

أدماف
ADMAF



EMPOWERING THE NATION

ANNUAL REPORT

2023

ANNUAL REPORT

ABU DHABI MUSIC & ARTS FOUNDATION


EMPOWERING THE NATION

JANUARY - DECEMBER 2023


أدماف
ADMAF



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 Abu Dhabi Music
& Arts Foundation

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من هو نفس السماء والأرض يا ربنا من العوالم
In the breath of Heaven and Earth
bringing them into existence ?

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Francesca Lanto, Accountant
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Babu K.V, Office Messenger

IN MEMORIAM

Bernard de Launoit

In 2023, with profound sadness we mourned the loss of our dear friend Bernard de Launoit, the late Queen Elisabeth Music Chapel CEO and Executive President. He will forever be remembered for his leadership, his passion for art and music, and his dedication to cultural exchange, which included the committed partnership and support of ADMAF and Abu Dhabi Festival.



Giselle Khoury

We mourn the loss of Giselle Khoury, an Arab journalist known for championing free speech and progressive thought. Her dedication to enlightenment and dialogue marks her legacy. As a frequent speaker at ADMAF events, she inspired young professionals and left a lasting impact. Her influential career was celebrated in her final participation at the Young Media Leaders programme in February 2023. May her memory continue to inspire truth and knowledge in the Arab world.



Karin Adrian von Roques

ADMAF mourns the passing of the distinguished German curator Karin Adrian von Roques, recognising her immense contributions to the arts community. Over two decades, ADMAF had the honour of collaborating with Karin, drawing on her immense knowledge in the field of Arab art, working with artists, institutions, and publications. With Karin, Abu Dhabi Festival 2015 co-curated 'View from Inside: Contemporary Arab Photography, Video and Mixed Media Art', an exhibition in collaboration with FotoFest Biennial in Houston, marking the first time FotoFest had come to the Middle East. Karin's legacy will forever inspire.





THE WILL FOR EVOLUTION

The year 2023 was an important chapter in the story of ADMAF, its significance resonating deeply within the fabric of our nation's cultural legacy. It was a year marked by milestones not only for the Foundation, but also -more importantly- for the great nation in which it was established.

We began the year guided by our esteemed leadership's national vision entitled 'We the UAE 2031' which sets an ambitious roadmap for the future with key areas of focus to include the quality of education, the pursuit of knowledge, and the enrichment of culture. ADMAF is privileged to have contributed to the great progress already achieved by the UAE by helping to cultivate a vibrant arts ecosystem, nurturing creativity and innovation, and investing in the talent of our youth—the leaders of tomorrow.

Since the Foundation's inception more than 25 years ago, our vision has been to foster a thriving and inclusive creative sector that celebrates artistic excellence, nurtures emerging talent, and enriches the lives of all who engage with the arts. With each passing year, this vision has come to life, shaping a dynamic platform that has become a catalyst for more profound and meaningful cultural experiences.

ADMAF is a living organism: growing, adapting, learning as the years pass by. All living organisms are highly dependent on the quality of their ecosystem: ADMAF is no exception to this. We are proud of story of growth, adaptation and discovery, but we are also very aware that none of these achievements would have been possible without the right ecosystem. And this ecosystem was made possible thanks to the will for evolution, ingrained within us by a visionary leadership that recognises the importance of enhancing the capabilities of its citizens to maximise their effective contribution across all sectors, for a more cohesive, resilient society. We sought to capture the tenacious spirit of our drive toward progress and prosperity—a manifestation of our nation's forward-thinking—through the special celebration this year of the 20th anniversary of our flagship Abu Dhabi Festival.

In lieu of looking back at two decades of what we accomplished with the Festival, we as an organisation choose to look ahead toward the challenges of the years to come with faith in our ability to overcome them thanks to the reassurance of our leadership in the potential we hold to shape our future. Looking inwards, as a society, we recognize the extraordinary

environment our country has successfully cultivated. However our nation, our society is not self-absorbed. Quite the opposite: rich from the many cultures it welcomes, and as a country in conversation with the world to advance progress for all humanity, it was only a natural evolution for our nation to extend its contributions to the global stage. Just as we have planned for our own future, shared the benefits of progress and fostered a thriving environment domestically, we aspire to help do the same on a global scale. The UAE's historic designation this year—declared the 'Year of Sustainability'—as host of the 28th Conference of the Parties to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP28) is a testament to the power we hold through our united efforts to generate positive change by mobilising resources to find solutions to today's global challenges.

I am proud of our strenuous pursuit of knowledge to help reach these collective goals and the bridges of respect and understanding that we've built along the way which have become the trademark of who we are today.

Contributing to our country's global creative economy, and its cultural enrichment will remain our priority. We continue our journey with strength and determination and we pledge to work together, backed by the will for evolution to forge ahead toward progress and enlightenment, not just for the next 20 years, but for generations to come.

This is what this country is all about. And, humbly emulating the very fabric of our nation, this is what ADMAF is all about: creating new possibilities.

I extend my sincere thanks to our patrons, Abu Dhabi Festival Founding Honorary Patron and Minister of Foreign Affairs, H.H. Sheikh Abdullah bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Abu Dhabi Festival Patron H.H. Sheikh Shamsa bint Hamdan Al Nahyan, ADMAF Patron and Minister of Tolerance and Coexistence, H.E. Sheikh Nahyan bin Mubarak Al Nahyan, our generous sponsors, advisors, partners, the ADMAF team, and all who have contributed to the remarkable success of this historic year.

Huda Alkhamis-Kanoo
Founder, Abu Dhabi Music & Arts Foundation

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VISION AND MISSION





VISION

ADMAF advocates for a global flourishing of culture and the arts in a progressive country, where the greatest works of our time become part of the history that builds our civilisation.

MISSION

Our mission is a calling to lead on creativity from the UAE and its capital, Abu Dhabi. It is a commitment to create, innovate, produce, preserve and present inspiring works of music and art. It is a promise to the youth of the nation to invest in and empower them to realise their dreams. And it is a conviction to give voice to our global presence through international partnerships that bring beauty to the world.

STRATEGIC PILLARS



1

ADVANCING ABU DHABI AS A GLOBAL BEACON OF ARTS AND CULTURE

Through its flagship, the annual Abu Dhabi Festival, ADMAF creates rich cultural experiences at home and abroad, furthering Abu Dhabi as a leading cultural capital and positioning it as a cultural and artistic destination. This festival of firsts presents the world's greatest artists and performers to the UAE. Additionally, by partnering with prominent cultural organisations abroad, the festival expands Abu Dhabi's contributions on the global stage, strengthening the city and the nation's presence in the international creative conversation.

2

AN INCUBATOR FOR ARTS AND CREATIVITY

As a gateway to knowledge, ADMAF invests in the youth of the nation, empowering them to realise their dreams and ambitions. In partnership with academic institutions, and through programmes that develop creative skills and free creative thinking, ADMAF drives innovation, supports artistic growth and rewards excellence to foster the development of the UAE's culture and creative industries.

3

AN ACTIVE FORCE FOR SOCIAL UNITY AND CREATIVE COMMUNITIES

ADMAF engages people of every background and ability in shared experiences to foster cultural expression, forge unity and support the vitality of our society.



ADMAE PARTNERS

2020 2021

International Women's Day
2021



Symphony of Trust, Peace, Love, Tolerance
Saud bin - John Deery - Rob Dornick

التطور،

للمريادة

THE W
EVO

CORPORATE PARTNERS

An association with creative excellence and national identity offers an effective way to address a corporate social responsibility agenda and stand out in a competitive marketplace.

ADMAF's work is made possible through forward-thinking support from corporate sponsors. The Foundation is grateful for the ongoing partnerships that are crucial in celebrating cultural excellence, supporting Emirati talent, and investing in youth.

Mubadala confirmed their invaluable support as ADMAF's Lead Partner, providing generous year-round backing that enables the Foundation's mission. With Mubadala, ADMAF can inspire the next generation and embed art and creativity across society with activities for all ages and levels of creative ability, initiatives that recognise and support emerging creative talent and engaging educational activities for children and youth. This year, the Abu Dhabi Festival 'Brought to you by Mubadala' programme included a play for school children, a conversation for 'Riwaq Al Fikr – ADMAF Talks', a 'Back to School' session, a 'Festival in Focus' open rehearsal and events for World Arabic Language Day.

ADMAF's community and education partnerships epitomise a shared commitment to inspiring the next generation and providing sustainable development opportunities. The 20th edition of Abu Dhabi Festival was able to reach across the nation with events, workshops and initiatives thanks to their dedicated support.

Dolphin Energy returned as an Education partner supporting ADMAF programmes such as 'Music in Hospitals'. Gulf Capital and TotalEnergies also returned as Education partners focusing on the professional development of young Emiratis. They partnered with ADMAF to inspire the nation's youth to pursue careers in the arts through the Gulf Capital – ADMAF Creativity Award, the Gulf Capital – ADMAF Visual Arts Award, and the TotalEnergies Sustainability Design Award.

ADMAF is also honoured to partner with Van Cleef & Arpels for the return of The ADMAF Design Fund supported by L'ÉCOLE Van Cleef & Arpels, championing young jewellery designers from the region by providing them with an in-depth mentorship opportunity in Paris to gain the skills and knowledge required to succeed. In 2023, ADMAF also initiated a distinctive partnership with Dolce&Gabbana, supporting young designers with an invaluable opportunity to showcase their talent to a global audience via The Dolce&Gabbana x ADMAF Design Award.

Abu Dhabi Festival Award partner Chopard continues to position Abu Dhabi on a global stage through the annual recognition of world-famous cultural luminaries.

ADMAF deeply values the visionary commitment of these businesses; their partnerships enable the Foundation's impact on society to continue flourishing.

STRATEGIC PARTNERS



UNITED ARAB EMIRATES
MINISTRY OF CULTURE



وزارة الخارجية
MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS



دائرة الثقافة والسياحة
DEPARTMENT OF CULTURE
AND TOURISM

LEAD PARTNER



MUBADALA

EDUCATION PARTNERS



DOLPHIN ENERGY
دولفين للطاقة



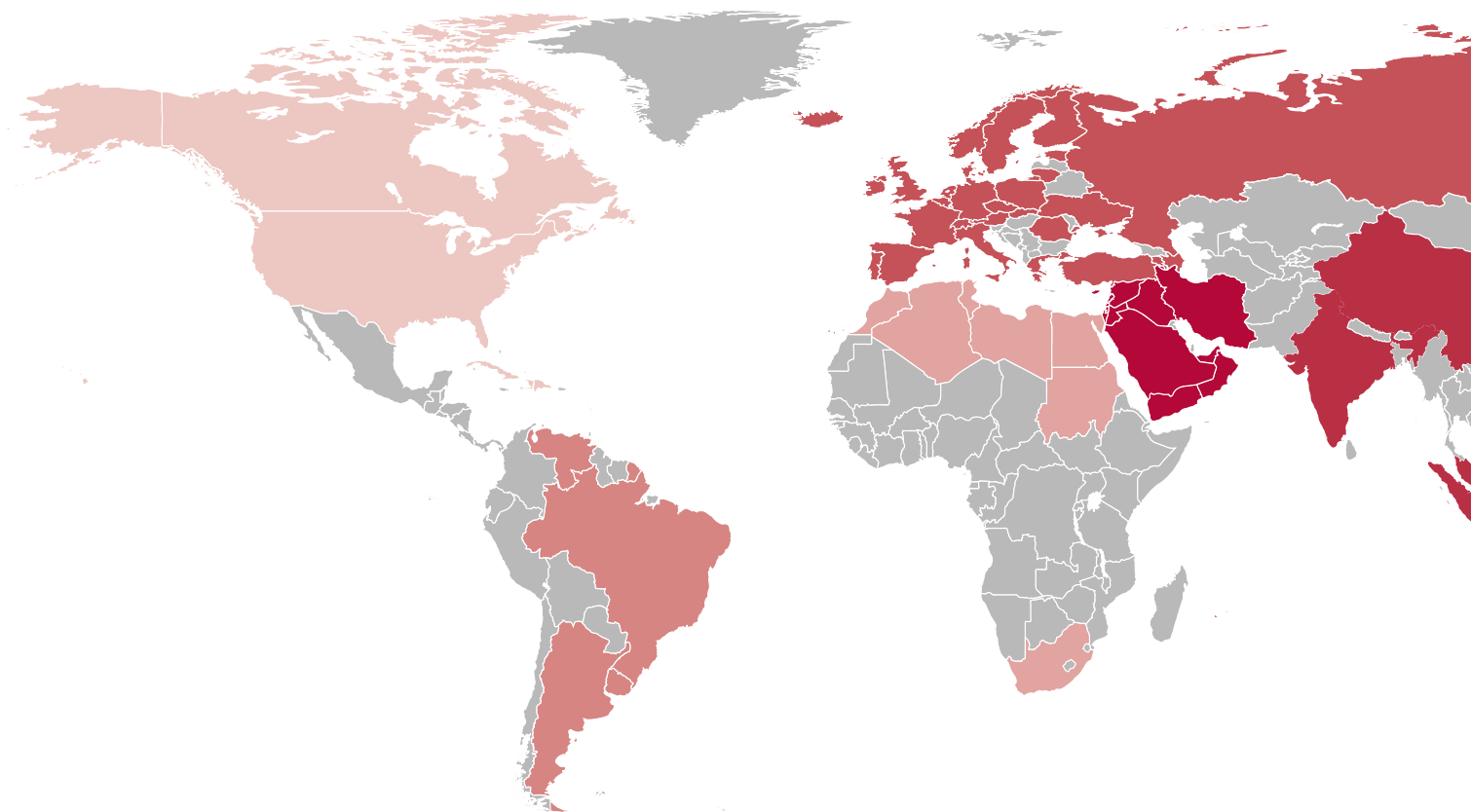
DOLCE & GABBANA

AWARD PARTNER

Chopard

FOUNDATION PARTNER





Bahrain: Beit Al Quran; Wejdan Al Mannai (2007); Abdulla Al Muharrraqi, Jamal Abdul Rahim (2008), Nasser Al Zayani (2022)

Iraq: Sa'di Al-Hadithi (2003); Naseer Shamma (2004-05/07-10/12/17/18/20-22); Mohamed Ghani Hikmat (2007); Dia Al Azzawi (2009); Zaha Hadid (2011); Hassan Massoudy, Anwar Abudragh & Maqamat (2012); Nedim Kufi & Talal Refit, Saïdk Kwaish, Mahmud Obaidi (2013); Layla Al Attar, Suad Al Attar, Rafa Al Nasiri, Shakir Hassan Al Said, Khudhair Shakirji, Khadhim Haydar, Ismail Fattah, Sadiq Al Fraji; Sama Al Shaib (2015); Randa Abdul Jabbar (2016); Randa Abdul Jabbar (2016); Sadiq Jafar, Mohammed Al-Attar, Omar Mohammed Fadhil, Ahmad Shamma, Fawzi Monshed, Sami Naseem (2021); Qoutayba Neaimi (2021-22); Maryam Wissam Al Dabbagh, Maqamat Trio, Sadiq Jaafar (2022); Laith Siddiq (2023)

Iran: Pari Saberi (2007); Parviz Tanavoli (2010), Sami Yusuf (2020); Reza Derakhshani, Rahim Haeizadeh, Rokni Haerizadeh and Hesam Rahmani (2022)

Israel: Jerusalem Academy of Music & Dance Chamber Choir, Jerusalem Knights Choir (2022)

Jordan: Mona Saudi (2008); Karim Said (2009); Macadi Nahhas (2011); Bassem Al Selawi, Maysoon Masalha (2014); Jordan Media Institute (ADMAF Partner 2012-19); Alaa Shaheen (2021); Walid Al Wawi, Ayman Zedani, Jordanian Oriental Percussionists (2022);

Kingdom of Saudi Arabia: Faisal Al Samra (2007, 2015); Shadia Alem (2007,2015); Jawhara Al Saud, Sami Al Turki (2013); Manal Al Dowayan, Ayman Yossri Daydban, Reem Al Faisal, Abdulnasser Gharem, Ahmed Mater (2013,15); Mohamed Abdo (2017), Marwan Fagi, Rami Basahih, Mohammed Khayran Al-Zahrani, Zain Al-Marhab (2021), Reem Al Tamimi (Tamtam) (2021/22)

Kuwait: Tarek Al Ghousein (2007/13/15/17); Basma Alsharif, Tamara Al Samerrael (2013); Munira Al Kazi, Jaffar Isiah (2013,2014); Sami Mohammed, Khazaal Awad Qaffas (2014); Zahed Sultan (2018); Hashim Al-Qallaf, Dr. Fahad Al Bathali, Ya'acoub Jassim (2021)

Lebanon: Dr. Walid Gholmieh; Lebanese National Oriental Orchestra (2006); Elias Rahbani, Charbel Rouhana, Tarek Atrissi (2007); Marcel Khalife (2007/8); Zeina Basbous, Zakira Project, Roger Moukarzel, Nabil Al Helou (2008); Dr. Hiba Al Kawas (2008, 2020 and 2021); Magjda El Roumi (2009); Abdel Rahman El Bacha, Bassam Lahoud, Compagnie Pauline Haddad, Soumaya Baalbeki; Hiba Tawaji (2011/22), Wadih Abi Raad (2011); Oussama Rahbani (2011/13/22); Bechara El Khoury; Ayman Baalbaki, Doris Bittar, Nadim Karam (2013); The Asil Ensemble for Contemporary Arab Music, Michel Fadel; Chafic Abboud, Saliba Douaihy, Nabil Nahas, Paul Guiragossian (2014); Mayssa Karaa (2015/21/22); Nabil Samer Mohdad, Camille Zakharia (2015); The Foundation for Arab Music Archiving & Research (2014-22), Baalbeck International Festival (ADMAF Partners); Tarek Yamani and Spektral Quartet (2017/21); Bechara Moufarrej; Sami Clark (2018); Samira Riachy, Nada El Hage, Nazih Ghabban, Lina Abyad, Bernard Khoury, Etel Adnan (2021); Lebanese Philharmonic Orchestra (2021/22), Voice of Heaven Choir, Omar Rahbani, Ibrahim Maalouf, Maya El Khalil, Antonine University Choir, The Lebanese Symphony Orchestra, Harout Fazilian, Rafca Fares (2022)

Oman: Royal Oman Symphony Orchestra (2003); Hassan Meer (2007,2013,2015); Anwar Sonja (2007)

Palestine: Kamanjati (2007); Laila Shawa (2008); Edward Said National Conservatory of Music (2010); Hazem Harb (2015,2017); Ashtar Theatre; Suleiman Mansour (2014); Ahmed Jadallah, Steve Sabella (2015); Faris Amin (2017), Omar Kamal & Big Band, United Strings of Europe (2018/19/20); Filasteen Young Musicians Orchestra, Samir Odeh-Tamimi (2021), Hazem Harb; Mays Al Baik, late Bashir Sinwar, Yasser Dweik (2022)

Syria: Rasha Arodaky (2004); Khalid Al-Saai (2007); National Symphony Orchestra (2009, 2011); Sawsan Al Bahar (2015); Ashraf Kateb, Hamsa Juris Al Wadi (2016), Kinan Azmeh (2017/21/22), Damascus Festival Chamber Players (2017), Syrian Expat Philharmonic Orchestra (2017); Safwan Dahoul (2013); Ahmed Nashat Al Zuaby, Mahmoud Hamdad, Louay Kayyali, Fateh Moudarres (2014); Ammar Al Beik, Tammam Azzam (2015); Sawsan Al Bahar (2016); Ranim Orouk (2017); Fateen Kanaan, Jalal Kassam, Huosain Sabsaby, Nabil Hilaneh, Somar Al Nasser (2021), ; Talin Hazbar, Abdullatif Al Smoudi, Ismail Al Rifai, Sara Naim, Talal Moualla (2022)

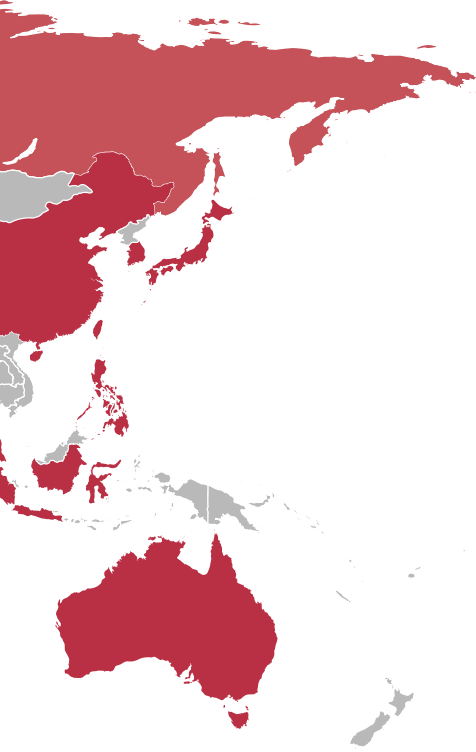
Turkey: Istanbul Chamber Orchestra (2006); The Ottoman Court Collection from Dolmabahce Palace (2006); Göksel Baktagir (2012); Nicati Çelik, Kudsî Erguner (2021), Aytaç Dogan (2022)

Qatar: Yousef Ahmed (2007,2013); Khalifa Al-Obaidly, Fatima Al Shebani, Ali Hassan (2007); Sheikh Khalid Bin Hamad Bin Ahmed Al Thani (2015)

UAE: Abdulla Al Saadi, Mohammed Ahmad Ibrahim, Mohammad Yousef Ali (2007); UAE Philharmonic Orchestra; Abu Dhabi Choral Group, The Voices of Harmony (2009); Moazza Mattar (2011); Ali Obeid and Takht Al Emarat (2013); Abdul Qader Al Rais (2014,16,22); Lamy Gargash (2015/17/19); Khalil Abdul Wahid (2013,15,16,22); Ali Al Abdan (2013,14,22); Hassan Sharif, Hussain Sharif; Hamdan Al Shamsi, Mohammed Al Messabi, Farah Al Qasimi (2013/14/23), Ebtisam Abdulaziz (2013/17/22), Sarah Ibrahim Nasser, Maryam Al Suweidi, May Rashid Al Shamsi, Dana Al Mazrouei, Samira Musabih Al Noaimi, Mahmoud Ahmed, Saeed Khalifa, Afra Al Hamed; Maitha Demaithan, Hamdan Buti Al Shamsi (2013); Sara Al Agroobi, Ammar Al Attar, Khalid Al Banna, Amna Al Dabbagh, Saeed Al Madani, Fatema Al Mazrouie, Hind Bin Demaithan, Mohammed Ahmed Ibrahim, Aisha Juma, Layla Juma, Lateefa Bint Maktoum, Khalid Mezaina, Salama Nasib, Khalid Shafar; Afra Bin Dhaheer, Obaid Suroor, Ahmed Yousef, Mohamed Aljneibi; Afra Atiq (2016); Abdul Aziz Al Fadli; Abdul Aziz Al Musallem; Abdul Rahim Salem; Abdul Rauf Khalfan; Ahmed Zain; Ali Al Saloom; Amal Al Agroobi; Amel Al Marzooqi; Amna Al Fard; Azza Al Qubaisi; Dana Al Mazrouei; Aisha Bilkhair;

Ebtisam Abdulaziz; Faisal Al Sari; Farid Al Rais; Fatma Lootah; Hamdan Al Abri; Hamdan Buti Al Shamisi; Jalal Luqman; Karima Al Shomaly; Khawla Darwish; Mattar Bin Lahej; Mohammad Al Madani; Mohamed Al Buraiki; Mohamed Al Mazrouei; Mohammed Al Astad; Mohammed Al Harmoudi; Mohammed Al Hashimi; Mohammed Kazem; Nabeel Al Mehairibi; Najat Makki; Noor Al Suwaidi; Nujoom Al Ghanem; Qais Sedki; Rawia Abdullah; Resuscitation Theatre; Saeed Salmeen Al Murry; Saoud Al Dhaheer; Shamsa Al Omaira; SAMA Quartet; Sara Al Nuami; Sara Al Qaiwani; Sougha; START; Sultan Al Amimi; Summayah Al Suwaidi; Takht Al Emarat; Yousif Al Harmoudi, Barjeel Art Foundation, Zayed University, New York University Abu Dhabi, UAE University, Higher Colleges of Technology, Sharjah University, UAE Red Crescent (ADMAF Partners); Shaikha Al Mazrou, Amer Aldour (2017); Mohammed Fairouz (2017/22); Mohammed Mandi (2018/22); Dia'a Allam (2020); Ewala Shelters for Women and Children (ADF Partner 2010-21), Al Ain Film Festival (ADF Partner 2020-22), Emirates Youth Symphony Orchestra (2009-15/21/22); The Junction Dubai, Al Ain Film Festival, Ayesha Ali Al Ghais, Jemei Salem Al Dhanhani, Shaikha Al Jaber, Mohammed Abdullah Noor Al Din, Mariam Jumaa Faraj, Luluwa Al Mansouri, Basima Mohammed Younis, Najat Al Dhaheer, Shaikha Al Mutairi, Habib Sayegh, Shaikha Al Mansouri, Maryam Al Adan, Al Sagheera Al Ameri, and Mohammed Shuaib Al Hammadi, Khulood Al Jabri, Mohamed Yousef, Obaid Albu-door, Saggaf Al Hashimi, Sumayyah Al Suwaidi, and Dr. Noura Al Mazroui, Yaser Al-Qerqawi, Habib Ghuloom, Arqam, Oriental Percussion, Emirat Choir (2021); Ihab Darwish (2018/21/22); Eman Al Hashemi (2016/22/23), Maitha Abdalla (2022); Zeinab Al Hashemi (2016/22); Ahmed Al Faresi, Afra Al Dhaheer, Hashel Al Lamki, Sara Al Haddad, Zeinab Alhashemi, Abdullah Al Saadi, HE Abdul Rahman Al Owais, Ahmed Al Ansari, Mohamed Ahmed Ibrahim, Mohamed Al Qassab, Nujoom Alghanem, Mohammed Al Mazrouei, Moza Almatrooshi, Sarah Almehairi, Alaa Edris, Hind Mezaina, Saleh Al Ustad, Nabla Yahya, Laila Mohammad Ali Al Farsi, Afnan Mohammad Al Hamady, Yousef Ali Al Adan, Hamda Hasan Al Hamadi, Suroor Khalifa Al Kaabi, Fatima Nasir, Nasser Jubran, Asma Al Kalbani, Dr. Aisha Al Ghais, Dr. Maryam Al Hashemi, Aysa Al Zaabi, Elham Al Marzooqi (2022)

Yemen: Boushra Al Mutawakel (2015)



Canada: Gary Hoffman (2004); Russell Maliphant (2011); Michael Schade (2014); Jan Liseicki (2015); Janet Belloto (2017); Louis Lortie (2018); Doug Beube (2021); Bruce Liu (2023)

Cuba: Carlos Acosta, Alfredo Rodríguez (2016)

Dominican Republic: National Symphony Orchestra; José Antonio Molina (2011); Aisha Syed Castro (2015)

Panama: Billy Cobham (2012)

Puerto Rico: Ana María Martínez (2013)

USA: Rosamund Mack, Neil Rutman (2003); David Korevaar (2005); Waleed Howrani (2006); CATCUNY (2009); Wynton Marsalis Ensemble (2010/17); Cleveland Clinic Arts & Medicine Institute (since 2010); Wayne Marshall (2010); Al Jarreau; Michael Ching; Ensemble ACJW, Margaret Wolfson, Kevin Spacey, Yefim Bronfman (2011); Christo (since 2011); Natalie Cole, DeClassified Ensemble; Miles Jaye (2012); Quincy Jones, Dominick Farinacci, Joshua Bell; Eugene Kohn (2013); Decoda Ensemble, Bill Fontana, Herbie Hancock, Renée Fleming, American Ballet Theatre (2014/20/21/22); Chicago Shakespeare Theater (2015); FotoFest International (2015); Yo-Yo Ma (2017); Deborah Voigt (2018); Pink Martini (2018); Dennis Russell Davies (2018); Benjamin Shwartz, Manuel Palazzo, Joyce DiDonato (2019/22); Justin Kaufin (2019); Carnegie Hall (2020/21/22/23); Jazz at Lincoln Center (2020/23); American Ballet Theatre (2023), The Metropolitan Opera (2020/23); Michael Rice, UN Chamber Music Society of the United Nations, Nada Shabout, John Beasley, James Genus, Gregoire Maret, Terrion Gully (2021); Sara Andon (2021/22), Middle East Institute (2016, 21-22-23); John Debney, David Shire, Robert Townson, Faraj Abyad, Company E, James Clar, Richard Bernstein, Brenton Ryan, Lisbeth Scott, Olivia Vote, Wayne Bergeron, Tina Guo, Melissa White (2022); Gregory Porter (2023), Wynton Marsalis (2023).

Argentina: Fernando Suarez Paz (2007); Escolaso Guitarra Tango Trio (2008); Gorosito-Cataldi-De La Vega Trio (2008); José Cura (2021)

Brazil: Gilberto Gil (2013); Sérgio Mendes (2015)

Colombia: Eddmar Castañeda (2012); Maestro Andrés Orozco Estrada (2021)

Peru: Juan Diego Florez (2015/23)

Uruguay: Erwin Schott (2008); Héctor Ulises Passarella (2018)

Venezuela: Gustavo Dudamel & The Simon Bolívar Symphony Orchestra of Venezuela; Simón Bolívar Music Foundation (2014); Jose Antonio Abreu (2014)

Australia: Slava & Leonard Grigorayan (2005); Claudia Zorbas (2007); Sydney Opera House (2015)

China: Yi Zhang, Siqing Lu (2004); Monks from the Shaolin Temple (2012); YUNDI (2013); Lang Lang (2016), China's National Centre for the Performing Arts Orchestra (2017); Haochen Zhang, Jian Wang, Tan Dun (2023)

India: Anjali Srinivasan (2017); Rajeev Kumar; Raghu Dixit; Merchants of Bollywood; Tausree Shankar Dance Company; Ustad Amjad Ali Khan (2018); Javed Ali (2021); Vivek Vilasini, Vikram Divecha (2022)

Japan: King Gontak; Tokue Hisako (2007); Nobuyuki Tsujii (2010); Maki Namekawa (2018); Naochika Sogabe, KODO (2021); Embassy of Japan in the UAE and The Japan Foundation (2022)

Malaysia: Zulkarnain Yusof (2021)

Singapore: Dharni (2021)

South Korea: Sarah Chang (2008); Ah Ruem Ahn (2015), Kyung Wha Chung; Korean National Ballet; Korean Symphony Orchestra; Special Olympics Korea Ensemble; Sumi Jo; Chi-Yong Chung, Jae-Hyuch Cho (2019)

Philippines: Bayanihan National Folk Dance (2007)

Indonesia: Joey Alexander (2016)

Taiwan: Steven Lin (2021)

Armenia: Hasmik Leyloyan (2010); Sergey Khachatryan (2016); Arsen Petrosyan (2021)

Austria: Ambassade Orchestra Vienna (2007); Salzburg Marionettes (2010); Sascha Goetzl (2014); Cori O'Land (2018)

Azerbaijan: Azerbaijan Opera (2003); Azerbaijan State Symphony Orchestra (2005)

Belgium: José Van Dam (2009); Orchestre Royal de Chambre de Wallonie, Isabelle de Borchgrave (2011); Julien Libeer (2015); BOZAR & Queen Elisabeth Music Chapel (ADMAF Partners)

Bulgaria: Victoria Vassilenko (2018); Stoyan Stoyanov (2018, 2021); Ivan Volkov, Krassie Dzhambasov, Iva Georgieva, Diana Pandova, Alex Nushev (2021);

Cyprus: Cyprien Katsaris (2003)

Czech Republic: Gudni Emilsson (2004); Premier College Youth Symphony Orchestra (since 2010); Czech Philharmonic, Jiri Belohlávek (2013); Anna Fusek (2019)

Denmark: Nikolaj Znaider (2008)

Estonia: Kristjan Järvi (2010); Paavo Järvi (2016)

France: French Art Festival, La Semaine Francophone (2008); Jean-Yves Thibaudet (2008/9); Roberto Alagna (2009); Le Capitole Opera (2010); Augustin Dumay, Sylvie Guillem, Jean-Guihen Queyras (2011); Ibrahim Maalouf (2012); Gautier Capuçon (2014); Natalie Dessay & Laurent Naouri, Thierry Escaich, Xavier Phillips, Orchestre de Paris (2016); Frank Braley, Josquin Otal, Jonathan Fournel; Gilles Chyven (2018); Institut du Monde Arabe, Institut Français, Festival d'Aix-en-Provence (2017-22), (ADMAF Partners); Paris Opera Ballet (2019); Pierre Audi, LUMA Foundation (2021); Judith Adler de Oliveira (2021/22)

Germany: Roswitha Lohmer (2003); Susanne Calgeer (2004); Patrick Simper, Deutsches Symphonie-Orchester Berlin (2006); Kunst Museum Bonn (2007); Jonas Kaufmann, Andreas Gursky (2009); Arabella Steinbacher (2010, 2021); SemperOper Ballet, NDR Radiophilharmonie Hanover (2012); Dresden Philharmonic (2014); Anne-Sophie Mutter; À la cARTE Choir (2015); Hendrik Wahl (2017); The Barenboim-Said Centre for Music, Ensemble Modern (2021); Pierre Boulez Saal (2022/23)

Greece: Vasilis Saleas (2012); Dr. Theodore Spyropoulos (2021)

Hungary: Gabor Takacs-Nagy; Ivan Fischer; The Budapest Festival Orchestra (2015)

Iceland: Vladimir Ashkenazy (2014)

Ireland: Sir James Galway (2009); National Youth Orchestra of Ireland (2011)

Italy: Armonia Quartet (2005); Daniela Lojarró (2007); Amato Ionata Organic Jazz Band (2008); Andrea Bocelli (2009); Puccini Festival Opera & Orchestra (2010); Nicola Luisotti (2011); Cesare Picco (2012); Riccardo Muti & the Luigi Cherubini Youth Orchestra (2015); Roberto Lopardo (2017); Orchestre dell'Accademia Nazionale di Santa Cecilia – Rome, conducted by Sir Antonio Pappano with Beatrice Rana (2018); Vittorio Grigolo; Il Pomo D'Oro Orchestra (2019/22); Nicola Piovani, Roberto Bolle, Paolo Fresu, Cristiana de Marchi, Simone Pedroni (2022); Orchestra of Modena Opera House (2023)

Latvia: Elina Garanča (2008); Kristine Opolais (2019)

Lithuania: The Lithuanian Chamber Orchestra (2008)

Montenegro: Miloš Karadaglic (2014)

Netherlands: Tübingen Chamber Orchestra (2004); Bernadeta Astarí (2008); Rem Koolhaas (2015)

Norway: Leif Ove Andnes (2015)

Poland: Katarina Peers (2003); Tomek Setowski (2007); Wojciech Czepiel; Franciszek Ryszard Mazurek (2008); Krzysztof Jablonski, The National Polish Radio Symphony Orchestra; Krzysztof Penderecki (2010); Szymon Brzóska (2012); Beethoven Academy Orchestra (2018/19/20/21/22); Maciej Pikulski (2016); Polish Radio Choir (2018); Aleksandra Świąg, Adam Goździewski, Krzysztof Książek, Szymon Nehring, Paweł Wojciechowski, Tymoteusz Bies, Edyta Krzemień (2021)

Portugal: Mariza (2017)

Romania: Angela Georgiu; Ion Marin (2009)

Russia: Anastasia Khitruk; Olga Kaiser (2006); State Hermitage Orchestra, Russian Youth Chamber (2007); Alexander Vernikov; Vladimir Jurowski, Anna Netrebko; Pavel Sorokin (2008); The Bolshoi Ballet & Orchestra (2008/9); Nina Kotova, Pavel Klinichev (2009); Maxim Beloserkovsky & Irina Dvorovenko, Dmitri Hvorostovsky, Valery Gergiev; Russian National Orchestra conducted by Ovs Yanikov; Nikita Borisov-Glevsky; Ekaterina Siurina (2011); Maxim Vengerov, St Petersburg Philharmonic, Yuri Temirkanov (2012); Victoria Yastrebova; The Mariinsky Orchestra conducted by Boris Gruzin; Irina Kohn (2013); Sergei Redkin (2018); Maxim Emelyanychev (2019); Mariinsky Theatre (ADMAF Partner)

Slovakia: Eugen Prochac (2005); The Keleman Trio (2007)

Spain: Musica Antigua (2004); En Dos Palabra (2006); Angeles Blancas Gulín; Maestro David Gimenez; José Carreras (2007); José María Gallardo del Rey, Evru, Miguel Trillo, Miguel Oriola (2008); Niño Josele (2012); Plácido Domingo (2013); Juan Pérez Floristán, Tomatito (2017); ADMAF Partners, MACBA; Compañía Nacional de Danza (2018); Queen Sofía College of Music, Grand Teatre del Liceu (2015-22); Sara Baras (2019); Freixenet Symphony Orchestra; Carlos Piñana (2021/22); Teatro Real (2022/23); Lina Tur Bonet, Alba Ventura, Daniel Ligoñ, Diego Navarro (2022); María Pagés (2023); Jordi Saval (2023)

Sweden: Daniel Propper (2006); Mats Liljefors; Swedish Radio Symphony Orchestra (2007); Dr. Johanna Sellman (2021)

Switzerland: Luzia von Wyl (2016); Benjamin Engeli (2023)

Finland: In Time Quintet (2007)

UK: Karel Marc Chichon; British Philharmonic Orchestra conducted by Roderick Dunk (2006); London Philharmonic Orchestra (2008); Matthew Barley & Between the Notes (2008/10); English National Ballet (2009); Live Music Now (2009/10/13); Birmingham Stage Company, Sir Colin Davies (2010); Globe Education at Shakespeare's Globe (2010-13); The World Orchestra for Peace (2011); October Gallery (2011-12); Anoushka Shankar; David Coleman; Antony Gormley (2012); Big Bang; Kev Sutherland, Dez Skin; Engineering UK (2011); Scottish Opera (2012/13); Tim Rhys-Evans; Oily Cart, Trevor Kweku Blackwood (2014); Hugh Grant, Nick Lloyd Webber & James D. Reid; Marcus Namd (2015); The Heritage Orchestra conducted by Simon Lee; Ministry of Science Live!; Richard Saxel (2016); The Orchestra of The Age of Enlightenment (2018), European Union Youth Orchestra, University of London SOAS, Prince's School of Traditional Arts; Manchester International Festival, Edinburgh International Festival, Royal Opera House, British Council, Shubbak Festival, Southbank Centre; Nicola Benedetti Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment (2018); Bryn Terfel (2013/19); Sinfonia Cymru conducted by Gareth Jones, Cór Choir (2019); Nicola Benedetti (2018/21), Patricia Millns, University of Cambridge's Centre for Strategic Philanthropy (2021); London Symphony Orchestra (2010/22); Lee Reynolds, Roxane Zand, Melissa Gronlund, Royal Scottish National Orchestra Chorus, Sir Derek Jacobi (2022); Leia Zhu (2023)

Ukraine: The National Symphony Orchestra of Ukraine (2007/13); Christia Hudziy & Maxim Ryzanov (2011); Volodymyr Sirenko (2013)

Algeria: Hamza Bounoua (2008); Rachid Koraiichi (2011); Ammar Bouras, Driss Quadahi (2013); Baya, Mohammed Issiakhem (2014);Contemporary Ballet of Algiers (2014)

Egypt: Al-Oyoun Group Takht Orchestra; Nazih Giris (2004); Cairo Symphony Orchestra; Hassan Sharara (2007); Susan HeFuna, Khaled Selim; Saeed Kamal (2008); Ahmed El Saedi; Bait Al Oud, Egyptian Philharmonic Society Orchestra, Adam Hainein (2010); Sherine Tohamy (2013/22); Najmaat Women's Ensemble, Dina El Wadidi; Armen Agop, Adel Siwi (2013); Abdul Hadi El Gazzar, Farghali Abdel Hafiz, Inji Efflatoun, Youssef Kamel, Kamel Moustafa, Hamed Nada, Mohammed Naghi, Effat Naghi, Mahmoud Said, Mohammed Sabry, Seif Wanly; Hosni Mohjed (2014); Khaled Hafez, Hazem Taha Hussein, Huda Lutfi, Youssef Nabil (2015); Nesma Abdul Aziz (2018); Sheikh Mahmoud Tohamy (2020/22); Cairo Jazz Station (2021); Islam Taha, Eslam Abdelaziz, Salma Mokhtar, Amr Fawzy, Yousif Abbas, Dr. Duraid Al Khafaji, Hazem Shaheen, Mohamed Abozeekry, Dr. Ahmed Al-Hinawi, Nehad El-Sayed, Dr. Karim Rashid, Farah El-Rafel, Ibrahim Fathi, Basam Sheiha, Trio Abozeekry, Teryola Trio, Gharbi Twins Trio, Hany Elbadry, Tohamy's Elite School Chorus (2022); Art D'Egypte (2021-22)

Libya: Ali Omar Ermes (2008); Arwa Abouon (2013); Hisham Errish (2021)

Morocco: Asma Almonaor (2008); Aisha Redouane (2010); Sidi Larbi Cherkaoui (2012); Mahi Binebine; Safaa Erruas, Mounir Fatmi, Najia Mehadij, Zakaria Ramhani (2013); Farid Belkhaia, Ahmed Cherkaoui, Mohammed Melehi (2014); Hicham Benohoud, Lalla Essaydi, Hassan Hajjaj (2015); Yann'sine (2016); Driss El Maloumi, Mohamed Briouel (2021)

Nigeria: Mariam Kamara (2021)

Tunisia: Anouar Brahem (2003); Nja Mahdaoui (2008); Latifa Arfaoui (2009); Meriem Bouderbala, Nadia Kaabi-Linke, Nicene Kossentini (2013); eL Seed (2020); Driss El Maloumi, Mohamed Briouel (2021); Bechir Gharbi, Bacem Yousfi, Dr. Mourad Sakli (2021)

South Africa: VOX Chamber Choir, Traditional South African Choir (2021); Lebo M, Lebo's South African Choir (2022)

Sudan: Mohammed Omar Khalil (2013); Ibrahim Salahi (2014); Ashraf Awad (2010/21); Tagelsir Hassan (2022)

NATIONAL STRATEGIC CULTURAL PARTNERS

ADMAF works in partnership with educational and cultural institutions across the UAE. These arrangements allow students and faculty bespoke access to ADMAF initiatives as well as ADMAF financial support for arts and cultural projects that complement studies, nurture academic performance, and develop professional skills.



UAEU



كليات التقنية العليا
HIGHER COLLEGES OF TECHNOLOGY

جامعة نيويورك أبوظبي



جامعة أبوظبي
ABU DHABI UNIVERSITY



Zayed Higher Organization
for Humanitarian Care & Special Needs



MOHAMED BIN ZAYED
UNIVERSITY OF
ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE



INTERNATIONAL STRATEGIC CULTURAL PARTNERS

ADMAF's global network aims to generate long-term benefits for the UAE's creative and cultural industries.



Bozar



INSTITUT FRANÇAIS



LE COLE



جوائز تقي الدين بشاري - جوائز التميز في الفنون والثقافة

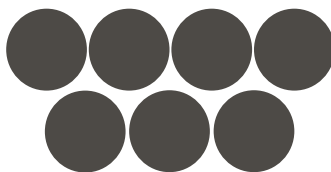


SOUTHBANK CENTRE



2023

IN REVIEW



MAKING AN IMPACT

39,669

AUDIENCE



65%

EMIRATI AUDIENCE



81

EXPERTS

35

PARTNERS



2

MOU
SIGNINGS

THE ADMAF TIMELINE

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE FOUNDATION'S ACTIVITIES IN 2023

JAN



ADMAF partners with Sky News Arabia for the 16th edition of the **Young Media Leaders programme**.

JAN - FEB



Oud virtuoso Naseer Shamma appears in partnership with Abu Dhabi Festival alongside jazz legend and nine-time GRAMMY award winner Wynton Marsalis for the **USA tour of 'Middle East Meditations'**.

MAR



The landmark **20th anniversary edition of Abu Dhabi Festival** opens at Emirates Palace.

ADMAF signs an **MoU** with Mohamed bin Zayed University of Artificial Intelligence.

APR



Presented in collaboration with ADMAF, the **Middle East Institute's 'Perceptible Rhythms / Alternative Temporalities'** exhibition brings together 12 artists in Washington, D.C., to explore the impact of the climate crisis.

DEC



GRAMMY-award winner Jordi Savall closes the **20th Abu Dhabi Festival**, conducting **La Capella Reial De Catalunya** and **Hespèrion XXI** in **'Al-Andalus & The Ancient Hesperia'**, an exquisitely crafted programme drawing on 500 years of Andalusian Arabic cultural and historical roots.

2023

MAY



The 8th edition of ADMAF's **Riwaq Al Adab Wal Kitab initiative** celebrates the life of the late renowned Emirati poet Habib Al Sayegh at the 32nd Abu Dhabi International Book Fair.

MAY - JUN



'**Der Fliegende Holländer (The Flying Dutchman)**, an Abu Dhabi Festival co-production with the Metropolitan Opera and Opera de Quebec, opens at New York's renowned Metropolitan Opera.

JUN



A panel discussion on 'The Evolution of the UAE Art Scene' at the UAE Embassy in Paris, France, inaugurates **ADMAF's Art @ Embassies initiative**.

JULY



The first **Dolce&Gabbana x ADMAF Design Award** opens for applications.

NOV



At Abu Dhabi Art, Rawdha Al Ketbi's ADMAF-commissioned artwork 'M'hab' is unveiled. The foundation also hosts two dynamic panel discussions, and celebrates the installation of the winning artwork in the Christo and Jeanne-Claude Award.

OCT



ADMAF supports **Emirati Artist Farah Al Qasimi's exhibition 'Abort, Retry, Fail' at the Delfina Foundation**, the artist's landmark first solo exhibition in the UK.

ADMAF signs an **MoU with the Women of the World Foundation**, inaugurating a strategic partnership representing a shared commitment to advancing women's rights internationally through the arts.

SEPT



The spectacular **opera Médée, co-produced by Abu Dhabi Festival and Teatro Real, opens at Teatro Real in Madrid.**

In Berlin, **Nasser Shamma curates Arabic Music Days**, presented by ADMAF in partnership with Pierre Boulez Saal. The event features a multidisciplinary line-up of Arab artists including Emirati visual artist Azza Al Qubaisi.

AUG



Preparations and planning for the upcoming season.

UNVEILING A NEW LOOK

In 2023, after more than 25 years, Abu Dhabi Music & Arts Foundation (ADMAF) unveiled a new brand identity and logo, reflecting a continued commitment to growth and innovation, keeping pace with the dynamic nature of the arts and culture landscape.

The new ADMAF logo represents a modern and sleek visual identity that retains the Gazelle from the original brand mark, affirming the organisation's pride in its story so far and its ties to the culture of Abu Dhabi. Capturing the essence of the Foundation, the logo absorbs and retains the reference to music, moving from a prominent treble clef to a quaver, representing ADMAF's multidisciplinary reach across all art forms. The design takes cues from diverse artistic sources, including the work of Pablo Picasso and Alexander Calder. The modern references embody the spirit of creativity, inclusivity, and cultural diversity that has been at the core of ADMAF since its inception nearly three decades ago. The refreshed design reflects a forward-thinking approach that honours the rich heritage and valuable contributions made by artists and visionaries throughout the Foundation's history.

With clean lines, contemporary typography, and a vibrant colour palette, the new logo signifies the Foundation's evolution and embraces the future. It also symbolises more than two decades of dedication to nurturing talent, fostering cultural dialogue, and supporting the arts in Abu Dhabi and beyond.

The change is more than just a visual transformation; it illustrates ADMAF's growth as a pioneering force in the arts and culture landscape while remaining committed to the core mission to cultivate creativity, advance artistic excellence, and create opportunities for emerging and established artists to thrive. With the new logo launch, ADMAF reaffirms its mission to push boundaries, foster collaboration, and catalyse positive change in the arts and cultural sector.

DESIGN BY PHILIPPE APELOIG

RESEARCH & DEVELOPMENT

Artistic Reference: Safavid Art, Picasso and Calder



DESIGN DEVELOPMENT



FINAL OUTCOME

أدماف
ADMAF



YEAR IN REVIEW



In 2023, ADMAF continued to reach new heights while showcasing its unwavering commitment to nurturing artistic talent and fostering cultural exchange. Among the year's remarkable milestones was the 20th anniversary celebration of Abu Dhabi Festival, welcoming the world's most renowned artists to the nation's capital. The special edition of the Festival captivated audiences and strengthened the UAE's position as a global beacon of cultural excellence.

This year, ADMAF remained steadfast in its dedication to empowering the nation's youth with capacity-building initiatives to provide them with the knowledge and skills to succeed. Throughout the year, aspiring, emerging, and established Emirati talents actively engaged in professional development, including masterclasses, workshops, mentorship and training programmes, enabling them to thrive and refine their craft while pushing the boundaries of their artistic expression.

The year also saw the forging of new partnerships with the signing of an MoU between ADMAF and the Mohamed bin Zayed University of Artificial Intelligence (MBZUAI), as well as the launch of a new award with world-renowned luxury fashion house Dolce&Gabbana. The Dolce&Gabbana x ADMAF Design Award provides young designers with the invaluable opportunity to showcase their talent and the depth of their abilities to a global audience. The signing of an MoU with Women of the World Foundation, presided over by HM Queen Camilla of the United Kingdom since 2015, marks the beginning of a ground-breaking partnership that seeks to celebrate and empower women through cultural initiatives.

Throughout the year, engaging talks and exhibitions engaged with growing concerns over the planet's future, raising awareness and instigating significant conversations. Furthering a commitment to solutions for national and global challenges, the Foundation contributed at home and abroad to conversations on the influence of culture and the arts in sustainable development.

2023 epitomised ADMAF's unwavering commitment to nurturing talent and building cultural bridges. As the Festival reached its twentieth anniversary and the Foundation approached its thirtieth, ADMAF continued solidifying its role as a leading patron of the arts, achieving impactful milestones while laying the groundwork for even greater accomplishments ahead.



ABU DHABI FESTIVAL 2023

THE WILL FOR EVOLUTION

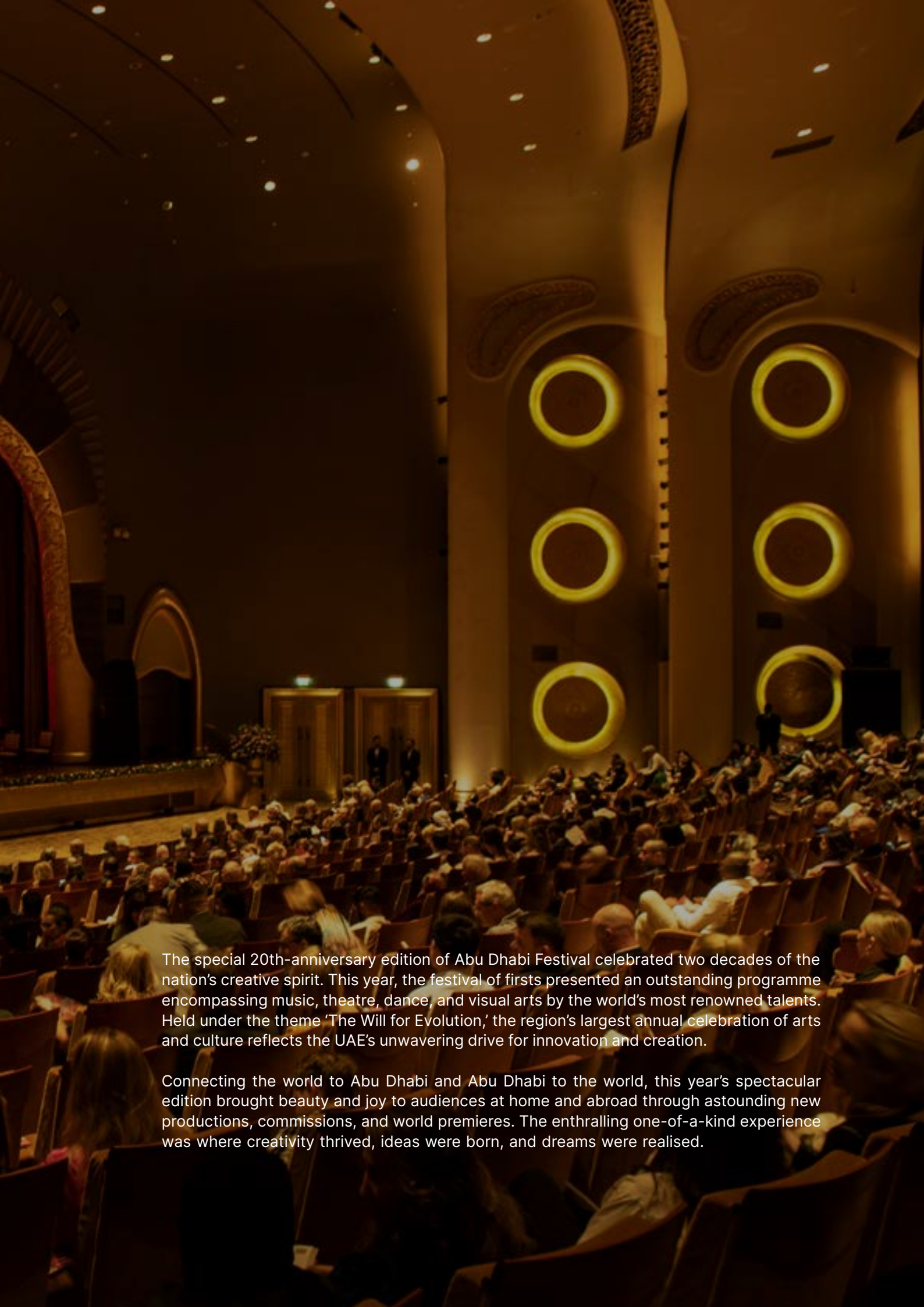
FOUNDING HONORARY PATRON

H.H. SHEIKH ABDULLAH BIN ZAYED BIN SULTAN AL NAHYAN

MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF THE UNITED ARAB EMIRATES

PATRON

H.H. SHEIKHA SHAMSA BINT HAMDAN BIN MOHAMMED AL NAHYAN



The special 20th-anniversary edition of Abu Dhabi Festival celebrated two decades of the nation's creative spirit. This year, the festival of firsts presented an outstanding programme encompassing music, theatre, dance, and visual arts by the world's most renowned talents. Held under the theme 'The Will for Evolution,' the region's largest annual celebration of arts and culture reflects the UAE's unwavering drive for innovation and creation.

Connecting the world to Abu Dhabi and Abu Dhabi to the world, this year's spectacular edition brought beauty and joy to audiences at home and abroad through astounding new productions, commissions, and world premieres. The enthralling one-of-a-kind experience was where creativity thrived, ideas were born, and dreams were realised.

ABU DHABI FESTIVAL

JUAN DIEGO FLÓREZ AND FRIENDS

Presented by Abu Dhabi Festival
UAE Premiere
Emirates Palace
1 March





ABU DHABI FESTIVAL

DE SCHEHERAZADE A YO, CARMEN MARÍA PAGÉS

Abu Dhabi Festival and Teatre del Liceu, Barcelona co-production
Middle East Premiere
Emirates Palace
10 March







GREGORY PORTER

Presented by Abu Dhabi Festival
UAE Premiere
Emirates Palace
11 March



ABU DHABI FESTIVAL

RECITAL SERIES

BRUCE LIU, PIANO

Presented by Abu Dhabi Festival
Arab World Premiere
The Red Theater, The Arts Center at NYU Abu Dhabi
14 March





ABU DHABI FESTIVAL

RECITAL SERIES

HAOCHEN ZHANG, PIANO

Presented by Abu Dhabi Festival
The Blue Hall, The Arts Center at NYU Abu Dhabi
16 March







FROM WEST TO EAST: A CLASSICAL ODYSSEY

Orchestra of Teatro Comunale di Modena Pavarotti-Freni
Conducted by Tan Dun and Featuring Cellist Jian Wang

Presented by Abu Dhabi Festival
Emirates Palace
17 March



ABU DHABI FESTIVAL

BUDDHA PASSION BY TAN DUN

Orchestra of Teatro Comunale di Modena Pavarotti-Freni
Conducted by Tan Dun

Presented by Abu Dhabi Festival
Middle East Premiere
Emirates Palace
18 March





ABU DHABI FESTIVAL

PEARL DIVER'S DAUGHTER

By Company | E, featuring Emirati co-writer Maitha Al Khayat, Emirati composer Eman Al Hashimi and GRAMMY-nominated singer and songwriter, Mayssa Karaa as the storyteller

Abu Dhabi Festival, Cultural Foundation, The Embassy of the United States in
Abu Dhabi co-production
World Premiere
Cultural Foundation
19 March







RECITAL SERIES

LEIA ZHU, VIOLIN
ACCOMPANIED BY
BENJAMIN ENGELI, PIANO

Presented by Abu Dhabi Festival
The Blue Hall, The Arts Center at NYU Abu Dhabi
20 March



STEINWAY & SONS

ABU DHABI FESTIVAL

EMIRATES YOUTH SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

Featuring Mariam Abouzahra on violin, and Amira Abouzahra on viola,
conducted by Riad Kudsí and Jakub Waldmann

Presented by Abu Dhabi Festival
Mohammed bin Rashid Library, Dubai
27 November

Thank you

We hope that the remarkable
young musicians added an ex



"نشكر لكم حضوركم، ونأم

بالأداء الموسيقي الاستثنائي

for attending!

talents of these exceptionally

exciting touch to your experience.



ABU DHABI FESTIVAL

AL-ANDALUS & THE ANCIENT HESPERIA LA CAPELLA REIAL DE CATALUNYA AND HESPÈRION XXI CONDUCTED BY JORDI SAVALL

Presented by Abu Dhabi Festival
In partnership with The Arts Center at NYU Abu Dhabi
The Red Theater, The Arts Center at NYU Abu Dhabi
11 December





SPiritUAL MUSIC

WITH SHEIKH MAHMOUD EL TOHAMY



HYMN OF PASSION

Featuring Hani Shanouda, Sheikh Abdel Raheem Douedar, and fellow chanters Mahmoud Hilal, and Georgina Helmi, accompanied by a choir and 30 talented musicians

THE CARPENTER'S DAUGHTERS

Celebrating the women who called themselves *banat-al najar* (daughters of the carpenter), the performance by the all-female choir is comprised of a selection of famous spiritual poems from Egypt, Sudan, and the Maghreb

Produced by Abu Dhabi Festival
Digital World Premiere
April 2023



ABU DHABI FESTIVAL

COMPOSERS' PLATFORM

KISSES OF POETRY

The debut album by New York-based American-Syrian composer Faraj Abyad.
Co-produced by Abu Dhabi Festival

ANCIENTS AND TROUBADOURS: FROM THE EAST TO THE WEST AND BACK


Sara Al Qaiwani with the London Chamber Orchestra
Produced by Abu Dhabi Festival





ABU DHABI FESTIVAL AWARDS

In partnership with *Chopard*

A woman with her hair pulled back, wearing a bright yellow cardigan over a black dress with a subtle pattern. She is standing behind a metal podium on a stage, looking slightly to her right. The background is dark, and the lighting is focused on her.

In recognition of their outstanding lifetime contributions to music and culture, in 2023 Abu Dhabi Festival recognised world-renowned composer and conductor Tan Dun, legendary flamenco dancer María Pagés, international opera star Juan Diego Flórez and Iraqi oud master Naseer Shamma, for remarkable achievements throughout their prolific careers. The award was also bestowed upon Sir Ian Stoutzker for his outstanding accomplishments and contributions to the industry, enabling music and arts to flourish, as well as the exceptional conductor, composer, and musical historian, Jordi Savall.

Image: H.E. Salem bin Khalid Al Qassimi, Minister of Culture and Youth, and ADMAF Founder H.E Huda Alkhamis-Kanoo present Tan Dun with the Abu Dhabi Festival Award ahead of his performance.

ABU DHABI FESTIVAL



Image: H.E. Sheikh Nahayan bin Mubarak Al Nahyan, Minister of Tolerance and Coexistence and ADMAF Founder H.E. Huda Alkhamis-Kanoo presents world-famous opera tenor Juan Diego Florez with the Abu Dhabi Festival award.



In partnership with

Chopard

Image: H.E. Sheikh Shakhboub bin Nahyan Bin Mubarak Al Nahyan, Minister of State and ADMAF Founder Huda Alkhamis-Kanoo present legendary flamenco dancer Maria PagesMaría Pagés with the Abu Dhabi Festival Award.



Image: H.E. Huda Alkhamis Kanoo with Sheikh Khaled Al Qasimi and Ian Stoutzker.



Image: H.E. Sheikh Nahayan bin Mubarak Al Nahyan, Minister of Tolerance and Coexistence, presents the Abu Dhabi Festival award to Jordi Savall.

VISUAL ARTS

The online virtual exhibition uses 3D walkthrough virtual reality technology to allow people worldwide to tour the 2022 flagship exhibition that narrates the 50-year history of the nation's visual arts scene.

**PORTRAIT OF A NATION II: BEYOND
NARRATIVES VIRTUAL EXHIBITION**



Image: Installation view Dr. Mohamed Yousif, 'Al insiyabiyya bil majadeef taht al maa', 1995 (refabricated in 2017), Wood, rope, dimensions variable.



Image: Installation view Abbas Akhavan 'Study for a Monument', 2013-16, Bronze and cotton, dimensions variable.



Middle
East
Institute



PERCEPTIBLE RHYTHMS/ALTERNATIVE TEMPORALITIES

Abu Dhabi Festival, in partnership with The Middle East Institute

The exhibition, which opened in Washington, D.C. on December 14, 2022, continued through to June 2, 2023. Curated by Maya El Khalil, it explored the impact of conflict, urbanisation, and the climate crisis on environments in the Middle East. It featured 12 artists from the Middle East, South Asia, and North Africa, including Emirati artists Moza Almatrooshi and Sarah Almehairi.

ART @ EMBASSIES: THE EVOLUTION OF THE UAE ART SCENE

The first event of this initiative took place at the UAE Embassy in Paris. Editor Melissa Gronlund moderated the panel discussion, which featured Emirati conceptual artist Maitha Abdalla in conversation with curator Maya El Khalil on the remarkable 50-year evolution of the UAE's art scene.



Patron

H.H. Sheikha Shamsa bint Hamdan bin Mohammed Al Nahyan

Abu Dhabi Music & Arts Foundation
in collaboration with
United Arab Emirates Embassy in France
present

ART AT EMBASSIES

The Evolution of the UAE Art Scene



H.E Henda Al Otaiba, UAE Ambassador to France and H.E Huda Alkhamis-Kanoo with curator Maya El Khalil, editor and writer Melissa Gronlund, and Emirati conceptual artist Maitha Abdalla.

ART @ EMBASSIES: EMIRATI ARTIST FARAH AL QASIMI IN CONVERSATION WITH MAYA EL KHALIL

The second instalment in the series took place at the UAE Embassy in London, UK, bringing together curator Maya El Khalil in conversation with Emirati artist Farah Al Qasimi. The discussion focused on her artistic practice and the inspiration of Al Qasimi's exhibition 'Abort, Retry, Fail' at Delfina Foundation, her first solo exhibition in the UK.





Khalid Saud Al Qasimi, Deputy Chief of Mission at UAE Embassy in London, UK.

ABORT, RETRY, FAIL: FARAH AL QASIMI'S EXHIBITION AT DELFINA FOUNDATION

Farah Al Qasimi's critically acclaimed first UK solo exhibition comprised multimedia still and moving image works that vibrantly capture glimpses of everyday life and the entangled relationship between material culture and globalised societies, indexing attempts to transcend or deny the natural world.





DELFINA
FOUNDATION

ADMAF BOOTH AT ART DUBAI

The Foundation had a strong presence at Art Dubai in March, engaging with fair visitors and artists. It presented its Abu Dhabi Festival 2023 activities, including publications, exhibitions, awards, and other projects.



ABU DHABI M ARTS FOUNDA



MUSIC &
MUSIC

ABU DHABI ART

During Abu Dhabi Art, ADMAF presented two insightful panel discussions featuring leading art experts and academics from the UAE and the Republic of Korea. The Foundation also unveiled two works, a specially commissioned sculptural installation by Emirati artist, Rawdha Al Ketbi titled 'M'hab', and the 2023 Christo & Jeanne-Claude Award winner, 'Shaheeq', by Vivi Zhu, Hala El Abora, and Majd Alloush.

ADMAF invited students from Zayed Higher Organization, Mohammed bin Rashid Center for Special Education and Al Yasmina School to visit Abu Dhabi Art and participate in art workshops in the Art Studio.

On the occasion of Abu Dhabi Art, ADMAF hosted important partners from MMCA, the National Museum of Modern and Contemporary Art, Korea, and Art Sonje Center for a comprehensive itinerary, including a curatorial meeting to establish a roadmap for collaboration, and engagements with UAE-based artists and institutions. They also participated in ADMAF-hosted panel discussions as part of Abu Dhabi Art's talks programme, with Art Sonje Center's curators joined by Emirati poet and artist Nujoom Al Ghanem, curator Maya El Khalil and MMCA curators in discussion with Hyundai Motor Art Director and ADMAF strategic partner MBZUAI.

POWERED BY  GS Energy

 MOHAMED BIN ZAYED
UNIVERSITY OF
ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE



Kyungwon & JEON Joonho
Art Sonje Center, 2022




ADMAF INTERNATIONAL

Working together to make a lasting impression beyond the UAE.



The New York Arabic Orchestra and composer Layth Sidiq in Washington DC.



ADMAF has forged partnerships with international organisations and entities to create a conducive environment for cross-cultural dialogue and exchange environment. Through these partnerships, the Foundation has played a pivotal role in bringing together people from diverse cultural backgrounds to engage in constructive discussions and share their perspectives. The Foundation helps bridge cultural divides and promote a more inclusive and tolerant society by creating a platform for insightful dialogue.

Throughout 2023, ADMAF continued its contribution to advancing Abu Dhabi's position as a global cultural hub by co-commissioning, co-producing and supporting artists and their performances internationally.

ADDUMPAFF I NITTEBERRVAATI DONPALL

THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA



'ZIGZAG' BY AMERICAN BALLET THEATRE – USA TOUR

Co-commissioned by Abu Dhabi Festival and choreographed by Jessica Lang to the music of legendary singer Tony Bennett, the tour by American Ballet Theatre, one of the world's greatest dance companies, continued across major cities in the US in 2023.



ABT
AMERICAN
BALLET
THEATRE

ADMAF INTERNATIONAL

THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA





MIDDLE EAST MEDITATIONS USA TOUR

Iraqi oud master Naseer Shamma appeared courtesy of Abu Dhabi Festival alongside nine-time GRAMMY Award-winner, internationally acclaimed musician, composer and legend Wynton Marsalis and The Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra. The tour brought American jazz together with Arabic maqam across the US.

January - February

ADMAF INTERNATIONAL

THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA



'DER FLIEGENDE HOLLÄNDER' (THE FLYING DUTCHMAN)

The Abu Dhabi Festival co-production with the Metropolitan Opera, and Opera de Quebec opened at New York's renowned Metropolitan Opera.

Maestro Thomas Guggeis conducts the Metropolitan Opera Orchestra with tenor Eric Cutler as Erik and bass Dmitry Belosselskiy as Daaland in stage director François Girard's ghostly setting.

New York
30 May - 10 June



The Met
ropolitan
Opera

Opéra
DE QUÉBEC

ADMAF INTERNATIONAL

THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA



Middle
East
Institute

NEW YORK ARAB ORCHESTRA WITH LAYTH SIDIQ

The vibrant New York Arab Orchestra, under Layth Sidiq's artistic direction, performed a sold-out one-night-only concert at legendary venue The Barns at Wolf Trap in Washington D.C. The concert was presented by Abu Dhabi Festival in partnership with the Middle East Institute.

27 October



ADMAP INTERNATIONAL
THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

UN CHAMBER MUSIC SOCIETY CONCERT

The accomplished musicians of the UN Chamber Music Society of the United Nations Staff Recreation Council, directed by Brenda Vongova, together with held a concert in celebration of World Arabic Language Day, on 18 December 2023, at the prestigious Weill Recital Hall at Carnegie Hall.

18 December





ADMAF INTERNATIONAL

SPAIN

MÉDÉE AT TEATRO REAL

Opening the season for Madrid's leading opera house, Médée by Luigi Cherubini combined powerful storytelling and exceptional performances. The Greek tragedy, conducted by Ivar Bolton, featured an incredible cast, including captivating soprano Maria Agresta.

Madrid
September - October





ADMAF INTERNATIONAL

GERMANY



ARABIC MUSIC DAYS IN PARTNERSHIP WITH PIERRE BOULEZ SAAL

Supported by Abu Dhabi Festival, the celebration of diverse Arabic music in Berlin's iconic Frank Gehry-designed music hall, the Pierre Boulez Saal, featured a stellar line-up of Arab artists curated by Naseer Shamma, including the Ahmad Shamma Quartet, Islam Taha & the Cairo Oud House Trio, Europe Oud Quartet, Nehad El Sayed Quintet, and Naseer Shamma with members of the 2350BC Orchestra.

Berlin
13 - 17 September



**PIERRE BOULEZ
SAAL**

EUROPE

WORLD TOUR OF 'EDEN' BY JOYCE DIDONATO

The Abu Dhabi Festival co-commission and production 'Eden', by the internationally renowned GRAMMY-winning mezzo-soprano Joyce DiDonato continued to tour across major cities around Europe, playing at the following iconic venues:

Megaron, Athens

Fundação Calouste Gulbenkian, Lisbon

Teatro Real, Madrid

Palau de la Música Catalana, Barcelona

Halle aux Grains, Toulouse

Dresden Music Festival, Dresden

Die Glocke, Bremen

Philharmonie Essen, Essen

NOSPR, Katowice

Dzintaru koncertzāle, Jūrmala

Teatro alla Scala, Milan





VISUAL ARTS

MIDDLE EAST INSTITUTE EXHIBITION 'PERCEPTIBLE RHYTHMS/ALTERNATIVE TEMPORALITIES'

Organised in partnership with ADMAF, the exhibition featured 12 artists (including two Emiratis) from the Middle East, North Africa and South Asia who explored the impact of conflict, urbanisation and the climate crisis on their environments and how humankind can better relate to and care for the planet.

Washington D.C.
January - June

ART TALK AND TOUR OF PERCEPTIBLE RHYTHMS/ ALTERNATIVE TEMPORALITIES

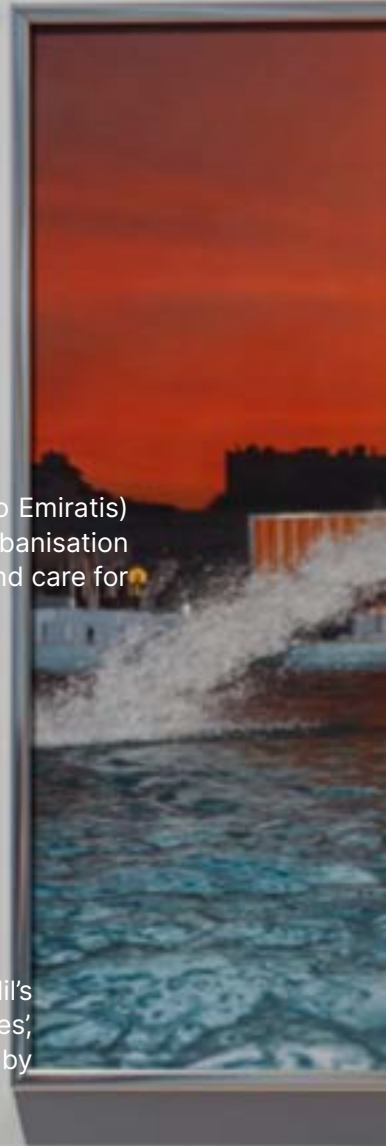
Curator Maya El Khalil joined Lebanese artist Maha Nasrallah for a discussion on El Khalil's vision for the Middle East Institute's 'Perceptible Rhythms/Alternative Temporalities', exploring climate and sustainability in the Middle East. The discussion was moderated by MEI Arts and Culture Center Director Lyne Sneige.

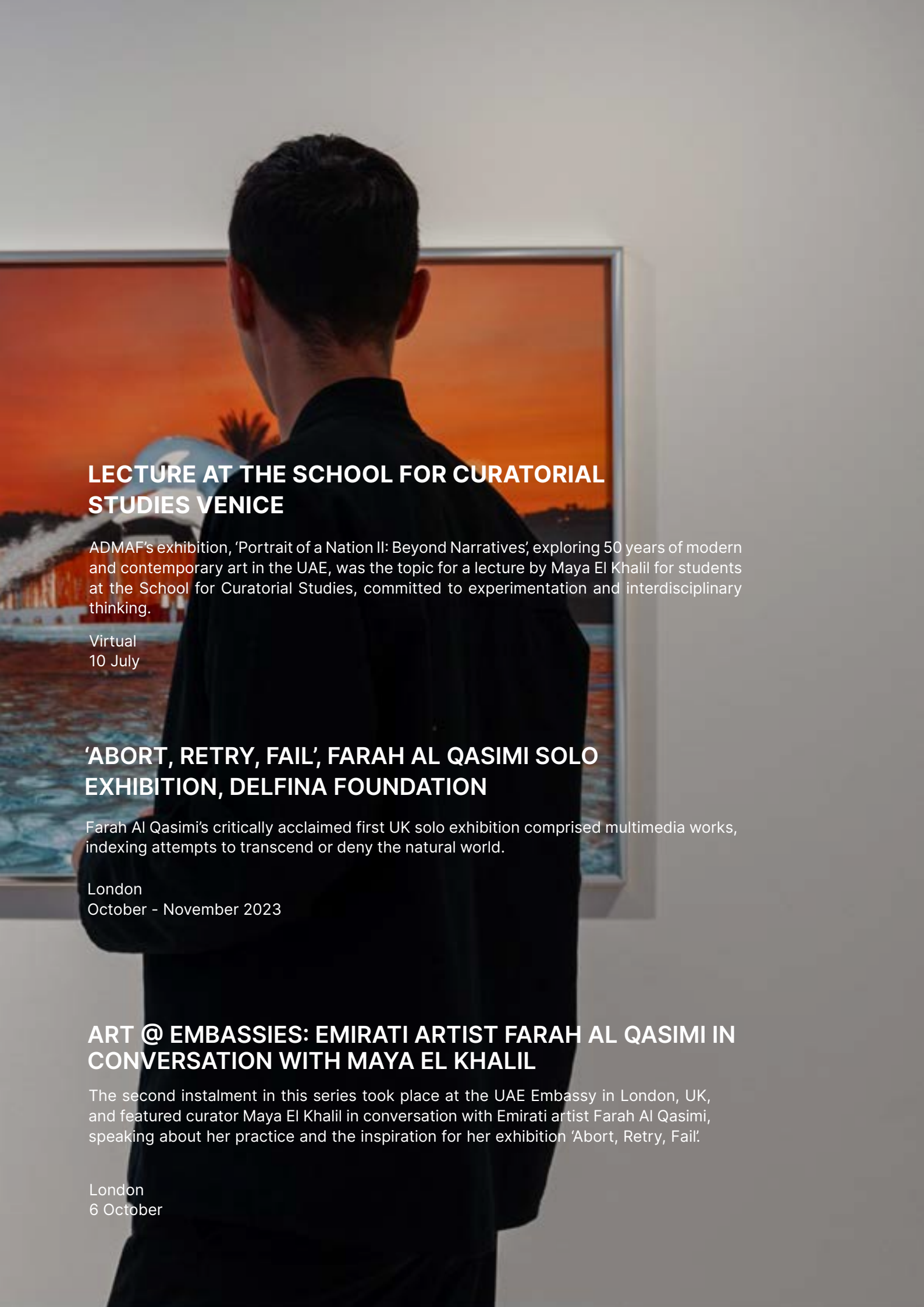
Washington D.C.
20 April

ART @ EMBASSIES: THE EVOLUTION OF THE UAE ART SCENE

ADMAF inaugurated its Art @ Embassies initiative with the first event entitled, 'The Evolution of the UAE Art Scene' a panel discussion on 50 years of the Nation's art scene, featuring curator Maya El Khalil and editor Melissa Gronlund, joined by Emirati conceptual artist Maitha Abdalla.

Paris
27 June





LECTURE AT THE SCHOOL FOR CURATORIAL STUDIES VENICE

ADMAF's exhibition, 'Portrait of a Nation II: Beyond Narratives', exploring 50 years of modern and contemporary art in the UAE, was the topic for a lecture by Maya El Khalil for students at the School for Curatorial Studies, committed to experimentation and interdisciplinary thinking.

Virtual
10 July

'ABORT, RETRY, FAIL', FARAH AL QASIMI SOLO EXHIBITION, DELFINA FOUNDATION

Farah Al Qasimi's critically acclaimed first UK solo exhibition comprised multimedia works, indexing attempts to transcend or deny the natural world.

London
October - November 2023

ART @ EMBASSIES: EMIRATI ARTIST FARAH AL QASIMI IN CONVERSATION WITH MAYA EL KHALIL

The second instalment in this series took place at the UAE Embassy in London, UK, and featured curator Maya El Khalil in conversation with Emirati artist Farah Al Qasimi, speaking about her practice and the inspiration for her exhibition 'Abort, Retry, Fail'.

London
6 October

EDUCATION AND COMMUNITY

Partnerships and inspiring platforms for young people and society to develop creative thinking and nurture the nation's cultural sector.



Throughout 2023, ADMAF's Education and Community department furthered its dedication to promoting arts and culture throughout society. Through extensive and rigorous professional training programmes, ADMAF equipped the talent of tomorrow with the skills to succeed in the creative industries. Year-long engaging educational programmes sought to inspire creativity in young people and nurture a deeper appreciation for the UAE's cultural sector. Working together to foster a thriving cultural ecosystem for the benefit of society, ADMAF forged ever-stronger partnerships with the nation's higher education institutions, including the world's first research university in artificial intelligence, the Mohamed bin Zayed University of Artificial Intelligence (MBZUAI). A dynamic calendar of community activities catered to people of all ages and backgrounds, providing meaningful opportunities to engage with the arts and connect with one another.



CREATIVE LEADERSHIP

Fostering the growth and development of Emirati youth in the global creative and cultural industries through training programmes that build skills, enthusiasm, and vocational access.

ADMAF provides emerging leaders with the skills, knowledge, and networks to drive cultural innovation and excellence in the UAE and beyond.



YOUNG MEDIA LEADERS

IN ASSOCIATION WITH SKY NEWS ARABIA



JANUARY - MARCH

Young Media Leaders is an experience-based, capacity-building, and career development platform for aspiring media professionals. The annual programme enables future journalists to gain the passion, mission, and conviction to become powerful and convincing storytellers. Training sessions and practical skills workshops develop industry-focused portfolios that allow their media careers to take off.

The Young Media Leaders programme influences and creates a powerful community of emerging professionals, building a positive and integrated media sector responsive to future challenges, transformations and opportunities.

In 2023, ADMAF partnered with the Sky News Arabia Academy to provide four training courses led by leading industry experts. Two cohorts of 20 Emirati media students and graduates from Abu Dhabi University, Zayed University, American University of Sharjah, Higher College of Technology, and New York University Abu Dhabi attended the courses throughout January and February. The courses centred on content creation, social media coverage, and print and broadcast journalism. The programme featured renowned guest speakers, including Mohamed AlHammadi, Chairman of the Board Of Directors of the UAE Journalists Association; Imane Lahache, Presenter, Sky News Arabia; Mohammed AlOtaiba, Founder of Syndication Bureau; Dalia Abdalla, Presenter, Sky News Arabia; the late Giselle Khoury, Host, Sky News Arabia; Faisal Bin Huraiz, Trainer of Speakers, Sky News; Saeed Saeed, Journalist, The National; and Dr. Sulaiman Al Hattlan, Founder and CEO of Hattlan Media.

In March, the ambitious students applied the skills they had learned to cover the headline programme of the 20th anniversary Abu Dhabi Festival. Young Media Leaders compiled and published the ADMAF Tribune, contributing reviews and articles, and produced video interviews with the stars of the Festival.

YOUNG FILMMAKERS' CIRCLE

FEBRUARY



A programme designed to provide young filmmakers with a platform to showcase their talents, develop their skills, and connect with industry professionals through workshops, mentorship, and networking opportunities.

AL AIN FILM FESTIVAL

As its continued strategic cultural partner, Abu Dhabi Festival collaborated with Al Ain Film Festival for its fifth edition to support the development of young filmmakers and spread the culture of cinema in the UAE. In 2023, among the 66 local, regional, and international films screened were short films by Emirati filmmakers, winners of last year's Abu Dhabi Festival's Unproduced Screenplay Competition, in partnership with Al Ain Film Festival, Ali Lari, Sultan bin Dafoun and Khalaf Jamal Al-Fayrouz. 'Millstone', the ADMAF-supported film documenting the life of the late Sheikh Zayed by award-winning Emirati writer and filmmaker Nasser Aldhaheeri was also screened at the festival.

THE ARTISTS' STUDIO

This online platform of interviews with the stars of the stage and screen aims to inspire and inform young people about the value of creative thinking and artistic expression. Throughout March, members of ADMAF's Young Media Leaders programme, in collaboration with students from Higher College of Technology, recorded interviews with the line-up of award-winning artists headlining the 20th anniversary edition of Abu Dhabi Festival. Interviews join past episodes on ADMAF's YouTube channel, with interviews recorded over twelve years of festivals.



YOUNG PHILANTHROPISTS

ADMAF partnered with Pearl Initiative to organise the Youth Impact Lab, aiming to empower UAE youth to address Environmental, Social and Governance challenges. The two-day competition brought together seven teams from universities across the UAE, including American University of Sharjah, Sharjah University, Middlesex University, Higher College of Technology, Khalifa University and Zayed University.



UAE THEATRE CIRCLE

Supporting Charter Schools, ADMAF in collaboration with Shakespeare4Kids treated delighted students at the Mubarak bin Mohammed Charter School to a marvellous musical production of the beloved classic J.M. Barrie story, Peter Pan, highlighting the importance of sustainability, ecology and caring for the environment.

**IN COLLABORATION WITH
S4K-INTERNATIONAL**



BROUGHT TO YOU BY



INTERNSHIPS AND CULTURAL MANAGEMENT

OCTOBER - DECEMBER

A professional development programme for cultural workers from diverse disciplines. Designed to instil skills and build networks for long-term creative partnerships across the UAE, the programme focuses on gaining practical work experience.

In 2023, ADMAF welcomed two students from the New York University Abu Dhabi, Polina Pinskikh and Afra Saif Al Mazrouei, for a three-month internship position within ADMAF's Education and Community department.

RIWAQ AL ADAB WAL KITAB

Developing literary creativity, intellectual growth and nurturing UAE publishing by working with established and upcoming authors



WORLD POETRY DAY 2023

22 MARCH
MANARAT AL SAADIYAT

ADMAF celebrated World Poetry Day 2023 with an evening of poetry inspired by the exceptional achievement of the space mission of Emirati astronaut Sultan Al Neyadi, who completed a six-month record-breaking mission on the International Space Station, the longest-ever Arab space mission. The engaging talk, held as part of ADMAF's 8th edition of Riwaq Al Adab Wal Kitab, was moderated by Sameh Kaawach and featured three Emirati poets – Najat Al Dhaheri, runner-up of the 'Prince of Poets' competition, Mariam Al Zarooni and Dr. Hassan Al Najjar.



RIWAQ AL ADAB WAL KITAB AT ABU DHABI INTERNATIONAL BOOK FAIR

22 - 28 MAY
ADNEC

Participating at the 32nd Abu Dhabi International Book Fair, ADMAF celebrated the life of the late renowned Emirati poet Habib Al Sayegh with the 8th edition of Riwaq Al Adab Wal Kitab. At a booth entitled 'Poems Do Not Die', an engaging programme of Arabic-language events featured the launch of 13 ADMAF-supported Arabic literary publications, two engaging panel discussions, an educational workshop, as well as book signings in collaboration with Emirates Writers Union, Al Dhabi Publishing and Nabati Publishing.

WORLD ARABIC LANGUAGE DAY 2023

17 - 18 DECEMBER
MANARAT AL SAADIYAT

ADMAF partnered with the Abu Dhabi Arabic Language Center for the two-day activation 'Arabian Days', which featured an opening speech by ADMAF's Founder H.E. Huda Alkhamis-Kanoo, as well as a panel discussion titled 'Poetic Language – Artistic Poems' and moderated by Sameh Kaawach, with speakers Ali Al Shaali, Emirati poet; Nujoum Al Ghanem, Emirati poet and filmmaker; and Dr. Bilal Orfali, Professor and Sheikh Zayed Chair of Arabic and Islamic Studies at the American University of Beirut. Dr. Toufic Maatouk also participated in a panel titled 'Music as a Language'. A 'Composers' Platform' listening station offered six albums from ADF2023. The Foundation also distributed 250 free ADMAF-supported books during the event.

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H.E Huda Alkhamis-Kanoo with Dr. Ali Bin Tamim Chairman at the Abu Dhabi Arabic Language Centre (ALC), and Hassan Nadhim, former Minister of Culture in Iraq.



Renowned oud master Naseer Shamma performed in 'Arabian Days', a celebration for World Arabic Language Day.

REWARDING EXCELLENCE

Empowering emerging artists and celebrating outstanding creativity among the nation's youth





ADMAF celebrates exceptional creativity by students and recent graduates across art disciplines, providing a platform to showcase talent and gain recognition. By investing in their professional development, ADMAF aims to empower young artists and cultivate a vibrant and thriving cultural landscape for years to come.

حلم صغير
سراء عبد العزيز الشحي،
معدة زايد

الجائزة للتميز في عمل في أصلي مستوحى من العرض
في مهرجان أبوظبي. فازت سراء عبد العزيز الشحي، خريجة
أبوظبي، بالجائزة في دورتها لعام 2023 عن فلمها 'حلم صغير'
الذي يروي قصة حلم صغير وسيمت وهو
في البحر الذي تتردد عليه، نواجه مئة عشات مختلفة
تهدد أن نجد التوازن بين تحقيق حلمها بالسباحة في البحر
إيمان للرجعة في الأماكن العامة.

All Dream
Abdulaziz Alshehhi,
University

Al Shehhi, who earned her BA in
communications at Zayed University, won the 2023
awarding Emirati talent and creativity in an
category. Her winning submission revolves around

Al Darn
Arts Ac

GULF CAPITAL - ADMAF CREATIVITY AWARD

The 2023 Gulf Capital – ADMAF Creativity Award went to the talented ensemble from Sharjah Performing Arts Academy for their mesmerising 'Phobia' – an immersive theatrical experience that took audiences on a journey through self-discovery and resilience. Together, the group bring a powerful message of art's role in addressing social and humanitarian issues.

Mohamed Juma Ali (UAE): aspiring international actor and director.
Taha Amine Echchafi (Morocco): actor, voice actor, and singer with global ambitions.

Halima Issaoui (Tunisia): aspiring global lead actress.

Karim Ennoury (Morocco): actor and dancer, aspiring to establish his own company.

Ons Aouididi (Tunisia): actress, performing since age 9, pursuing her passion at Sharjah Performing Arts Academy.



جائزة الإبداع من مجموعة
Activity Award

ADMAF



GULF CAPITAL - ADMAF VISUAL ARTS AWARD

Recognising talent and creativity among emerging Emirati artists, the 2023 award was won by filmmaker, writer, and NYU Tish School of the Arts graduate Sarra'a Abdulaziz Alshehhi for her outstanding film 'A Small Dream', telling the story of one woman's simple dream and the obstacles in her path.



ift City

ud & Maryam AlQassim,
ersity of Sharjah

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on the informal networks of
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and graphical mapping studies
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المدينة المؤقتة

سارة علي المحمود و مريم هشام القاسم،
الجامعة الأمريكية في الشارقة

تم تخيل مشروع المدينة المؤقتة "Make Shift City" في سياق استوديو التصميم الجانبي الذي يركز على الشبكات غير الرسمية للمناطق الصناعية. تم إجراء البحث الأولي على سلسلة من الدراسات الخرائطية عن مجموعة من الأنشطة غير الرسمية التي تحدث في مناطق سكن العمال. ونفذنا حلولاً لتسهيل التفاعل بين المبنى والبيئة المحيطة باستخدام الوسائل التكنولوجية والامتدادات الحضرية بين المبنى والبيئة.

الجديدة
عن الحاجة
فرضية
مثل
ماء
ركز
بات
عامّة
مخارج
شركة
ب ويتم
في المركز

TOTAL ENERGIES SUSTAINABILITY DESIGN AWARD

Sara AlMahmoud and Maryam AlQassim's innovative 'Makeshift City' project transforms Sharjah's industrial areas into vibrant, community-focused spaces. They won the 2023 TotalEnergies Sustainability Design Award for a unique blend of informal solutions and creative design with a vision to transform the urban environment in alignment with the UN's Sustainable Development Goals, promoting social and environmental sustainability.





**ADMAF DESIGN FUND
IN PARTNERSHIP WITH L'ÉCOLE,
SCHOOL OF JEWELRY ARTS
SUPPORTED BY VAN CLEEF &
ARPELS**

Badria Salem was the winner of the ADMAF Design Fund in partnership with L'ÉCOLE, School of Jewelry Arts, supported by Van Cleef & Arpels. Supported by ADMAF, the gifted designer embarked on a five-day trip to Paris where she attended courses led by master artisans in jewellery creation at L'ÉCOLE campus in Paris.

The stunning work, titled Al iqd Al Bahir (The Brilliant Necklace), pays homage to the rich cultural heritage of the UAE, comprising an oryx, a falcon, sand dunes and the sun, all of which are embellished by brushed gold, malachite, pearls, lapis lazuli and pavé diamonds. Her work will be on display during the Abu Dhabi Festival 2024.





DOLCE&GABBANA X ADMAF DESIGN AWARD

In 2023, a partnership between ADMAF and the legendary Italian luxury fashion house Dolce&Gabbana launched an annual award aiming to bridge tradition and innovation and empower young Emirati designers across three categories in fashion, and jewellery, providing an unprecedented opportunity in couture and design craftsmanship. Open to UAE Nationals aged 18–30, submissions from diverse designers from across the Emirates were judged by an esteemed panel comprising Stefano Galli, Alta Moda Senior VIP relations of Dolce&Gabbana; Asma Al Fahim, Chairwoman of Abu Dhabi Businesswomen Council and founder of Villa 88 magazine; Roberto La Lacona, Director of Marangoni Institute UAE, alongside renowned Emirati artists Azza al Qubaisi, jewellery artist, product designer and sculptor; Ahmad Al Areef Al Dhaheri, multidisciplinary artist; and Sultan al Darmaki, fashion designer; joined by H.E. Huda Alkhamis-Kanoo, ADMAF Founder.

The Fashion category sought contemporary abaya collections inspired by Emirati culture using lacework, flowers, patchwork, embroidery, hand painting. Five selected abayas will form a one-off special capsule collection by Dolce&Gabbana.

The Jewellery category focussed on blending Emirati influences with Dolce&Gabbana designs, using techniques like micromosaics and precious materials including gold and pearls to create bracelets, earrings and wedding rings.

DOLCE & GABBANA





CHRISTO AND JEANNE-CLAUDE AWARD

The 11th edition of the award, held in partnership with NYUAD under the patronage of Her Highness Sheikha Shamsa bint Hamdan bin Mohammed Al Nahyan was won by NYUAD graduate students Majd Alloush and Vivi Zhu, and University of Sharjah graduate Hala El Abora. Their submission 'Shaheeq' pays tribute to the UAE's mangrove ecosystems, encouraging appreciation for the natural solutions they offer in the face of growing climate concerns.

The artwork was produced in collaboration with The NYUAD Art Gallery and unveiled 21 November at a special ceremony at Abu Dhabi Art, in the presence of esteemed guests and dignitaries. Following the conclusion of the art fair, the installation was transported to Umm Al Emarat Park.





YOUNG MEDIA LEADERS GRADUATION CEREMONY

JUNE

Under the patronage of H.E. Sheikh Nahayan bin Mubarak Al Nahyan, Minister of Tolerance and Coexistence, ADMAF celebrated the achievements of the 2023 Young Media Leaders cohort with a graduation ceremony held at His Excellency's majlis.

GATEWAY TO KNOWLEDGE

A gateway to knowledge that strengthens academic performance, nurturing lifelong learning and academic excellence

From early childhood to higher education, ADMAF's educational initiatives foster an appetite for learning and strong academic performance across the entire educational spectrum.



FESTIVAL IN FOCUS

MARCH - DECEMBER

This year, students across Abu Dhabi attended the open rehearsals of 'Juan Diego Flórez and Friends' on 28 February ahead of the spectacular opening night performance. Students also attended open rehearsals of 'De Scheherazade a Yo, Carmen' on 10 March, From West to East on 17 March, and Buddha Passion on 18 March, as well as open recital rehearsals with Bruce Liu, Leia Zhu, and Haochen Zhang. Thanks to support by Mubadala, students also attended an open rehearsal for 'Al-Andalus & The Ancient Hesperia', La Capella Reial De Catalunya and Hespèrion XXI conducted by Jordi Savall on 10 December. The open rehearsal programme is an initiative that seeks to foster creativity in young people and inspire exploration of the arts as a means of expression.



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YOUNG MUSICIANS

MARCH

Emirati singers Rashed Al Nuaimi and Fatima El Hashimi received valuable one-on-one training in a masterclass with renowned opera tenor and Abu Dhabi Festival 2023 performer, Juan Diego Flórez. First-hand from the opera legend, the rising stars learned how to improve their vocal range and flexibility. Accompanied on the piano by Vincenzo Scalera, the singers practised in front of an audience of inquisitive students who later engaged in a Q&A session with the artists.

Additionally, young musicians of the Emirates Youth Symphony Orchestra (EYSO) and students of the International Music Institute (IMI) gained in-depth knowledge from Mr. Daniele Giorgi, first violin and concertmaster, and Mr. Alessandro Cuiliani, first cello, of the Orchestra of Teatro Comunale di Modena Pavarotti-Freni in two separate masterclasses.

Sharjah Performing Arts Academy students gained insights from a masterclass by Abu Dhabi Festival artist, legendary flamenco dancer María Pagés and director El Arbi El Harti. A thought-provoking debate regarding the creative and reflective process followed a screening of the documentary 'Las Tribulaciones de María'.



BACK TO SCHOOL

MARCH - DECEMBER

An initiative to engage young minds and nurture their creativity and development saw primary students at Al Muna Academy treated to a private recital followed by a Q&A session, which left them inspired by international star pianist and winner of the XVIII International Chopin Piano Competition Bruce Liu ahead of his Abu Dhabi Festival Arab world premiere performance.

Acclaimed violin prodigy Leia Zhu and versatile pianist Benjamin Engeli also inspired young students of the Al Mamoura Academy with a private recital before their Abu Dhabi Festival debut.

Visiting Abu Dhabi as part of the 'Al-Andalus & the Ancient Hesperia' conducted by Jordi Savall, harpist and conductor Andrew Lawrence-King and viola de gamba master Philippe Pierlot met the students of the American Community School to offer an introduction to their rare instruments, play a few short pieces, and answer questions in an interactive, engaging and inspiring session. This session was brought to students by Mubadala.



PRE-PERFORMANCE TALKS

MARCH

Venezuelan guitarist Jonathan Bolívar engaged with audience members in an enlightening pre-performance talk moderated by Saeed Saeed, features writer and columnist with The National, ahead of the Abu Dhabi Festival 20th anniversary opening night, 'Juan Diego Flórez and Friends'.

CREATIVE CAREERS DAYS

OCTOBER

ADMAF participated in the Jameel Art Centre's Creative Careers Days, titled 'You Can't Have Art Without...!'. During the three-day event, ADMAF engaged with hundreds of students, teachers, and families, showing them the many roles that can contribute to the growth of the arts ecosystem.



ABU DHABI ART

NOVEMBER

ADMAF had a strong presence at Abu Dhabi Art with two insightful panel discussions featuring leading art experts and academics from the UAE and the Republic of Korea, a specially commissioned sculptural art installation by Rawdha Al Ketbi titled 'M'hab', and the unveiling of the winning 2023 Christo and Jeanne-Claude Award artwork, 'Shaheeq', by Vivi Zhu, Hala El Abora, and Majd Alloush.

Students from Zayed Higher Organization, Mohammed bin Rashid Center for Special Education, and Al Yasmina Academy were invited to visit Abu Dhabi Art and participate in art workshops in the Art Studio.

POWERED BY  GS Energy

RIWAQ AL FIKR - ADMAF TALKS

FEBRUARY - DECEMBER

Offering insightful dialogue between thinkers, diplomats, cultural leaders and the general public, with discussion and debate, this year's programme featured talks centring on the growing rise and implications of artificial intelligence, Arab influence on Spanish history, and challenges faced by rising Emirati musicians.

NARRATIVES OF THE MORISCOS' EXPULSION IN SPANISH AND ARAB THOUGHT

15 FEBRUARY

In collaboration with NYUAD Institute

Featuring Housseem E. Chachia, Assistant Professor of Early Modern History at the University of Tunis



MUSIC AND ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

6 MARCH

In collaboration with Mohamed bin Zayed University of Artificial Intelligence (MBZUAI)

Panellists: Dr. Gus Xia, Visiting Assistant Professor of Machine Learning at MBZUAI; Hasan Hujairi, Music Department Manager, Sharjah Art Foundation; and Mohammed Al Ogaily: VP Product Anghami. Moderated by Mariam Al Askari.



THE INTELLECTUAL CROSSROADS OF AL-ANDALUS: HOW ANDALUSI SCHOLARS SHAPED THE GLOBAL ISLAMIC CULTURE

7 MARCH

In collaboration with NYUAD Institute

Featuring Maribel Fierro, Research Professor at the High Council for Scientific Research in Madrid



THE WORLD OF CLAUDIABASEL

8 MARCH

In collaboration with the American University of Sharjah

Award-winning Swiss graphic designer and educator Jiri Oplatek gave American University of Sharjah students and faculty new insight into how traditional design principles intersect with contemporary techniques in a lecture and exhibition hosted by the university's College of Architecture, Art and Design.



RIWAQ AL FIKR - ADMAF TALKS



EMIRATI MUSICIANS: CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES

13 MARCH

In collaboration with Berklee Abu Dhabi

Panellists: Emirati musicians Ihab Darwish, Fatima Bin Safwan, known as 'FAFA', and Mariam Ayda, known as 'Minova'.
Moderated by Saeed Saeed.



A MUSICAL JOURNEY: JORDI SAVALL IN CONVERSATION

9 DECEMBER

Brought to you by Mubadala, as part of Abu Dhabi Festival 2023, in partnership with The Arts Center at NYUAD

Jordi Savall in conversation with Maurice Pomerantz, Senior Director of NYUAD Institute and professor of Literature and Arab Crossroads Studies at New York University, Abu Dhabi.

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MOU SIGNING WITH MBZUAI

6 MARCH

ADMAF Founder Huda Alkhamis-Kanoo signed an MoU with the President of Mohamed bin Zayed University of Artificial Intelligence (MBZUAI), Professor Eric Xing, pledging to work together on collaborations that push the boundaries of creativity, innovation, and knowledge exchange.



MOU SIGNING WITH WOMEN OF THE WORLD FOUNDATION

12 OCTOBER

A new partnership was formalised with the signing of an MoU by Lady Jude Kelly on behalf of the Women of the World Foundation, presided over by HM Queen Camilla, with a shared mission to advance cultural opportunities for women across the world and to connect female Emirati artists with their global peers.



SOCIAL UNITY

Promoting cultural understanding through initiatives that connect and support diverse social groups and cultural foundations across all seven Emirates

FESTIVAL IN THE PARK

12 & 13 MARCH

Held under the patronage of H.H. Sheikha Shamsa bint Hamdan bin Mohammed Al Nahyan, the capital's premiere outdoor cultural event, Festival in the Park, returned with two days of creative workshops, storytelling sessions and live music concerts at Umm Al Emarat Park.



MUSICAL PERFORMANCES: EMIRATI ARTISTS ON STAGE

12 MARCH

Emirati composer and pianist Hamad Al Taei performed a collection of his original piano pieces accompanied by a live orchestra. In back-to-back performances, Emirati classical singer Ahmed Alhosani showcased the incredible breadth of his vocal range.



COMEDY NIGHT

13 MARCH

Abz Ali, one of the first Emirati comedians to make waves in the industry, led the comedy evening, featuring crowd favourites Sundeep Fernandes and Imah Dumagay.



PEOPLE OF DETERMINATION

Developing the skills of People of Determination and providing opportunities for active participation in society, fostering a spirit of inclusion and empowerment

For nearly three decades, ADMAF has considered the care of people of determination a fundamental pillar of its mission, aiming to involve, inspire and mentor through multiple education and community programmes, as well as headline performances. In the spirit of inclusion, one of the Foundation's key objectives is to develop the skills of people of determination and provide accessible opportunities to actively participate in society. A wide array of carefully tailored programmes encourage compassion and understanding through creative engagements.



FESTIVAL IN THE PARK WORKSHOPS AND ACTIVITIES

12 & 13 MARCH

In 2023, Festival in the Park worked with Zayed Higher Organization for People of Determination and Mohammed bin Rashid Center for Special Education to involve people of determination in a dedicated programme of events. These included an interactive drumming workshop, a sustainable art workshop, and a confidence-building dance workshop.



ART FOR AUTISM COMPETITION WITH ABU DHABI UNIVERSITY

2 MAY

The 7th edition of the Arts for Autism competition, organised by Abu Dhabi University in collaboration with ADMAF, the Emirates Autism Society and the Ministry of Education, received more than 160 art pieces from students from various determination centres and schools across the UAE. The exhibition attracted more than 230 attendees. The competition culminated in two groups of winners representing two age categories: 6–11 years old and 12–25 years old.



ART WORKSHOPS AT ABU DHABI ART

NOVEMBER

ADMAF offered hands-on art activities inspired by the artworks on display at Abu Dhabi Art. These were suitable for all ages and available throughout the duration of the event.



HEALING THROUGH THE ARTS

Raising awareness of the importance of arts and culture in patient healing and recovery



MAKE-A-WISH FOUNDATION UAE

16 MARCH

Together with Make-a-Wish UAE, Abu Dhabi Festival helped grant the Foundation's 6,000th wish to thirteen-year-old Ikbal El Hallak, who is passionate about playing piano, to meet with and receive a private lesson from internationally renowned pianist Haochen Zhang ahead of his Abu Dhabi Festival performance.

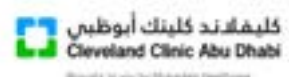


MUSIC IN HOSPITALS SUPPORTED BY DOLPHIN ENERGY

13, 16 & 23 JUNE

An ADMAF initiative that seeks to use the therapeutic power of music to aid in the healing process, the programme gives patients and medical professionals the opportunity to experience beautiful music recitals performed by the nation's gifted musicians.

In 2023, ADMAF partnered with Cleveland Clinic Abu Dhabi to present three performances by Emirati oud players Shamsa Al Jasmi and Saif Al Ali for patients, doctors, hospital staff and families to enjoy.



ARTS & ENVIRONMENT

Raising levels of environmental awareness and understanding

'PERCEPTIBLE RHYTHMS/ALTERNATIVE TEMPORALITIES' AT THE MIDDLE EAST INSTITUTE

WASHINGTON D.C.
JANUARY - APRIL

Curated by Maya El Khalil, the exhibition held in partnership with The Middle East Institute explores the impact of conflict, urbanisation, and the climate crisis on environments in the Middle East. It featured twelve artists from the Middle East, South Asia, and North Africa, including Emirati artists Moza Almatrooshi and Sarah Almehairi.

ART, SUSTAINABILITY AND THE CHANGING ENVIRONMENT IN THE MIDDLE EAST VIRTUAL TALK

26 JANUARY

Accomplished artists, Sarah Almehairi (UAE), Maha Nasrallah (Lebanon/Canada) and Filwa Nazer (Saudi Arabia) addressed issues of sustainability, adaptation, exile and memory in the face of rapidly changing environments in an online conversation moderated by curator Maya El Khalil.

SUSTAINABLE PALM EYE ART WORKSHOP WITH EMIRATI ARTIST AZZA AL QUBAISI

12 - 13 MARCH

Held during Festival in the Park, the established Emirati artist demonstrated how palm tree leaves, a material ingrained in the UAE's environmental, social and cultural fabric, can be used to create sustainable contemporary art.

COP28

Several ADMAF initiatives fed into an overarching mission to create inspiring narratives and support sustainable arts in alignment with COP28 and the Sustainable Development Goals. These included the presentation of the Emirates Youth Symphony Orchestra's performance of Vivaldi's masterpiece, 'The Four Seasons', at the Mohammed bin Rashid Library on the occasion of COP28, revisiting key artworks from 'The Art of Nature', the Abu Dhabi Festival 2017's headline exhibition which marked the 20th anniversary of the Environment Agency–Abu Dhabi (EAD), and the commission of Rawdha Al Ketbi's sculptural artwork, 'M'hab', created with recycled and repurposed materials. Other artists featured under this banner included Yousef al Habshi, Gill Parker, the late Tarek Al-Ghoussein, and Joyce DiDonato.



Tarek Al-Ghoussein, Abu Dhabi Archipelago (Salaha 1), from the Odysseus series, 2015.



THE NATIONALS' GALLERY

A dedicated resource that advocates for Emirati visual arts practice nationally and internationally, providing access to opportunities, information and support.



Image: Installation view of Farah Al Qasimi's exhibition 'Abort, Retry, Fail' supported by ADMAF at Delfina Foundation, London, October 2023.

THE NATIONALS' GALLERY

ADMAF's Nationals' Gallery – Riwaq Al Fan Al Emirati – is for artists, collectors and art lovers – a network that connects and informs, bringing together people and opportunities. Registration connects members to opportunities and grants access to a comprehensive art resource. Launched in 2010, this permanent initiative comprises a research centre, online directory, education hub, advocacy and an information resource that supports Emirati artists, seeking to raise understanding of the national arts sector among gallerists, curators and the wider public.



OPPORTUNITIES

ADMAF creates opportunities for Emirati visual artists. Sharing and facilitating prospects including commissions, exhibiting opportunities, residencies and competitions. Abu Dhabi Festival supported Emirati artist Farah Al Qasimi's residency at the Delfina Foundation in 2017. In late 2023, the Festival supported her solo exhibition, 'Abort, Retry, Fail' at the Delfina Foundation, the artist's first solo exhibition in the UK.

EXHIBITIONS & STUDIO VISITS

ADMAF creates exhibitions and publications to deepen the appreciation and knowledge of Emirati visual arts. In 2023, Emirati artists Moza Almatrooshi and Sarah Almehairi were featured at The MEI Art Gallery's exhibition 'Perceptible Rhythms/Alternative Temporalities' presented with ADMAF at The Middle East Institute, Washington, D.C.

On the occasion of Abu Dhabi Art, ADMAF hosted important partners from MMCA, the National Museum of Modern and Contemporary Art, Korea, and Art Sonje Center organising studio visits with UAE-based artists.



نحو الأفق 2023

«نحو الأفق» هو عمل تركيبى فني ذو أهمية ثقافية يعمل خلال المزج بسلاسة بين الفن والتصميم، فإنه يوفر للزوار تحدياً فكرياً من خلال استكشافها، وتماشياً مع «عام الاستدامة» البيئة للأجيال القادمة.

يعد هذا العمل الفني تعاوني بين فنانين من مختلف المجالات، حيث يهدف إلى تحويل المساحات وربط الناس من خلال أفكارهم المبتكرة.

A visually significant installation that serves as a bridge between art and design. By seamlessly blending art and design, it offers inspiration from the breathtaking natural landscapes of the UAE. The installation highlights the importance of sustainability and the importance of art to come.

This installation stands as a compelling advocate for the incredible ability of art to foster connections and inspire innovation. It is a testament to the power of art to bridge cultures and create a shared vision for the future.



THE ADMAF ART COLLECTION

Since its inception, ADMAF has been privileged to work with the leading proponents of the visual arts sector in the UAE. Its collection of visual art demonstrates the diversity of contemporary Emirati and Arab artistic expression.

Consisting of acquisitions and donations, the ADMAF Art Collection is an emphasis on Emirati practice and seeks to highlight artistic expression from the Arab world. By exhibiting the collection in its offices and through exhibitions and loans, ADMAF promotes the achievements and oeuvres of each artist – engaging, educating and informing the public about the region’s art scene.

A flexible resource consisting of more than 150 works with no permanent gallery, ADMAF welcomes enquiries from institutions interested in loans from the collection. Gifts by individuals and organisations are gratefully received and are assessed based on factors such as condition, provenance, storage and cultural value.



Image: Sarah Almehairi, 'Adjustments of the Daily', 2022, Print on paper, Paper collage.

ADMAF GRANTS

Enabling independent cultural practice, study and research in the UAE and beyond





ADMAF is committed to nurturing creativity and innovation both at home and abroad, with grants that support a wide range of artists, scholars, and researchers, helping them to develop their skills, explore new ideas, and create groundbreaking work. With a focus on promoting cultural exchange and fostering cross-cultural understanding, ADMAF Grants play an important role in shaping the future of the arts, both locally and globally.

Additionally, ADMAF Grants facilitate artistic and cultural projects that would otherwise not be possible. Through financial assistance and mentorship, grants support emerging and established Emirati art practitioners, among other individuals and organisations, wishing to further their artistic practice and add value to UAE society.

In 2023, ADMAF provided five grants to: Art for Autism; a book grant for Dr Noura Al Mazrouei; a grant to Mariam Al Askari, for education and research; a grant for the Abu Dhabi University Student Exchange; and, together with American University of Sharjah, a grant for a Film Hackathon.



DIPLOMACY AND CULTURAL EXCHANGE

Building bridges of understanding between cultures and nations through music and the arts



In addition to the successful cross-cultural collaborations that took place throughout 2023 held in partnership with the world's leading cultural institutions, ADMAF continued its commitment to advancing cultural diplomacy and understanding by exploring new avenues of exchange in a first-of-its kind visit by the Founder to the Republic of Korea, as well as in various cities across Europe.



FEBRUARY 16

ADMAF's Founder H.E. Huda Alkhamis-Kanoo met with Italian Ambassador H.E. Lorenzo Fanara to discuss the advancement of cultural ties between the UAE and Italy and future collaborations with renowned Italian cultural institutions and festivals to further highlight Italy's artistic excellence.



MAY 17

ADMAF's Founder welcomes Miky Lee, Vice Chair of CJ Group and renowned philanthropist recognised for her contributions to the arts and culture scene in South Korea.



MAY 30

The Founder concludes a historic trip to the Republic of Korea where she explored exciting new opportunities for exchange centred upon fostering and strengthening cultural connections between the UAE and South Korea. During the first-of-its-kind visit to enhance cultural cooperation, innovative collaborations encompassing various forms of the arts and education were discussed in high-level meetings with leading influential figures including Ms. Julia H. Moon, General Director of the Universal Ballet, Mr. Sang Ho Choi, Artistic and General Director of the Korea National Opera, Ms. Kang Suejin, CEO & Artistic Director of the Korean National Ballet, and Ms. Hye-kyung Ki, Director of the Busan Museum of Art, to name a few.

During her visit, Her Excellency also met with a high-level delegation of senior officials from the Seoul Metropolitan Government led by Vice Mayor Kang Cheol Won where for the first time areas of common interest were discussed including the importance of advancing youth empowerment and skill development, culture as a significant driver of socio-economic impact and its role as soft power, advancing peace, tolerance and mutual understanding through collaboration and cultural exchange.

Additionally, she also met with UAE Ambassador to the Republic of Korea H.E. Abdulla Saif Ali Slayem Al Nuaimi in Seoul where they explored potential opportunities for cross-cultural exchange between the UAE and South Korea in line with ADMAF's commitment to cultural diplomacy.



JUNE 20

In line with ADMAF's commitment to strengthening cultural partnerships and building bridges of understanding between nations, ADMAF's founder met with the Ambassador of the United Arab Emirates to the Kingdom of Spain, H.E. Omar Obaid Alshamsi, to explore exciting future opportunities for cultural collaborations.



JUNE 21

As a trustee of the Reina Sofia School of Music, Madrid, ADMAF Founder H.E. Huda Alkhamis-Kanoo attended the International Circle meeting under the presidency of Her Majesty Queen Sofia in Madrid.

JUNE 24

The Founder met with Mr. Francesco Giambone, the Sovrintendent of Opera di Roma at the Opera di Roma Theatre.



DIPLOMACY & CULTURAL EXCHANGE



JUNE 26

The Founder met with H.E. Bishop Paul Desmond Tighe at the Dicastery for Culture and Education at the Vatican.



JUNE 27

The Founder met with Mr. Alexander Neef, Director of Opéra National de Paris, France's principal opera and ballet company and a strategic partner of the Foundation.



ADMAF's Founder delivers the keynote speech at the inauguration of Art @ Embassies at the UAE Embassy in Paris, France. The new initiative seeks to foster cultural diplomacy and exchange while forging deeper connections between nations and cultures through the power and influence of art.

JUNE 29

The Founder met with Marie-Claire Janailhac-Fritsch, the president of La Fondation pour la Comédie-Française.



The Founder met with Mr. Richard Brunel, the General and Artistic Director of Opéra National de Lyon.





SEPTEMBER 15

Strengthening the existing bond with the UK, ADMAF's founder welcomed Lord Parkinson of Whitley Bay, UK Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Arts and Heritage. With a shared interest in extending support for the arts and preservation of heritage, they met to foster a spirit of exchange and connection.



OCTOBER 6

ADMAF's founder met with Prince Richard, Duke of Gloucester, at Kensington Palace to discuss future collaborations and further their shared goals of enhancing peace and prosperity.

OCTOBER 6

Delivering a keynote speech at the UAE Embassy in the UK during the second Art @ Embassies event, the Founder emphasised the initiative's importance as a conversation and a celebration of the UAE as an idea, a society, and a nation.



OCTOBER 6

In London, the Abu Dhabi Festival Award Ceremony for British musician and philanthropist Sir Ian Stoutzker CBE took place in the presence of Khalid Saud Al Qasimi, Deputy Chief of Mission at the UAE Embassy in London.

OCTOBER 12

A new partnership was formalised with the signing of an MoU by Lady Jude Kelly on behalf of the Women of the World Foundation, presided over by HM Queen Camilla, with a shared mission to advance cultural opportunities for women across the world and connect female Emirati artists with their global peers.



OCTOBER 14

The Founder attended the Cleveland Clinic's 14th annual international leadership board meeting in London.

NOVEMBER 13

ADMAF's Founder visited Paris and met with Lise Macdonald, President of L'École Van Cleef & Arpels, discussion included the ongoing ADMAF Design Fund Award partnership.

NOVEMBER 14

The Founder met with François-Aïssa Touazi, Chairman of Ardian Abu Dhabi, co/head of Investor Relations at Ardian, and Global Head of European and International Public Affairs for Ardian, as well as Co-Chairman of the French - Saudi Arabia - Kuwait - UAE Councils at Medef International.

NOVEMBER 14

Steinway & Sons hosted ADMAF's Founder at a launch event for a new line at Palais de Tokyo in Paris, with an intimate performance by piano virtuoso Yuja Wang, followed by a private dinner.





ADMAF PUBLICATIONS

As a source of information, ADMAF publishes insightful commentaries on the region's cultural sectors and provides valuable insights and perspectives to its audience, available in print and often online.



ABU DHABI FESTIVAL PROGRAMMES

Commemorative programmes are exclusively available to ticket holders of Abu Dhabi Festival's headline performances and exhibitions. Each booklet offers detailed insight into the history of the works presented and performed, as well as biographies of the participating artists and companies.



The ADMAF Tribune is a print and online resource written by members of the Young Media Leaders programme, providing them with valuable experience in writing interviews, feature pieces and news articles. The 2023 edition covered the events of the 20th anniversary edition of Abu Dhabi Festival.

ADMAF Tribune

2023

20TH ANNIVERSARY OF ABU DHABI FESTIVAL OPENS WITH JUAN DIEGO FLOREZ AND FRIENDS

BY SHARINA ALFALAH

For two decades Abu Dhabi Festival has been attracting the stage of music, art, theatre, dance, and film to the public. To celebrate the 20th anniversary held under the theme 'The Will for Evolution', Juan Diego Florez and Friends opened the special edition of Abu Dhabi Festival at Emirates Palace with a concert performed by the Peruvian opera star accompanied by Vincenzo Scialoja on piano with guitarist Jonathan Bolivar featuring a programme of famous opera arias followed by Latin American songs. Ahead of the concert, the beloved singer received the Abu Dhabi Festival award for his lifetime contributions to music and for transforming the lives of thousands of children through his Foundation, *Symphonia for Them* from ADMAF patron H.E. Sheikh Nohyan bin Mubarak Al Nahyan, Minister of Tourism and Civil Aviation.

The first half of the concert showcased the remarkable talents of Florez and Scialoja together in a mesmerising opera performance brimming with passion.

Their seamless understanding of each other's breath-taking music was evident, capturing the audience from the very first note. As someone experiencing opera for the first time, I was awestruck and gained a newfound appreciation for this art form.

Scialoja skillfully weaved together intricate melodies and Florez's voice, rich and powerful, transported audiences to a time of elegance and astounding beauty. The energy emanating from the audience could be felt. They were enraptured, eagerly embracing the journey through the highs and lows of the music, swept away by the ever-changing tones of Florez's profound voice. The reflective atmosphere was charged with anticipation and delight, as everyone surrendered to the captivating allure of the performance.

Following the first half of the concert, aspiring Emirati singer Hadeel Al Naizami took the stage. It was a poignant sight to witness an Emirati artist being a significant part of the festival's grand opening night. The audience was instantly captivated by Al Naizami's performance, as his soft and emotive voice effortlessly filled the air.



Minister of Tourism and ADMAF Patron, H.E. Sheikh Nohyan bin Mubarak Al Nahyan, and ADMAF Founder H.E. Huda Alkhamis Kanoo beside Abu Dhabi Festival award to Peruvian opera star Juan Diego Florez.



Emirati Singer Hadeel Al Naizami with ADMAF Founder H.E. Huda Alkhamis Kanoo

“ We are grateful to Huda Alkhamis-Kanoo, for her unwavering dedication and tireless efforts in enhancing Abu Dhabi's position as a leading cultural destination. The 20th - anniversary edition of the Festival serves as a platform for cultural dialogue and a bridge between East and West deeply rooted in the heritage of the UAE and leads the way in advancing cultural diplomacy efforts and strengthening the UAE's international presence. ”

- His Highness Sheikh Abdullah bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation

There was an undeniable sense of connection between Alnaizami and the crowd, as his smooth yet powerful voice filled the concert hall. His performance was a testament to the power of music to transcend cultural boundaries and unite people in shared experiences. The presence of Al Naizami on that stage served as a source of inspiration and pride, highlighting the rich talent and artistic combinations of Emirati artists in the global landscape of music.

Following the emerging star's brilliant performance, the concert resumed with Florez joined by guitarist Jonathan Bolivar leading a talented ensemble of musicians. The audience turned from rich purples and blues to more vibrant colors as the setting shifted from the majesty of opera to the electric beats of Latin American music. The change in the atmosphere was felt once Florez began to sing

and it was as if we were all part of the same family, dancing, singing, and celebrating our love of music. Each song seemed to hold a special meaning for the opera legend as he gave us a tantalizing taste of the culture and soul of each country from which it emanated.

Throughout the performance, Florez interacted with the audience, taking requests, and engaging in a way that made everyone feel completely immersed in the experience. This personal touch added to the excitement of the evening, leaving us all eager to hear him sing the different requests and enjoy the excitement of the night. Juan Diego Florez and Friends was the perfect way to inaugurate a Festival that celebrates the arts and creates a sense of community. Two decades of celebrating the beauty of music and the arts and still more is yet to come.



MUSADALA



ADMA F MARKETING



ADMAF marketing plays an important role in highlighting the significance of the Foundation's activities and developing audiences for them.



ADMAF MARKETING DATA

JANUARY 2023 - DECEMBER 2023

AED
+44 MILLION
PR VALUE

SOURCE: FOURCOMMS
PR AGENCY

+1200
PIECES OF COVERAGE

SOURCE: FOURCOMMS
PR AGENCY

+1.5 BILLION
AUDIENCE REACH

SOURCE: FOURCOMMS
PR AGENCY

AED
+14.5 MILLION
PR AVE

SOURCE: FOURCOMMS
PR AGENCY

**+4.8 MILLION
TOTAL VIDEO VIEWS**

**SOURCE: XITE LIVE
SOCIAL MEDIA AGENCY**

**+35 MILLION
TOTAL SOCIAL MEDIA
IMPRESSIONS**

**SOURCE: XITE LIVE
SOCIAL MEDIA AGENCY**

**+18 MILLION
TOTAL SOCIAL
MEDIA REACH**

**SOURCE: XITE LIVE
SOCIAL MEDIA AGENCY**

**+7 MILLION
ENGAGEMENTS**

**SOURCE: XITE LIVE
SOCIAL MEDIA AGENCY**

ABU DHABI FESTIVAL NIELSEN STUDY

2023

ADMAF commissioned the international firm Nielsen to conduct an assessment of the social and economic impact of Abu Dhabi Festival 2023 on the local economy.

ECONOMIC IMPACT

Abu Dhabi Festival 2023 delivered significant economic and social value to Abu Dhabi. In 2023, the Festival generated a total impact of AED 61.6 million, comprising AED 50 million in direct economic impact and AED 11.5 million in social impact value. Notably, despite decreased funding, the Festival improved efficiency compared to previous editions, generating an impact of AED 3 per dirham invested, up from AED 1.7 per dirham in 2018.

INFLUENCE IN AND FOR ABU DHABI

Asserting Abu Dhabi's place as a global cultural destination, the Festival is important to the city, supporting a robust year-round appreciation and appetite for arts and culture.

Abu Dhabi Festival audiences strongly associated the Festival with its cross-cultural (84%) and international (80%) programming. The Festival is seen as vital to the city, supporting a robust year-round appreciation for arts and culture. It promotes economic growth by generating strong engagement from residents in arts and culture events, contributing to the importance of the Emirate's status as a cultural capital. 98% of attendees felt it was important for Abu Dhabi to have a major music and arts event like Abu Dhabi Festival, with 95% feeling there should be more events across the year. This highlights the Festival's role in generating a year-round appetite for arts and culture.

In 2023, audience members planned to return in future years, with 82% likely to attend again. This was a year of new audiences – for 54% of guests, it was their first time at the Festival. This strong retention rate among first-time visitors is a promising indicator of future growth. It demonstrates the Festival's ability to attract, retain and cultivate audiences passionate about arts and culture.

OVERALL PERCEPTION OF THE FESTIVAL

97%

LIKELY TO RECOMMEND AND ATTEND THE EVENT AGAIN

46%

REPEAT VISITORS

75%

OF THEM AFFIRM THAT THE EVENT HAS IMPROVED FROM PREVIOUS EDITIONS

IMPROVING WELLBEING OF ABU DHABI CITIZENS

AED 1.3M

NET SAVINGS DUE TO IMPROVED WELLBEING OF CITIZENS WHO ATTENDED THE FESTIVAL

GENDER DIVERSITY

THE FESTIVAL EMPOWERS WOMEN

80%

OF THE STAFF ARE WOMEN. MOST OF THESE WOMEN ARE IN LEADERSHIP POSITIONS

CROSS-CULTURAL & INTERNATIONAL

BOOSTING ABU DHABI'S ECONOMY

61.6M

OVERALL VALUE FOR THE ABU DHABI ECONOMY

3.0

1.7

2018

2023

OVERALL EFFICIENCY OF THE ECONOMIC IMPACT IN TERMS OF PER DIRHAM INVESTED