**Press Release**

**Louvre Abu Dhabi Announces *Arts for Health and Wellbeing* Webinar, Featuring Leading Experts from Around the World**

* *Louvre Abu Dhabi webinar will convene experts in the field of museum health and wellbeing programmes to discuss best practices from around the world*
* *The* [*webinar*](https://www.louvreabudhabi.ae/en/Whats-Online/webinar) *will go live on 22 October 2020 at 7 pm GST*

**Abu Dhabi, 19 October 2020:** Today Louvre Abu Dhabi announced the *Arts for Health and Wellbeing* webinar, led by the museum’s education department, which will bring together leading figures in museum-based health and wellbeing programmes from around the world. The experts will explore best practices, compare approaches in therapy and therapeutic practices seen in different regions from around the world, as well as discuss the societal stigma around healing modalities.

The *Arts for Health and Wellbeing* webinar will bring together **May Chung Khuen**, Director of the National Museum of Singapore; **Stephen Legari**, Art Therapy Lead Program Officer at the Montreal Museum of Fine Arts and registered art therapist; **Helen Jury**, co-editor of *Art Therapy in Museums and Galleries: Reframing Practice* and Professor of the Department of Genetics, the Psychoanalysis Unit at the University College London*;* alongside **Dana Al Mazrouei,** Education Manager at Warehouse421 and Founder of Yellow Space. The session will be moderated by **Maral Jule Bedoyan**, Education and Learning Resources Manager at Louvre Abu Dhabi. The [webinar](https://www.louvreabudhabi.ae/en/Whats-Online/webinar), which will be available in English, is free for the public to view on October 22 at 7 pm GST.

“In this new environment brought about by COVID-19, Louvre Abu Dhabi is committed, through its programmes, collection and visitor experiences, to leveraging the healing power of art and culture for both our community and visitors,” said **Manuel Rabaté, Director of Louvre Abu Dhabi**. “In times of isolation and uncertainty, museums can inspire empathy, connection and creativity. Art can be a powerful tool in promoting mental and physical health and overall wellness. As a young, experimental and mindful art institution, we are committed to exploring new roles that respond to the changing needs for our audiences. The conversations with international experts are essential to this commitment as we explore these new roles together.”

**Maral Jule Bedoyan, Education and Learning Resources Manager at Louvre Abu Dhabi**, commented: “Arts institutions can be anchors to normality, calm and empathetic viewing. We have never needed these more than now. The arts are a limitless source of inspiration, healing and empathy that bring us closer together, in good and in difficult times. At Louvre Abu Dhabi, we are constantly developing our programming to meet the needs of our audiences, more and more with a focus on health and wellbeing.”

Topics of this webinar will include how exposure to arts spaces is beneficial for one's mental, social and physical health, as well as wellbeing; how art museums can offer therapeutic opportunities; and exploration of the public's current perception of the function of arts museum, and how these museums can challenge them.

Louvre Abu Dhabi has developed a series of physical and social offerings to support mental wellbeing. These include the museum’s exquisite space and architecture; the 12 chapters of the art gallery exploring the history of human creativity across time and space; kayaking around the museum; and Louvre Abu Dhabi’s x anghami’s *Contemplative Vibes* [playlist](https://www.louvreabudhabi.ae/en/Whats-Online/Playlists/Contemplative-Vibes) inspired by the museum’s collection. The Education team is also working with the Ministry of Community Development to engage virtually with members of senior Emirati groups through online sessions on contemplation and storytelling.

Other programming in the pipeline includes *Yoga under the Dome* sessions, which will be announced soon. In moving towards a mindful museum culture, the museum staff are currently receiving internal training on mindfulness theories and practices, as part of the ethos of the museum.

For more information on *Arts for Health and Wellbeing* webinar or Louvre Abu Dhabi’s digital programmes, please visit [www.louvreabudhabi.ae](http://www.louvreabudhabi.ae).

Louvre Abu Dhabi is open Tuesday – Sunday from 10 am – 6:30 pm; closed on Mondays. Pre-purchased tickets are required to visit the museum. E-tickets can be reserved via the museum’s [website](https://www.louvreabudhabi.ae/en/buy-ticket).

-END-

**Notes to editors:**

Follow Louvre Abu Dhabi on social media: Facebook ([Louvre Abu Dhabi](https://www.facebook.com/LouvreAbuDhabi)), Twitter ([@LouvreAbuDhabi](https://twitter.com/LouvreAbuDhabi)) and Instagram ([@LouvreAbuDhabi](http://instagram.com/LouvreAbuDhabi)) #LouvreAbuDhabi

**Ongoing offers and promotions:**

Teachers are eligible for unlimited access to Louvre Abu Dhabi and its programming with the museum’s *Teacher Pass*. The *Teacher Pass* is available at AED 120 for teachers, academics and other educators holding valid accreditation, based in the UAE or abroad.

Louvre Abu Dhabi welcomes all UAE Taxi Drivers to enjoy free entry to the museum along with three complimentary tickets for friends and family. This offer is valid until 31 December 2020.

Further information and terms and conditions on all offers and promotions can be found on the museum’s website: [www.louvreabudhabi.ae](http://www.louvreabudhabi.ae).

**ABOUT LOUVRE ABU DHABI**

Created by an exceptional agreement between the governments of Abu Dhabi and France, Louvre Abu Dhabi was designed by Jean Nouvel and opened on Saadiyat Island in November 2017. The museum is inspired by traditional Islamic architecture and its monumental dome creates a rain of light effect and a unique social space that brings people together.

Louvre Abu Dhabi celebrates the universal creativity of mankind and invites audiences to see humanity in a new light. Through its innovative curatorial approach, the museum focuses on building understanding across cultures: through stories of human creativity that transcend civilisations, geographies and times.

The museum’s growing collection is unparalleled in the region and spans thousands of years of human history, including prehistoric tools, artefacts, religious texts, iconic paintings and contemporary artworks. The permanent collection is supplemented by rotating loans from 13 French partner institutions, regional and international museums.

Louvre Abu Dhabi is a testing ground for new ideas in a globalised world and champions new generations of cultural leaders. Its international exhibitions, programming and Children’s Museum are inclusive platforms that connect communities and offer enjoyment for all.

**ABOUT MUSÉE DU LOUVRE**

The Louvre in Paris opened in 1793, during the French Revolution, and from the very beginning was intended to provide inspiration for contemporary art. Courbet, Picasso, Dalí and so many others came to its hallowed halls to admire the old masters, copy them, immerse themselves in masterpieces and improve and fuel their own art. As an ancient royal residence, the Louvre is inextricably linked to eight centuries of French history. As a universal museum, its collections, among the best in the world, span many millennia and miles, from the Americas to Asia. Over 38,000 artworks are grouped into eight curatorial departments, including universally admired works such as the Mona Lisa, the Winged Victory of Samothrace and the Venus de Milo. With 9.6 million guests in 2019, the Louvre is the most visited museum in the world.

**ABOUT SAADIYAT CULTURAL DISTRICT**

Saadiyat Cultural District on Saadiyat Island, Abu Dhabi, is devoted to culture and the arts. An ambitious cultural undertaking for the 21st century, it will be a nucleus for global culture, attracting local, regional and international guests with unique exhibitions, permanent collections, productions and performances. Its ground-breaking buildings will form a historical statement of the finest 21st century architecture; Zayed National Museum, Louvre Abu Dhabi and Guggenheim Abu Dhabi. These museums will complement and collaborate with local and regional arts and cultural institutions including universities and research centres.

**ABOUT THE DEPARTMENT OF CULTURE AND TOURISM – ABU DHABI**

The Department of Culture and Tourism conserves and promotes the heritage and culture of Abu Dhabi emirate and leverages them in the development of a world-class, sustainable destination of distinction, which enriches the lives of visitors and residents alike. The organisation manages the emirate’s tourism sector and markets the destination internationally through a wide range of activities aimed at attracting visitors and investment. Its policies, plans and programmes relate to the preservation of heritage and culture, including protecting archaeological and historical sites and to developing museums, including Zayed National Museum, Guggenheim Abu Dhabi, and Louvre Abu Dhabi. The Department supports intellectual and artistic activities and cultural events to nurture a rich cultural environment and honour the emirate’s heritage. A key role is to create synergy in the destination’s development through close co-ordination with its wide-ranging stakeholder base.