

Press Release

Inaugural Edition of Louvre Abu Dhabi's New Annual Contemporary Art Exhibition Opens to the Public

- For the first edition of The Richard Mille Art Prize, *Louvre Abu Dhabi Art Here 2021* exhibition will showcase the seven shortlisted artists
- The inaugural *Louvre Abu Dhabi Art Here* Contemporary art exhibition explores the theme of 'Memory, Time and Territory'
- The exhibition will run from 18 November 2021 – 27 March 2022
- Winner of The Richard Mille Art Prize to be announced in January 2022 will receive USD \$50,000

Abu Dhabi, 17 November 2021: Louvre Abu Dhabi will open the inaugural edition of its new annual contemporary art exhibition, *Louvre Abu Dhabi Art Here 2021*, on Thursday 18 November, showcasing artworks by the seven shortlisted artists for the first Richard Mille Art Prize. The exhibition will be on view at Louvre Abu Dhabi's Forum until 27 March 2022.

In its first edition, the shortlisted artists for The Richard Mille Art Prize – **Cristiana de Marchi, Latifa Saeed, Mays Albaik, Mohammed Kazem, Nasser Alzayani, Tarek Al-Ghoussein, and Taus Makhacheva** – were selected by the prize's jury following an open call for proposals from UAE-based artists. Participants were asked to respond to this year's theme of 'Memory, Time and Territory', addressing questions of memory and belonging, and exploring the geography of identity through the artists' personal relationships with territories.

Each of the seven artists responded to the theme with their own unique interpretation, bringing each of their visions to life through different mediums. Cristiana de Marchi will present hand-embroidered canvas with her artwork *Mapping Gaps: Beirut*, whilst Latifa Saeed uses glass for her artwork *The Pathway*. Mays Albaik's *Awaiting Weightlessness* is an installation of aluminium video sculptures, and Mohammed Kazem will display his photographic series *Photographs with Flags*. Nasser Alzayani uses sand artefacts, collected recordings and works on paper in his installation *Watering the distant, deserting the near*, Tarek Al-Ghoussein will present prints from his ongoing *Odysseus series*, and Taus Makhacheva has employed a mix of video and body-oriented objects for her work *Mining Serendipity*.

Manuel Rabaté, Director of Louvre Abu Dhabi, said, "We are proud to offer greater visibility to these incredibly talented UAE-based artists for this inaugural edition of the exhibition and prize. Living in the UAE, they were uniquely placed to respond to this year's theme of 'Memory, Time and Territory', especially in a year where the nation reflects on 50 years of progress and development."

"Richard Mille's timepieces have always sat at the intersection of watchmaking tradition, art, design and architecture," says **Peter Harrison, CEO, Richard Mille Middle East**. "The Richard Mille Art Prize celebrates the thriving art culture here in the UAE, and in the region as a whole; establishing a platform dedicated to creativity, dialogue and diversity. The Prize will lay down the foundations for what is certain to be a very exciting chapter in the development of the region's rich and nuanced art scene."

"The artists have really shown a deep understanding of the theme and have responded with incisive, nuanced works. This exhibition and art prize are a significant addition to the contemporary art ecosystem of the UAE, and this focus on contemporary artists is an important extension of the universal storytelling our exhibitions and collection convey. We look forward to announcing this year's winner and next year's theme," **Dr. Souraya Noujaim** said on behalf of the jury panel.

The shortlisted artists were selected by a distinguished four-member jury including **HH Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan bin Khalifa Al Nahyan**, Chairman of UAE Unlimited and an art collector and patron of the Centre Pompidou, the British Museum and Sharjah Art Foundation; **Christine Macel**, Chief Curator at the Musée national d'art moderne, Centre Pompidou and an art critic; **Hala Wardé**, founding architect of HW Architecture and long-term partner of Jean Nouvel, who was the lead of the Louvre Abu Dhabi project; and **Dr. Souraya Noujaim**, Louvre Abu Dhabi's Scientific, Curatorial and Collections Management Director.

The winner of The Richard Mille Art Prize will be selected by the prize's jury from the seven shortlisted artists, to be announced at a ceremony in January 2022. The winner will be awarded USD \$50,000.

The *Louvre Abu Dhabi Art Here 2021* exhibition falls within the UAE's cultural season that includes Abu Dhabi Art, new exhibitions at the NYU Abu Dhabi Art Gallery, Dubai Design Week, Art Dubai, as well as this year's Expo 2020 Dubai, adding an array of opportunities to discover the local art scene and highlighting the UAE's dedication to fostering creativity.

For more information about The Richard Mille Art Prize and *Louvre Abu Dhabi Art Here 2021*, please visit Louvre Abu Dhabi's dedicated [webpage](#) for the exhibition and prize.

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Note to Editors:

To download high resolution images of participants, artworks, spokespeople and jury members, please click [here](#).

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 RICHARD MILLE

From the very inception of the brand in 2001, Richard Mille's approach to watchmaking has always centered on releasing the watch from its restricted role as a mere tool for timekeeping, augmenting and extending its visual potential by placing it directly in the crosshairs of design, art and architecture. Today, 20 years later, the Richard Mille watch collection now comprises of more than eighty models, each designed and produced with the same passion, uncompromising principles and visionary aesthetics that guided Richard Mille's first creation.

Richard Mille's watches are marvels of technology designed specifically for those with a keen appreciation and love for fine Swiss watchmaking, playing up the full possibilities of three-dimensional space, defined by both the volume of the watchcase and the movement itself. Within these highly confined areas spanning just a few centimeters that serve as a blank canvas for horological creativity.

This assimilation of watchmaking to artistic endeavors is also reflected in the company's close connections with the arts. The brand's partnerships in support of contemporary art and artists include sponsorship of the Palais de Tokyo in Paris, the contemporary art biennial Desert X; collaborations with choreographer Benjamin Millepied, composer Thomas Roussel and acquisition of Éditions Cercle d'Art, a publishing house created with the support of Pablo Picasso in the 1950s.

For more about Richard Mille please visit richardmille.com

ABOUT THE DEPARTMENT OF CULTURE AND TOURISM – ABU DHABI

The Department of Culture and Tourism – Abu Dhabi (DCT Abu Dhabi) drives the sustainable growth of Abu Dhabi's culture and tourism sectors, fuels economic progress and helps achieve Abu Dhabi's wider global ambitions. By working in partnership with the organisations that define the emirate's position as a leading international destination, DCT Abu Dhabi strives to unite the ecosystem around a shared vision of the emirate's potential, coordinate effort and investment, deliver innovative solutions, and use the best tools, policies and systems to support the culture and tourism industries.

DCT Abu Dhabi's vision is defined by the emirate's people, heritage and landscape. We work to enhance Abu Dhabi's status as a place of authenticity, innovation, and unparalleled experiences, represented by its living traditions of hospitality, pioneering initiatives and creative thought.