



ART *mag*
by SYBARIS.

006

Inception
island

release your taste

Index

01 Editor's note

Art & Architecture
The Faces Behind 03

05 Norman Foster

Frank Gehry 07

09 Zaha Hadid

Rain of light 11

18 Ongoing exhibition
The Year of the Zayed
Abu Dhabi Festival 2018

Louvre Abu Dhabi 26

30 Out reach program



I waited very long for the *opening of the New Louvre Museum in Abu Dhabi*. Therefore, I had high expectations about it. My interest was not centered only on the collections but also the structures as well. I had been in Abu Dhabi before as the building was in progress, *Jean Nouvel's opera prima which took ten years to conceive*.



An "Island Museum," literally constructed over water and located inside a bigger Island, Abu Dhabi, which is also part of a bigger collection of Islands, the Persian Gulf, which also belong to a bigger Island, the Asiatic continent. "An island inside an island" containing artworks, each one a world in itself, "monads" like Leibniz would say. This issue is devoted to those structures that allow the pieces to escape their isolated state to gain context and connect.

Needless to say, the place exceeded my highest expectations, and we hope it exceeds yours too. So take a moment to journey with us and explore the "Island Museum" in this Issue.

Regina

Art & Architecture

The Faces Behind de Facades



Building Saadiyat: The Faces Behind A New Cultural District

The project known as the “Cultural District of Saadiyat Island” is a lofty plan to bring a jewel of art and heritage in this oil-rich, desert country. Designed to create in Abu Dhabi a mecca of art and culture unparalleled anywhere else in the middle east, this collection of museums and a performing arts complex will draw tourists and art appreciators worldwide.

The individual projects are outstanding and their architects are masters in their own right, but together represent a new future for Abu Dhabi and the UAE, which previously had only a collection of crumbling mid-20th century buildings, and represented a blank slate for development.

Norman Foster & *partners*



A true self-made man, Norman Foster founded his architectural firm, Foster Associates, in 1967 at only 32. His design prowess was first realized in 1974 with the building of the radical (at the time) eco-friendly Willis Faber & Dumas headquarters in England. His focus on unique structures and environmental preservation has been a hallmark of his style.

He has received such impressive honors as the Pritzker Prize (called the Nobel Prize of Architecture), and the Transatlantic Bridge Award (for making major cultural contributions on both sides of the Atlantic), as well as being knighted in 1990. At his age, many people have retired. He has no plans, stating that there is never enough time to do what he wants, and pointing out that there are still achievements to be reached, innovative designs to be crafted. *He believes that technology is simply a tool to be used in the creativity of architectural design.*

Zayed National Museum



This museum was planned as a memorial to the late Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan, the founding president of the UAE. *Inspired by the dynamics of flight and the feathers of a hawk, its design reflects the Sheikh's passion for the art of falconry, and thus creates an iconic symbol of the nation.* With an avant-garde design in terms of materials and construction methods, each of the steel towers contain a gallery space where visitors can explore the history and culture of the United Arab Emirates. The building is designed with sustainability in mind, to enhance energy savings, using ventilation and natural lighting in the towers, and applying photovoltaic panels and thermal exchange technologies.

Frank Gehry & partners

Frank Gehry was born to be an architect.

From the time he graduated school and began his own firm, in 1962, Gehry has been driven to express art in design, pushing the limits of creativity and engineering. He began in the traditional International Style, but was drawn to avant-garde, and at times whimsical, styles while spending time with artists like Ed Kienholz and Ed Ruscha. Expanding from furniture, to houses (his own becoming a diving board for future works), to commercial designs, his creations began to draw international attention in the 1980's and continue to be eye-openers worldwide.



Guggenheim Abu Dhabi



The Guggenheim in Abu Dhabi, inspired by a cubist painting, has been designed by the Gehry Partners architectural studio. It invokes the greatest works of art in the collections belonging to the Guggenheim Foundation. Designed to be almost surrounded by water, visitors will enjoy a spectacular view of the Cultural District of Saadiyat and the Persian Gulf. Open to the elements (the cones of the museum recall the ancient wind towers of the region, used both to ventilate and to create shade in the exterior patios), *the project is a mixture of Arab tradition and modern design.* The galleries will be distributed around the central atrium on four floors that will be connected by glass bridges. The museum will have 13,000 square meters of central exhibition space and 18,000 in the spectacular cones, as well as housing a theater for 350 spectators, laboratories and classrooms, shops, several cafes and a restaurant.

Zaha Hadid & *partners*



A guru of geometry, this Iraqi-born British architect used sweeping curves and angles to combine art and architecture in new ways. The first woman to earn the Pritzker Award (in 2004), she never allowed her ethnicity or gender to define her work. Hadid created some of the most beautiful buildings in the world, from the Aquatics Center for the 2012 Olympics in London to the Heydar Aliyev Center in Baku, Azerbaijan (for which she earned the London Design Museum's Design of the Year Award). Her work was so impressive that she received international honors from civic and professional institutions, and her firm has been respected as one of the more inventive architectural firms worldwide.

Sheikh Zayed Bridge



Built between 2008 and 2010, the Sheikh Zayed bridge has been defined as the "*most complicated bridge that has ever been built*", because of its futuristic architecture. The 800-meter bridge presents forms of continuous arcs that recall the dunes of the desert. The center lane is illuminated with light games full of dynamism that bring even more movement to the whole construction. It is the third temporary in-line bridge connecting the peninsula with the island on which Abu Dhabi stands, thus enabling it to pass over the Maqtah channel.

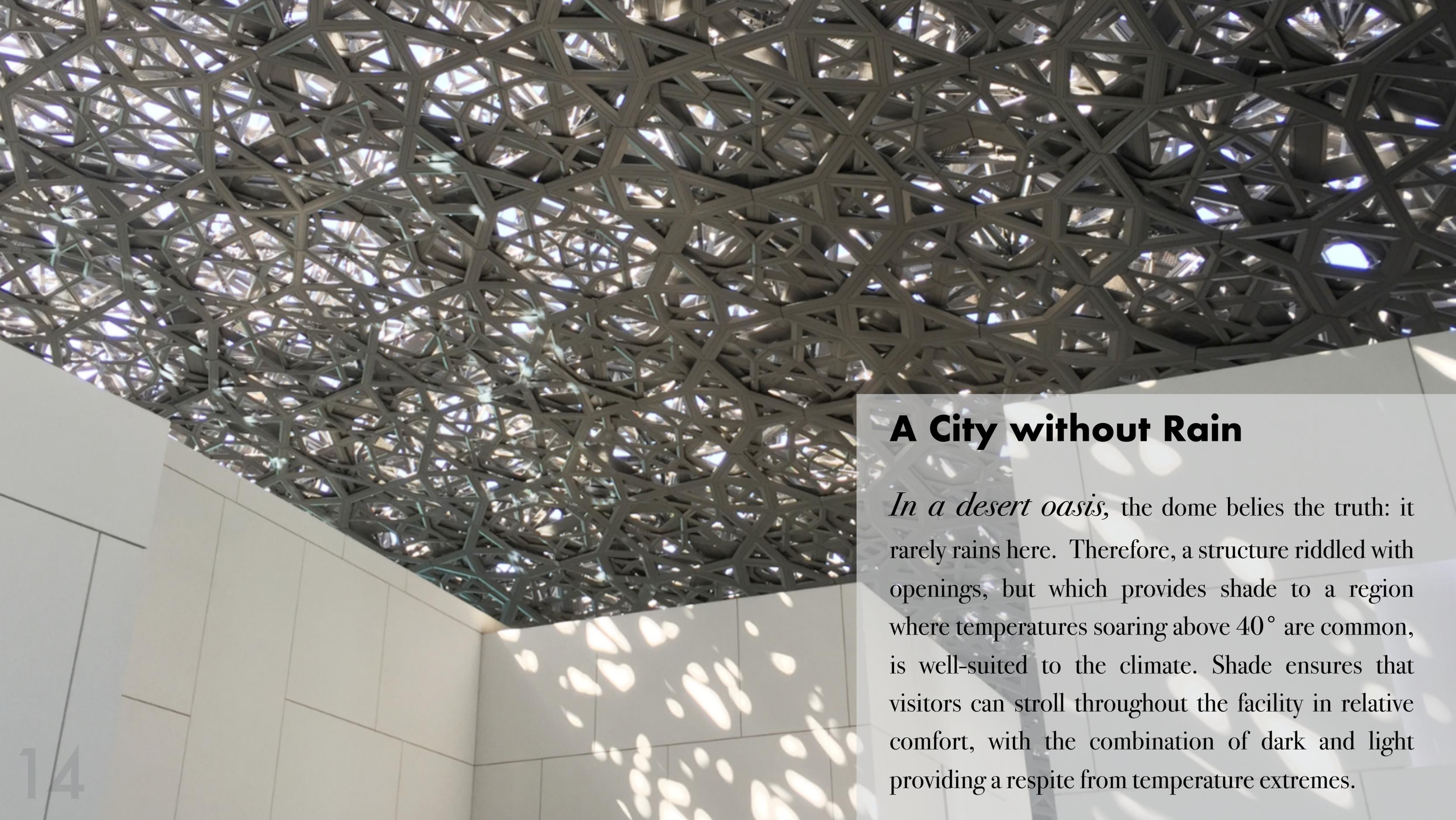


Rain of light



The crowning jewel of the Louvre Abu Dhabi rises as something between an umbrella and a palm tree. The cupola-style dome, found in traditional Arabic architecture, gives the appearance that the Louvre Abu Dhabi is floating above the base, even though it weighs in at a whopping 7500 tons, the same as the Eiffel tower. In stark contrast to the uber-modern, even extravagant skyline of Abu Dhabi, the dome is unmistakable and not lost in the middle of this oil-rich city, where sheikhs and dignitaries arrive in expensive cars from their many-storied office buildings.





A City without Rain

In a desert oasis, the dome belies the truth: it rarely rains here. Therefore, a structure riddled with openings, but which provides shade to a region where temperatures soaring above 40° are common, is well-suited to the climate. Shade ensures that visitors can stroll throughout the facility in relative comfort, with the combination of dark and light providing a respite from temperature extremes.

Jean Nouvel, Architect

Jean Nouvel is both artist and architect. His work is characterized by *unique approach and his own style*. His works span the globe, from the United States to Spain, Denmark to UAE. He has won countless awards and took pride in designing a facility which would bring together some of the characteristics of the middle east on this bare stretch of land. The 10-year project with BuraHappold Engineering, was met with challenges, from the more typical delays like financial revisions, to the scandals of regional turmoil and human rights accusations, has emerged a memorial to the UAE, both past, present, and future.

The Rain of Light

The filtered sunlight it allows to pass through creates a community in its embrace, providing shade even in sheltered open spaces, tying together the varied venues. The structure has a delicate look to it yet boasts 8 immense layers: 4 inner layers of aluminum and 4 outer layers of stainless steel. Designed for this earthquake-prone area, the dome flexes up to 180 millimeters.

Impressive from both above and below, the effects of the filtered light evolve as the day (and the sun) passes overhead. Additionally, only 4 piers, hidden within the structure, support the dome, giving the impression that it floats above the galleries and museums below.



The Museum Experience

Visitors are greeted with **brehtaking beauty**, arriving by either vehicle or boat, and are quick to see the unity of both sun and water, inside and outside the 24,000 square meter complex. Inside, they are rewarded by a combination of galleries, presenting art in unique ways not seen in other museums with expansive collections. As they stroll through the buildings, light trickles through the dome, **casting unique shadows and creating an atmosphere of a traditional middle eastern town**, with walls separating sections and art found inside and out. **Water flows throughout, adding to the ambiance and enhancing the calming effect.**





Ongoing exhibition

The Year of the Zayed—Abu Dhabi Festival 2018

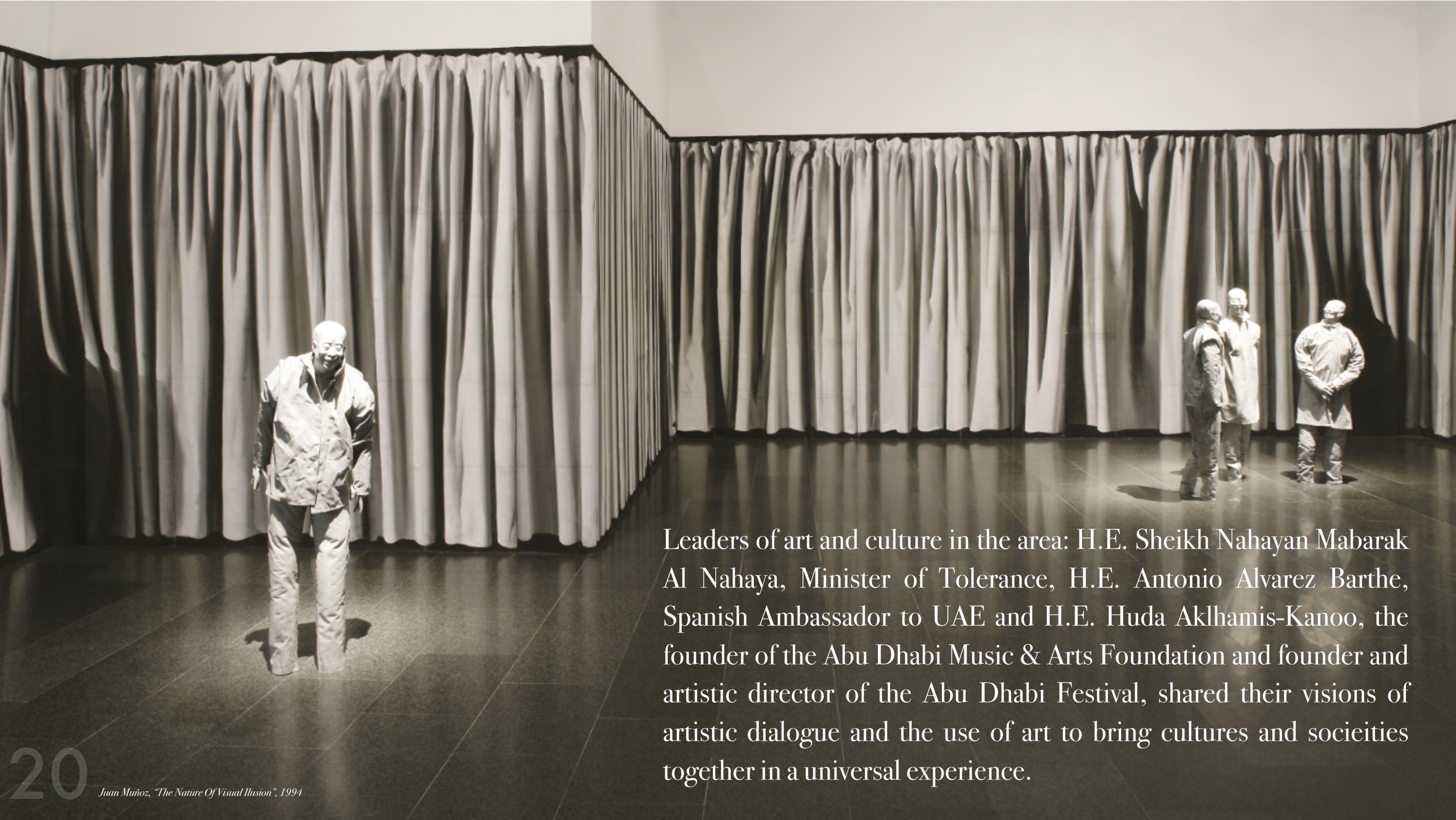


L_R_Ferran Barrenlit, HE Sheikh Nahayan Mubarak Al Nahayan, Ainhoa Grandes, Nasser Abdullah

Manarat Al Saadiyat, the expansive art and cultural center which illuminates creativity in Abu Dhabi, hosts the 15th Abu Dhabi Festival from 2 February through 17 March. This event honors the 100th anniversary of the birth of Sheikh Zayed Bin Sultan Al Nahyan, founding father of UAE. The exhibits, programs, tours, and presentations, Sheikh Zayed's commitment to fostering the human spirit in arts and culture is promoted.



Alia Lootah discusses her artwork with HE Sheikh Nahayan Mubarak Al Nahayan and Nasser Abdullah



Leaders of art and culture in the area: H.E. Sheikh Nahayan Mabarak Al Nahaya, Minister of Tolerance, H.E. Antonio Alvarez Barthe, Spanish Ambassador to UAE and H.E. Huda Aklhamis-Kanoo, the founder of the Abu Dhabi Music & Arts Foundation and founder and artistic director of the Abu Dhabi Festival, shared their visions of artistic dialogue and the use of art to bring cultures and societies together in a universal experience.



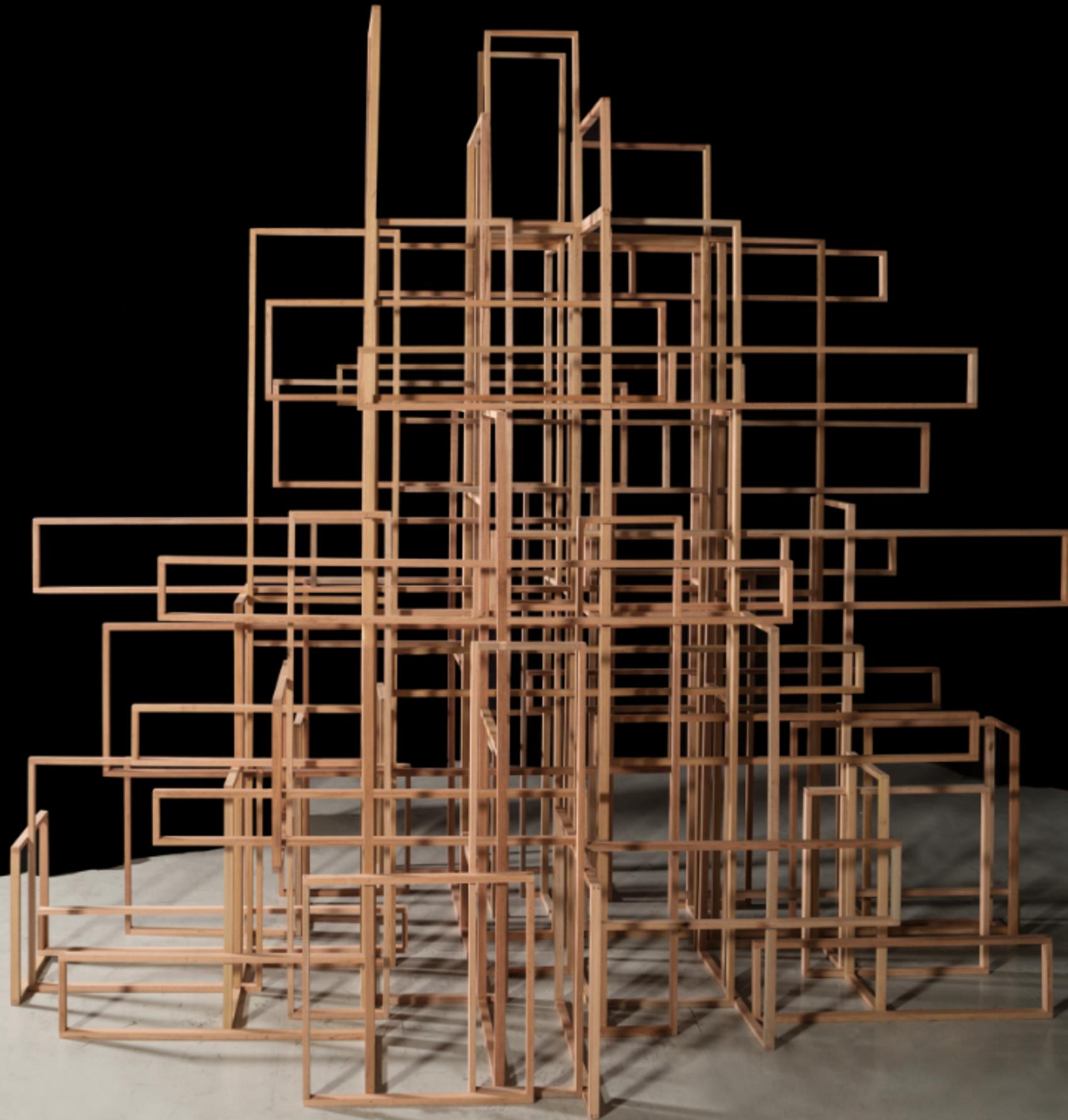
Mattar Bin Lahej



Mattar Bin Lahej, *Rhapsody of Culture*, 2013, Stainless steel, 300 × 200 × 200 × cm. An Abu Dhabi Festival 2013 Commission. Courtesy of the artist. Part of the ADMAF Art Collection. © ADMAF.

Rhapsody of Culture (2013). This Dubai-born painter, photographer, and sculptor founded the first artist-run gallery in the UAE. *His unique style of brush use makes this self-taught artist a unique champion for Emirati artists.*

Layla
a
Juma
a



Settleme nt (2017).

Using geometric shapes, Juma employs her professional training as an architectural engineer to create sequences in her multi-disciplinary works.

Layla Juma, *Settlement*, 2017. Meranti wood, dimensions to be confirmed by Perre on Thursday. Edition of three. An Abu Dhabi Festival 2018 Commission. Courtesy of the artist. Part of the ADMAF Art Collection. © ADMAF



Constant, construction with transparent plans, 1954

Farah Al Qasimi



Farah Al Qasimi, It's Not Easy Being Seen 2, 2016. Archival inkjet print. 120 x 96 cm. Edition of 5. Courtesy of the artist and The Third Line, Dubai.

It's Not Easy Being Seen 2 (2016). Musician and artist Al Qasimi has exhibited works in several locations in the UAE.

Louvre

Abu Dhabi

Abu Dhabi is home to nearly 200 islands, and archipelagos (both natural and manmade) dot the shoreline of Saadiyat Island. Shining among these is one of the grandest museums ever designed, with its impressive dome swathed in over 7,500 stars, so impressive that it bears the name LOUVRE (at a cost of \$525 million dollars paid to France). While filled with 23 galleries, the Louvre Abu Dhabi structure itself is a marvel of engineering and artistic expression. Taking the 18th century style of museum layout, with works all genres, techniques, and cultures, and bringing it into the 21st century, providing the contemporary audience with a comprehensive collection which spans over thousands of years.





The collaboration between France and UAE brings pieces from the iconic Louvre's collections, as well as an expansion of exhibitions from 13 other partner museums. This project was established in 2007 as the first part of a plan to develop the area, boosting tourism, attracting English speaking visitors, and expanding the developing art scene to the center of the Arabian Peninsula. This would allow the UAE to build upon the changing social and aesthetic conditions which leaders in Abu Dhabi had been working on. Later projects are planned, including 3 other museums.

Standing as a beacon of art and culture in this global city, the **Louvre Abu Dhabi** invites international visitors to experience a world of art in a middle eastern capital. Combining ancient with modern, East with West, and the sun and the water, the “art community” found here stands to become the center of the new art scene in Abu Dhabi.





Connecting art and art enthusiasts throughout the world to promote culture, technique, and creativity

This program provides much-needed exposure to emerging artists all over the world, allowing them to share their culture and heritage with art enthusiasts and collectors while enabling art organizations to introduce their members to artwork from other cultures.

Contact us today to expand your art community and promote emerging artists with the Sybaris ART Outreach Program.



Inception

island

ART *mag*
by SYBARIS.

006

release your taste

SYBARIS®
release your taste

   SybarisCollection

www.sybariscollection.com

info@sybariscollection

regina@sybariscollection

Tels.

+1 (832) 530 3996

+52 1 (55) 8435 4487

+52 1 (55) 8435 4488