



## Breaking News: The Assembly Takes Over the Jameel Arts Centre for Two Weeks

- From October 30 to November 16, 2020, the Assembly will take over the Jameel Arts Centre with curated interventions and public programming addressing their chosen theme of 'Reassigning Value'
- 25 upcoming young UAE-based artists and creatives have produced new works to engage visitors and activate the Jameel

Dubai, United Arab Emirates | October 28, 2020

We, The Assembly, a collective of UAE-based artists and creatives (aged 18-24) announce that the youth are taking over the Jameel Arts Centre for two weeks, starting October 30, 2020. Over the past year we've developed ideas around our chosen theme of 'Reassigning Value', and selected and curated works by our peers – we're now ready to invite the public to come to the Jameel to see our exhibitions and engage with us via a series of virtual and real life events, workshops and performances. Our theme is timely: we are exploring ways in which we are re-interpreting values across disciplines and reimagining the ever-changing complexities of our environment(s).

We -- **Aliyah Alawadhi, Ashay Bhave, Saad Boujane, Tala Khalil, Dina Khatib, Mohammad Mhaisen, Arthur de Oliveira, Daniel H. Rey and Tasnim Tinawi** -- commit today and through this Takeover to presenting original programming by and for the UAE youth, working with and under the guidance of Art Jameel. We believe that the works selected to be shown at the Jameel Arts Centre, side by side with their ongoing exhibitions, are part of a collective breakthrough; a recalibration of what it means to move and act in the world, maintain identity and shoulder adversity. We believe that in the face of informational and obligational overload, coupled with a downgrade in mobility, these works and our actions will describe our extended mental and sensory faculties, and the ways in which we are adapting to an accelerated, rapidly-maturing concept of responsibility.

This year, against all odds and challenges, we worked together to curate and produce immersive installations and site-specific works by 25 upcoming UAE-based artists and creatives. We created several activations featuring commissioned artists from the emerging local and regional milieu, and encapsulated our work in our blog [Verticals](#).

The moment you enter the Jameel Arts Centre, you will experience works that respond to 9 curatorial prompts, in all corners of the Jameel, around it, outside it - in corridors, staircases and in-between spaces.



Our newly-commissioned installations intermingle with existing exhibitions, sharing space with Lawrence Abu Hamdan, Taysir Batniji, Lubna Chowdhary, Maryam Al Dabbagh, Hassan Khan, Michael Rakowitz, Larissa Sansour, and Conrad Shawcross.

We encourage you, frequent and new followers of the Jameel Arts Centre, in addition to our fellow students, creatives and aspiring change-makers, to experience this Takeover in all its forms, both physically at the Jameel, and online through our extensive public programme.

**We intend to sing the courage in our work, and vow to magnify our role as members of the bold youth that will instigate change. The Influence of our form and colour now becomes clear. A green building, a green screen and a much greener future.**

### **-The Assembly**

#### **Interventions:**

Throughout the Centre, and for two weeks, visitors will have the opportunity to enjoy digital, audiovisual and artwork interventions and works by: **Hassana Arif, Ahmad Geaissa & Boula Rami, Simran Gvalani & Kristina Kiseleva, Mohamed Khalid, , Khawla Al Marzooqi, Jad Moura, Malaika Munshi, , Talal Al Najjar, Gopika Praveen, Zuhoor Al Sayegh, Sree, Luis Carlos Soto Ruiz, Sari Al Taher, UT-R Studio, Mariam Alzayani & Nasser Alzayani.**

The interventions include the following works, created by artists and creatives, and each commissioned/curated by members of the Assembly; 'self-commissions' are by the Assembly members themselves:

- **Elevator Wall** by Mohamed Khalid: a graphite drawing with layered scratches passing as an elevator wall seeks to build a relationship from the coherent self to the relational self. *Commissioned by **Mohammad Mhaisen.***
- **The Vessel (Walks Us Home)** by Simran Gvalani & Kristina Kiseleva: a work that examines the connection between our internal and external worlds, thought and physical reality. *Commissioned by **Mohammad Mhaisen.***
- **On Of** by Gopika Praveen: This piece tells a story of self-discovery as beings within and of nature, attempting to bring about environmental accountability. *Commissioned by **Tasnim Tinawi.***
- **Excrecence** by Talal Al Najjar: This piece illustrates the religious and secular values that are often instrumentalised to survive today's technology-driven city-life. *Commissioned by **Daniel H. Rey.***
- **Super Blooms** by Sari Al Taher: Audiences are treated to the flowering of blossoms across intermediary spaces, a performance experienced across several points in time. *Commissioned by **Dina Khatib.***

- **Breath|able** by UT-R Studio: In a capitalist imaginary future, the monetisation of air is represented by this installation that demarcates the boundary between personal space and private property. *Commissioned by Tasnim Tinawi.*
- **Sorry to add fish to the salad** by Zuhoor Al Sayegh: This installation evokes a series of half-memories that entwine to communicate notions of domestic comfort with the placating role a woman is expected to play throughout her life. *Commissioned by Daniel H. Rey.*
- **Re-folk** by Tala Khalil: An experimental approach to modernising traditional folkloric music and scene in Palestine, using a mish-mash of songs, a film representing two different generations Palestinian, and an installation. *Self-commission.*
- **1958\_sand** by Sree Jyothish: This combination of sculpture, projection and audio crystallises a childhood memory of growing up in Dubai with an Indian-Hindu background, raising questions on the concepts of belonging and home. *Commissioned by Daniel H. Rey.*
- **Treat Yourself** by Hassana Arif: a series of photographs on women's enduring problems, the subjects engage in a form of self-care that only serves to feed into the commercial machine that perpetuates their suffering. *Commissioned by Aliyah Alawadhi.*
- **Life Square** by Ahmad Geassa and Boula Rami: An animated short on the many rites of passage an Egyptian passes through in their lifetime. *Commissioned by Tala Yahya Khalil.*
- **An attempt at flying** by Khawla Al Marzooqi: A painting that depicts an attempt at both how to understand and practice self-care during quarantine. *Commissioned by Aliyah Al Awadhi.*
- **The Game of Life: Junior** by Ashay Bhawe: A 'cellular automaton', The Game of Life can simulate the development of a society of living organisms. Bhawe reduces it to a children's toy in a critique of current global leaders and their single-cellular outlook on life. *Self-commission.*
- **GLIMPSES: The routinary adaptation of change** by Luis Carlos Soto Ruiz: GLIMPSES uses before and after photographs of people cycling through mindless daily habits and formalities. Through sound and image, minute changes in facial expressions are communicated. Compounded, certain external stimuli can significantly impact how we feel as we move through any given day. *Commissioned by Arthur de Oliveira.*
- **Days Go By** by Arthur de Oliveira: Self-help and social media's language of performative change come together in a video installation that explores the UAE's tumultuous relationship with itself as it continues to develop. *Self-commission.*
- **Salubrious** by Jad Moura: Set in Al Jazirah Al Hamra in Ras Al Khaimah, abandoned infrastructure is rehabilitated through technological and virtual means. *Commissioned by Saad Boujane.*
- **Veiled** by Malaika Munshi: Photos of an Indian male in a traditional women's headdress that sometimes covers the mouth ('Dupatta') as a form of identity-protection helps explore the daily struggles Indian women face daily. *Commissioned by Ashay Bhawe.*
- **Prayer Chairs & British Club Tattoos** by Mariam Alzayani & Nasser Alzayani: Exercises of reassociation through fragments of texts, sounds, found objects and installations help to uncover our many contradictory episodic memories. *Commissioned by Dina Khatib.*



When at the Jameel, visitors are encouraged to scan the QR codes next to each intervention for further information on the artists and the works displayed.

The Assembly also curated an [online public programme](#) comprising workshops, talks and panel discussions.

#### **Overview of Public Programming:**

All the details of our activations are available on the Jameel Arts Centre's [website](#), the Jameel Arts Centre's Instagram account:

- October 31, 2020 - [Objective Memory](#)  
Multimedia Designer **Dina Khatib** commissioned **Nasser Alzayani** and **Mariam Alzayani** for *Objective Memory*, a free-writing workshop conducted in pairs of family members that aims to produce a continuous narrative exchange, negotiating both Episodic and Object memory.
- November 2, 2020 - [We ART what we EAT. Or not?](#)  
Curator **Daniel H. Rey** commissioned artist **Sree** for *We ART what we EAT. Or not?*, inviting attendees to explore a kitchen ingredient as an object of artmaking and research.
- November 4, 2020 - [The last time I looked at the stars, I felt the colors radiating inside me](#)  
Artist and writer **Aliyah Alawadhi** examines 'radical softness' and the tenets of personal and communal-well being in *Adaptation and Self Care*. She commissioned winner **Nadim Choufi**, *Art Jameel Commissions: Digital*, for the lecture-performance. *The last time I looked at the stars, I felt the colors radiating inside me*
- November 7, 2020 - [Uncreative Writing Workshop](#)  
Filmmaker and poet **Arthur de Oliveira** will lead the *Uncreative Writing Workshop*, inviting participants to interpret one of the Takeover's curatorial prompts through poetry.
- November 11, 2020 - [Text and Textile: I dreamt I wove a lilac sky](#).  
Artist **Zuhoor Al Sayegh** will guide participants through a multi-sensorial online experience with a piece of textile in *Text and Textile: I dreamt I wove a lilac sky*.



- November 14, 2020 - [Dabkeh for beginners](#)  
Designer **Tala Khalil**'s *Reassigning Traditions* combines notions of togetherness and individualism, bringing the malleability of tradition into question. She will lead [Dabkeh for beginners](#), a traditional Palestinian dance class.
- November 14 - [Explorative Domestic Illustration](#)  
Artist and Architect **Sarah Al Adayleh** will teach *Explorative Domestic Illustration* using architectural representation to bring into focus our retrospective interpretations of domestic spaces.
- November 16, 2020 - [Lost and Bound](#)  
Architect Saad Boujane commissioned artist **Zahra Nasralla** for *Lost and Bound* to discuss book-binding and her on-going series entitled "Can I Book-bind That?" coupled with a workshop that teaches participants how to coptic bind a unique book, step-by-step.

The Assembly will also convene for a panel discussion led by **Art Jameel's director Antonia Carver** on **November 9**, to reflect on their experiences curating and executing the Takeover and their paths ahead as active members of the art world.

**Take Part:**

"Our Takeover is not only limited to the Centre's actual space, but extends to its virtual spaces too. You can find our social interventions on the Jameel Arts Centre's [Instagram](#) page. You can also read our observations, critical notes and commentary on [Verticals](#)."

**The Youth Takeover** is from **October 30** until **November 16**, 2020 at **Jameel Arts Centre**, and online. For more information, visit the Centre's [website](#).

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**COVID-19 Notes:**

Visitors are encouraged to book their two-hour slot visits online via the Jameel Arts Centre's [website](#). Exhibition spaces and visitor reception areas are managed according to cleaned, aired and disinfected throughout the day after each visitation time slot. Hand disinfectant is provided for visitors at the entrance and throughout, along with face masks and gloves if required. More information on the precautionary measures taken by the Jameel is available [online](#).



### **About the Assembly**

The 2020 Youth Takeover takes place October 30 – November 16, 2020 and features curated interventions and public programmes addressing the Assembly's conceived theme 'Reassigning Value'. The nine Assembly members curated and commissioned 21 UAE-based young artists and creative sand together present artworks, interventions and events at the Jameel, ranging from illustration, painting, sculpture and photography to sound-design, film and performance, plus a digital programme taking place on Verticals – the Assembly's bespoke blog. Spanning January to November 2020, the second Assembly at Jameel Arts Centre continues the realisation of dedicated initiatives related to the interests of its nine members, who are selected through a highly competitive process, following nominations from Art Jameel's extensive network of industry leaders.

The 2020 Assembly at Jameel Arts Centre is composed of UAE Nationals and long-term residents (of multiple different nationalities -Brazil, India, Paraguay/Colombia, Palestine-USA, Morocco, Palestine-Jordan, Syria) and spans a breadth of experience and interests and hails from across the UAE.

The 2020 Assembly members are: Aliyah Alawadhi, Ashay Bhave, Saad Boujane, Tala Khalil, Dina Khatib, Mohammad Mhaisen, Arthur de Oliveira, Daniel H. Rey and Tasnim Tinawi.

### **About Art Jameel**

Art Jameel supports artists and creative communities. Current initiatives include running heritage institutes and restoration programmes, plus a broad range of arts and educational initiatives for all ages. Art Jameel has a particular focus on providing opportunities for youth to engage with the arts. The organisation's programmes foster the role of the arts in building open, connected communities; at a time of flux and dramatic societal shifts, this role is understood as more crucial than ever.

[Jameel Arts Centre](#), an innovative contemporary institution in Dubai, UAE, opened on November 11, 2018; [Hayy: Creative Hub](#), a major complex for the creative industries in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, is set to launch in 2021.

Art Jameel's model is collaborative: major institutional partners include [Delfina Foundation](#), [the Metropolitan Museum of Art](#), the [Prince's Foundation School of Traditional Arts](#) and [the Victoria and Albert Museum](#). Locally, the organisation works with individuals and organisations to develop innovative programming that embraces both ancient and new technologies and encourages entrepreneurship and the development of cultural networks.

Art Jameel is positioned alongside [Community Jameel](#) and complements its sister organisation's work in promoting positive social change, job creation and poverty alleviation.

### **About Jameel Arts Centre**



One of the first contemporary art institutions in Dubai, [Jameel Arts Centre](#) presents curated solo and group exhibitions, drawn both from the Art Jameel Collection and through regional and international collaborations. Jameel Arts Centre is a 10,000-square metre, three-storey, multi-disciplinary space designed by UK-based practice Serie Architects. The building is punctuated by seven gardens, designed by landscape architect Anouk Vogel, which reflect local and global desert biomes.

Located by the creek in Jaddaf Waterfront, one of Dubai Holding's mixed-use destinations, Jameel Arts Centre's galleries are complemented by Jameel Library, an open-access research centre dedicated to artists and cultural movements in the Gulf states and beyond. Jameel Arts Centre also includes project and commissions spaces, a writer's studio, a restaurant and shop.

Jameel Arts Centre serves as a hub for educational and research initiatives for diverse audiences. Its broader programming embraces partnerships with local, regional and international artists, curators and organisations.