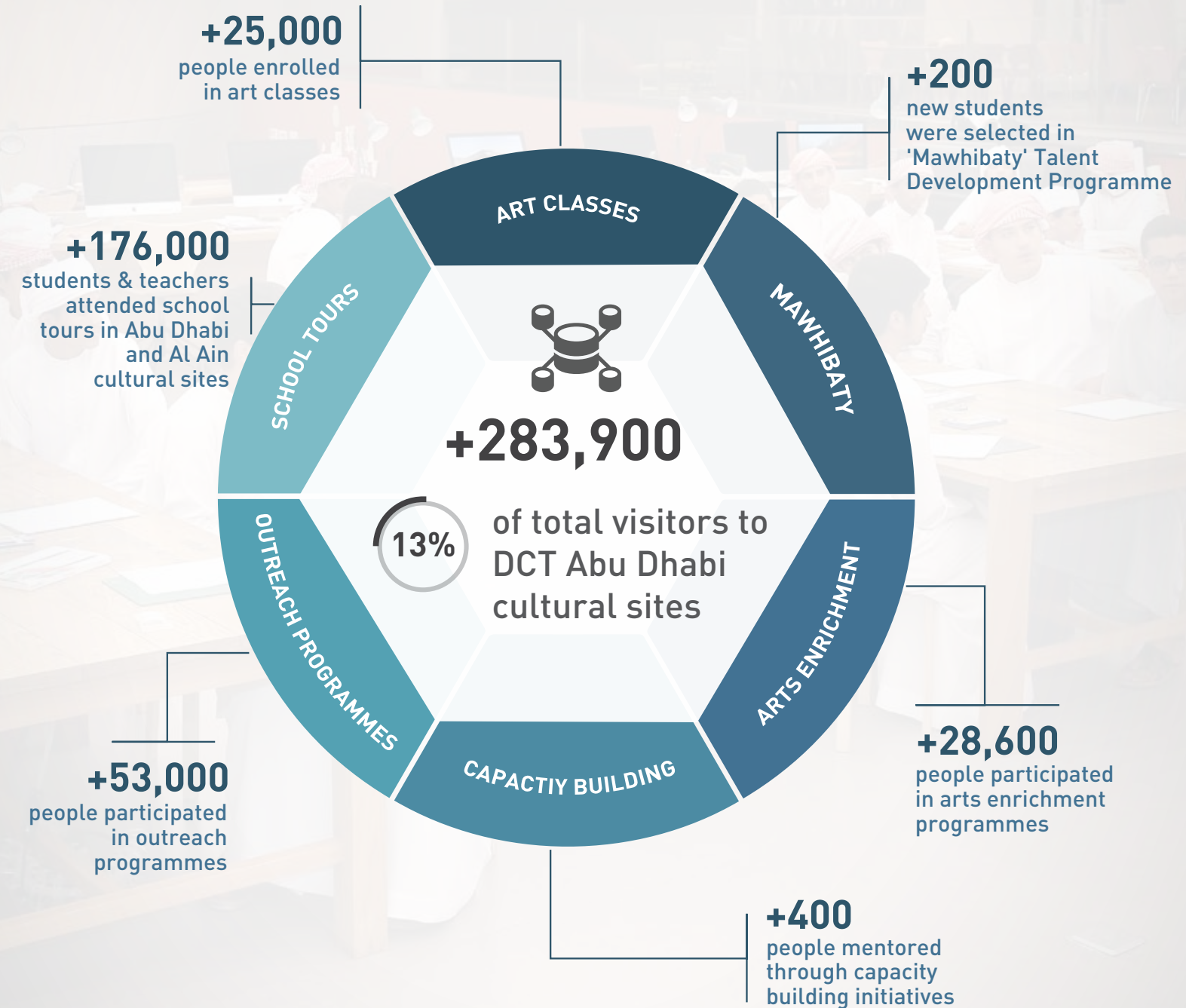
CHAPTER

**EDUCATION  
AND  
OUTREACH**



# EDUCATION & OUTREACH

## TOTAL PARTICIPANTS TO EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMMES IN 2019





# SCHOOL TOURS ATTENDEES

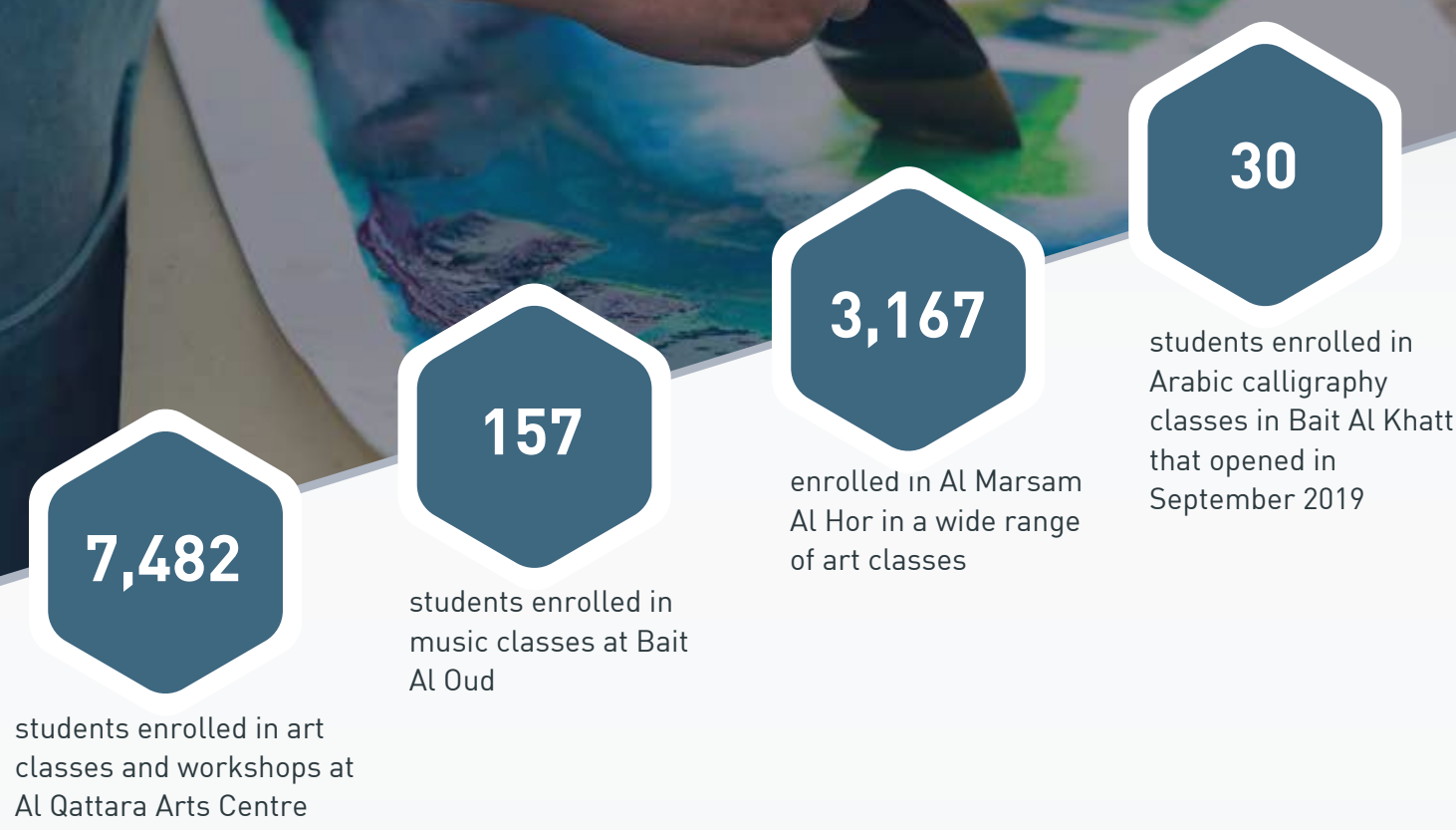
**+176,000**

students & teachers  
attended school  
tours in Abu Dhabi  
and Al Ain  
cultural sites

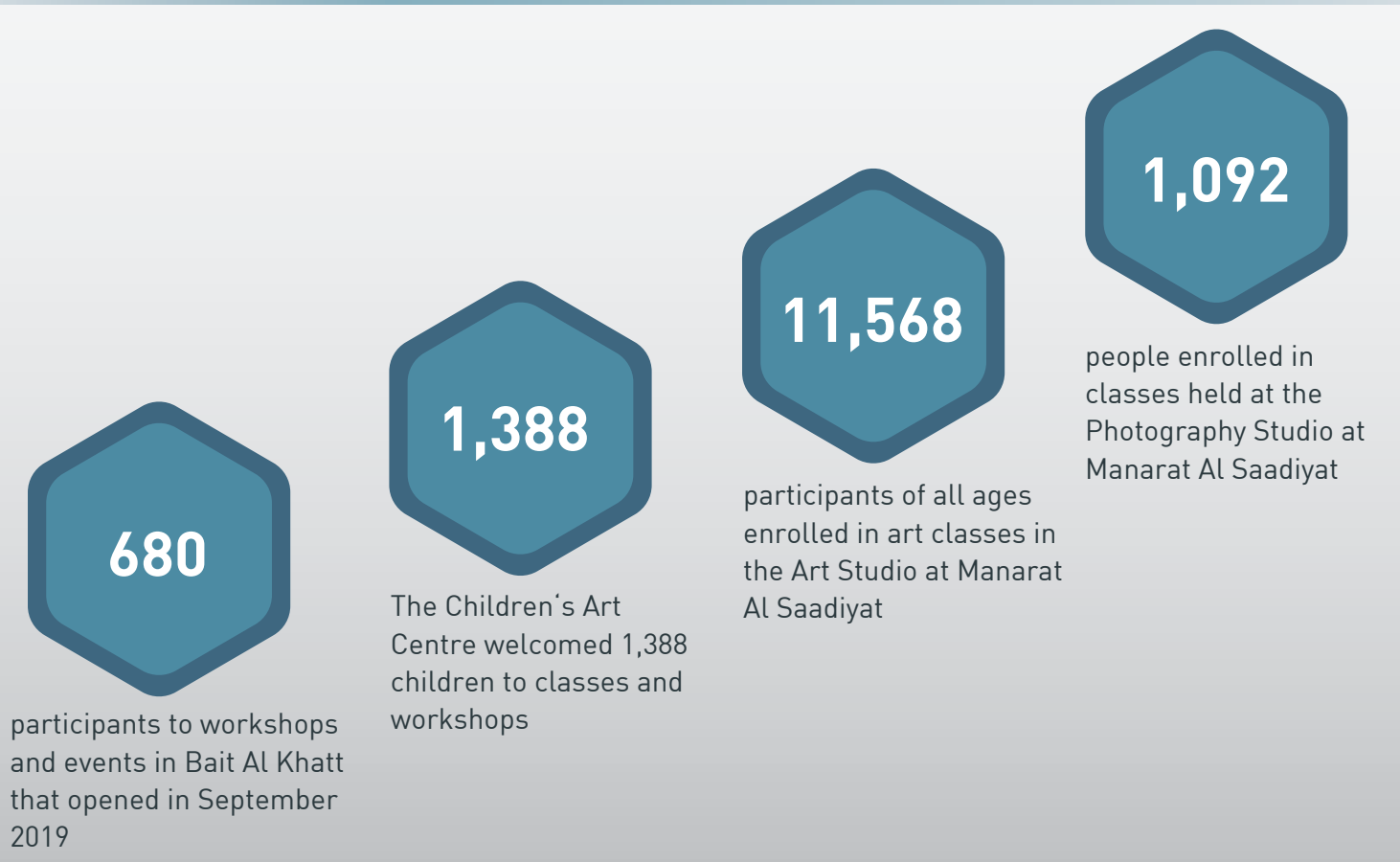




# ART CLASSES



+25,000 people enrolled in art classes



Education and outreach initiatives are intrinsic to the overall culture programme of the Department of Culture and Tourism - Abu Dhabi. The importance of cultural resources is revealed through interpretive and educational programming that engage individuals and communities and aim to foster a love for learning. Cultural education can also help instil values of inclusion and cross-cultural understanding, values critical in increasingly diverse cities and communities. DCT Abu Dhabi's education and outreach programmes deliver cultural education across a wide range of cultural sites, community and educational spaces. Tangible and intangible heritage and visual and performing arts programmes are all supported by interpretation and educational materials that strive to create awareness among varied segments of society, notably youth and students. Educational activities and resources provide educators, families and parents with tools that raise an awareness of art and heritage and inspire creative individuals to be proud of their heritage and identity and celebrate cultural diversity.





# STUDENT VISITS TO CULTURAL SITES

Field trips and activities in informal learning spaces have proven to be significant for young minds to acquire increased knowledge, experience culture and engage in hands-on experiences. When arts and heritage are integrated across curriculum areas, students become more engaged in their learning process. During school visits, students engage in a number of hands on programmes and workshops. Highlights from 2019 programmes include:



## AL MAJLIS

This educational programme aims to raise awareness of the social culture of the Emirates among the younger generation and to encourage them to apply it in their daily lives. Students learn key facts about the Majlis, including the various types, functions, etiquette and its listing on the UNESCO Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity.

## CULTURAL GUIDES

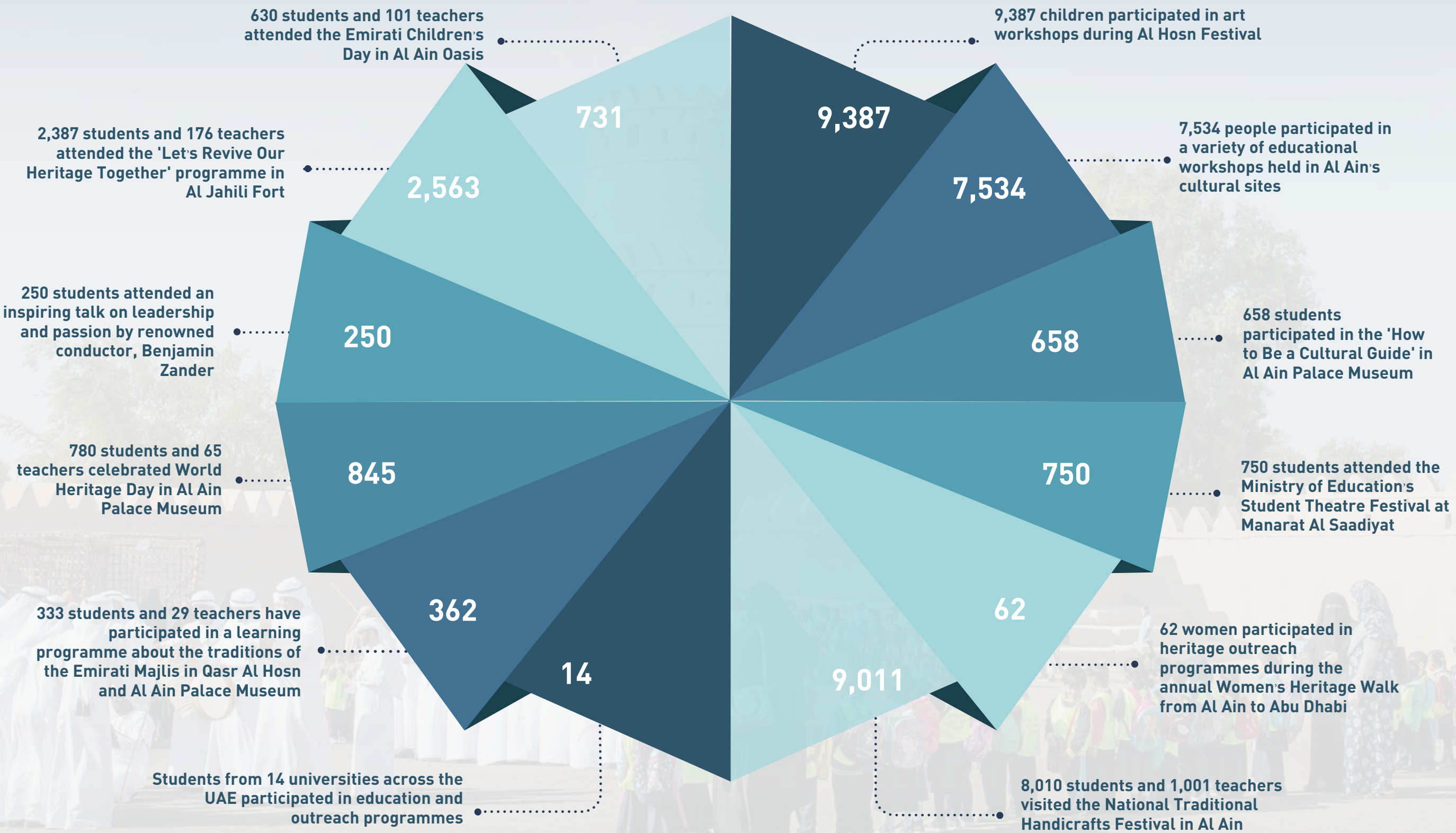
Targeting government and bilingual private schools, this educational programme was organised to raise awareness about the Cultural Guide profession among students and to teach them the basics, roles and responsibilities of tour guides. During the programme, students were introduced to many cultural sites and tourist destinations in Al Ain city, with a focus on the UNESCO sites. This not only widened students' cultural knowledge but helped them to build their leadership and communication skills with visitors of different ages and nationalities.





# OUTREACH PROGRAMMES

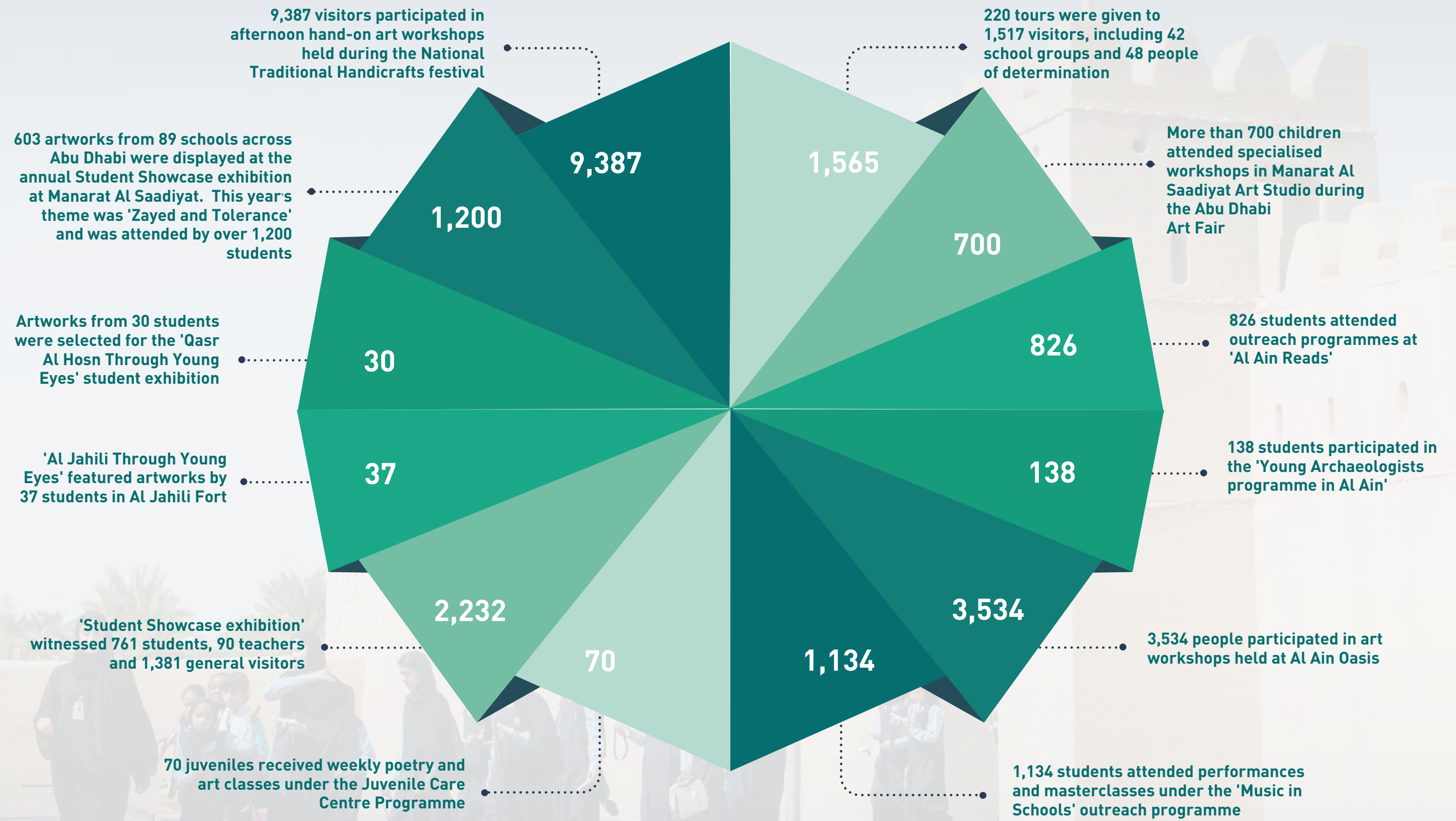
**+53,000** participants in outreach programmes





# OUTREACH PROGRAMMES

**+53,000** participants in outreach programmes





# OUTREACH PROGRAMMES

## JUVENILE CARE CENTRE PROGRAMME

In its third year, the Juvenile Care Centre Programme continues its activities in developing teenagers' skills to help give them a deeper and more meaningful view of the world around them. In 2019, 70 juveniles took part in three programmes: Writing Workshops, an Art Therapy programme and the new Workshops with an Artist programme which invites artists to work with the teens to create collaborative artworks that explore various themes, materials and concepts. In 2019, the programme was extended to help juveniles who have left the facility transition back into society by helping them find volunteer opportunities, internships and jobs. The Department of Culture and Tourism - Abu Dhabi hired one juvenile for six months. Cloud 9 Pet Hotel hired one juvenile for about five months. Other government entities are taking the initiative to accept more juveniles in internships and volunteering work.

## MUSIC IN SCHOOLS PROGRAMME

Interactions between students and musicians can be meaningful and profound. Through the Music in Schools programme, thousands of children and their families have the opportunity to attend open rehearsals with world-renowned orchestras and musicians. The programme introduces students to music, dance and performing arts through direct interaction and Q&A sessions with artists to give them a 'behind the scenes' look into the concepts behind a performance as a whole. Students are able to interact with the artists at a more intimate level where they can both share their own practice and interests. The programme also offers in-depth and hand-on masterclasses to aspiring musicians. In 2019, the Department introduced a new series of Exploratory Guides for K-12 students, entitled "12 Notes" which introduce students to key concepts of classical music. Themes covered in 2019 included: Sonatas, Musical Dramas and the connections between Poetry and Music.

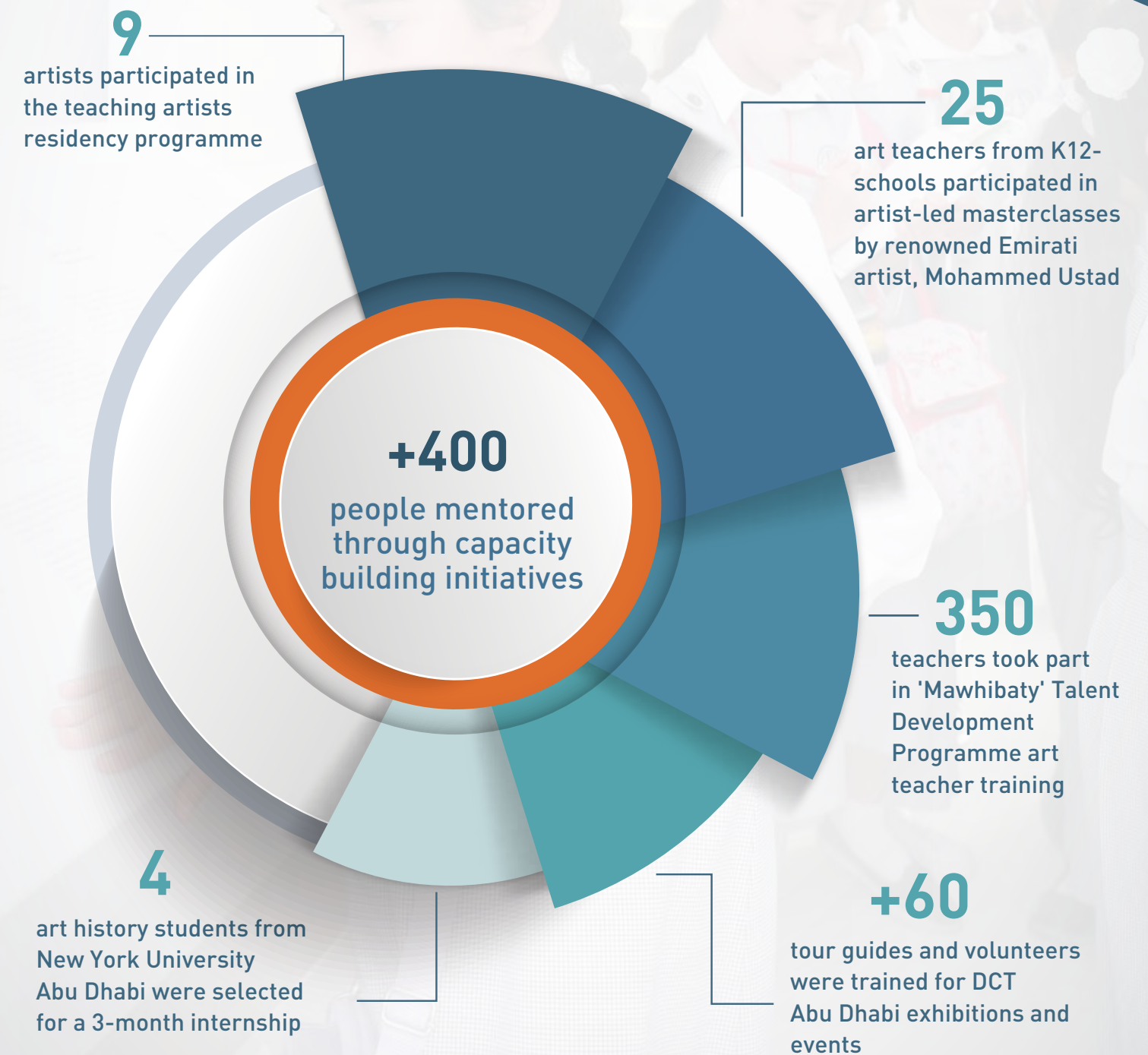
## 'MAWHIBATY' TALENT DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

As part of its core mission to develop the artistic capital of Abu Dhabi, the Department of Culture and Tourism - Abu Dhabi's 'Mawhibaty' Talent Development Programme, in collaboration with Abu Dhabi Education Knowledge, provides a platform to identify and nurture the artistic development of gifted and talented K-12 students in a wide range of visual and performing arts disciplines. The programme supports students in their pursuit of academic success in the arts by ensuring accessibility to year-round dynamic arts enrichment programmes, classes and individual mentorship with practising artists and performers. In 2019, a new cohort of 240 students across all grade levels joined the programme. The annual Student Showcase exhibition, which takes place at Manarat Al Saadiyat each year, featured works created by students enrolled in the Mawhibaty Talent Development Programme. The students' artworks were also featured in the Student Showcase exhibits at both Al Jahili Fort and Qasr Al Hosn.



## CAPACITY BUILDING

**240** new students enrolled in the 3rd year of the 'Mawhibaty' Talent Development Programme





# ARTS ENRICHMENT PROGRAMMES

Arts Enrichment programmes within the Department of Culture and Tourism - Abu Dhabi cultural centres offer hands-on experiences, workshops and classes that aim to spark and ignite the artistic spirit of children and adults of all skill levels. Courses in visual and performing arts run throughout the year.

- Al Qattara Arts Centre** welcomes participants to a diverse range of visual and performing arts classes.
- Bait Al Khatt** offers classes in traditional Arabic calligraphy.
- Bait Al Oud** is a regional hub for students and musicians focused on Arabic music and instruments.
- Al Marsam Al Hor** offers classes in visual arts mediums including painting, drawing, jewellery design, ceramics and pottery.
- The Children's Art Centre** welcomes children aged 5-14 years and offers classes visual arts, crafts and music.



## ARTS ENRICHMENT

**+28,600**  
people participated  
in arts enrichment  
programmes



**11,568** participants of all ages enrolled  
in art classes in Art Studio



Art Studio conducted Bespoke Corporate Workshops for **469** participants from **25** different organisations.



**1,415** students from **24** schools and nurseries participated in an Early Arts Intervention programme in Art Studio held in collaboration with the Bright Start Foundation for Maternal & Child Health



Art Studio welcomed **22,633** people this year and delivered hands-on activities to **2,369** students from **32** schools



**688** children enrolled in seasonal Art Camps



**27** students engaged in a special Winter Camp collaboration with the towFour54 media free zone at Qasr Al Hosn



**30** Zayed University students studying heritage completed community service hours at Qasr Al Hosn



CHAPTER

# PUBLICATIONS

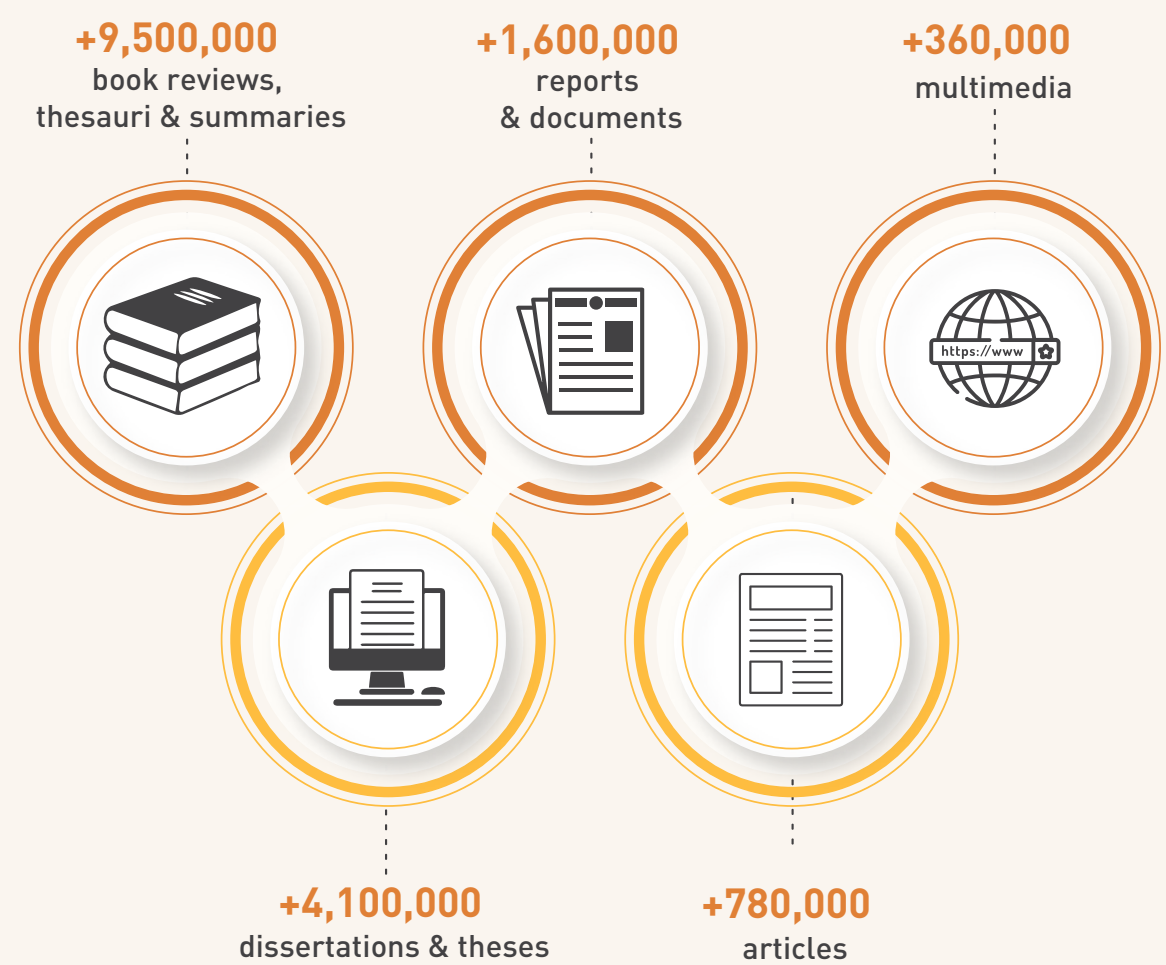


# DIGITAL LIBRARY

**+56,000** Total Visitors to digital library

**~17,000,000** digital library content

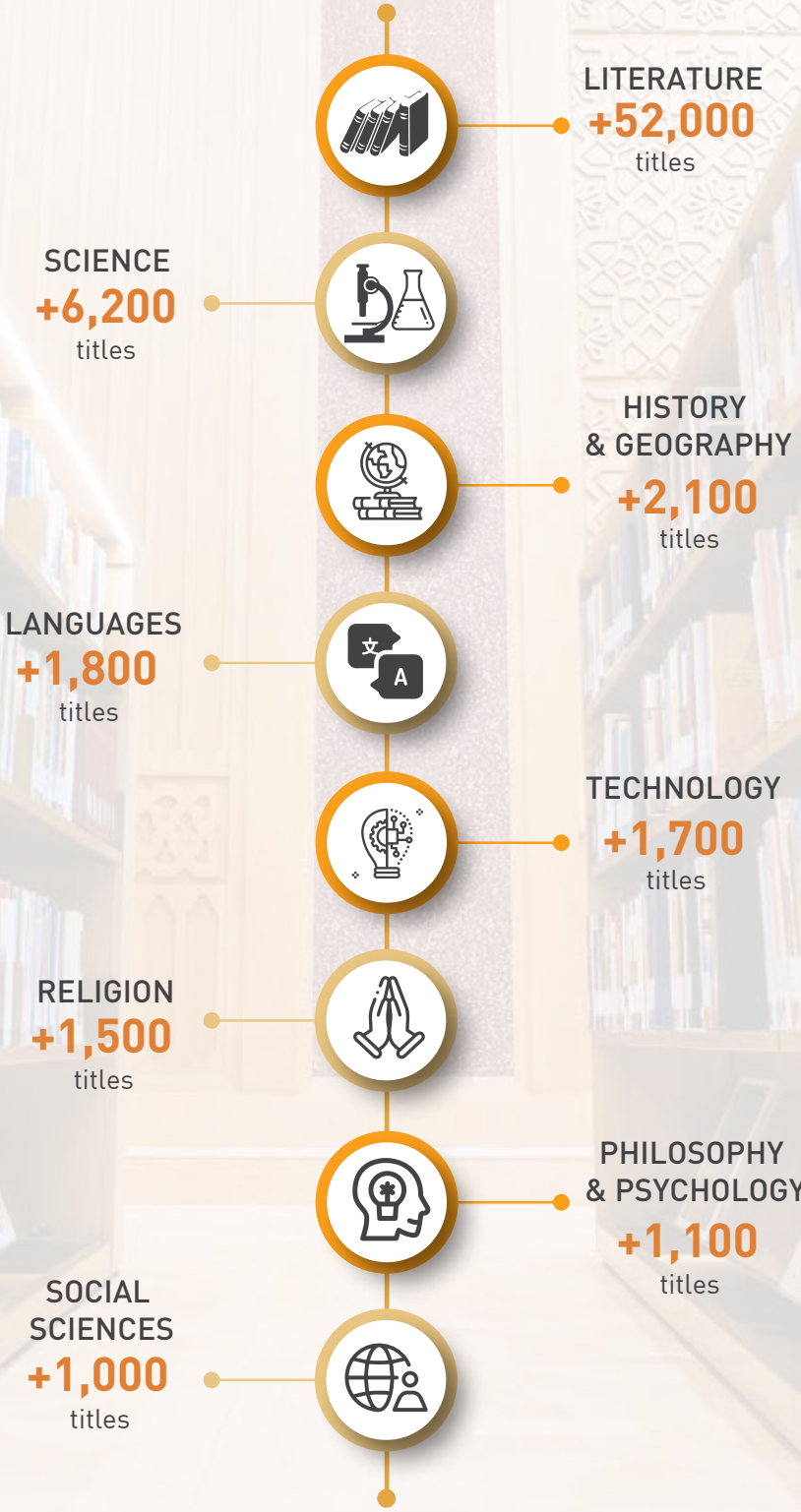
## TOP 5 TITLES IN DIGITAL LIBRARY



**+70,000**  
Books were borrowed across

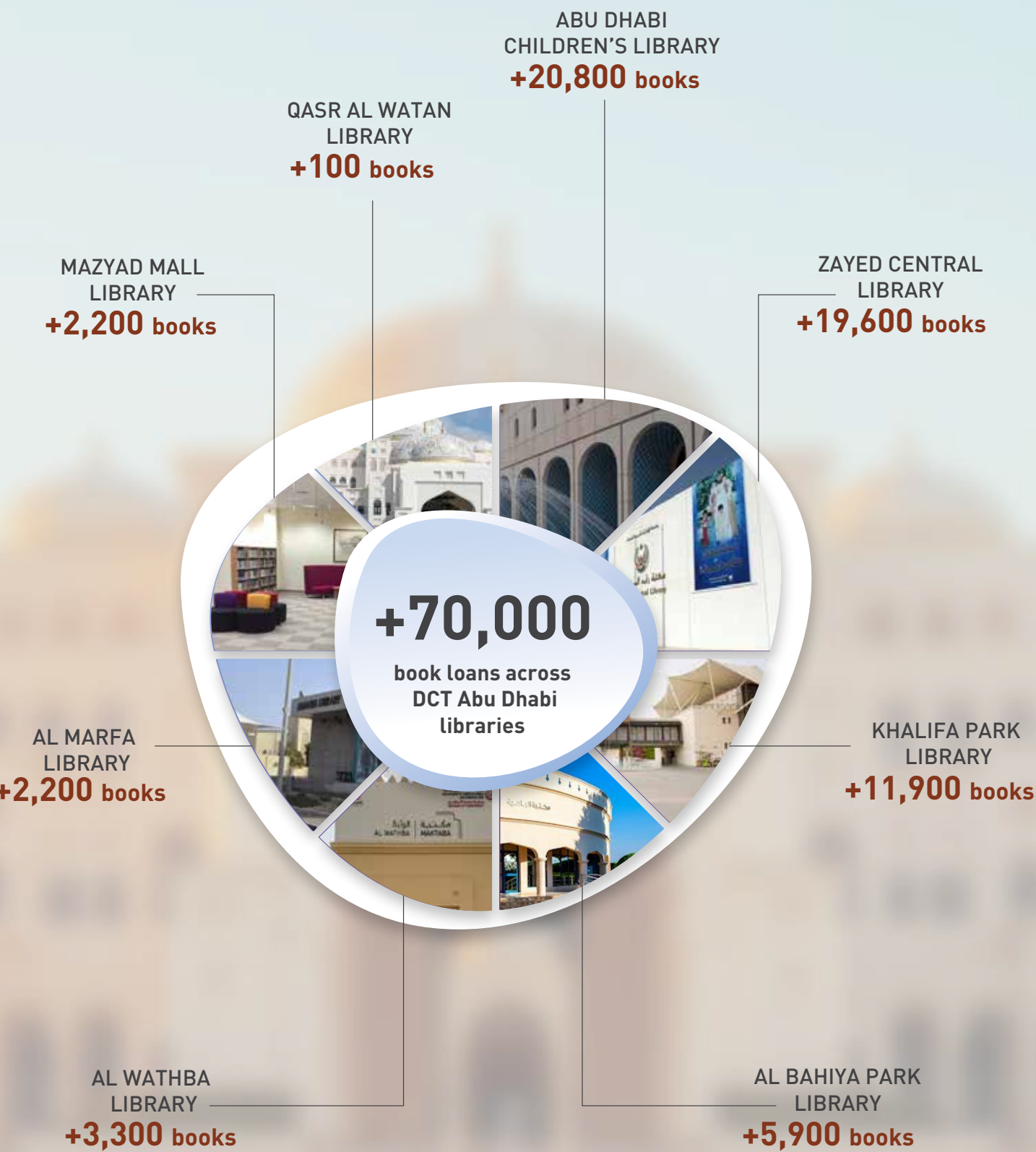
**13**  
In different subjects

## TOP SUBJECTS BORROWED BY PATRONS

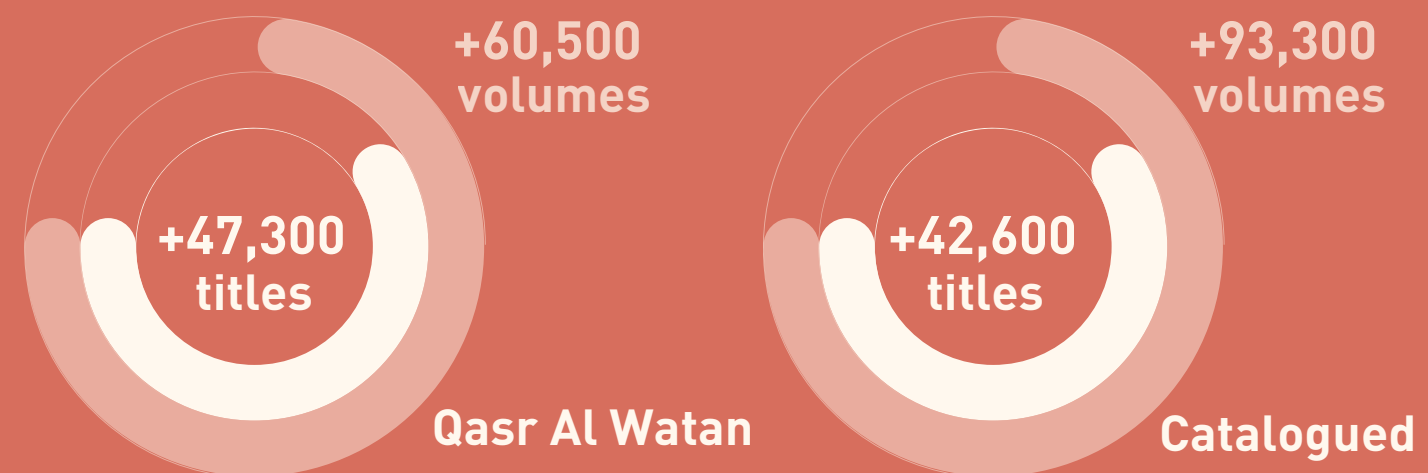




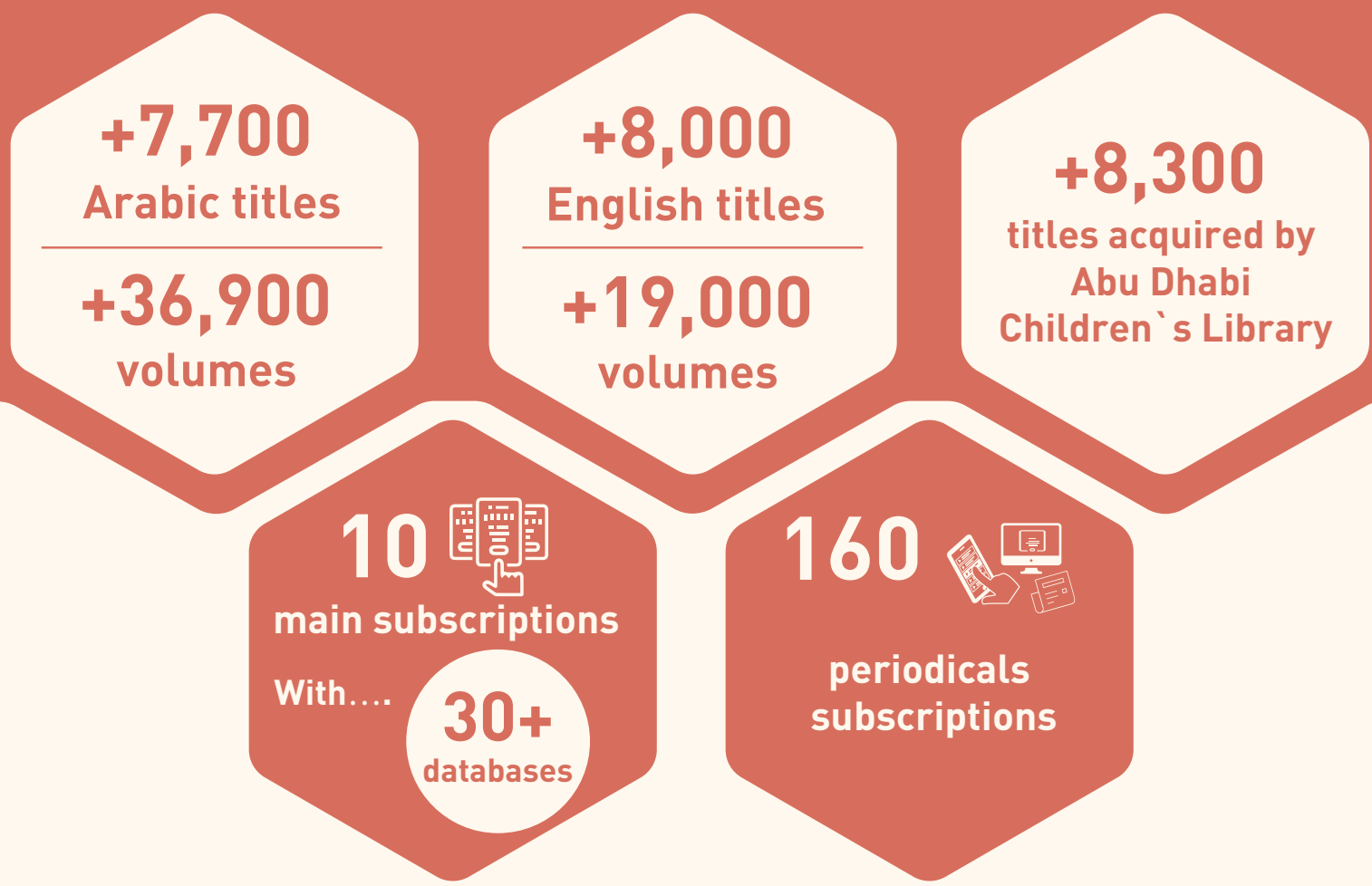
# BOOK LOANS



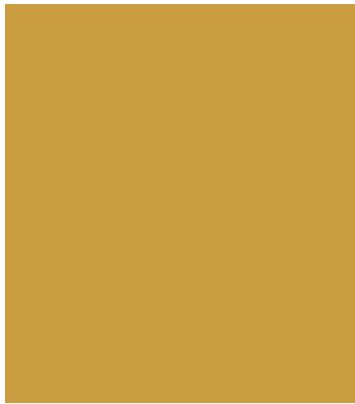
# COLLECTION DEVELOPMENT



# BOOKS ACQUISITION







# KALIMA



Kalima ('word' in Arabic), is an initiative by the Department of Culture and Tourism - Abu Dhabi to support the Arabic translation, publication and distribution of high-quality literature, history, science and other books originally published in foreign languages.

## KALIMA CO-OPERATION WITH PUBLISHERS IN 2019

- КомпасГид (Russia)
- Самокат (Russia)
- Carlsen (Germany)
- Oxford University Press (UK)
- Видавництво Старого Лева (Ukraine)\*
- Humensis (France)
- Reaktion (UK)
- Leopold (Netherlands)
- Rizzoli (Italy and USA)
- Hansol (Korea)
- Suhrkamp (Germany)
- Hachette (USA)
- Juba Production (Finland)
- University of Chicago Press (USA)
- Il Castoro (Italy)

## TOPICS COVERED IN 2019 INCLUDE

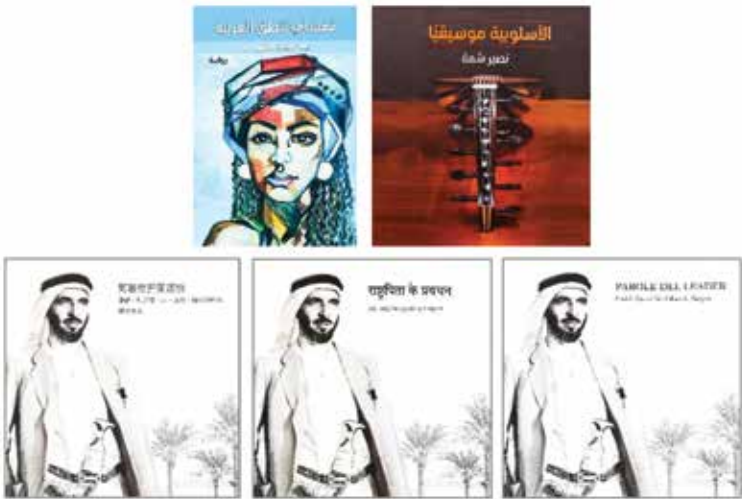
- 17 Natural and accurate/applied sciences
- 15 Literature
- 7 History, geography and biography
- 5 Children and young adults
- 4 Philosophy and psychology
- 4 General knowledge
- 1 Social sciences

### FROM RUSSIAN TO ARABIC

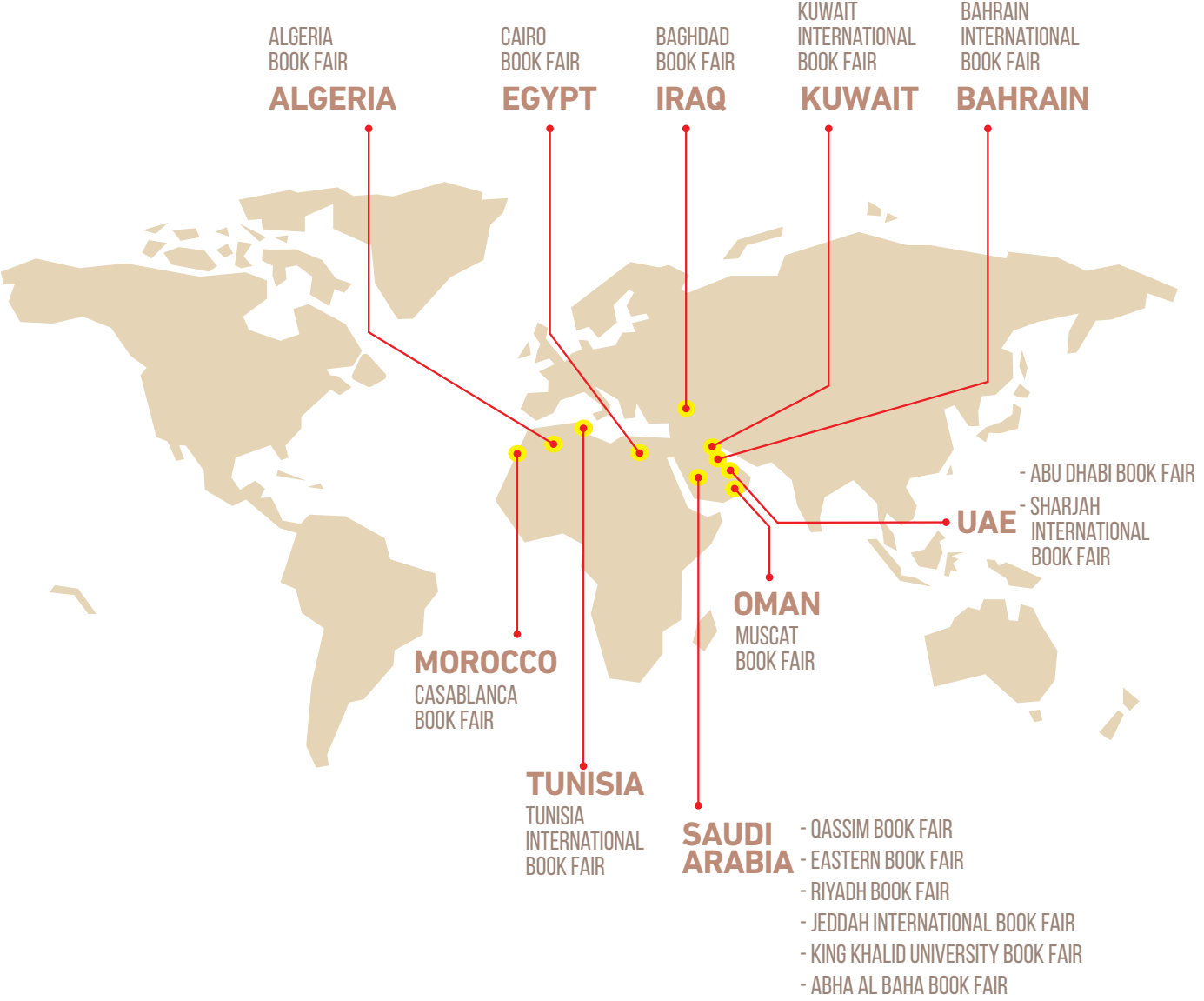
Twenty books will be published at the upcoming Abu Dhabi International Book Fair. Genres cover classic books and contemporary literature.

# ESDARAT

In 2019, Esdarat published 29 books, 17 of which were by writers from the United Arab Emirates. Most notable ones: 'Words of the Leader Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan', which was translated into Hindi, Italian, Russian, Chinese and Urdu. Book topics covered: general knowledge; history and geography; children's books; literature; social sciences; the arts; philosophy and psychology; travel; and languages.



# PARTICIPATIONS





The 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.

In 2019, the Department of Culture and Tourism - Abu Dhabi introduced an Educator’s Resource Portfolio for the Al Ain Cultural Site inscribed as a UNESCO World Heritage Site. The guide equips educators with essential teaching tools and materials to aid and enhance the learning process and encourage students to explore, develop and share ideas.

## 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. They present information for visitors on various arts and cultural subjects in a fun and engaging way alongside challenging hands-on activities. In 2019, the following guides were produced:

Popular Culture and the City

Young Archaeologists Excavation Journal

Qattara Archaeological Basement

School Visits Guide

Abu Dhabi Art 2019

Najat Makki: Luminescence

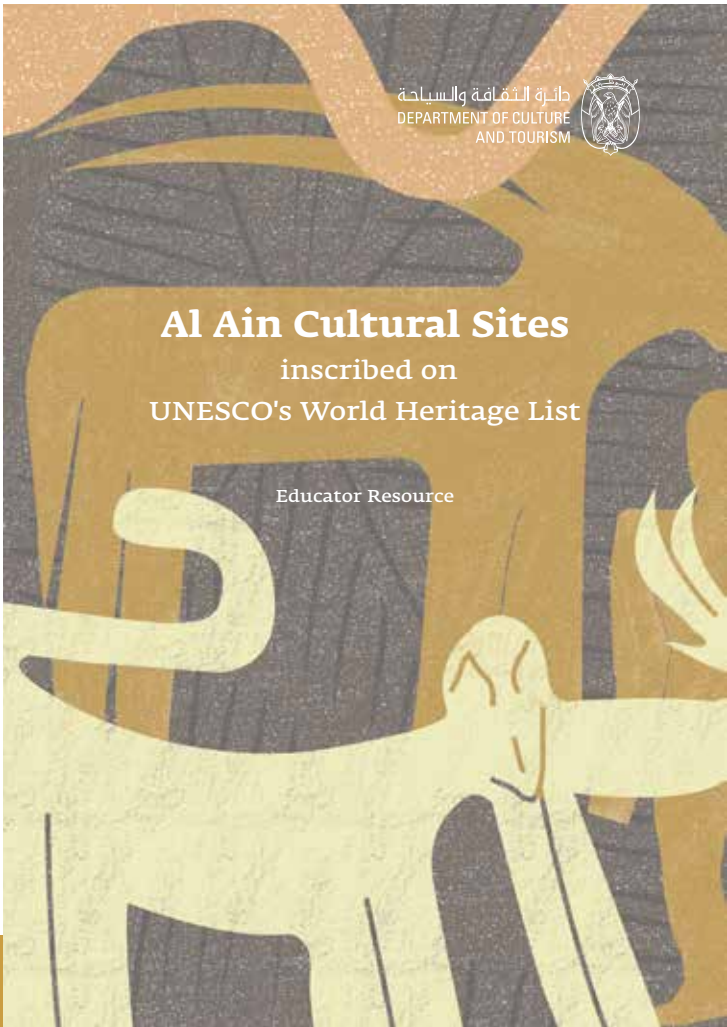
Abu Dhabi Children’s Library

Legacy of Tolerance in the United Arab Emirates

National Traditional Handicrafts Festival

### TOUR GUIDE MANUALS AND TRAINING MANUALS

The Department of Culture and Tourism - Abu Dhabi provided four comprehensive tour manuals and training sessions for visitor experience specialists, tour guides and volunteers to engage visitors in new and innovative ways while delivering on-site tours.



## EDUCATOR RESOURCE GUIDES

Educator Resource Guides are designed for teachers to enable them to use proposed exhibitions, museums and other Department of Culture and Tourism - Abu Dhabi sites, such as teaching tools in their K-12 classrooms. 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 works and prompting questions and activities to meet their teaching objectives and students’ needs.



# BRAILLE PUBLICATIONS

## ZAYED HIGHER ORGANIZATION FOR HUMANITARIAN CARE AND PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

The Department of Culture and Tourism – Abu Dhabi and the Zayed Higher Organization for Humanitarian Care and Persons with Disabilities continue to collaborate on publishing initiatives for people of determination by having selected publications, with a focus on heritage, traditions and history, translated into Braille.



**2017**  
Mother of the Nation

**2018**  
Intangible Cultural Heritage elements  
inscribed on the UNESCO Representative Lists

**2019**  
Qasr Al Muwaiji

# HIGHLIGHTS

More than 40 publications were produced in 2019, covering Intangible Cultural Heritage research and documentation, artistic practice, contemporary art, photography and Emirati traditions.



## AL-SADU

Extensive research on Al-Sadu (history, practice and ways to safeguard it) is now published in print, in Arabic and English, and is available as an e-book.



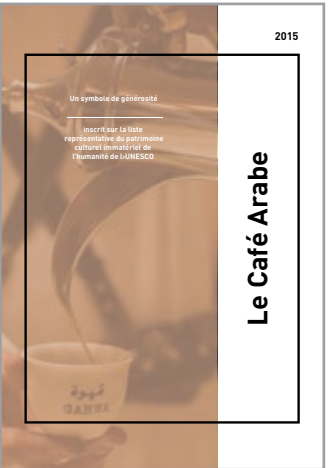
## AFLAJ AL AIN

Documentation of oral narratives around the falaj system (life before and after the falaj, systems, social interaction and traditions) is now published in print, in Arabic and English, and is available as an e-book.



## NAJAT MAKKI: LUMINESCENCE:

A comprehensive representation of one of the country's pioneering artists, focusing on her experimentation using fluorescent colours.



## INTANGIBLE CULTURAL HERITAGE ELEMENTS INSCRIBED ON THE UNESCO REPRESENTATIVE LISTS

The Department of Culture and Tourism – Abu Dhabi produced eight booklets, in French and Chinese, on United Arab Emirates Heritage elements inscribed on UNESCO's Representative Lists, to be added to the Arabic and English editions. The booklets were also published as e-books in 2019.

## CHÂTEAU DE FONTAINEBLEAU

For the opening of the Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan Theatre at the Château de Fontainebleau, the Department of Culture and Tourism – Abu Dhabi supported the publication of an Arabic version of an extensive research-based publication about the history of Fontainebleau that was renovated.



# DATA WAREHOUSING

+2,700

bound and amended books

+29,800

books gifted to 38 organisations

+600

books received from 33 organisations



37

preparations for domestic & international book fairs



295

book agents



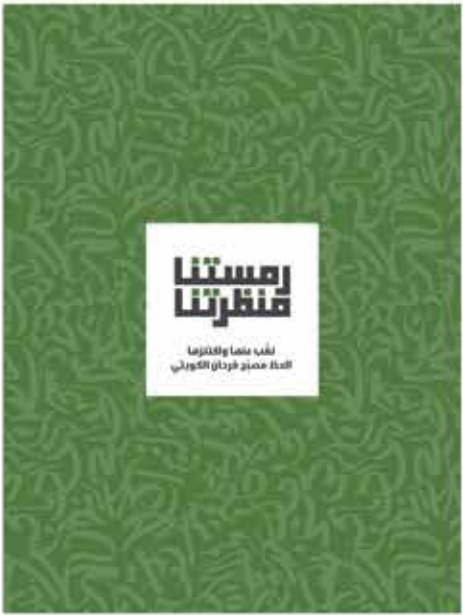
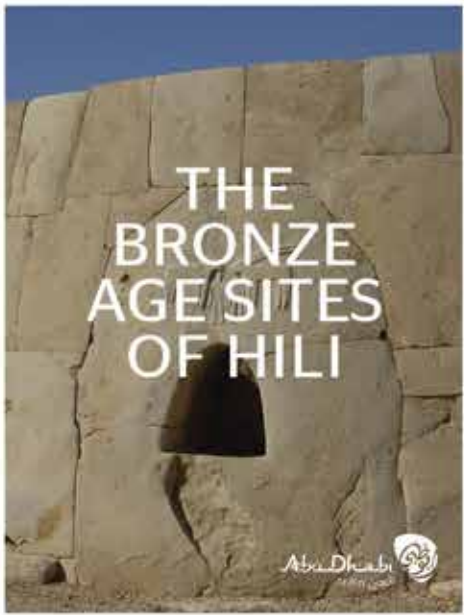
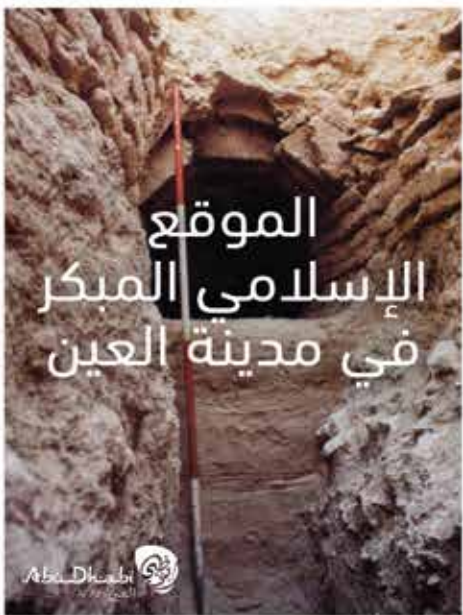
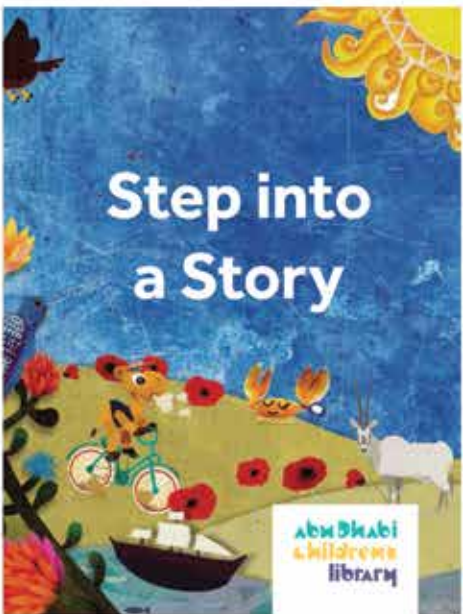
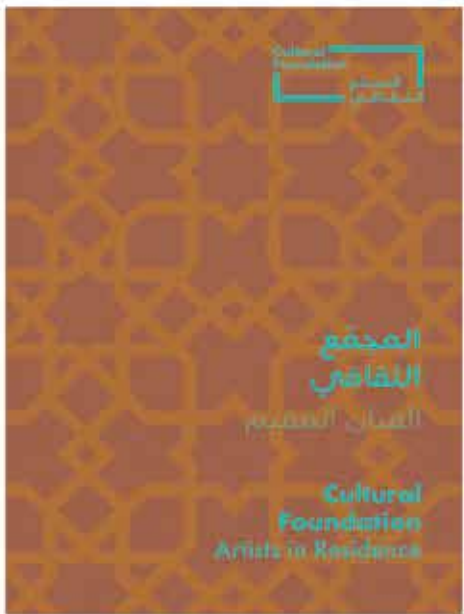
58

newly published books received and organised



472

borrowing requests addressed from different library branches







# **YEAR OF TOLERANCE**

CHAPTER



# YEAR OF TOLERANCE

The United Arab Emirates declared 2019 as the Year of Tolerance to highlight the country's status as a global capital for tolerance, and to emphasise tolerance as a universal concept and a sustainable institutional endeavour through legislation and policies.

The Year of Tolerance aimed to enrich the values of tolerance, dialogue, co-existence and openness to different cultures in society, especially among young people, and this will reflect positively on society as a whole.

A tolerant approach has been adopted by the UAE since it was established, making the country a bridge of communication between the people of the world and their various cultures, in an environment of openness and respect that rejects extremism and promotes co-existence.

This theme of tolerance is reflected in the legacy of the UAE's Founding Father, the late Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan, who exemplified the principles of co-existence with others and cooperation. The Department of Culture and Tourism - Abu Dhabi organised and supported events and initiatives in 2019 to emphasize the value and significance of the Year of Tolerance.



SIR BANI YAS CHURCH AND MONASTERY SITE



SIR BANI YAS CHURCH AND MONASTERY REOPENING

The Church and Monastery on Sir Bani Yas Island, the first Christian site discovered in the UAE, reopened its doors to visitors following the implementation of conservation measures and site enhancements. The site, which dates back to the 7th and 8th centuries CE, is evidence of the longstanding tolerance to other cultures in the UAE.



PANELS DEBATING THE NOTION OF TOLERANCE

The Sheikh Zayed Book Award organised a panel discussion in Moscow to highlight the pivotal cultural role of Russian-Emirati cultural dialogue. The 'Arab-Russian Cultural Dialogue' event further aimed to introduce Russian audiences to Sheikh Zayed Book Award initiatives and attract further nominations to its annual award. At the ITB exhibition in Berlin, the Department of Culture and Tourism - Abu Dhabi had a dedicated wall on its stand for the Year of Tolerance.



SPECIAL OLYMPICS WORLD GAMES

DCT Abu Dhabi supported and partnered with the Special Olympics World Games Abu Dhabi 2019, which highlighted the UAE's support for People of Determination. More than 7,500 athletes representing over 190 countries competed in 24 Olympic-events at the first Special Olympics World Games to be held in the Middle East and North Africa region. The Department commissioned visual artists from all around the world and created inspiring art installation in the Special Olympics Park in the Manarat Al Saadiyat garden.

ABU DHABI MOSQUES TOUR

The Department, in co-operation with the General Authority for Islamic Affairs and Endowments, launched its Mosques Tour Initiative. The initiative gave residents and visitors of any nationality and religion the chance to learn about the history and significance of Abu Dhabi's most iconic mosques, as well as providing an introductory overview of the religious and societal role of mosques.



THEME OF TOLERANCE IN ABU DHABI BOOK FAIRS

Tolerance was one of key themes of the 29th edition of the Abu Dhabi International Book Fair, Al Ain Book Fair and Al Dhafra Book Fair. The fairs featured a number of tolerance-themed events, highlighting the UAE's openness to other cultures and publications. At the Abu Dhabi International Book Fair, India was chosen as the Guest of Honour, to celebrate the country's strong historic links with the United Arab Emirates.



GUIDE TO TOLERANCE

The Department released an exploratory guide about the legacy of tolerance in the UAE, which looked at examples of tolerance throughout the history of the country. The guide presented the UAE as an example in which people of all cultures thrive in a community based on mutual respect, peaceful co-existence and harmony.

SYMPOSIUM ON THE INTERNATIONAL DAY FOR TOLERANCE

The United Nations has declared November 16 of each year to be the United Nations' 'International Day for Tolerance' in an effort to promote mutual understanding and non-violence around the world. To mark the day, a number of initiatives and events were held, including a symposium titled 'Tolerance and Human Brotherhood' at Zayed Central Library, which was attended by representatives of government institutions and school and university students.







### LIBRARIES ACTIVITIES TO CELEBRATE THE YEAR OF TOLERANCE

Maktaba Library branches organised several initiatives and events for visitors from care centres for People of Determination and school students throughout the year. Activities included theatre shows, reading sessions and interactive art workshops. In addition, Maktaba organised the 'Happy Child Campaign', which aimed to bring joy to children suffering from cancer and heart disease. The campaign involved the delivery of toys and other items that had been donated by DCT Abu Dhabi employees, as well as providing the opportunity for volunteers to participate in cheering up children in Sheikh Khalifa Medical City.



### COMMUNITY EXHIBITIONS WITHIN ABU DHABI ART

Community partners and non-profit cultural organisations were offered spaces at the Abu Dhabi Art Fair to highlight their initiatives, presenting displays that responded to the theme of the Year of Tolerance.

### WORKS OF ART REVEALED IN LOUVRE ABU DHABI

During a visit to Abu Dhabi by His Holiness Pope Francis and Dr Ahmad Al Tayeb, Grand Imam of the Al Azhar Al Sharif, two new works of art were unveiled at Louvre Abu Dhabi. The first, the 16th century wood carving 'Christ Showing his Wounds', is an addition to the Louvre Abu Dhabi permanent collection. The second item, four loose leaves from the famed Blue Qur'an, was loaned from the collection of the Zayed National Museum. The work aims to highlight the concept of tolerance between different faiths.



### CONFERENCES, SEMINARS AND SYMPOSIUM

The 7th GCC Heritage and Oral History Conference was held under the theme 'Zayed and Tolerance: A Community's Culture and Leadership Approach'. The conference papers and panels studied the school of thought of the late Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan and his way of embracing the concept of co-existence between people from different religions and faiths.

The Sheikh Zayed Book Award hosted a conference on the role of tolerance in culture, literature and history, bringing together a distinguished group of Arab and international intellectuals, educators, writers and diplomats. The Cultural Foundation held the the 'Orient Pioneers: Western Travellers in Arabia symposium, where prominent Orientalists and scholars of regional history examined the historical interactions between the West and the East.



### MUSEUM EVENTS AND THE THEME OF TOLERANCE

Museums in Abu Dhabi and Al Ain hosted numerous events and exhibitions to mark the Year of Tolerance. This included the Cultural Connection event at Al Ain Palace Museum, which celebrated cultures from countries around the world, including Palestine, Russia, Kenya and Egypt, with artistic performances, traditional products, culinary experiences and a range of workshops for children.



**LOOKING  
TO  
2020**

CHAPTER



# JEBEL HAFIT DESERT PARK



Jebel Hafit Desert Park is a new open cultural site in Al Ain, offering a fascinating glimpse into the human occupation of the area over the past 8,000 years. Located on the eastern side of Jebel Hafit, the park contains archaeological remains dating back to the Neolithic period. The park is one of the Cultural Sites of Al Ain which make up the United Arab Emirates' first designated UNESCO World Heritage Site. Stretching over nine kilometres, the park has a rich array of heritage and natural resources, with a diverse range of flora and fauna. Visitors can enjoy natural surroundings and get up close to the famous 5,000-year-old 'beehive' tombs. They can discover archaeological and historical remains which attest to the rich history and ancient habitation of the United Arab Emirates. The park also offers new facilities for interactive outdoor activities such as hiking, cycling, horse and camel riding and overnight camping.

# BERKLEE ABU DHABI



Opening in March 2020, Berklee Abu Dhabi will be the first outpost of the pre-eminent institute of contemporary music and the performing arts. Berklee College of Music in the Middle East offers, world-class educational experiences through workshops, masterclasses, courses, ensembles and labs. Located in a newly renovated Norman Foster-designed building in Abu Dhabi's Cultural District on Saadiyat Island the centre will include a performance space, a recording studio, rehearsal studios, practice rooms, ensemble rooms and a multimedia tech lab. Berklee Abu Dhabi aims to raise the profile of the performing arts and to transform arts education in the Middle East, by empowering students with the skills to forge a career in music, dance, theatre and creative industries. The reach of Berklee Abu Dhabi will stretch far beyond Abu Dhabi itself, offering exceptional educational experiences and public performances for students from across the Middle East, Africa and South Asia, inspiring a new generation of globally-minded artists eager to use the power of the arts to create positive change in the world.

# BAIT MOHAMMED BIN KHALIFA



Bait Mohammed bin Khalifa, a component of the World Heritage Site of Al Ain, is the only surviving home of Sheikh Mohammed bin Khalifa Al Nahyan, a central figure in Al Ain society, who was influential in several historic events which took place in Abu Dhabi. The Department of Culture and Tourism - Abu Dhabi is in the process of restoring and rehabilitating the house which will serve as a vibrant cultural community centre. It will commemorate the late Sheikh Mohammed bin Khalifa Al Nahyan and highlight the transition from tradition to modernity, as a pivotal era in the development of the emirate, and its linkage to the World Heritage Site of Al Ain. The site will feature several multi-purpose rooms for the community to hire, library facilities and a permanent exhibition on the architecture of the site and the urbanisation of Al Ain over the past 50 years. The conserved house is due to open in September 2020.



# CULTURE SUMMIT ABU DHABI



## القمة الثقافية أبوظبي Culture Summit Abu Dhabi

Culture and creative industries are now major drivers of economies around the globe and are widely recognised as a positive force for societies and economies. The transformation of cultural development and the cultural economy brings opportunities for the culture sector including driving down the costs of creating and distributing cultural products. Paradoxically, many practitioners in the culture and creative industries are less secure in their work. A key issue identified by numerous participants at Culture Summit Abu Dhabi 2019 was securing financial support in the face of rapid societal and economic change. In response to issues, the Culture Summit 2020 will bring cultural leaders and practitioners to Abu Dhabi to address 'Cultural Economy and the Economy of Culture', by proposing responses and solutions to urgent questions that touch on finding mechanisms to grow the cultural and creative industries to benefit countries globally, to develop viable and sustainable economic models for culture, and to debate proposed resolution to the disruption and transformation of the culture economy and the economy of culture.

Culture Summit 2020 partners include UNESCO, Guggenheim, Royal Academy of Arts, The Economist Events, Google, the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, Louvre Abu Dhabi, Emirates Diplomatic Academy and Berklee Abu Dhabi.

# MUSIC PROGRAMMES



The music programme organised by the Department of Culture and Tourism - Abu Dhabi will take place throughout 2020. From 28 January to 7 February 2020, music and performing arts audiences can look forward to 10 days enriched with classical masterpieces with Abu Dhabi Classics. The 2020 line-up includes world-famous orchestras and soloists, renowned artists from the Arab world and a vast variety of performing arts. Headlining Abu Dhabi Classics 2020 will be one of the greatest female vocalists in the Arab world, Magida El Roumi, along with her 70-member-orchestra. The 2020 season will also celebrate the 250th anniversary of the birth of Ludwig van Beethoven by bringing the German composer's most celebrated work, the 9th Symphony, played by the Hamburg Symphony Orchestra, to the capital. Other concerts will include: the Bach Concertos for 2, 3 and 4 Pianos, a solo piano performance by Lise de la Salle, and a performance from young Egyptian singer Sanaa Nabil.

Starting in February 2020, the Bait Al Oud Concert Series will present a mix of international performers and students led by Bait Al Oud Artistic Director and oud legend Naseer Shamma. The series will offer the students of Bait Al Oud opportunities to perform either as stars of their own Graduation Concert or accompanying professional performances. The Sounds of UAE concert series will be dedicated to local talents, in order to safeguard the musical traditions of the United Arab Emirates and innovation. Highlights of the Cultural Foundation Classics will include piano prodigy Alexandra Dovgan and a 'Nutcracker' ballet, while the Umsiyat 2020 series will see the long-awaited reunion of two outstanding artists of the Arab world: Abeer Nehme and Marcel Khalife.

## مهرجان التراث البحري MARITIME HERITAGE FESTIVAL

## MARITIME FESTIVAL

A new heritage platform will be added to the 2020 annual programme, celebrating the coastal and maritime heritage of the emirate of Abu Dhabi and introducing the public to the richness of the maritime culture of the city.



