

**Maya El Khalil** is an independent curator and art advisor based in Oxford, UK.

She collaborates with international institutions on progressive socially engaged projects, developing multidisciplinary exhibitions with a focus on addressing the environmental and climate emergency, including the ongoing digital platform *Take Me to the River* /[takemetotheriver.net/](http://takemetotheriver.net/) in collaboration with Goethe-Institut and the Prince Claus Fund. Other recent curatorial projects include *Perceptible Rhythms/Alternative Temporalities*, Middle East Institute, Washington D.C. (2023), *Portrait of a Nation II: Beyond Narratives*, ADMAF Abu Dhabi (2022); *Take Me to the River*, Hamburger Bahnhof Museum of Contemporary Art, Berlin (2021); guest curator of the online platform [TheArtists](http://TheArtists.net/) (2021); *I Love You, Urgently*, 7<sup>th</sup> edition 21,39 Jeddah Arts (2020); *Architecture of Tomorrow: Frei Otto's Legacy in Saudi Arabia*, co-curated with Prof. Georg Vrachliotis (2020).

Upcoming exhibitions include *Art Here 2023*, Louvre Abu Dhabi and *Desert X AIUla 2024*.

As founding director of Athr Gallery in Jeddah from 2009–2016, she pioneered exhibition approaches and cultural exchange in the absence of local public art institutions, making significant contributions to the establishment and development of a contemporary art scene in Saudi Arabia. For the last decade, she has continued to work locally, regionally and internationally with artists, collectors and institutions to develop the identity and ideas that have defined an art scene, building bridges between the Arab gulf and the world.

El Khalil holds an MA (with distinction) in Art and Politics from Goldsmiths College, University of London; an MBA and a Bachelor's degree in Mechanical Engineering from the American University of Beirut.