**Press Release**

**Louvre Abu Dhabi Announces the Premiere of its First Short Film, *The Pulse of Time*, Telling a Story of Humanity**

* *The Pulse of Time is the first short film produced by Louvre Abu Dhabi*
* *Offering audiences an immersive digital journey via the museum’s galleries and objects, The Pulse of Time will premiere on* [*YouTube*](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LxH6-D2iYKA) *on 11 November 2020 at 7 pm in Arabic, 8 pm in English and 9 pm in French (Gulf Standard Time), to coincide with Louvre Abu Dhabi’s third year anniversary*
* *The 40-minute film is narrated in three languages—Arabic, English, and French—by, respectively, Emirati producer, TV presenter and actor Saoud Al Kaabi; British actor, screenwriter and film director Charles Dance; and French-Swiss actress Irène Jacob*
* *The film will be available to view for free on Louvre Abu Dhabi’s website starting November 12*

**Abu Dhabi, 8 November 2020:** Louvre Abu Dhabi announced today the launch of its first-ever short film, *The Pulse of Time*, coinciding with the museum’s third-year anniversary on 11 November 2020*.* The 40-minute immersive audio-visual journey brings the story of humanity to life through an exploration of artworks from the museum’s collection. The film’s storytelling, videography and original music composition take viewers on a poetic voyage via the 12 chapters of the Louvre Abu Dhabi’s galleries, exploring the history of human creativity through a selection of 15 artworks and sharing stories of cultural connections from pre-history to contemporary times. The film will premiere on [YouTube](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LxH6-D2iYKA) on 11 November 2020 at 7 pm in Arabic, 8 pm in English and 9 pm in French (Gulf Standard Time).

*The Pulse of Time* is available in three languages – Arabic, English and French – and is narrated by internationally known artists: Emirati actor, producer and TV presenter **Saoud Al Kaabi,** known for his role in *City of Life* (2009), narrates the Arabic; British actor, screenwriter and film director **Charles Dance**, known for playing the role of Tywin Lannister in HBO's *Game of Thrones*, narrates the English; and French-Swiss actress **Irène Jacob**, known for her role in *Three Colours: Red* (1994), narrates the French.

The sound creation was commissioned and jointly produced by **Alexandre Plank**, Radio Producer for the French National Radio channel France Culture, and two-time winner of the PRIX ITALIA international competition for radio and TV, and **Antoine Richard**, winner of the same prize. The script was developed by French author and playwright **Stéphane Michaka**, and the original music score is by French composer, songwriter and frontman of the band Syd Matters, **Jonathan Morali**. The film was directed by **Mohamed Somji** from the Dubai-based creative studio *Seeing Things*. *The Pulse of Time* will be available to stream for free on Louvre Abu Dhabi’s website starting November 12.

“Following our recent digital collaborations with Soundwalk Collective and anghami, we are excited to launch Louvre Abu Dhabi’s first short film *The Pulse of Time*,” said **Manuel Rabaté, Director of Louvre Abu Dhabi**. “Alexandre Plank, alongside Stéphane Michaka and *Seeing Things*, were invited to bring to life the stories of humanity that Louvre Abu Dhabi champions through art. This immersive digital experience encapsulates the current moment as the museum reflects on its third year anniversary. The film animates the galleries and objects on view, for an awakening of the imagination that audiences may experience from anywhere in the world. This marks a new era of original, digital commissions living side-by-side with traditional, physical exhibitions. The film’s languages and collaborators represent the museum space itself as a crossroads for intercultural connection.”

“Inspired by Stéphane Michaka’s text, we aimed to create an experience that would be a musical epic, an immersive and dreamlike journey through the museum’s spaces and works, so that each gallery resonates distinctively in the listeners’ ears,” said **Alexandre Plank, Radio Producer for the French National Radio channel France Culture**. “Rhythms evolve and instruments reverberate as the listener traverses different times, civilisations, and cultures. At the heart of these instruments, notes, and rhythms are the voices of Charles Dance, Irène Jacob and Saoud Al Kaabi. They make the listener a confidant and witness in discovering historical and universal works, and how each of these works tries, in its own way, to weave an invisible link between people and the world around them.”

*The Pulse of Time* invites viewers to experience a poetic narration of the stories of both masterpieces from the Louvre Abu Dhabi collection and on loan from international institutions. Commonalities across cultures can be discovered in Louvre Abu Dhabi’s treasures such as the Italian sculpture ***Man dressed in a Roman toga, called "The Orator"*** (100-150 CE) and the ***Bodhisattva, an intercessor between the Buddha and his followers*** sculpture from Kushan empire Pakistan, Gandhara, Takht-i-Bahi or Sahri-Bahlol (100–300 CE). Audiences will explore the migration of artistic influence from West to East in the carvings of the ***Basin inscribed with the name of Bonifilius*** from Northern Italy (c. 1300), also from the museum’s collection. The ***Two-headed Monumental statue*** from Ain Ghazal, Jordan (6500 BCE), on loan from the Department of Antiquities of Jordan, allows us to see and reflect upon the way our ancestors saw themselves.

At a later stage, Louvre Abu Dhabi will launch an audio tour adaptation of *The Pulse of Time* for visitors to explore at the museum, via the multimedia guide. The audio tour will be available in a total of six languages, with the addition of Mandarin, narrated by actress **Lan Qiu**, Russian, narrated by actress **Dinara Droukarova**, and German, narrated by actor **Stefan Konarske**. The tour will lead visitors through the museum using cutting-edge geo-localisation technology that triggers audio content and music depending on where they are within the galleries, making visitors the master of their journey.

*The Pulse of Time* adds to the inspiring roster of Louvre Abu Dhabi’s digital programmes, which includes the [*WE ARE NOT ALONE*](https://www.louvreabudhabi.ae/en/Whats-Online/we-are-not-alone) podcast by Soundwalk Collective, anghami’s curated [playlists](https://www.louvreabudhabi.ae/en/Whats-Online/Playlists) of soundtracks inspired by the museum’s collection, virtual [exhibition tours](https://www.louvreabudhabi.ae/en/art/current-exhibitions), the highlights from the museum’s [online collection](https://www.louvreabudhabi.ae/en/Explore/highlights-of-the-collection), as well as [online activities](https://www.louvreabudhabi.ae/en/Whats-Online/Children-and-Families) for families and children available on Louvre Abu Dhabi’s website and mobile application.

For more information on *The Pulse of Time* 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 and 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).

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**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.