

ANNUAL REPORT

EMPOWERING THE NATION



2024

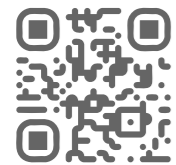
ABU DHABI MUSIC & ARTS FOUNDATION
JANUARY - DECEMBER 2024





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IN MEMORIAM

Sir Ian Stoutzker CBE

ADMAF mourns the passing of its advisor and dear friend, Sir Ian Stoutzker CBE - a distinguished banker, musician, and philanthropist, renowned for his advocacy of the arts. In 2017, he co-founded Live Music Now with his good friend and renowned violinist Sir Yehudi Menuhin and played pivotal roles in numerous institutions including ADMAF, Royal College of Music, Philharmonia Orchestra, London Symphony Orchestra and European Union Youth Orchestra. For his lifelong commitment to art, music and culture, Sir Ian was appointed Commander of the Order of the British Empire (CBE) in 2012, received the Prince of Wales Medal for Arts Philanthropy in 2013, and was knighted in the Queen's Birthday Honours in 2019. He was also honoured with the prestigious Abu Dhabi Festival Award in 2023. May his legacy live on through the countless lives he touched and the lasting impact he made on the arts and music communities worldwide.



David Heard

In 2024, with great sadness, we mourned the loss of our dear friend David Heard, a distinguished Gulf oil historian and expert. His significant contributions to the understanding of the Gulf's oil industry and his passion for preserving and sharing this story have left an indelible mark on the region's history and development. David's dedication, knowledge, and vision will always be valued, and his legacy will undoubtedly continue to inspire and influence generations to come. He will be deeply missed but never forgotten.



Quincy Jones

With great sadness, we mourn the loss of the international star, the legendary Quincy Jones. An extraordinary talent, long-standing friend of ADMAF, his legacy spans musical composition, orchestral conducting and television production. He was awarded with the Abu Dhabi Festival Award in 2014 in honour of his significant contributions to arts and culture. As one of the world's greatest musical pioneers, Quincy will forever hold a special place in our hearts and history, inspiring future generations for many years to come.





H.H. SHEIKH ABDULLAH BIN ZAYED AL NAHYAN
UAE DEPUTY MINISTER AND MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS
FOUNDING HONORARY PATRON, ABU DHABI FESTIVAL

As the Abu Dhabi Festival enters its third decade, it aligns with Abu Dhabi's cultural vision, reinforcing its commitment to bolstering the UAE's global presence and showcasing renowned creators on the city's stages. The Festival mirrors its organisers' belief in the pivotal role of culture and arts in fostering hope, spreading values of coexistence, peace, and human fraternity, and conveying a message of tolerance from the Emirates to the world.

As the Festival celebrates the People's Republic of China, the guest of honour in its current edition, we anticipate an extraordinary event bringing together cultural luminaries and ancient traditions from both the East and West. This highlights the Festival's role in stimulating cultural diplomacy, promoting human encounters, and encouraging dialogue.

The 21st edition of the Abu Dhabi Festival coincides with the celebration of the country's 52nd Union Day and the UAE's hosting of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP28). This reflects the Festival's commitment to raising environmental awareness among its audiences in the Emirates and globally. It embodies the collective efforts of institutions and underscores the inspiring role of creative individuals as ambassadors conveying the message of preserving the environment and combating climate change to secure resources for future generations.

We take pride in the significant achievements of the Festival throughout its editions and eagerly anticipate its continued leadership and excellence. Furthermore, we believe this will further enhance the country's standing as a global beacon of knowledge, culture and creativity.



H.E. SHEIKH NAHYAN MUBARAK AL NAHYAN
MINISTER OF TOLERANCE & COEXISTENCE
ADMAF PATRON

I am pleased to present our dear readers with the Abu Dhabi Music & Arts Foundation's (ADMAF) Annual Report for 2024, which highlights the Foundation's achievements over the past year and commemorates its 28th anniversary since its founding.

Over the years, ADMAF has played a prominent role in ensuring that culture and the arts remain at the heart of Abu Dhabi's and the UAE's journey towards progress and growth, contributing to the happiness and security of all people in this blessed land.

In its work, the Foundation follows the wise vision of His Highness Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, President of the UAE, for the cultural development of our nation and its advancement to the highest international levels. Under His Highness's visionary leadership, cultural development has become a top national priority.

As highlighted in the Annual Report, ADMAF's 2024 programmes and activities continue the Foundation's efforts to enrich cultural life, fostering an environment where the arts thrive and raising awareness of their vital role in the nation's development and the progress of its people. These efforts benefit all members of society - citizens, residents, men, women, the youth and the elderly.

This has led the Foundation to become, rightfully and deservedly, a beacon of cultural and civilisational excellence in the community. A prime example of this is the organisation of the 21st edition of the Abu Dhabi Festival, held under the inspiring theme, 'The Will for Hope' - a hope for a bright future for people, the nation, and the world, grounded in the principles of tolerance, coexistence, and human fraternity, as well as a confident vision for the future. These principles are fundamental to the UAE's beloved journey.

It is truly gratifying to see, in this Annual Report, clear evidence of the strong and effective collaboration between the Foundation and other cultural institutions in the community. These partnerships have helped enhance the quality of life for the people of the nation and all its residents, ensuring that the UAE remains a homeland of love, happiness, and stability. Furthermore, it confirms that culture and the arts are essential fields for human communication, contributing to a fulfilling life for all.

I would like to extend my thanks to all those working at the Abu Dhabi Music & Arts Foundation and I pray for their continued success and prosperity.

H.H. SHEIKHA SHAMSA BINT HAMDAN AL NAHYAN PATRON, ABU DHABI FESTIVAL

We celebrate the Abu Dhabi Festival's enduring legacy of giving, spanning from its inception in 2004 to its 21st edition in 2024. The Festival stands as a testament to our commitment to empowering the arts and showcasing exceptional artists through collaborations with major international cultural institutions. Over more than two decades, the Festival has earned distinction by presenting world and Arab premieres of exclusively commissioned and produced works, solidifying its position as an exceptional cultural contributor.

Through the Festival, which reflects our dedication to celebrating both local and international creativity in the Emirates - a cultural crossroads and a platform for dialogue among diverse civilisations and peoples - we reaffirm our steadfast belief in the values of coexistence, diversity, and human fraternity. Our ongoing mission is to instill hope and convey a message of love, tolerance and openness to others.

The vision of the Abu Dhabi Festival is multifaceted: To enrich the cultural landscape, honour creativity and creators, invest in youth, contribute to the flourishing of the arts through the sustainability of the cultural and creative industries sector, and propel cultural diplomacy efforts. The 2024 edition celebrates the People's Republic of China as the guest of honour and features performances by the country's major national ballet and orchestral performance groups.

Together, we take pride in the Festival and its role, anticipating the success of its programme under the theme 'The Will for Hope,' which focuses on spreading the spirit of positivity and optimism. It contributes to the evolution of thought and aligns with the UAE's vision of fostering global peace and human convergence.



H.E. HUDA AL KHAMIS-KANOO

FOUNDER OF THE ABU DHABI MUSIC & ARTS FOUNDATION
FOUNDER AND ARTISTIC DIRECTOR OF ABU DHABI FESTIVAL

THE WILL FOR HOPE

The year 2024 was declared as the 'Year of Sustainability' in the United Arab Emirates by His Highness Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, President of the UAE, and represented yet another significant chapter in the story of ADMAF - one that is deeply connected with the fabric of our nation's legacy. Aligned with the vision of the UAE's leadership, it was a year that ADMAF made many strides towards a brighter and more sustainable future, supporting the UAE's strategic initiative - under the slogan 'Plan to Action.' The 'Year of Sustainability' allowed us to reflect on what sustainability means - both globally and within the world of culture - and how the Foundation can continue to make cultural initiatives more resilient and sustainable.

Since its inception 25 years ago, ADMAF has remained faithful to its core ambition: to unlock creative potential in the UAE and beyond. At ADMAF, we uphold the belief that art is not a luxury, but a necessity and that Abu Dhabi's cultural promise has only begun to unfold. It is a privilege for ADMAF to be a part of Abu Dhabi's cultural journey and to contribute to it, by being a catalyst for discovery and dialogue; revealing young talent and nurturing new audiences; sparking conversations within the UAE and across borders; fostering encounters between artists and audiences, between ADMAF and its remarkable international network of partners, and - most importantly - between cultures.

Over the years, we have developed many educational and cultural programmes. The Abu Dhabi Festival stands among them as the flagship of our efforts. The Festival - and Abu Dhabi - is where our stakeholders, the generations of artists we have supported, the audiences we have nurtured, the performances that we have commissioned and the conversations we have with leading cultural institutions worldwide all converge, take root and flourish. Together, ADMAF and the Abu Dhabi Festival are a bridge between past and present, heritage and innovation, Abu Dhabi and the world.

Abu Dhabi Festival's 21st edition in 2024 unveiled an exceptional programme under the inspiring theme, 'The Will for Hope.' As Nelson Mandela once famously said, "may your choices reflect your hopes, not your fears." These words embody the essence of what we envisioned for this year's Festival: a call for hope. Hope for a more compassionate world, for more meaningful

dialogue between cultures, and for a future shaped by mutual understanding and a collective purpose.

The 21st edition of Abu Dhabi Festival also celebrated 40 years of friendship and bilateral relations between the UAE and the Festival's distinguished country of honour - the People's Republic of China. Commemorating this extraordinary culture and nation was a stimulating journey that reminded us at every turn of the deep-rooted historical ties between Chinese and Arab civilisations, forged along the Silk Road, both in the past and the present. The programme also reaffirmed our enduring commitment to showcasing international masterpieces through exclusive commissions and co-productions, premiering on Abu Dhabi's stages. For the first time in the Arab world, the Festival featured the Chinese National Ballet in a groundbreaking 'Chinese New Year' rendition of Tchaikovsky's renowned ballet masterpiece, 'The Nutcracker.' The Festival culminated with a breathtaking performance by the National Symphony Orchestra of China, under the baton of internationally acclaimed conductor Jing Huan and featuring virtuoso violinist Ning Feng, bringing the 21st edition to a close with a spectacular finale.

We also aligned our efforts with those of the UAE government in collaboration with the Emirates Red Crescent through the 'Tarahum for Gaza' campaign. A portion of the proceeds from Abu Dhabi Festival tickets were dedicated to this campaign, affirming our unwavering commitment to the UAE's humanitarian efforts in support of the Palestinian people.

We are committed to culture not for the sake of culture but for the sake of humanity. We are committed to the arts as a universal language - one that speaks both to our minds and hearts, transcends borders and brings people and cultures together. Serving the furthering of the arts and culture is to serve human connection, push knowledge, progress and beauty forward - creating a world where peace and tolerance - the values the UAE stand for - are shared and enjoyed by all.

I extend my sincere thanks to our patrons, Abu Dhabi Festival Founding Honorary Patron, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs, H.H. Sheikh Abdullah bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Abu Dhabi Festival Patron H.H. Sheikha Shamsa bint Hamdan Al Nahyan, ADMAF Patron and Minister of Tolerance and Coexistence, H.E. Sheikh Nahyan Mubarak Al Nahyan, our generous sponsors, advisors, partners, the ADMAF team, and all who have contributed to the remarkable success of yet another monumental year.

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VISION & MISSION

VISION

ADMAF advocates for a global flourishing of culture and the arts in a progressive country, where the greatest works of our time become part of the history that builds our civilisation.

MISSION

Our mission is a calling to lead on creativity from the UAE and its capital, Abu Dhabi. It is a commitment to create, innovate, produce, preserve and present inspiring works of music and art. It is a promise to the youth of the nation to invest in and empower them to realise their dreams. And it is a conviction to give voice to our global presence through international partnerships that bring beauty to the world.

STRATEGIC PILLARS

1

ADVANCING ABU DHABI AS A GLOBAL BEACON OF ARTS AND CULTURE

Through its flagship, the annual Abu Dhabi Festival, ADMAF creates rich cultural experiences at home and abroad, furthering Abu Dhabi as a leading cultural capital and positioning it as a cultural and artistic destination through co-productions and co-commissions. This Festival of firsts presents the world's greatest artists and performers to the UAE. Additionally, by partnering with prominent cultural organisations abroad, the Festival expands Abu Dhabi's contributions on the global stage, strengthening the city's and the nation's presence in the international creative conversation.

2

AN INCUBATOR FOR ARTS AND CREATIVITY

As a gateway to knowledge, ADMAF invests in the youth of the nation, empowering them to realise their dreams and ambitions. In partnership with academic institutions, and through programmes that develop creative skills and free creative thinking, ADMAF drives innovation, supports artistic growth and rewards excellence to foster the development of the UAE's culture and creative industries.

3

AN ACTIVE FORCE FOR SOCIAL UNITY AND CREATIVE COMMUNITIES

ADMAF engages people of every background and ability in shared experiences to foster cultural expression, forge unity and support the vitality of our society. The Foundation forges meaningful partnerships to advance social good and support the health and wellbeing of communities through the transformative power of the arts. It also champions environmental awareness by presenting performances, workshops and commissioned works that address environmental conservation and sustainability.



Conductor Jacopo Sipari di Pescasseroli, Puccini Opera Gala at Abu Dhabi Festival 2024.

ADMAF PARTNERS

Founder of ADMAF, H.E. Huda Al Khamis-Kanoo, with H.E. Ambassador Zhang Yiming, Ambassador of the People's Republic of China to the UAE, and AGDA's Director General, H.E. Nickolay Mladenov.



CORPORATE PARTNERS

ADMAF's work is made possible through the forward-thinking support of corporate partnerships. The Foundation is grateful for the ongoing partnerships that play a pivotal role in celebrating cultural excellence, supporting Emirati talent and investing in youth.

For over a decade, Mubadala has been ADMAF's Lead Partner, providing generous year-round backing that brings the Foundation's vision to life and enables its mission. With Mubadala's invaluable support, ADMAF continues to inspire the next generation and embed art and creativity across society with activities for all ages and levels of creative ability, initiatives that recognise and support emerging creative talent and engaging educational activities for children and youth.

In 2024, the Abu Dhabi Festival's 'Brought to you by Mubadala' programme included spectacular performances by the National Ballet of China, Award-winning American Saxophonist and Jazz composer, Kamasi Washington, and the Arab world premiere of the Puccini Opera Gala under the baton of celebrated conductor, Jacopo Sipari Di Pescasseroli. Additionally, Mubadala supported other Festival initiatives including Masterclasses, giving students the unique opportunity to meet and learn from internationally acclaimed artists, 'Back to School' sessions, 'Festival in Focus' open rehearsals and many more.

This year, ADMAF established a significant partnership with G42, a global leader in visionary artificial intelligence born in Abu Dhabi, that champions AI as a powerful force for good. G42 is driving change in the region and beyond, partnering with nations, corporations, and individuals to create the infrastructure for tomorrow's world, which is why ADMAF is proud to welcome G42 as a Lead Partner. As a testament to the intersection of art, culture, and technology, this newly forged partnership has already contributed to the success of many of ADMAF's initiatives, spanning across visual arts, education and cultural diplomacy.

ADMAF's community and education partnerships epitomise a shared commitment to inspiring the next generation and providing sustainable development opportunities. The 22nd edition of

Abu Dhabi Festival was able to reach across the nation with events, workshops and initiatives thanks to their dedicated support.

Dolphin Energy returned as an Education Partner supporting ADMAF educational programmes. Gulf Capital and TotalEnergies also returned as Education Partners focusing on the professional development of young Emiratis. They partnered with ADMAF to inspire the nation's youth to pursue careers in the arts through the Gulf Capital - ADMAF Creativity Award, the Gulf Capital - ADMAF Visual Arts Award, and the TotalEnergies Sustainability Design Award.

GS Energy partnered with ADMAF as the official Energy Partner for the Abu Dhabi Festival, supporting cultural initiatives that strengthen ties between the UAE and Korea.

For a third year, Van Cleef & Arpels continued their partnership with ADMAF for the return of the ADMAF Design Fund supported by L'ÉCOLE Van Cleef & Arpels. As part of ADMAF's ongoing commitment to investing in the potential of the nation's youth, this important initiative champions young jewellery designers from the region by providing them with an in-depth mentorship opportunity with esteemed high jewellery Maison in Paris to gain the skills and knowledge required to succeed.

In 2024, ADMAF also carried on its distinctive partnership with Dolce&Gabbana, supporting young designers with an invaluable opportunity to showcase their talent to a global audience via The Dolce&Gabbana X ADMAF Design Award. On 12 May, the Foundation honoured the Dolce&Gabbana X ADMAF Design Award winners, Sarah Al Mansoori and Azza Al Tawila, in a prestigious ceremony in Abu Dhabi.

Abu Dhabi Festival Award partner Chopard continues to position Abu Dhabi on a global stage through the annual recognition of world-famous cultural luminaries.

ADMAF deeply values the visionary commitment of these businesses; their partnerships enable the Foundation's impact on society to continue flourishing.

STRATEGIC PARTNERS



LEAD PARTNERS



ENERGY PARTNER



EDUCATION PARTNERS



AWARD PARTNER



FOUNDATION PARTNER



NATIONAL STRATEGIC CULTURAL PARTNERS

ADMAF works in partnership with educational and cultural institutions across the UAE. These partnerships provide students and faculty with bespoke access to ADMAF initiatives, as well as financial assistance for arts and cultural projects that support studies, nurture academic performance and develop professional skills.



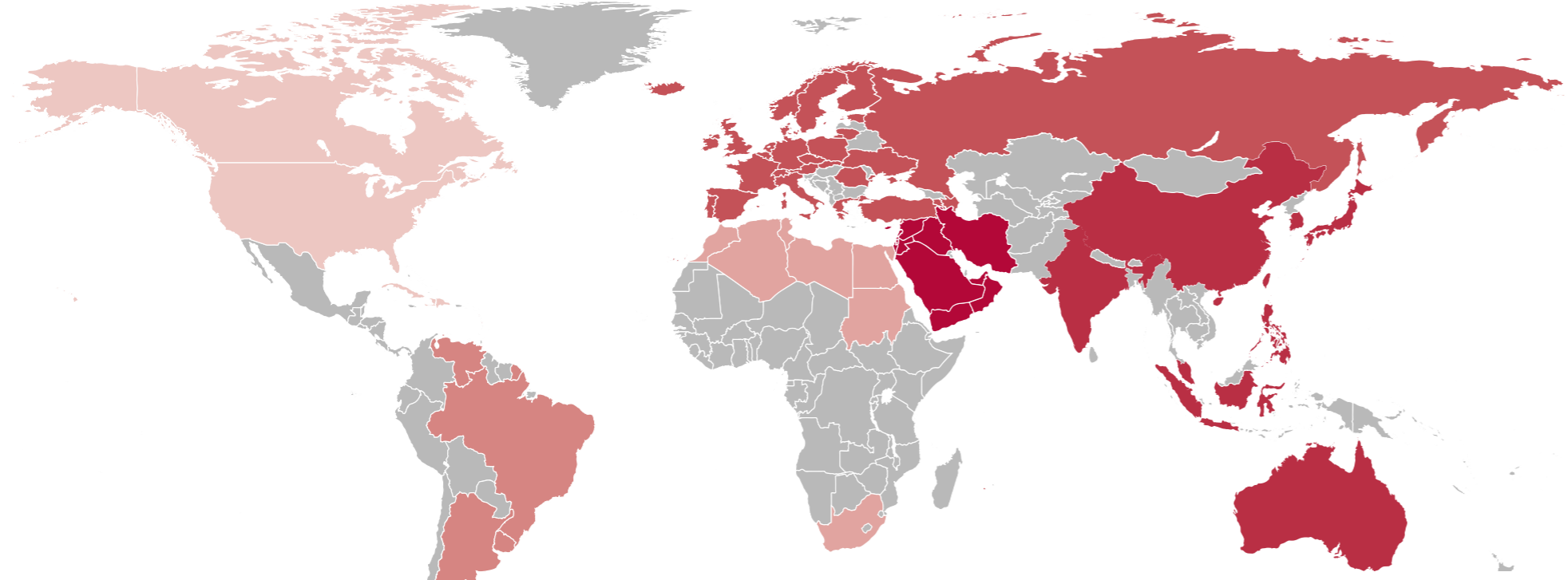
INTERNATIONAL STRATEGIC CULTURAL PARTNERS

ADMAF's global network aims to generate long-term benefits for the UAE's creative and cultural industries.



ADMAF WORLD

BRINGING THE WORLD TO ABU DHABI AND TAKING ABU DHABI TO THE WORLD



Bahrain: Beit Al Quran; Wejdan Al Mannai (2007); Abdulla Al Muharraqi, Jamal Abdul Rahim (2008), Nasser Al Zayani (2022)
Iraq: Sa'di Al-Hadithi (2003); Naseer Shamma (2004, 2005, 2007, 2010, 2012, 2017, 2018, 2020, 2022); Mohamed Ghani Hikmat (2007); Dia Al Azzawi (2009); Zaha Hadid (2011); Hassan Massoudy, Anwar Abudragh & Maqamat (2012); Nedim Kufi & Talal Refit, Saïdk Kwaish, Mahmud Obaidi (2013); Layla Al Attar, Suad Al Attar, Rafa Al Nasiri, Shakir Hassan Al Saïd, Khudhair Shakirji, Khadhim Haydar, Ismail Fattah, Sadik Al Fraji; Sama Al Shaib (2015); Randa Abdul Jabbar (2016); Randa Abdul Jabbar (2016); Sadiq Jafar, Mohammed Al-Attar, Omar Mohammed Fadhil, Ahmad Shamma, Fawzi Monshed, Sami Naseem (2021); Qoutayba Neaimi (2021, 2022); Maryam Wissam Al Dabbagh, Maqamat Trio, Sadiq Jaafar (2022); Laith Siddiq (2023).
Iran: Pari Saberi (2007); Parviz Tanavoli (2010), Sami Yusuf (2020); Reza Derakshani, Rahim Haiezadeh, Rokni Haerizadeh and Hesam Rahmania (2022).
Israel: Jerusalem Academy of Music & Dance Chamber Choir, Jerusalem Knights Choir (2022), Yamen Saadi (2024).
Jordan: Mona Saudi (2008); Karim Said (2009); Macadi Nahhas (2011); Bassem Al Selawi, Maysoun Masalhi (2014); Jordan Media Institute (ADMAF Partner 2012, 2019); Alaa Shaheen (2021); Walid Al Wawi, Ayman Zedani, Jordanian Oriental Percussionists (2022).
Kingdom of Saudi Arabia: Faisal Al Samra (2007, 2015); Shadia Alem (2007, 2015); Jawhara Al Saud, Sami Al Turki (2013); Manal Al Dowayan, Ayman Yossri Daydban, Reem Al Faisal, Abdulnasser Gharem, Ahmed Mater (2013, 2015); Mohamed Abdo (2017), Marwan Fagi, Rami Basahih, Mohammed Khayran Al-Zahrani, Zain Al-Marhabhi (2021), Reem Al Tamimi (Tamtam) (2021, 2022).
Kuwait: Tarek Al Ghoussein (2007, 2013, 2015, 2017); Basma Alsharif, Tamara Al Samerraï (2013); Munira Al Kazi, Jaffar Islah (2013, 2014); Sami Mohammed, Khazaal Awad Qaffas (2014); Zahed Sultan (2018); Hashim Al-Qallaf, Dr. Fahad Al Bathali, Ya'acoub Jassim (2021).
Lebanon: Dr. Walid Gholmieh; Lebanese National Oriental Orchestra (2006); Elias Rahbani, Charbel Rouhana, Tarek Attrissi (2007); Marcel Khalife (2007, 2008); Zeina Basbous, Zakira Project, Roger Moukarzel, Nabil Al Helou (2008); Dr. Hiba Al Kawas (2008, 2020, 2021); Magida El Roumi (2009); Abdel Rahman El Bacha, Bassam Lahoud, Compagnie Pauline Haddad, Soumaya Baalbeki; Hiba Tawaji (2011, 2012, 2022), Wadih Abi Raad (2011); Oussama Rahbani (2011, 2013, 2022); Bechara El Khoury, Ayman Baalbeki, Doris Bittar, Nadim Karam (2013); The Asil Ensemble for Contemporary Arab Music, Michel Fadel; Chafic Abboud, Saliba Douaily, Nabil Nahas, Paul Guiragossian (2014); Mayssa Karaa (2015, 2021, 2022); Nabil Samer Mohdad, Camille Zakharia (2015); The Foundation for Arab Music Archiving & Research (2014, 2022);Baalbeck International Festival (ADMAF Partners); Tarek Yamani and Spektral Quartet (2017, 2021); Bechara Moufarrej; Sami Clark (2018); Samira Riachy, Nada El Hage, Nazih Ghadban, Lina Abyad, Bernard Khoury, Etel Adnan (2021); Lebanese Philharmonic Orchestra (2021, 2022), Voice of Heaven Choir, Omar Rahbani, Ibrahim Maalouf, Maya El Khalil, Antonine University Choir, The Lebanese Symphony Orchestra, Harout Fazilian, Rafca Fares (2022).

Oman: Royal Oman Symphony Orchestra (2003); Hassan Meer (2007, 2013, 2015); Anwar Sonja (2007).
Palestine: Kamanjati (2007); Laila Shawa (2008); Edward Said National Conservatory of Music (2010); Hazem Harb (2015, 2017); Ashtar Theatre; Suleiman Mansour (2014); Ahmed Jadallah, Steve Sabella (2015); Faris Amin (2017), Omar Kamal & Big Band, United Strings of Europe (2018, 2019, 2020); Filastene Young Musicians Orchestra, Samir Odeh-Tamimi (2021), Hazem Harb; Mays Al Baik, late Bashir Sinwar, Yasser Dweik (2022).
Syria: Rasha Arodaky (2004); Khalid Al-Saai (2007); National Symphony Orchestra (2009, 2011); Sawsan Al Bahar (2015); Ashraf Kateb, Hamsa Juris Al Wadi (2016), Kinan Azmeh (2017, 2021, 2022), Damascus Festival Chamber Players (2017), Syrian Expat Philharmonic Orchestra (2017); Safwan Dahoul (2013); Ahmed Nashat Al Zuaby, Mahmoud Hammad, Louay Kayyali, Fateh Moudarres (2014);Ammar Al Beik, Tammam Azzam (2015); Sawsan Al Bahar (2016); Ranim Orouk (2017); Fateen Kanaan, Jalal Kassam, Huosain Sabsaby, Nabil Hilaneh, Somar Al Nasser (2021), ; Talin Hazbar, Abdullatif Al Smoudi, Ismail Al Rifai, Sara Naim, Talal Moualla (2022).
Turkey: Istanbul Chamber Orchestra (2006); The Ottoman Court Collection from Dolmabahce Palace (2006); Göksele Baktagir (2012); Nicati Çelik, Kudsi Erguner (2021), Aytaç Dogan (2022).
Qatar: Yousef Ahmed (2007, 2013); Khalifa Al-Obaidly, Fatima Al Shebani, Ali Hassan (2007); Sheikh Khalid Bin Hamad Bin Ahmed Al Thani (2015).
UAE: Abdulla Al Saadi, Mohammed Ahmad Ibrahim, Mohammad Yousuf Aïi (2007); UAE Philharmonic Orchestra; Abu Dhabi Choral Group, The Voices of Harmony (2009); Moazza Mattar (2011); Ali Obeid and Takht Al Emarat (2013); Abdul Qader Al Rais (2014, 2016, 2022); Lamy Gargash (2015, 2017, 2019); Khaïl Abdul Wahid (2013, 2015, 2016, 2022); Ali Al Abdan (2013, 2014, 2022); Hassan Sharif, Hussain Sharif; Hamdan Al Shamsi, Mohammed Al Messabi, Farah Al Qasimi (2013, 2014, 2023), Ebtisam Abdulaziz (2013, 2017, 2022), Sarah Ibrahim Nasser, Maryam Al Suweidi, May Rashid Al Shamsi, Dana Al Mazrouei, Samira Musabih Al Noaimi, Mahmoud Ahmed, Saeed Khalifa, Afra Al Hamed; Maitha Demaithan, Hamdan Buti Al Shamsi (2013); Sara Al Agroobi, Ammar Al Attar, Khalid Al Banna, Amna Al Dabbagh, Saeed Al Madani, Fatema Al Mazrouie, Hind Bin Demaithan, Mohammed Ahmed Ibrahim, Aisha Juma, Layla Juma, Latefa Bint Maktoum, Khalid Mezaina, Salama Nasib, Khalid Shafar; Afra Bin Dhaher, Obaid Suroor, Ahmed Yousef, Mohamed Aljneibi; Afra Atiq (2016); Abdul Aziz Al Fadli; Abdul Aziz Al Musallem; Abdul Rahim Salem; Abdul Rauf Khalifan; Ahmed Zain; Ali Al Saloom; Amal Al Agroobi; Amel Al Marzooqi; Amna Al Fard; Azza Al Qubaisi; Dana Al Mazrouei; Aisha Bilkhair; Ebtisam Abdulaziz; Faisal Al Sari; Farid Al Rais; Fatma Lootah; Hamdan Al Abri; Hamdan Buti Al Shamsi; Jalal Luqman; Karima Al Shomaly; Khawla Darwish; Mattar Bin Lahe; Mohammad Al Madani; Mohamed Al Buraïki; Mohamed Al Mazrouei; Mohammed Al Astad; Mohammed Al Harmoudi; Mohammed

Al Hashimi; Mohammed Kazem; Nabeel Al Mehairibi; Najat Makki; Noor Al Suwaidi; Nujoom Al Ghanem; Qais Sedki; Rawia Abdullah; Resuscitation Theatre; Saeed Salmeen Al Murry; Saoud Al Dhaheri; Shamsa Al Omaira; SAMA Quartet; Sara Al Nuami; Sara Al Qaiwani; Sougha; START; Sultan Al Amimi; Summayah Al Suwaidi; Takht Al Emarat; Yousif Al Harmoudi, Barjeel Art Foundation, Zayed University, New York University Abu Dhabi, UAE University, Higher Colleges of Technology, Sharjah University, UAE Red Crescent (ADMAF Partners); Shaikha Al Mazrou, Amer Aldour (2017); Mohammed Fairouz (2017, 2022); Mohammed Mandi (2018, 2022); Dia'a Allam (2020); Ewa'a Shelters for Women and Children (ADF Partner 2010, 2021), Al Ain Film Festival (ADF Partner 2020, 2022), Emirates Youth Symphony Orchestra (2009, 2015, 2021, 2022); The Junction Dubai, Al Ain Film Festival, Ayesha Ali Al Ghais, Jemei Salem Al Dhanhani, Shaikha Al Jaberli, Mohammed Abdullah Noor Al Din, Mariam Jumaa Faraj, Luluwa Al Mansouri, Basima Mohammed Yousif, Najat Al Dhaheri, Shaikha Al Mutairi, Habib Sayegh, Shaikha Al Mansouri, Maryam Al Adan, Al Sagheera Al Ameri, and Mohammed Shuaib Al Hammadi, Khulood Al Jabri, Mohamed Yousif, Obaid Albuodor, Saggaf Al Hashimi, Sumayyah Al Suwaidi, and Dr. Noura Al Mazroui, Yaser Al-Qerqawi, Habib Ghuloom, Arqam, Oriental Percussion, Emirati Choir (2021); Ihab Darwish (2018, 2021, 2022); Eman Al Hashemi (2016, 2022, 2023), Maitha Abdalla (2022); Zeinab Al Hashemi (2016, 2022); Ahmed Al Faresi, Afra Al Dhaheri, Hashel Al Lamki, Sara Al Haddad, Zeinab Alhashemi, Abdullah Al Saadi, HE Abdul Rahman Al Owais, Ahmed Al Ansari, Mohamed Ahmed Ibrahim, Mohamed Al Qassab, Nujoom Alghanem, Mohammed Al Mazrouei, Moza Almatrooshi, Sarah Almehairi, Alaa Edris, Hind Mezaina, Saleh Al Ustad, Nablâ Yahya, Laila Mohammad Ali Al Farsi, Afnan Mohammad Al Hamady, Yousef Ali Al Adan, Hamda Hasan Al Hamadi, Suroor Khalifa Al Kaabi, Fatima Nasser, Nasser Jubran, Asma Al Kalbani, Dr. Aisha Al Ghais, Dr. Maryam Al Hashemi, Aysha Al Zaabi, Elham Al Marzooqi (2022).
Yemen: Boushra Al Mutawakel (2015).

Canada: Gary Hoffman (2004); Russell Maliphant (2011); Michael Schade (2014); Jan Lisiecki (2015); Janet Belloto (2017); Louis Lortie (2018); Doug Beube (2021); Bruce Liu (2023).
Cuba: Carlos Acosta, Alfredo Rodríguez (2016).
Dominican Republic: National Symphony Orchestra; José Antonio Molina (2011); Aisha Syed Castro (2015).
Panama: Billy Cobham (2012).
Puerto Rico: Ana Maria Martinez (2013).
USA: Rosamund Mack, Neil Rutman (2003); David Korevaar (2005); Waleed Howrani (2006); CATCUNY (2009); Wynton Marsalis Ensemble (2010, 2017); Cleveland Clinic Arts & Medicine Institute (since 2010); Wayne Marshall (2010); Al Jarreau; Michael Ching; Ensemble ACJW, Margaret Wolfson, Kevin Spacey, Yefim Bronfman (2011); Christo (since 2011); Natalie Cole, Declassified Ensemble; Miles Jaye (2012); Quincy Jones, Dominick Farinacci, Joshua Bell; Eugene Kohn (2013); Decoda Ensemble, Bill Fontana, Herbie Hancock, Renée Fleming, American Ballet Theatre (2014, 2020, 2021, 2022); Chicago Shakespeare Theater (2015); FotoFest International (2015); Yo-Yo Ma (2017); Deborah Voigt (2018); Pink Martini (2018); Dennis Russell Davies (2018); Benjamin Schwartz, Manuel Palazzo, Joyce DiDonato (2019, 2022), Justin Kauflin (2019); Carnegie Hall (2020, 2021, 2022, 2023); Jazz at Lincoln Center (2020, 2023); American Ballet Theatre (2023), The Metropolitan Opera (2020, 2023); Michael Rice, UN Chamber Music Society of the United Nations, Nada Shabout, John Beasley, James Genus, Gregoire Maret, Terrion Gully (2021); Sara Andon (2021, 2022), Middle East Institute (2016, 2021, 2022, 2023); John Debney, David Shire, Robert Townsend, Faraj Abyad, Company E, James Clar, Richard Bernstein, Brenton Ryan, Lisbeth Scott, Olivia Vote, Wayne Bergeron, Tina Guo, Melissa White (2022); Gregory Porter (2023), Wynton Marsalis (2023), Kamasi Washington, Lawrence Brownlee, Kirill Gerstein, Leonard Slatkin (2024).

Argentina: Fernando Suarez Paz (2007); Escolaso Guitarra Tango Trio (2008); Gorosito-Cataldi-De La Vega Trio (2008); José Cura (2021); Daniel Barenboim (2024)
Brazil: Gilberto Gil (2013); Sérgio Mendes (2015).
Colombia: Edmar Castañeda (2012); Maestro Andrés Orozco Estrada (2021).
Peru: Juan Diego Florez (2015, 2023).
Uruguay: Erwin Schott (2008); Héctor Ulises Passarella (2018).
Venezuela: Gustavo Dudamel & The Simon Bolivar Symphony Orchestra of Venezuela; Simón Bolívar Music Foundation (2014); Jose Antonio Abreu (2014).

Australia: Slava & Leonard Grigorayan (2005); Claudia Zorbas (2007); Sydney Opera House (2015).
China: Yi Zhang, Siqing Lu (2004); Monks from the Shaolin Temple (2012); YUNDI (2013); Lang Lang (2016), China's National Centre for the Performing Arts Orchestra (2017); Haochen Zhang, Jian Wang, Tan Dun (2023), National Ballet of China, Xinjiang Art Theatre Song and Dance Troop, China National Symphony Orchestra, Jing Huan, Ning Feng (2024).
India: Anjali Srinivasan (2017); Rajeev Kumar; Raghu Dixit; Merchants of Bollywood; Tavree Shankar Dance Company; Ustad Amjad Ali Khan (2018); Javed Ali (2021); Vivek Vilasini, Vikram Divecha (2022).
Japan: King Gonta; Tokue Hisako (2008); Nobuyuki Tsujii (2010); Maki Namekawa (2018); Naochika Sogabe, KODO (2021); Embassy of Japan in the UAE and The Japan Foundation (2022).
Malaysia: Zulkarnain Yusof (2021).
Singapore: Dharni (2021).
South Korea: Sarah Chang (2008); Ah Ruem Ahn (2015), Kyung Wha Chung; Korean National Ballet; Korean Symphony Orchestra; Special Olympics Korea Ensemble; Sumi Jo; Chi-Yong Chung, Jae-Hyuch Cho (2019), Korea National Contemporary Dance Company (KNCDC) (2024).
Philippines: Bayanihan National Folk Dance (2007).
Indonesia: Joey Alexander (2016).
Taiwan: Steven Lin (2021).

Armenia: Hasmik Leyloyan (2010); Sergey Khachatryan (2016); Arsen Petrosyan (2016).
Austria: Ambassade Orchestra Vienna (2007); Salzburg Marionettes (2010); Sascha Goetzl (2014); Cori O'LAN (2018).
Azerbaijan: Azerbaijan Opera (2003); Azerbaijan State Symphony Orchestra (2005).
Belgium: José Van Dam (2009); Orchestre Royal de Chambre de Wallonie, Isabelle de Borchgrave (2011); Julien Libere (2015); BOZAR & Queen Elisabeth Music Chapel (ADMAF Partners).
Bulgaria: Victoria Vassilenko (2018); Stoyan Stoyanov (2018, 2021); Ivan Volkov, Krassie Dzhambasov, Iva Georgieva, Diana Pandova, Alex Nushev (2021).
Cyprus: Cyprien Katsaris (2003).
Czech Republic: Gudni Emilsson (2004); Premier College Youth Symphony Orchestra (since 2010); Czech Philharmonic, Jiri Belohlávek (2013); Anna Fusek (2019).
Denmark: Nikolaj Znaider (2008).
Estonia: Kristjan Järvi (2010); Paavo Järvi (2016).
France: French Art Festival, La Semaine Francophone (2008); Jean-Yves Thibaudet (2008, 2009); Roberto Alagna (2009); Le Capitole Opera (2010); Augustin Dumay, Sylvie Guillem, Jean-Guihen Queyras (2011); Ibrahim Maalouf (2012); Gautier Capuçon (2014); Natalie Dessay & Laurent Naouri, Thierry Escaich, Xavier Phillips, Orchestre de Paris (2016); Frank Braley, Josquin Otal, Jonathan Fournel; Gilles Chuyen (2018); Institut du Monde Arabe, Institut Français, Festival d'Aix-en-Provence (2017, 2022), (ADMAF Partners); Paris Opera Ballet (2019); Pierre Audi, LUMA Foundation (2021); Judith Adler de Oliveira (2021/22).
Germany: Roswitha Lohmer (2003); Susanne Calgeer (2004); Patrick Simper, Deutsches Symphonie-Orchester Berlin (2006); Kunst Museum Bonn (2007); Jonas Kaufmann, Andreas Gursky (2009); Arabella Steinbacher (2010, 2021); SemperOper Ballet, NDR Radiophilharmonie Hanover (2012); Dresden Philharmonic (2014); Á la caRTe Choir (2015); Hendrik Wahl (2017); The Barenboim-Said Centre for Music, Ensemble Modern (2021); Pierre Boulez Saal (2022, 2023); Anne-Sophie Mutter (2014, 2024).
Greece: Vasilis Saleas (2012); Dr. Theodore Spyropoulos (2021).
Hungary: Gabor Takacs-Nagy; Ivan Fischer; The Budapest Festival Orchestra (2015).
Iceland: Vladimir Ashkenazy (2014).
Ireland: Sir James Galway (2009); National Youth Orchestra of Ireland (2011).
Italy: Armonia Quartet (2005); Daniela Lojaro (2007); Amato Ionata Organic Jazz Band (2008); Andrea Bocelli (2009); Puccini Festival Opera & Orchestra (2010); Nicola Luisotti (2011); Cesare Picco (2012); Riccardo Muti & the Luigi Cherubini Youth Orchestra (2015); Roberto Lopardo (2017); Orchestre dell'Accademia Nazionale di Santa Cecilia - Rome, conducted by Sir Antonio Pappano with Beatrice Rana (2018); Vittorio Grigolo; Il Pomo D'Oro Orchestra (2019, 2022); Nicola Piovani, Roberto Bolle, Paolo Fresu, Cristiana de Marchi, Simone Pedroni (2022); Orchestra of Modena Opera House (2023), Puccini Festival Orchestra, Jacopo Sipari Di Pescasseroli, Valeria Sepe, Francesco Meli, Francesco Demuro (2024)
Latvia: Elina Garanča (2008); Kristine Opolais (2019).
Lithuania: The Lithuanian Chamber Orchestra (2008).
Montenegro: Miloš Karadaglic (2014).
Netherlands: Tübingen Chamber Orchestra (2004); Bernadeta Astari (2008); Rem Koolhaas (2015), Lucas & Arthur Jussen (2024).
Norway: Leif Ove Andsnes (2015).
Poland: Katarina Peers (2003); Tomek Setowski (2007); Wojciech Czepiel; Franciszek Ryszard Mazurek (2008); Krzysztof Jablonski, The National Polish Radio Symphony Orchestra; Krzysztof Penderecki (2010); Szymon Brzóska (2012); Beethoven Academy Orchestra (2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022); Maciej Pikulski (2016); Polish Radio Choir (2018); Aleksandra Świąg, Adam Goździewski, Krzysztof Książek, Szymon Nehring, Paweł Wojciechowski, Tymoteusz Bies, Edyta Krzemień (2021).
Portugal: Mariza (2017).
Romania: Angela Georghii; Ion Marin (2009).
Russia: Anastasia Khitruk; Olja Kaiser (2006); State Hermitage Orchestra, Russian Youth Chamber (2007); Alexander Vernikov; Vladimir Jurowski, Anna Nettekbo; Pavel Sorokin (2008); The Bolshoi Ballet & Orchestra (2008, 2009), Nina Kotova, Pavel Klinichev (2009); Maxim Beloserkovsky & Irina Dvorovenko, Dmitri Hvorostovsky, Valery Gergiev; Russian National Orchestra conducted by Ovs Yanikov; Nikita Borisov-Glevsky; Ekaterina Siurina (2011); Maxim Vengerov, St Petersburg Philharmonic, Yuri Temirkanov (2012);Victoria Yastrebova; The Mariinsky Orchestra conducted by Boris Gruzin; Irina Kohn (2013); Sergei Redkin (2018); Maxim Emelyanychev (2019); Mariinsky Theatre (ADMAF Partner)
Slovakia: Eugen Prochac (2005); The Keleman Trio (2007).
Spain: Musica Antigua (2004); En Dos Palabra (2006); Angeles Blancas Gulin; Maestro David Gimenez; José Carreras (2007); José María Gallardo del Rey, Evru, Miguel Trillo, Miguel Oriola (2008); Niño Josele (2012); Plácido Domingo (2013); Juan Pérez Floristán, Tomatito (2017); ADMAF Partners, MACBA; Compañía Nacional de Danza (2018); Queen Sofia College of Music, Grand Teatre del Liceu (2015, 2022); Sara Baras (2019); Freixenet Symphony Orchestra; Carlos Piñana (2021, 2022); Teatro Real (2022, 2023, 2024), Lina Tur Bonet, Alba Ventura, Daniel Ligoiro, Diego Navarro (2022); María Pagés (2023); Jordi Saval (2023); Pablo Ferrández, West-Eastern Divan Orchestra (2024).
Sweden: Daniel Propper (2006); Mats Liljefors; Swedish Radio Symphony Orchestra (2007); Dr. Johanna Sellman (2011).
Switzerland: Luzia von Wyl (2016); Benjamin Engeli (2023).
Finland: In Time Quintet (2007).
UK: Karel Marc Chichon; British Philharmonic Orchestra conducted by Roderick Dunk (2006); London Philharmonic Orchestra (2008); Matthew Barley & Between the Notes (2008, 2010); English National Ballet (2009); Live Music Now (2009, 2010, 2013); Birmingham Stage Company, Sir Colin Davies (2010); Globe Education at Shakespeare's Globe (2010, 2013); The World Orchestra for Peace (2011); October Gallery (2011, 2012); Anoushka Shankar; David Coleman; Antony Gormley (2012); Big Bang; Key Sutherland, Dez Skin; Engineering UK (2011); Scottish Opera (2012, 2013); Tim Rhyss-Evans; Oily Cart, Trevor Kweku Blackwood (2014); Hugh Grant, Nick Lloyd Webber & James D. Reid; Marcus Nand (2015); The Heritage Orchestra conducted by Simon Lee; Ministry of Science Live!; Richard Saxel (2016); The Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment (2018), European Union Youth Orchestra, University of London SOAS, Prince's School of Traditional Arts; Manchester International Festival, Edinburgh International Festival, Royal Opera House, British Council, Shubbak Festival, Southbank Centre; Nicola Benedetti Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment (2018); Bryn Terfel (2013, 2019); Sinfonia Cymru conducted by Gareth Jones, Cŵr Choir (2019); Nicola Benedetti (2018, 2021), Patricia Millns, University of Cambridge's Centre for Strategic Philanthropy (2021); London Symphony Orchestra (2010, 2022); Lee Reynolds, Roxane Zand, Melissa Gronlund, Royal Scottish National Orchestra Chorus, Sir Derek Jacobi (2022); Leia Zhu (2023); Leia Zhu (2023, 2024).
Ukraine: The National Symphony Orchestra of Ukraine (2007, 2013); Christia Hudziy & Maxim Ryzanov (2011); Volodymyr Sirenko (2013).
Vatican City: Sistine Chapel Choir (2024).

Algeria: Hamza Bounoua (2008); Rachid Koraïchi (2011); Ammar Bouras, Driss Quadahi (2013); Baya, Mohammed Issiakhem (2014);Contemporary Ballet of Algiers (2014).
Egypt: Al-Oyoïn Group Takht Orchestra; Nazih Girgis (2004); Cairo Symphony Orchestra; Hassan Sharara (2007); Susan Hefuna, Khaled Selim; Saeed Kamal (2008); Ahmed El Saedi; Bait Al Oud, Egyptian Philharmonic Society Orchestra, Adam Henein (2010); Sherine Tohamy (2013, 2022); Najmaat Women's Ensemble, Dina El Wadidi; Armen Agop, Adel Siwi (2013); Abdul Hadi El Gazzar, Farghali Abdel Hafiz, Inji Efflatoun, Youssef Kamel, Kamel Moustafa, Hamed Nada, Mohammed Naghi, Effat Naghi, Mahmoud Said, Mohammed Sabry, Seif Wanly; Hosni Mojahed (2014); Khaled Hafez, Hazem Taha Hussein, Huda Lutfi, Youssef Nabil (2015); Nesma Abdul Aziz (2018); Sheikh Mahmoud Tohamy (2020, 2022, 2024); Cairo Jazz Station (2021); Islam Taha, Eslam Abdelaziz, Salma Mokhtar, Amr Fawzy, Yousif Abbas, Dr. Duraid Al Khafaji, Huzem Shaheen, Mohamed Abozeqer, Dr. Ahmed Al-Hinawi, Nehad El-Sayed, Dr. Karim Rashid, Farah El-Rafei, Ibrahim Fathi, Basam Sheiha, Trio Abozeqer, Teryola Trio, Gharbi Twins Trio, Hany Elbardy, Tohamy's Elite School Chorus (2022); Art D'Egypte (2021, 2022).
Libya: Ali Omar Ermes (2008); Arwa Abouon (2013); Hisham Errish (2021).
Morocco: Asma Almonaor (2008); Aisha Redouane (2010); Sidi Larbi Cherkaoui (2012); Mahi Binebine; Safaa Erruas, Mounir Fatmi, Najia Mehadjji, Zakaria Ramhani (2013); Farid Belkhaia, Driss Cherkaoui, Mohammed Melehi (2014); Hicham Benouhoud, Lalla Essaydi, Hassan Hajjaj (2015); Yann'sine (2016); Ahmed El Maloumi, Mohamed Briouel (2021).
Nigeria: Mariam Kamara (2021).
Tunisia: Anouar Brahem (2003); Nja Mahdaoui (2008); Latifa Arfaoui (2009); Meriem Bouderbala, Nadia Kaabi-Linke, Nicene Kossentini (2013); eL Seed (2020); Driss El Maloumi, Mohamed Briouel (2021); Bechir Gharbi, Bacem Yousfi, Dr. Mourad Sakli (2021).
South Africa: VOX Chamber Choir, Traditional South African Choir (2021); Lebo M, Lebo's South African Choir (2022), Pretty Yende (2024).
Sudan: Mohammed Omar Khalil (2013); Ibrahim Salahi (2014); Ashraf Awad (2010, 2021); Tagelsir Hassan (2022).

YEAR IN REVIEW



In 2024, ADMAF achieved new milestones, while continuing to showcase its unwavering commitment to nurturing artistic talent and promoting cross-cultural dialogue. The 21st edition of Abu Dhabi Festival celebrated the UAE's enduring 40-year partnership with this year's Country of Honour, the Republic of China, captivating audiences and further reinforcing the UAE's standing as a global beacon of cultural excellence. The Festival welcomed some of the world's most acclaimed artists to the nation's capital, presenting an exceptional programme of performances, co-productions, exhibitions, and Arab World premieres.

This year, ADMAF reaffirmed its commitment to empowering the nation's youth through an array of capacity-building initiatives designed to equip them with the skills and knowledge needed for success. Over the course of the year, aspiring, emerging, and established Emirati talents actively engaged in professional development opportunities, including masterclasses, workshops, mentorships, and training programmes. These unparalleled opportunities empowered the nation's youth to thrive, refine their talents and skills, while pushing the boundaries of their artistic expression.

This year, ADMAF also established new partnerships with regional and international institutions, strengthening its global reach through cultural diplomacy and exchange. In April, the Foundation forged a significant partnership with the Anwar Gargash Diplomatic Academy (AGDA), paving the way for joint initiatives aimed at enhancing the UAE's position as a global leader in culture and creativity. Subsequently, Founder of ADMAF, H.E. Huda Al Khamis-Kanoo, signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) in cultural collaboration between ADMAF and the Seoul Metropolitan Government with the Mayor of Seoul, H.E. Oh Se-hoon, for the first time in the Arab World at the Emirates Palace in Abu Dhabi. This was followed by an MoU signing with the Korean Foundation for International Cultural Exchange (KOFICE), reaffirming ADMAF's dedication to deepening artistic and cultural ties with Korea. Furthermore, ADMAF's renewal of its MoU with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MoFA) strengthened their shared vision for soft power and commitment to enhancing the UAE's global cultural presence, building on the initial agreement signed in March 2018.

Overall, 2024 epitomised ADMAF's continued commitment to nurturing talent and building cultural bridges. The 21st edition of the Festival continued its mission of connecting Abu Dhabi with the world and vice versa, featuring world-class performances, first-of-its-kind collaborations and groundbreaking premieres. This solidified the Foundation's role as a patron of the arts, achieving significant milestones and setting the stage for even greater achievements in the future.

THE ADMAF TIMELINE

FEBRUARY



JANUARY



The 21st edition of Abu Dhabi Festival opens with the Arab World Premiere of the National Ballet of China, co-presented by the Embassy of the People's Republic of China in the United Arab Emirates, celebrating the Chinese New Year, at Emirates Palace.

On the occasion of **International Mother Language Day 2024**, ADMAF's **Riwaq Al Adab Wal Kitab** series celebrate linguistic and cultural diversity, emphasising the power of multilingualism with a special panel talk and poetry evening at the Abu Dhabi Arabic Language Centre.

MARCH



To celebrate **International Women's Day**, ADMAF, in partnership with Zayed University, hosts a special **Riwaq Al Fikr - ADMAF Talks** honouring the life and legacy of H.H. Sheikha Fatima bint Mubarak, inspired by Dr. Maitha Al Shamsi's book centred on Her Highness's leadership and advocacy for women's rights.

MAY



APRIL



The Foundation celebrates the 17th **annual graduation ceremony** of its Young Media Leaders programme, hosted by H.E. Sheikh Nahyan Mubarak Al Nahyan at the Sheikh Nahyan Majlis, honouring 15 young media leaders who successfully complete their training in partnership with Sky News Academy.

The **WOW Festival**, the world's largest celebration of women and girls, has been a proud partner of ADMAF since October 2023. Emirati filmmaker and producer Noor Kanoo delivers a keynote at the WOW Festival in Manchester, highlighting the importance of representation on screen.

JUNE



In collaboration with Robert Townson Productions, the Abu Dhabi Festival unveils one of the most ambitious musical commissions of our time: **'Pictures at an Exhibition: The Paintings of Bob Peak'**, at Walt Disney Concert Hall in Los Angeles.

NOVEMBER



DECEMBER



The 21st edition of Abu Dhabi Festival concludes with the Arab World Premiere of the **China National Symphony Orchestra (CNSO)**, co-presented by Abu Dhabi Festival and the Embassy of the People's Republic of China in the United Arab Emirates, under the baton of internationally acclaimed conductor, Jing Huan and featuring star violinist, Ning Feng.

The **2024 Korea Season in the UAE**, by ADMAF in partnership with the Korean Foundation for International Cultural Exchange (KOFICE), commences as part of the Abu Dhabi Festival and features the Middle East premiere of the Korea National Contemporary Dance Company (KNCDC).

OCTOBER



Hamour Doesn't Leave the Cubicle - a theatre production commissioned by ADMAF, co-presented by The Arts Center at New York University Abu Dhabi, with touring support by the Ministry of Culture - makes its world premiere. Directed by Reem Al Menhali and written by Ahmed Al Madloun, the play debuted to a sold-out audience at The Arts Center, NYU Abu Dhabi.

AUGUST



SEPTEMBER



ADMAF presents the third edition of its cultural diplomacy initiative, **Art @ Embassies** in Seoul, in collaboration with the UAE Embassy to the Republic of Korea, featuring an insightful discussion between celebrated Emirati artist Mohammed Kazem and Gahee Park, curator at the Seoul Museum of Art (SeMA).

ADMAF and Abu Dhabi Festival supports Emirati artists Jumairy and Mohammed Kazem in showcasing their work on the global stage and representing the UAE as artists-in-residence at the **2024 SeMA Nanji Residency** in Seoul.

JUNE-JULY



Now in its 15th year, ADMAF's **Music in Hospitals** programme - held in partnership with Salma Rehabilitation Hospital and Cleveland Clinic Abu Dhabi - presents four performances and a talk by Dr. Noora Al Mazrouei and students from the British School Al Khubairat (BSAK).

2024

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE FOUNDATION'S ACTIVITIES

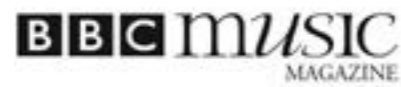
ABU DHABI FESTIVAL 2024

THE WILL FOR HOPE

**ABU DHABI FESTIVAL
RECOGNISED AS THE
'BEST CLASSICAL
MUSICAL FESTIVAL IN
THE MIDDLE EAST' BY
THE BBC.**

In 2024, the **Abu Dhabi Festival** was recognised as the **'Best Classical Music Festival in the Middle East'** by **BBC Music Magazine**. This recognition is a symbol of the Festival's ongoing commitment to uniting people and cultures, fostering global dialogue and exchange, and enriching the cultural landscape in Abu Dhabi and across the world.

Since its inception in 2004, Abu Dhabi Festival has rapidly grown into one of the world's leading cultural platforms, showcasing over **600 performances**, **120 world premieres**, and **100 commissioned works**, spanning more than **30 countries** and counting.

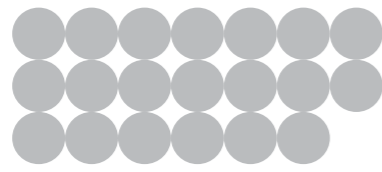


Soprano Valeria Sepe and Tenor Francesco Meli starring in the Puccini Opera Gala at Abu Dhabi Festival 2024.

MAKING AN IMPACT

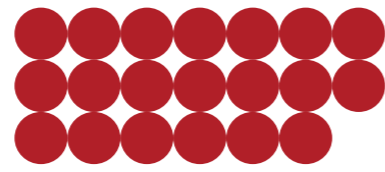
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WORLD PREMIERES



20

INTERNATIONAL ART EVENTS



6

ABU DHABI FESTIVAL AWARDS



6

ADMAF AWARDS



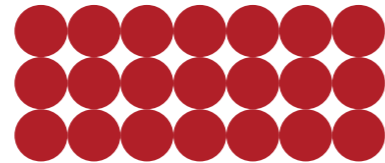
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ADMAF SUPPORT SCHEMES



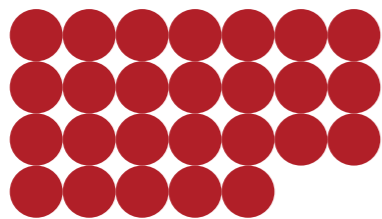
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INTERNATIONAL CO-PRODUCTIONS



26

TALKS



1

EXHIBITION ABROAD



11.4K

AUDIENCE

80%

EMIRATI AUDIENCE

2000

ARTISTS

62

PARTNERS

5

MOU SIGNINGS

42

BOOK PUBLICATIONS

115

EDUCATIONAL EVENTS



18

PROGRAMMES

1

VIRTUAL EXHIBITION

3

VISUAL ART COMMISSIONS

ABU DHABI FESTIVAL 2024

THE WILL FOR HOPE

FOUNDING HONORARY PATRON
H.H. SHEIKH ABDULLAH BIN ZAYED BIN SULTAN AL NAHYAN
UAE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS
OF THE UNITED ARAB EMIRATES

PATRON
H.H. SHEIKHA SHAMSA BINT HAMDAN BIN MOHAMMED
AL NAHYAN

Marking over two decades of artistic excellence and cultural innovation, the 21st edition of Abu Dhabi Festival returned under the inspiring theme, 'The Will for Hope,' capturing the creative spirit and hearts of the nation. This year's Festival presented an exceptional programme, celebrating 40 years of diplomatic relations and friendship between the UAE and the Guest Country of Honour: The Republic of China.

Connecting the world to Abu Dhabi and Abu Dhabi to the world, this year's spectacular edition brought beauty and joy to audiences at home and abroad through innovative new productions, commissions, and world premieres. The extraordinary 21st edition of the Festival was where creative excellence was celebrated, ideas were born, and dreams were realised.



ABU DHABI FESTIVAL

BALLET

**CHINESE NEW YEAR -
NATIONAL BALLET OF CHINA**

Co-presented by the Abu Dhabi Festival and
Embassy of the People's Republic of China in
the United Arab Emirates
Arab World Premiere
Emirates Palace

26 JANUARY



سفارة الصين لدى دولة الإمارات
The Chinese Embassy in the UAE



阿联酋中国文化中心
China Cultural Center in the UAE

BALLET

**CHINESE NEW YEAR -
NATIONAL BALLET OF CHINA (MATINÉE)**

Co-presented by Abu Dhabi Festival and the
Embassy of the People's Republic of China in
the United Arab Emirates
Arab World Premiere
Emirates Palace

27 JANUARY



ORCHESTRA

PUCCINI OPERA GALA

Co-presented by Abu Dhabi Festival, the Embassy of Italy to the UAE and the Italian Cultural Institute in Abu Dhabi
Arab World Premiere
Emirates Palace

31 JANUARY



RECITAL SERIES

PABLO FERRÁNDEZ

Presented by Abu Dhabi Festival
Arab World Premiere
The Blue Hall, The Arts Center at NYU Abu Dhabi

1 FEBRUARY



JAZZ

KAMASI WASHINGTON

Presented by Abu Dhabi Festival
Arab World Premiere
Emirates Palace

3 FEBRUARY



DANCE

XINJIANG IS A NICE PLACE

Co-presented by Abu Dhabi Festival,
Cultural Foundation and China Cultural Center
Arab World Premiere

4 FEBRUARY



TECHNICAL SPONSOR



RECITAL SERIES

**ARTIST RESIDENCY AND RECITAL
WITH LEIA ZHU**

Presented by Abu Dhabi Festival

Arab World Premiere

The British School Al Khubairat, Abu Dhabi

9 FEBRUARY



RECITAL SERIES

PRETTY YENDE - FRANCESCO DEMURO

Presented by Abu Dhabi Festival
Arab World Premiere
The Red Theater, The Arts Center at NYU Abu Dhabi

11 FEBRUARY



RECITAL SERIES

YAMEN SAADI

Presented by Abu Dhabi Festival
Arab World Premiere
The Red Theater, The Arts Center at NYU Abu Dhabi

13 FEBRUARY



RECITAL SERIES

LUCAS & ARTHUR JUSSEN

Presented by Abu Dhabi Festival
Arab World Premiere
The Red Theater, The Arts Center at NYU Abu Dhabi

19 FEBRUARY



OPERA

LAWRENCE BROWNLEE

Presented by Abu Dhabi Festival

Arab World Premiere

The Red Theater, The Arts Center at NYU Abu Dhabi

25 FEBRUARY



RECITAL SERIES

KIRILL GERSTEIN

Presented by Abu Dhabi Festival
Arab World Premiere
The Red Theater, The Arts Center at NYU Abu Dhabi

27 FEBRUARY



SPIRITUAL MUSIC

SPIRITUAL MUSIC WITH SHEIKH MAHMOUD EL TOHAMY

Produced by Abu Dhabi Festival
World Premiere
Louvre Abu Dhabi

14 MARCH



PART I: THE CARPENTER'S DAUGHTERS

Celebrating the women who called themselves banat-al najar (daughters of the carpenter), the all-female choir's performance includes a selection of famous spiritual poems from Egypt, Sudan, Tunisia, and the Maghreb.

PART II: ANEEN AL ASHEQ

A powerful interpretation of Sufi spiritual music, weaving together classical Arabic poetry and devotional chants, Aneen Al Asheq - The Lover's Lament - is a meditative journey through the emotional landscapes of divine love, longing, and transcendence, brought to life by one of Egypt's most celebrated Inshad Chanters in mystical song.

SPIRITUAL MUSIC

**SISTINE CHAPEL CHOIR -
CAPPELLA MUSICALE PONTIFICIA SISTINA**

Co-presented by Abu Dhabi Festival and the Apostolic Nunciature
to the United Arab Emirates
Arab World Premiere
St Francis Church, Abrahamic Family House

30 MAY



2024 KOREA SEASON IN THE UAE

ABU DHABI FESTIVAL



PERFORMING ARTS

KOREA NATIONAL CONTEMPORARY DANCE COMPANY

FLOW WHILE STILL

Co-presented by the Ministry of Culture, Sports and Tourism of the Republic of Korea

Organised by Abu Dhabi Festival and Korean Foundation for International Cultural

Exchange (KOFICE)

Arab World Premiere

Louvre Abu Dhabi

16 NOVEMBER

ENERGY PARTNER



2024 KOREA SEASON IN THE UAE

PERFORMING ARTS

KOREA NATIONAL CONTEMPORARY DANCE COMPANY

JUNGLE

Co-presented by the Ministry of Culture, Sports and Tourism of the Republic of Korea

Organised by Abu Dhabi Festival and Korean Foundation for International Cultural

Exchange (KOFICE)

Arab World Premiere

The Red Theatre, The Arts Center at NYU Abu Dhabi

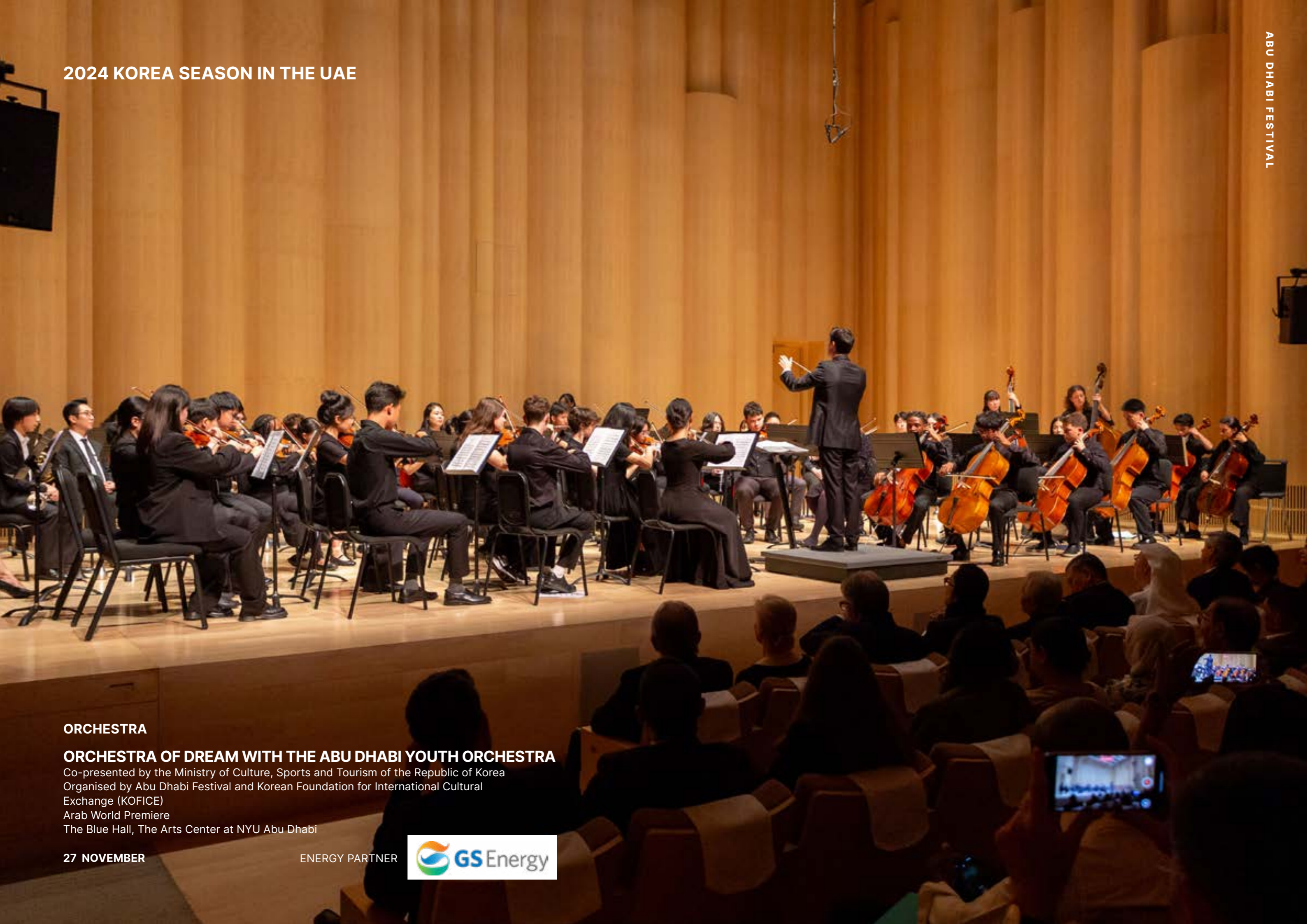
20 NOVEMBER

ENERGY PARTNER



2024 KOREA SEASON IN THE UAE

ABU DHABI FESTIVAL



ORCHESTRA

ORCHESTRA OF DREAM WITH THE ABU DHABI YOUTH ORCHESTRA

Co-presented by the Ministry of Culture, Sports and Tourism of the Republic of Korea
Organised by Abu Dhabi Festival and Korean Foundation for International Cultural Exchange (KOFICE)
Arab World Premiere
The Blue Hall, The Arts Center at NYU Abu Dhabi

27 NOVEMBER

ENERGY PARTNER



ORCHESTRA

CHINA NATIONAL SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

Co-presented by Abu Dhabi Festival and the Embassy of the People's Republic of China in the United Arab Emirates
Emirates Palace

14 DECEMBER



ABU DHABI FESTIVAL 2024

Abu Dhabi Festival has forged partnerships with international organisations and entities to create a conducive environment for cross-cultural dialogue and exchange.

Through these partnerships, the Festival Abroad programme has played a pivotal role in bringing together people from diverse cultural backgrounds to engage in constructive discussions and share their perspectives. The Festival helps bridge cultural divides and promote a more inclusive and tolerant society by creating a platform for insightful dialogue.

Throughout 2024, the 21st edition of the Festival continued its contribution to advancing Abu Dhabi's position as a global cultural hub by co-commissioning, co-producing and supporting artists and their performances abroad.

ABU DHABI FESTIVAL ABBROAD

WORKING TOGETHER
TO MAKE A LASTING
IMPRESSION BEYOND
THE UAE



THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

ORCHESTRA

PICTURES AT AN EXHIBITION: THE PAINTINGS OF BOB PEAK

Abu Dhabi Festival and Robert Townson Productions collaborated on one of the grandest musical commissions of our time, to create Pictures at an Exhibition: The Paintings of Bob Peak, an all-new piece for a new age. This groundbreaking work brought together ten renowned composers, each creating a movement inspired by the legendary artist Bob Peak, with the Los Angeles Film Orchestra under the baton of Leonard Slatkin. Among the contributors is Emirati composer Ihab Darwish, commissioned by the Abu Dhabi Festival to write a new musical movement inspired by Bob Peak's paintings.

Presented by Abu Dhabi Festival
and Robert Townson Productions
World Premiere
Walt Disney Concert Hall, Los Angeles

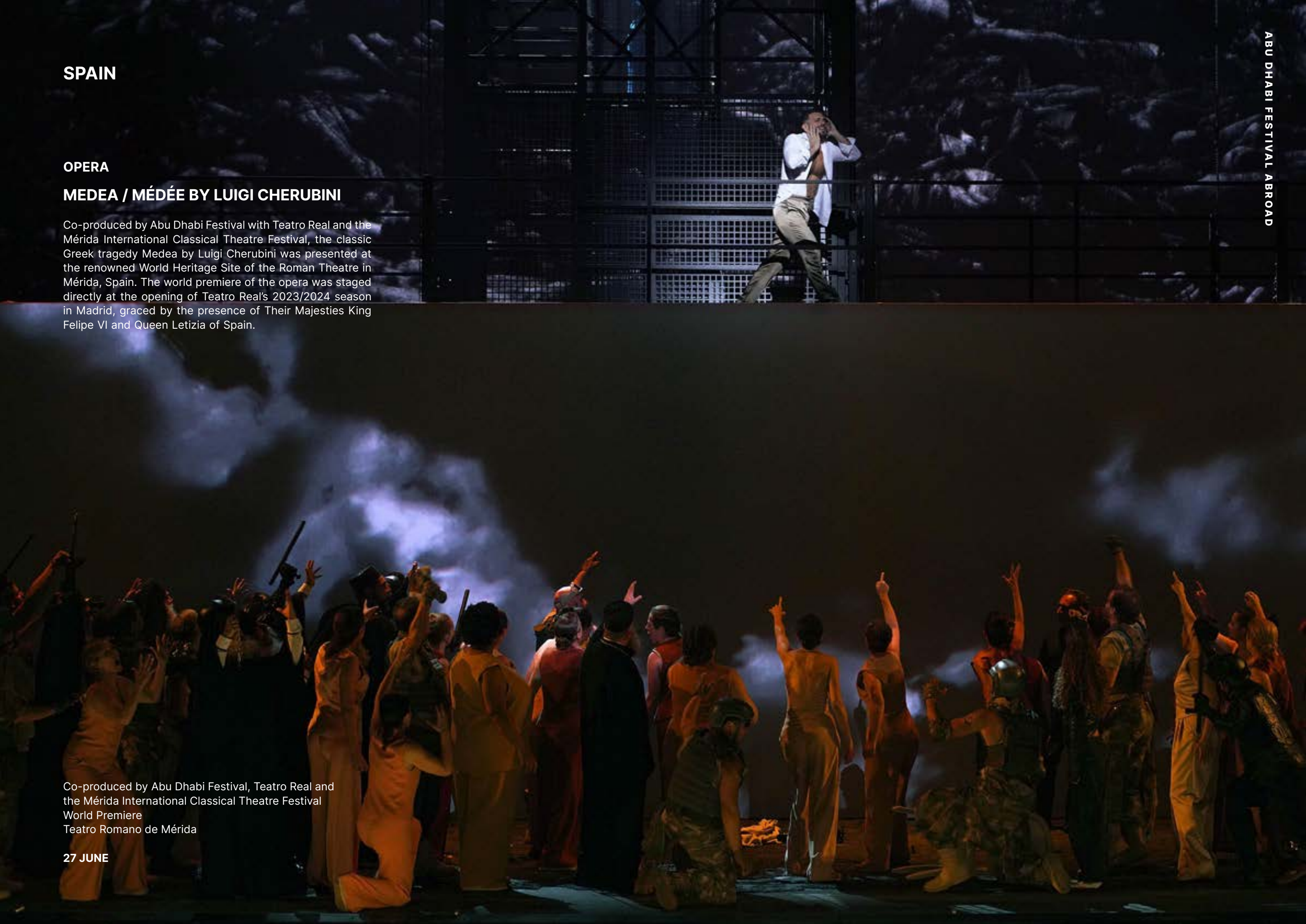
14 JUNE

SPAIN

OPERA

MEDEA / MÉDÉE BY LUIGI CHERUBINI

Co-produced by Abu Dhabi Festival with Teatro Real and the Mérida International Classical Theatre Festival, the classic Greek tragedy Medea by Luigi Cherubini was presented at the renowned World Heritage Site of the Roman Theatre in Mérida, Spain. The world premiere of the opera was staged directly at the opening of Teatro Real's 2023/2024 season in Madrid, graced by the presence of Their Majesties King Felipe VI and Queen Letizia of Spain.



Co-produced by Abu Dhabi Festival, Teatro Real and the Mérida International Classical Theatre Festival
World Premiere
Teatro Romano de Mérida

27 JUNE

GERMANY

ORCHESTRA

25 YEARS OF WEST-EASTERN DIVAN ORCHESTRA

The internationally acclaimed West-Eastern Divan Orchestra sets one of the most important examples of human coexistence and peace with its work. The concert, held in partnership with the Abu Dhabi Festival, has toured prestigious venues, including Musikfest Bremen, Waldbühne Berlin, BBC Proms, and the Rheingau Musik Festival. Under the baton of masterful conductor, Daniel Barenboim, and featuring renowned Anne-Sophie Mutter, the West-Eastern Divan Orchestra took to the world-renowned stage of Kurhaus Wiesbaden's Friedrich-von-Thiersch-Saal, showcasing a powerful message of unity and harmony.

In partnership with Abu Dhabi Festival
Kurhaus, Wiesbaden

13 AUGUST



FRANCE

ORCHESTRA

**MAHLER'S SYMPHONY No.2
RESURRECTION**

Co-produced by Abu Dhabi Festival, Festival d'Aix-en-Provence and Philharmonie de Paris, and directed by the visionary Romeo Castellucci. The innovative production pushed the boundaries of both music and theatre with evocative staging, transforming Mahler's masterpiece into a captivating visual and emotional journey.

Co-produced by Abu Dhabi Festival, Festival d'Aix-en-Provence and Philharmonie de Paris
World Premiere
Grande Halle de la Villette, Paris

28 - 30 NOVEMBER



ABU DHABI FESTIVAL AWARDS

PRESENTED IN PARTNERSHIP WITH

Chopard

H.E. Sheikh Nahyan Mubarak Al Nahyan, Minister of Tolerance and Coexistence and ADMAF Patron, and H.E. Huda Al Khamis-Kanoo, Founder of ADMAF, present the Abu Dhabi Festival Award to Miky Lee.

Since its inception in 2012, the Abu Dhabi Festival Award, presented in partnership with Chopard has become a symbol of cultural excellence. The award recognises cultural mavens whose work transcends boundaries and fosters a deeper understanding and unity among people. From pioneering artists to thinkers and writers, this award celebrates their outstanding contributions and lifetime achievements in the fields of music, arts, culture, thought, and creativity.

In 2024, Abu Dhabi Festival honoured Miky Lee, Vice Chairwoman of South Korea's entertainment giant CJ ENM and internationally acclaimed filmmaker; celebrated pianist and conductor Daniel Barenboim; and world-renowned conductor and composer Leonard Slatkin for their outstanding lifetime contributions to music, culture, and the arts.

The award was also presented to the late American illustrator Bob Peak for his inspiring artistic legacy and influence on the industry, and to international pianist Lang Lang, who was recognised for his extraordinary contributions to music and culture, as well as his humanitarian work as a UNICEF Goodwill Ambassador, which has touched the hearts of thousands of people around the world.



Daniel Barenboim



Leonard Slatkin



Lang Lang

VISUAL ARTS



In 2024, ADMAF continues to celebrate the dynamic visual arts landscape in the UAE, showcasing the transformative power of creativity in shaping cultural dialogue. Through innovative exhibitions, collaborations, cultural programmes, and awards, the Foundation empowers both emerging and established artists to thrive, further strengthening the region's position as a hub for artistic excellence, creativity, and innovation. This year also marks the beginning of ADMAF's historic 3-year partnership with the world-renowned Seoul Museum of Art (SeMA), featuring co-commissions, exhibitions, artist residencies and panel discussions in Seoul.

ELEMENTAL RELATIONS: EXHIBITION AT THE EUROPEAN CULTURAL CENTRE, PALAZZO MORA, VENICE

Curatorial Team

NYUAD Faculty: Dale Hudson, Tina Sherwell, Terri Geis, Katia Arfara and Sheetal Majithia.

Supported by Abu Dhabi Festival, New York University Abu Dhabi NYUAD students and recent graduates from its Master of Fine Arts (MFA) and Bachelor of Arts (BA) programmes had the opportunity to have their works on display in a group exhibition at the European Cultural Centre's at Palazzo Mora in Venice, Italy.

The exhibition titled 'Elemental Relations,' curated by a team of NYUAD faculty, was on display from 20 April to 23 November 2024 in the European city, and featured participation from Emirati artist Roudhah Al Mazrouei, Majd Alloush, Hala El Abora, Vivi Zhu, Zara Mahmood, Elizabeth Dorazio, Farah Elmowafy and Dima Abou Zannad.

Cultural Centre,
Palazzo Mora,
Venice

20 APRIL - 24 NOVEMBER 2024

Supported by Abu Dhabi Festival



REMOTE LANDSCAPES

by Majd Alloush

Majd Alloush's 'Remote Landscapes,' locates human and nonhuman cohabitation in environments where flamingos, mangroves, and other lifeforms exist in remarkably close proximity to urban built environments.



Remote Landscapes 2023, Majd Alloush, Film (10-minutes)

MICROSCOPIC SPECIMEN I

by Zara Mahmood

Zara Mahmood's graphite and pastel drawings examine atmospheric particulate matter. From a distance, it catches light in dazzling sunsets; under a microscope, it becomes discernible as individual particles that can appear menacing.

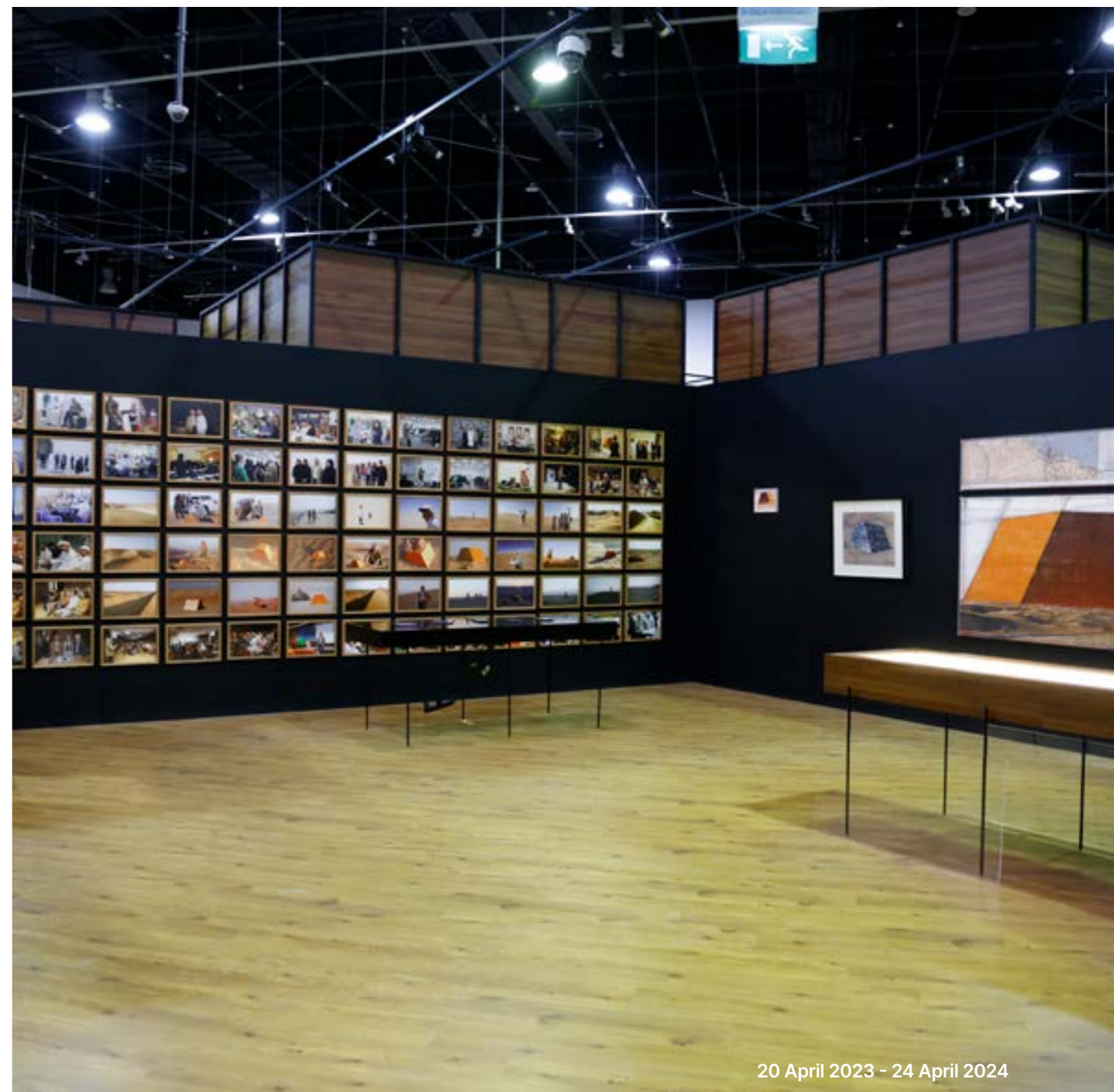


Microscopic Specimen I 2023,
Zara Mahmood, Charcoal on Paper

HV spot 10/31/2023 HFV -det.
319 x 10.003V 10 9:49:44 AM 13.9 in ETD

PORTRAIT OF A NATION II: BEYOND NARRATIVES

The online virtual exhibition uses 3D walkthrough virtual reality technology to allow people worldwide to tour the 2022 flagship exhibition that narrates the -50year history of the nation's visual arts scene.



20 April 2023 - 24 April 2024



ART DUBAI

The Foundation had a strong presence at Art Dubai from 28 February to 3 March 2024, engaging with fair visitors and artists. It presented its Abu Dhabi Festival 2024 activities, including publications, exhibitions, awards and other projects.

ABU DHABI ART

During Abu Dhabi Art, ADMAF unveiled two works: the specially commissioned art installation, 'Woven by Hands, Walked by Generations,' by Emirati artist Ayesha Hadhir, and The Christo & Jeanne-Claude Award-winning artwork for 2024, 'Datecrete Bee Hotel,' by artists Sara Farha and Khaled Shalkha. Ayesha Hadhir's commissioned artwork was presented as part of the 'Craft as a Language' partners section at Abu Dhabi Art. It was activated by a daily performance, presented in partnership with House of Artisans, Abu Dhabi, featuring Afra Al Mansoori and students from the NYUAD Arts and Humanities Division's Theatre Programme, 'Site Specific Performance Course.' Additionally, students from public schools were invited to Abu Dhabi Art for guided tours with a special focus on the ADMAF commissioned artworks.

ADMAF also presented two insightful panel discussions featuring leading art experts and academics from the UAE and the Republic of Korea. The first panel discussion, titled 'We Are All Open Circuits: 1984-2024 - The Fading Fortunes of Network Utopianism,' presented in partnership with the Korea Foundation for International Cultural Exchange (KOFICE) and the Nam June Paik Art Center, explored the tensions between the utopian vision of global connectivity and the realities of today's interconnected world, inspired by the work of the Father of Video Art, Nam June Paik. Moderated by independent curator and ADMAF advisor, Maya El Khalil, the panel featured notable speakers including Dr. Namhee Park, Director of the Nam June Paik Art Center and artists Byungjun Kwon, Ayoung Kim and Lawrence Abu Hamdan.



ABU DHABI ART
Manarat Al Saadiyat
20-24 November 2024

In partnership with Abu Dhabi Art, the Foundation presented a panel discussion titled 'Craft as a Language,' featuring artists Ayesha Hadhir, Meherunnisa Asad, and Sara Al Khyyal, and moderated by Chinasa Ezugha, Assistant Arts Professor of Live Art at NYUAD. This insightful panel discussion explored the idea of craft as a form of language - how diverse craft practices, ranging from visual arts and textiles to woodworking, ceramics, and beyond, function as powerful tools for communication and self-expression. Focusing on their work presented at Abu Dhabi Art, the panelists discussed how their craft transcends technical skill to become a rich, nuanced form of storytelling.

As part of the ongoing institutional collaboration with the Seoul Museum of Art (SeMA), ADMAF hosted key partners from SeMA at Abu Dhabi Art for a comprehensive itinerary, including curatorial meetings and studio visits to continue establishing a roadmap for two historic upcoming exhibitions in 2025 in Abu Dhabi and Seoul.



ABU DHABI ART

Woven by Hands, Walked by Generations:
Artwork by Emirati Artist Ayesha Hadhir
Commissioned by ADMAF

Ayesha Hadhir's artwork, 'Woven by Hands, Walked by Generations,' captures the delicate balance between tradition and innovation, reflecting the UAE's rich cultural heritage. The table, with legs sculpted to resemble the human forms, embodies our responsibility to uphold the weight of ancestral craftsmanship. Resting upon these legs is a 'mandoos,' a traditional chest symbolising the preservation and transmission of crafts across generations. Beneath, AI-generated fishnet patterns interwoven into a carpet evoke the sea's sustenance and the intricate craftsmanship of the past. The Sadu loom spins the threads of cultural identity forward, binding the legacy of the past to the future, it speaks to the next generation, urging them to remember and carry forward the stories, skills, and spirit of those who came before. Each component of the installation narrates the journey of our heritage - how we stand on the shoulders of those who crafted before us, and how, like the loom, we continue to weave tradition into tomorrow.

The artwork installation was activated with daily performance at Abu Dhabi Art, in partnership with House of Artisans and students from NYUAD Arts and Humanities Division's Theatre programme 'Site Specific Performance Course,' further deepening the experience of this cultural exploration.

Artist: Ayesha Hadhir

Sadu Artisan: Afra Almansoori
(House of Artisans, Abu Dhabi)

Performers: Cristina Isabelle Yu, Clement Shen, Diana Aleksanyan, Konpal Nauman, Mitzi Louise Tapang (NYUAD students)

ABU DHABI ART
Manarat Al Saadiyat
20-24 November 2024



ADMAF X SeMA HISTORIC PARTNERSHIP

In 2024, the Abu Dhabi Music & Arts Foundation (ADMAF) and the world-renowned Seoul Museum of Art (SeMA) joined hands to embark on a landmark three-year partnership. The journey began in Seoul with co-commissions, artist residencies, and panel discussions - bringing together creative talent from two worlds united by a shared vision. This long-term collaboration between ADMAF and SeMA connects the UAE and South Korea through their artists and cultural institutions and will continue in 2025 with two historic exhibitions travelling from Abu Dhabi to Seoul and from Seoul to Abu Dhabi for the first time in the Middle East.



ENERGY PARTNER



SeMA NANJI RESIDENCY, SEOUL

ADMAF and Abu Dhabi Festival proudly supported the exceptional talent of UAE artists, fostering their professional development and presenting their work internationally. Emirati artists Jumairy and Mohammed Kazem represented the UAE as artists-in-residence at the 2024 SeMA Nanji Residency in Seoul.

Mohammed Kazem engaged in an intensive 2-month residency, immersing himself in the vibrant Korean art scene, while Jumairy embarked on a dynamic two-week journey of exploration, discovery, and cultural exchange with Korean artists.

Their innovative approaches across various mediums highlight the depth and diversity of contemporary Emirati art on the global stage.

MOHAMED KAZEM, ART RESIDENCY AT SeMA: 15 August - 30 October 2024

JUMAIRY, VISITING PROGRAMME AT SeMA: 23 August - 11 September 2024



SeMA OMNIBUS: AT THE END OF THE WORLD SPLIT ENDLESSLY

Abu Dhabi Festival co-commissioned two artworks for SeMA Omnibus: At the End of the World Split Endlessly, as part of its ongoing institutional collaboration with the Seoul Museum of Art (SeMA).

KUBO, WALKS THE CITY, KWON HAYOUN, (2021)



Kubo, Walks the City, KWON Hayoun, (2021). Single-channel video, black and white, sound, 15 minutes. Co-commissioned by Seoul Museum of Art (SeMA) and Abu Dhabi Festival.

MACROMACHINE PLANT INCUBATOR, GIJEONG GOO (2024)



Macromachine Plant Incubator, Gijeong Goo (2024). Multichannel video, stainless steel, -65inch TV, light panel, flexible LED, variable installation. Co-commissioned by Seoul Museum of Art and Abu Dhabi Festival.

22 AUGUST - 17 NOVEMBER 2024
Seoul Museum of Art (SeMA), Seoul



PANEL DISCUSSION: WHEN A MEDIUM BECOMES ATTITUDES

ADMAF hosted an engaging panel discussion that took place at the Seoul Museum of Art (SeMA), featuring Emirati artist Jumairy alongside Maya El Khalil, Kay Kyunghwan Yeo, and Sylbee Kim. Moderated by SeMA curator, Gahee Park, the conversation delved into how mediums transform into tools for recognising and interpreting the world. The thought-provoking session was part of SeMA Omnibus, a collection exhibition traveling to Abu Dhabi next year, as part of the ongoing institutional collaboration between ADMAF and SeMA.



3 SEPTEMBER 2024
 Presented by ADMAF
 in partnership with
 Seoul Museum of Art (SeMA)



ENERGY PARTNER



THE NATIONALS' GALLERY

A dedicated resource that advocates for Emirati visual arts practice nationally and internationally, providing access to opportunities, information and support.

ADMAF's Nationals' Gallery - Riwaq Al Fan Al Emirati - is for artists, collectors and art lovers - a network that connects and informs, bringing together people and opportunities. Registration connects members to opportunities and grants access to a comprehensive art resource. Launched in 2010, this permanent initiative comprises a research centre, online directory, education hub, advocacy and an information resource that supports Emirati artists, seeking to raise understanding of the national arts sector among gallerists, curators and the wider public.

EXHIBITIONS & STUDIO VISITS

ADMAF creates exhibitions and publications to deepen the appreciation and knowledge of Emirati visual arts. Supported by ADMAF in 2024, Emirati artist Roudhah Al Mazrouei's work was featured in a group exhibition titled 'Elemental Relations' at the European Cultural Centre's Palazzo Mora in Venice, Italy. The group exhibition, curated by a team of NYUAD faculty, also highlighted work from eight current New York University Abu Dhabi NYUAD students and recent graduates from its Master of Fine Arts (MFA) and Bachelor of Arts (BA) programmes. On the occasion of Abu Dhabi Art, ADMAF hosted important partners from the Seoul Museum of Art (SeMA), organising studio visits with UAE-based artists.



ROUND TABLE DISCUSSION AT MOHAMED BIN ZAYED UNIVERSITY OF ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE (MBZUAI) WITH IRÈNE HEDIGER

As part of a research visit to Abu Dhabi supported by ADMAF, Irène Hediger, Head of the Artists-in-Labs programme at the Zurich University of the Arts, participated in a roundtable discussion organised by ADMAF in partnership with Mohamed bin Zayed University of Artificial Intelligence (MBZUAI).

Held at MBZUAI, the roundtable brought together researchers and professors from the university alongside Emirati visual artists. The significant gathering created a platform for dialogue, encouraging the open exchange of questions, ideas, and perspectives.

Mohamed bin Zayed University of Artificial Intelligence (MBZUAI)
21 FEBRUARY 2024

LECTURE AT THE SCHOOL FOR CURATORIAL STUDIES IN VENICE

In July, multimedia conceptual artist Moza Almatrooshi, based in Sharjah, UAE, delivered a lecture at the prestigious School for Curatorial Studies in Venice, Italy.

Moza Almatrooshi gained her MFA in Fine Art from the Slade School of Fine Art in London in 2019 and a diploma in culinary arts from ICCA Dubai in 2020. Her practice often examines everyday materials and habits to reveal societal and power dynamics. She creates fictions and metaphors rooted in regional food production and politics, expressed through performance, moving image, audio media, and text.

In 2024, her artwork *The Confectioner & Baker's Alphabets* (2021) - which featured in the ADMAF exhibition *Portrait of a Nation II* (2022) - was the subject of a lecture she delivered to students at the School for Curatorial Studies in Venice. The work explores the gestures of bakers and confectioners in the UAE, imagining their movements as alphabets and sequences with linguistic significance. Almatrooshi reframes the sounds produced by bakery machines and the movements of bakers' fingers into an audioscape that accompanied the piece.

School for Curatorial Studies, Italy
29 JULY



Elemental Relations Exhibition at the European Cultural Centre, Palazzo Mora, Venice.

THE ADMAF ART COLLECTION

Maintain alignment
between the
internal self and the
external environment.

Adjust the daily
as needed—

Changes in the
environment that
go unnoticed
create continuity.

We live diagonally.

Since its inception, ADMAF has partnered with the leading proponents of the visual arts sector in the UAE. Its collection of visual art demonstrates the diversity of contemporary Emirati and Arab artistic expression.

Consisting of acquisitions and donations, the ADMAF Art Collection emphasises Emirati practice and seeks to highlight artistic expression from the Arab world. By exhibiting the collection in its offices and through exhibitions and loans, ADMAF promotes the achievements and oeuvres of each artist - engaging, educating and informing the public about the region's art scene.

A flexible resource with no permanent gallery, ADMAF welcomes enquiries from institutions interested in loans from the collection. Gifts by individuals and organisations are gratefully received and are assessed based on factors such as condition, provenance, storage and cultural value.



EDUCATION & COMMUNITY

Partnerships and inspiring platforms for young people and society to develop creative thinking and nurture the nation's cultural sector.

In 2024, ADMAF expands its efforts to promote arts, culture, and diplomacy across the UAE and beyond, driven by the impactful work of its Education and Community department. Through extensive and comprehensive professional training opportunities, ADMAF empowered emerging talent with the skills and expertise needed to thrive in the arts and creative industries. Over the course of the year, engaging educational initiatives ignited creativity in young minds and deepened their appreciation of the UAE's cultural landscape. In close collaboration with regional and international institutions - including a key partnership with the Abu Dhabi Department of Education and Knowledge (ADEK) - ADMAF aligned educational experiences with national curriculum milestones, delivering workshops, cultural visits, and dialogue sessions to enrich students' understanding of the arts. Together with these partnerships, a dynamic calendar of community activities catered to people of all ages and backgrounds, providing meaningful opportunities to engage with the arts and connect with one another.

CREATIVE LEADERSHIP

Fostering the growth and development of Emirati youth in the global creative and cultural industries through training programmes that build skills, enthusiasm and vocational access.

ADMAF provides emerging leaders with the skills, knowledge, and networks to drive cultural innovation and excellence in the UAE and beyond. In 2024, the Foundation deepened its commitment to investing in the potential of the nation's youth with a wide range of capacity-building education and artistic initiatives. Here are the highlights...



Founder of ADMAF, H.E. Huda Al Khamis-Kanoo, with ADMAF interns from Zayed University, Maryam Aljneibi and Sara Alyaamahi.

YOUNG MEDIA LEADERS

IN ASSOCIATION WITH SKY NEWS ARABIA AND SYNDICATION BUREAU

JANUARY - APRIL

Young Media Leaders (YML) is an experience-based, capacity-building, and career development platform for aspiring media professionals. The annual programme enables future journalists to gain the passion, mission, and conviction to become powerful and convincing storytellers. Training sessions and practical skills workshops develop industry-focused portfolios that allow their media careers to take off. Young Media Leaders influences and creates a powerful community of emerging professionals, building a positive and integrated media sector responsive to future challenges, innovations and opportunities.

In 2024, for the 17th edition of the Young Media Leaders programme, ADMAF partnered with Sky News Arabia and the Syndication Bureau to deliver intensive workshops by media experts and distinguished guest speakers. Through this pioneering partnership, students participated in a series of insightful workshops covering various aspects of the media industry. The workshops were led by prominent media professionals, including Rami Majzoub, Head of the Sky News Arabia Academy, along with news presenters Eisa Al Marzooqi, Michella Haddad, and Robert El Nakhl. Leveraging Sky News Arabia's affiliation with the International Media Investments (IMI) group, students also attended a session by Saeed Saeed, a features writer at The National, another respected media outlet within the esteemed IMI group.

As part of the programme, the students also engaged in sessions facilitated by other prominent figures in the media landscape, including H.E Mohammed Al Hammadi, Chairman of the UAE Journalists Association, Tony Baroud, a notable media personality and social media influencer, and Safia Al Shihhi, a recognised media personality and social media influencer. Through these interactions, the trainees were able to gain first-hand insights into the industry, shaping their understanding of the media landscape, and helping them navigate their career paths effectively.

In March, the ambitious students applied the skills they had learned to cover the headline programme of the 21st edition Abu Dhabi Festival. Young Media Leaders compiled and published the ADMAF Tribune, contributing reviews and articles, and produced video interviews with the stars of the Festival.



YOUNG FILMMAKERS' CIRCLE

APRIL - NOVEMBER

A programme designed to provide young filmmakers with a platform to showcase their talents, develop their skills, and connect with industry professionals through workshops, mentorship, and networking opportunities.

In 2024, ADMAF supported young Emirati filmmakers through its partnerships with two leading cultural institutions within the region: the Al Qassimi Foundation and the Sharjah Art Foundation, as part of this important initiative.

ADMAF, in collaboration with the Al Qassimi Foundation, supported the production of short films by Emirati filmmakers, with a focus on documentaries that explore themes relevant to the UAE and the Gulf region. The initiative aimed to increase the production of Emirati short films, support emerging local talent, and promote diverse narratives that reflect the richness of Emirati culture, identity and heritage. Through this partnership, ADMAF and the Al Qassimi Foundation supported the production of the Emirati filmmaker Ahmed Hassan Ahmed's project titled, 'Umbilical Cord.'



The Sharjah Art Foundation, in partnership with ADMAF, held an open call for Emirati filmmakers to support independent Emirati cinema which was awarded to one young filmmaker as jointly selected by both institutions. The scheme is part of the seventh edition of the Sharjah Film Platform (SFP) Short Film Production Grant, designed to support short films - 50 minutes or less - that explore contemporary filmmaking. In 2024, young filmmaker, Hana Kazim, was awarded with the top prize for her short film, 'Yathoom.'



THE ARTISTS' STUDIO

JANUARY - DECEMBER

This online platform of interviews with the stars of the stage and screen aims to inspire and inform young people about the value of creative thinking and artistic expression. Throughout the Festival seasons, members of ADMAF's Young Media Leaders programme, had the unrivalled opportunity to engage with and interview world-renowned musicians from 21st edition of Abu Dhabi Festival's exceptional lineup. Each recorded interview joined past episodes from previous editions on the Festival's YouTube channel. This year's Artists' Studio series featured interviews conducted by Young Media Leaders with members of the National Ballet of China, artists from the Puccini Opera Gala and American composer Kamasi Washington.



YOUNG PHILANTHROPISTS

OCTOBER

ADMAF, in collaboration with the Pearl Initiative, presented the second edition of the Youth Impact Lab as part of its Young Philanthropist Programme, which aims to empower UAE youth to develop innovative solutions to Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) challenges. Youth Impact Lab 2024 brought together ten student teams from leading universities across the UAE, including Anwar Gargash Diplomatic Academy, Middlesex University, the Higher Colleges of Technology (HCT), Skyline University College, Khalifa University, Abu Dhabi School of Management, American University of Sharjah (AUS) and Ajman University.

Members of the winning team, including students from Khalifa University, were awarded with a one-month internship at ADMAF, to nurture their talents and enhance their skills in professional work environment. The programme aligns closely with the Pearl Initiative's commitment to fostering a culture of good governance and sustainability within the region by equipping young leaders with the tools and opportunities to actively participate in the creative economy and meaningful dialogue.



UAE THEATRE CIRCLE

JANUARY

Supporting Charter Schools, ADMAF in collaboration with Shakespeare4Kids presented two special performances of the marvellous musical production, Peter Pan, at Mubarak Bin Mohammed Charter School and Al Qurm Charter School with students from Al Budoor Charter School. The musical delighted and surprised young audiences, while highlighting the importance of sustainability, ecology, and caring for the environment.



In collaboration with



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ADMAF COMMISSION: HAMOUR DOESN'T LEAVE THE CUBICLE

OCTOBER

Hamour Doesn't Leave the Cubicle - a theatre performance commissioned by ADMAF, co-presented by The Arts Center at New York University Abu Dhabi, with touring support by the Ministry of Culture - made its world premiere in the UAE's capital. Directed by Reem Al Menhali and written by Ahmed Almadloum, the play debuted to a sold-out audience at The Arts Center, NYU Abu Dhabi.

Following the premiere, Emirati playwright Reem Al Menhali visited Um Al Emarat Public School on 24 October to deliver a unique theatre workshop giving students the opportunity to learn from her expertise in the world of Emirati theatre.



THEATRE SCRIPT WRITING WORKSHOP

OCTOBER - NOVEMBER

In partnership with the Sharjah Performing Arts Academy (SPAA), ADMAF hosted a six-week scriptwriting workshop series led by professional playwright Rebecca Crookshank, giving students a unique opportunity to dive deep into the world of scriptwriting for theatre.

Students gained an invaluable insight to the essential skills in script development, character creation, and narrative structuring with bilingual support in Arabic and English. Each session built toward the creation of twelve original ten-minute short plays, culminating in a live reading by actors, bringing these stories to life live on stage.



ORCHESTRA OF DREAM

NOVEMBER

Orchestra of Dream, featuring the Abu Dhabi Youth Orchestra, graced the stage of NYU Abu Dhabi's Blue Hall on 27 November as part of the 2024 Korea Season in the UAE. Marking the Arab World premiere, this exceptional performance celebrated the musical talents of youth from both nations. The concert was organised by the Abu Dhabi Festival in collaboration with the Korea Foundation for International Culture Exchange (KOFICE) and co-presented by the Ministry of Culture, Sports and Tourism of the Republic of Korea. The evening offered a truly magical musical experience, bringing together cultures through the universal language of music and showcasing the extraordinary talent and collaboration of the young musicians from the UAE and Korea.



INTERNSHIPS AND CULTURAL MANAGEMENT

JANUARY - AUGUST

A professional development programme for cultural workers from diverse disciplines. Designed to instil skills and build networks for long-term creative partnerships across the UAE, the programme focuses on gaining practical work experience. In 2024, ADMAF awarded 5 internships to students from Zayed University and Higher Colleges of Technology for a three-month period, giving them the opportunity to work with the Foundation's Visual Arts, Marketing & Communications, Education & Community and Graphic Design teams. In addition, the winning students from Khalifa University of the ADMAF's Young Philanthropist Programme in collaboration with the Pearl Initiative were awarded with a one-month internship at ADMAF.



RIWAQ AL ADAB WAL KITAB

Riwaq Al Adab Wal Kitab aims to strengthen and support the Emirati publishing industry by presenting the achievements of Emirati and Arab writers. The initiative seeks to foster creativity among local writers and to preserve and celebrate the beauty of the Arabic language in literature.



INTERNATIONAL MOTHER LANGUAGE DAY 2024

20 FEBRUARY

CULTURAL FOUNDATION

For International Mother Language Day 2024, ADMAF's Riwaq Al Adab Wal Kitab celebrated linguistic and cultural diversity, emphasising the power of multilingualism. Year after year, ADMAF participates in UNESCO's global celebration and annual observance, reaffirming its commitment to fostering creativity, preserving Emirati heritage, and promoting the Arabic language. In 2024, ADMAF hosted a special panel discussion as part of its Riwaq Al Adab Wal Kitab series at the Cultural Foundation in Abu Dhabi.

The programme featured opening remarks from H.E. Huda Al Khamis-Kanoo, Founder of ADMAF, and H.E. Dr. Ali bin Tamim, Chairman of the Abu Dhabi Arabic Language Centre (ALC).

This was followed by a talk moderated by Ali Al Abdan, Director of the Artistic Heritage Department at the Sharjah Institute for Heritage, with panellists including H.E. Dr. Abdulaziz Abdulrahman Almusallam, Chairman of the Sharjah Institute for Heritage; Dr. Aysha Juma Al Shamsi, Head of Arabic Language and Literature at Mohamed Bin Zayed University for Humanities; and Dr. Hanada Taha Thomure, Endowed Chair Professor of Arabic Language at Zayed University.

The special edition of Riwaq Al Adab Wal Kitab also featured poetry sessions with Shaikha Al Jaberi, Mira Al Qassim and Walid Alaeddine.



WORLD POETRY DAY 2024

21 MARCH

To celebrate World Poetry Day 2024, ADMAF published a digital series of poetry performances featuring poets Sheikha Al Jaberi, Meera Al Qassim, and Walid Alaeddine. These were shared online, alongside keynote speeches by H.E. Huda Al Khamis-Kanoo, Founder of ADMAF and H.E. Dr. Ali bin Tamim, Chairman of the Abu Dhabi Arabic Language Centre (ALC).



RIWAQ AL ADAB WAL KITAB AT ABU DHABI INTERNATIONAL BOOK FAIR

29 APRIL - 5 MAY

ADNEC

Participating at the 33rd Abu Dhabi International Book Fair, ADMAF celebrated the life of renowned Emirati author and novelist Ali Abul Reesh the 9th edition of Riwaq Al Adab Wal Kitab. At the ADMAF booth, titled 'From Air, Water, and Sand We Are Shaped', and in collaboration with local and international publishing houses - Nabati, Al Thabi, Al Mutawassit, Ninawa, and the Emirates Writers Union - the initiative launched eight books by Emirati and international writers and poets. Additionally, as part of its cultural programmes, ADMAF held book signing ceremonies and a special talk with poet Nada El Ounsi Hage, among other activities.



WORLD ARABIC LANGUAGE DAY 2024

14-16 DECEMBER

MANARAT AL SAADIYAT

ADMAF partnered with the Abu Dhabi Arabic Language Centre (ALC) for the second edition of 'Arabian Days,' held on 14-16 December, coinciding with UNESCO's World Arabic Language Day - celebrating the richness and vibrancy of the Arabic language. The two-day activation featured an insightful panel discussion on leveraging AI to Shape the Future of Arabic Culture and Creativity with an esteemed panel - including Founder of ADMAF, H.E. Huda Al Khamis-Kanoo, Cultural Advisor to the President of the UAE and Chancellor of the UAE University, H.E. Zaki Anwar Nusseibeh, H.E. Mohammed Al Murr, Chairman of the Mohammed Bin Rashid Al Maktoum Library Foundation.



GATEWAY TO KNOWLEDGE

A gateway to knowledge that strengthens academic performance, nurturing lifelong learning and academic excellence.



From early childhood to higher education, ADMAF's educational initiatives foster an appetite for learning and strong academic performance across the entire educational spectrum.

FESTIVAL IN FOCUS

JANUARY TO DECEMBER

As part of the Festival in Focus programme - an initiative designed to nurture creativity and inspire young minds through firsthand exposure to the performing arts - students from across Abu Dhabi had the unique opportunity to attend open rehearsals for several world-class performances. These included the National Ballet of China on 25 January at Emirates Palace; the Puccini Opera Gala on 30 January at Emirates Palace Auditorium; Pablo Ferrández on 1 February at The Blue Hall, NYUAD; and Kamasi Washington on 2 February at Emirates Palace Auditorium. Students also observed rehearsals by Pretty Yende & Francesco Demuro on 10 February and Yemen Saadi & Julien Quentin on 13 February, both at NYUAD Red Theatre. The open rehearsal programme - that seeks to foster creativity in young people and inspire exploration of the arts as a means of expression - concluded with a rehearsal of the China National Symphony Orchestra on 14 December..

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MASTERCLASSES

JANUARY TO DECEMBER

As part of the Festival's ongoing commitment to investing in the potential of the nation's youth, a series of specialised masterclasses provided aspiring artists with invaluable opportunities to meet and learn first-hand from internationally acclaimed performers and headline artists. These sessions offered immersive, discipline-specific training across music and dance, forming a vital part of the Festival's education and outreach initiatives.

The programme included a ballet masterclass with Principal Dancer Li Wentao of the National Ballet of China on 27 January, followed by wind and string masterclasses with the Puccini Orchestra Quintets on 30 January. A jazz masterclass with Kamasi Washington took place on 2 February, and a vocal masterclass with tenor Francesco Demuro was held on 10 February. On 14 February, string and piano masterclasses were led by violinist Yemen Saadi and pianist Julien Quentin.

Later in the month, the Festival hosted a vocal masterclass with Lawrence Brownlee and a piano masterclass with Fabio Centanni on 24 February, followed by a piano masterclass with Kirill Gerstein on 26 February.

Also during the season, a contemporary dance masterclass was conducted by the Korea National Contemporary Dance Company on 17 November, followed by violin and cello masterclasses with members of the China National Symphony Orchestra on 13 December - underscoring the Festival's year-round dedication to nurturing the next generation of performing artists.

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BACK TO SCHOOL


JANUARY TO DECEMBER

Back to School is an interactive programme that engages young minds and sparks creativity, offering students the unique opportunity to learn first-hand from the world's leading musicians and artists in an intimate school environment. As part of this year's Festival, ADMAF held a series of interactive mini-performances in schools and universities across the country, with the aim of fostering a passion for the arts and creating new audiences for future performances in the UAE and beyond.

These included a Back to School visit by Leia Zhu to Mohammed bin Zayed University of Artificial Intelligence (MBZUAI) on 7 February, during her music residency and as part of ADMAF's partnership with MBZUAI, followed by an intimate session for vocal students with Pretty Yende at NYU Abu Dhabi on 10 February.

At the American Community School, students enjoyed an intimate recital by the Jussen Brothers on 19 February, and four musicians from the China National Symphony Orchestra (CNSO) visited MBZUAI on 13 December ahead of their Arab World Premiere performance at the Abu Dhabi Festival.



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TALENTS ON STAGE

The Festival proudly welcomed young talents to the stage alongside the National Ballet of China during their Arab World Premiere performance of Chinese New Year - a reimagining of Tchaikovsky's masterpiece, The Nutcracker, on 26 and 27 January 2024.

Thirteen young girls, aged from 5 to 7, performed with the National Ballet of China as part of this vibrant celebration of Chinese culture, co-presented by the Abu Dhabi Festival and the Embassy of the People's Republic of China in the United Arab Emirates, at Emirates Palace.



EDUCATION & COMMUNITY



ADMAF ROADSHOW

JANUARY TO DECEMBER

Each year, the ADMAF Roadshow visits universities across the UAE to engage students and raise awareness about careers in the arts, cultural, and creative industries. This year, the Roadshow visited nine universities and participated in Art Jameel's Creative Career Days and NYU Abu Dhabi's Fall Career Fair, inspiring the next generation of creative talent.

YOUNG MUSICIANS

FEBRUARY

Leia Zhu is an internationally acclaimed violinist, celebrated for her extraordinary musical maturity, emotional depth, and dazzling technique. As part of the Festival's Young Musicians initiative, ADMAF invited students to take part in a five-day music residency with Leia Zhu from 5-9 February, culminating in a special live performance alongside the rising star at The British School Al Khubairat (BSAK).

During the residency, she mentored some of the UAE's most promising young string musicians from music centres, schools, and youth orchestras across the nation. The Young Musicians programme concluded with an inspiring recital, where this exceptional young artist shared the stage with her students - celebrating talent, dedication, and the transformative power of music.



ABU DHABI ART


NOVEMBER

As part of ADMAF's educational outreach programme, students from public schools were invited to Abu Dhabi Art for guided tours including a special stop at the ADMAF-commissioned artwork by Emirati visual artist, Ayesha Hadhir, titled, 'Woven by Hands, Walked by Generations.' The participating schools included Aisha Bint Abi Bakr School, Al Wathba School, Darwish Bin Karam School, Al Shahama School, Al Zallaqa School, Hamza Bin Abdulmotalab Secondary School and Al Qudra School.



RIWAQ AL FIKR - ADMAF TALKS

A series of online and in-person talks and lectures for students at campuses across the nation, where they can hear from world-renowned musicians, composers, conductors, choreographers and performers.

Brought to you by  MUBADALA

7 FEBRUARY

A special edition of Riwaq Al Fikr ADMAF Talks titled, 'Harmonising Hope,' featured Dr. Ahmad Naser Sarmast, Founder and Director of the Afghanistan National Institute of Music (ANIM). In this inspiring talk, Dr. Sarmast shared the remarkable journey of ANIM, which has become a global symbol of hope, resilience and artistic freedom.

The session, moderated by Gwyneth Bravo, Assistant Professor of Music at NYU Abu Dhabi and Global Network Assistant Professor of Music at NYU, highlighted ANIM's pivotal role in preserving Afghanistan's rich musical heritage while providing a platform for young Afghans to express themselves and develop their musical talents. Through its advocacy for music rights and commitment to excellence, ANIM fosters cross-cultural understanding and demonstrates the transformative power of music in overcoming adversity and uniting people through the arts.



In collaboration with NYUAD Institute



4 MARCH

In celebration of International Women's Day, ADMAF hosted a panel discussion honouring the remarkable life and contributions of Her Highness Sheikha Fatima bint Mubarak, in collaboration with Zayed University, as part of the Riwaq Al Fikr - ADMAF Talks series. The talk centered on H.E. Dr. Maita al Shamsi's book 'Fatima bint Mubarak: Illuminations in Thought and Work,' which offers profound insights into Sheikha Fatima's visionary leadership and advocacy for women's rights in the UAE.



EDUCATION & COMMUNITY

30 APRIL

In 2024, the 8th edition of the Arts for Autism competition, supported by ADMAF coincided with the 4th Autism Spectrum Disorders Symposium titled, 'Empowering Diversity: Navigating the Spectrum with Innovation,' which featured a special edition of Riwaq Al Fikr - ADMAF Talks, attended by H.E. Majid Sultan AIMuhairi and leading experts in autism, special education, inclusive education, and speech and language therapy.



8 MAY

ADMAF, in collaboration with NYUAD Institute, hosted a Riwaq Al Fikr panel discussion titled, 'Media Dynamics: Identity, Challenges and Future Vision.' The talk explored the role of contemporary media in shaping national identity, the contributions of women in journalism, and the impact of editorial control on the intellectual landscape. The esteemed panel featured Yusra Adel from Al Ittihad Newspaper, Amer bin Jassas from Abu Dhabi Media Network, Aisha Al Mazmi from Pulse 95 Radio, and was moderated by Noura Al Obeidli, Humanities Research Fellow at NYUAD.

In collaboration with NYUAD Institute



Journalist Amer bin Jassas.
Abu Dhabi Media Network.

RIWAQ AL FIKR - ADMAF TALKS

28 SEPTEMBER

In collaboration with the Sharjah Performing Arts Academy (SPAA), ADMAF successfully hosted a groundbreaking symposium titled, 'The Future of Professional Performing Arts in the UAE.'

This full-day event brought together leading figures from the performing arts sector, offering participants a unique opportunity to engage with industry experts, develop their skills, and explore the future of the arts in the region. As part of the programme, a Riwaq Al Fikr panel discussion was held, moderated by Professor Peter Barlow, Executive Director of SPAA.

The panel featured a distinguished line-up of speakers: Emirati performance artist and playwright Reem Al Menhali; SPAA Specialist Acting Tutor Aiham Hassan; Stuart Every, Producer and CEO of Dolphin Creative; and Beata Stankevic, Cultural Programmes Coordinator at the Goethe-Institut Abu Dhabi.



In collaboration with



12 NOVEMBER

ADMAF co-hosted an engaging panel discussion in collaboration with the Pearl Initiative - a non-profit organisation dedicated to promoting corporate governance in the region - on the "Role of Philanthropy in the Creative Economy." Held at Ivy's Secret Garden in Dubai, as part of ADMAF's Riwaq Al Fikr Series, the insightful discussion highlighted how philanthropy can serve as a catalyst for sustainable growth, innovation in the arts, and broader societal well-being.

The panel featured prominent voices from the arts, philanthropy, and cultural sectors, including Benedetta Ghione, Executive Director of Art Dubai, Nada Raza, Director of the Alserkal Arts Foundation, Uns Kattan, Deputy Director and Head of Learning and Research at Art Jameel, and Shireen Atassi, Managing Director of the Atassi Foundation, who also moderated the session.

In collaboration with



14 NOVEMBER

In celebration of 40 years of diplomatic relations between the United Arab Emirates and China, ADMAF co-hosted an insightful panel discussion - in partnership with the Anwar Gargash Diplomatic Academy (AGDA) - titled, 'Intercultural Relations Exchange between UAE and China: Strategy for the Future and Challenges.'

The forum brought together senior diplomats and key experts to discuss the enduring partnership between the two nations and address both the opportunities and complexities involved in strengthening intercultural connections for a progressive future. Moderated by Dr. Tingyi Wang, a researcher fellow at AGDA, the esteemed panel featured H.E. Noura Al Kaabi, Minister of Culture and Youth of the UAE, H.E. Zhang Yiming, Ambassador of the People's Republic of China to the UAE, and H.E. Nickolay Mladenov, Director General of AGDA, who engaged in a discussion on diplomatic strategies and cultural diplomacy as forms of soft power to build mutual understanding and cooperation.

In collaboration with



MOU SIGNING ANWAR GARGASH DIPLOMATIC ACADEMY (AGDA)

23 APRIL

Anwar Gargash Diplomatic Academy (AGDA), a globally recognised diplomatic centre of excellence in the UAE, signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with ADMAF, to introduce collaborative initiatives aimed at boosting the UAE's position on the global cultural and creativity map. The MoU was signed by H.E. Nickolay Mladenov, AGDA's Director General, and H.E. Huda Al Khamis-Kanoo, Founder of ADMAF, in the presence of a number of senior officials from both sides.



MOU SIGNING WITH ADEK

SEPTEMBER



ADMAF established a significant partnership with the Abu Dhabi Department of Education and Knowledge (ADEK) through the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU), to encourage and enhance students' appreciation of various fields in the arts. The MOU aims to enrich students' experiences in a practical way through workshops, visits, and coordinated meetings, aligned with educational objectives. It also promotes community engagement, nurtures talent, and develops skills by involving students in educational programmes, festivals and exhibitions.

WOW FESTIVAL

26 MAY

The WOW Festival, the world's largest celebration of women and girls, has been a proud partner of ADMAF since October 2023. Filmmaker and producer Noor Kanoo delivered a keynote in Manchester, highlighting the importance of representation on screen. As the visionary behind films like The Call, Worthless, and Hopes and Beans, Noor's storytelling explores social themes, human relationships, and cultural narratives.



WOW ONLINE FORUM

5 NOVEMBER

ADMAF hosted a Global Women's Forum in collaboration with the WOW Festival, led by Jude Kelly CBE, and the British Embassy in the UAE. The event opened with a special keynote speech from ADMAF's Founder, H.E. Huda Al Khamis-Kanoo, and featured 24 exceptional women leaders from the UAE and UK. The Forum highlighted the importance of cross-cultural understanding, championed leadership and personal growth, and showcased Emirati women from various fields - from the arts to science, healthcare, technology, and more, who came together to exchange ideas and share their stories.



REWARDING EXCELLENCE

Empowering emerging artists and celebrating outstanding creativity among the nation's youth.

ADMAF celebrates exceptional creativity by students and recent graduates across art disciplines, providing a platform to showcase talent and gain recognition. By investing in their professional development, ADMAF aims to empower young artists and cultivate a vibrant and thriving cultural landscape for years to come.



GULF CAPITAL - ADMAF CREATIVITY AWARD

Recognising creative excellence among young people in the performing arts, the 2024 Gulf Capital - ADMAF Creativity Award was presented to Dana Alkatheeri, a 20-year-old pianist from the UAE. Dana began playing the piano at the age of eight and has since developed her talent through the Masterpieces Programme and the Emirati Musicians Association. She has performed at numerous events, including the opening ceremony of the International Biology Olympiad.

Her award-winning submission is her first original composition, which reflects her deep respect for her country and pays tribute to the environmental legacy of Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan. Through her music, Dana expresses gratitude for the leadership's dedication to sustainability and seeks to share her pride in her nation's heritage. This piece represents a significant milestone in her musical journey, giving this young talent a platform to share her unique voice, creative vision and musical expression.



GULF CAPITAL - ADMAF VISUAL ARTS AWARD

Since its launch in 2013, the Gulf Capital - ADMAF Visual Arts Award has supported and celebrated emerging Emirati artists and visual arts undergraduates from universities across the UAE. The award, which recognises rising stars who demonstrate exceptional creativity in any visual art form, was presented to UAE University graduate Abdulla Alneyadi, a multidisciplinary artist with a passion for heritage-inspired design.

Alneyadi explores themes of memory and identity through material and form. His winning installation, *Eternal Gateways*, was inspired by the old metal gates of UAE neighbourhoods and symbolises community, individuality, and craftsmanship - honouring the nation's cultural roots while evoking nostalgia and unity. This year's award continues ADMAF's mission to nurture the next generation of Emirati creatives, emphasising the importance of innovative artistic expression.



TOTALENERGIES SUSTAINABILITY DESIGN AWARD

Celebrating outstanding innovation and achievement by young Emiratis in sustainable design, the TotalEnergies Sustainability Design Award nurtures creative talent with visionary approaches for the future. Serving as a launch pad for emerging designers and architects across the UAE, the award promotes innovation in the vital field of sustainability. The 2024 award went to two student artists from Zayed University - Tasneem Albaiti and Alreem Alameri - for their winning work titled, 'Graphic Design's Contribution to Environmental Sustainability Through Leaf Waste-Derived Paper in the UAE.' Together, the two talented students aim to raise awareness of sustainability through creative and scientific solutions, demonstrating the power of interdisciplinary collaboration for a greener future. Their project explores the use of ghaf and palm leaves as sustainable alternatives to traditional wood pulp in papermaking, utilising the kraft pulping process.



**ADMAF DESIGN
FUND IN
PARTNERSHIP WITH
L'ÉCOLE, SCHOOL
OF JEWELRY ARTS
SUPPORTED BY VAN
CLEEF & ARPELS**

Shamma Alhammadi, a student at the University of Sharjah, was named as the winner of ADMAF's Design Fund in partnership with L'ÉCOLE, School of Jewelry Arts, supported by Van Cleef & Arpels. Supported by ADMAF, the gifted designer embarked on a five-day trip to Paris where she attended courses led by master artisans in jewelry creation at L'ÉCOLE campus in Paris. The winning work, 'Al Dana wa Al Khawasa' (The Pearl and the Diver), pays homage to the UAE's rich heritage, honouring Emirati culture and the artistry of the past through a beautiful blend of tradition and contemporary design with precision. The stunning design features pearls symbolising the nation's pearl diving history, alongside hand-crafted Al Khus patterns inspired by woven palm leaves. A render of her work will be exhibited during the Abu Dhabi Festival 2025.





DOLCE & GABBANA X ADMAF DESIGN AWARD

In 2023, ADMAF partnered with iconic Italian fashion house Dolce&Gabbana to launch an annual award to empower young Emirati designers in fashion and jewellery. Open to UAE Nationals aged 18-30, the initiative bridges tradition and innovation, offering a unique platform in couture and craftsmanship. Submissions were judged by an esteemed jury including Stefano Galli, Senior VIP Relations, Alta Moda, Dolce&Gabbana; Asma Al Fahim, Chairwoman of the Abu Dhabi Businesswomen Council and Founder of Villa 88 magazine; Roberto La lacona, Director of Marangoni Institute UAE; Azza Al Qubaisi, jewellery artist, product designer and sculptor; Ahmad Al Areef Al Dhaheri, multidisciplinary artist; Sultan Al Darmaki, fashion designer; and H.E. Huda Al Khamis-Kanoo, Founder of ADMAF. The Fashion category invited contemporary abaya designs inspired by Emirati culture, with five selected for a Dolce&Gabbana capsule collection. The Jewellery category blended Emirati heritage with Italian craftsmanship through micromosaics, gold, pearls, and other fine materials.

At the 2024 Dolce&Gabbana x ADMAF Design Award Ceremony, Azza Al Tawila was presented with the winning award for her elegant and timeless fashion designs. Her winning submission featured contemporary abaya designs inspired by Emirati culture, with five selected for a Dolce&Gabbana capsule collection.

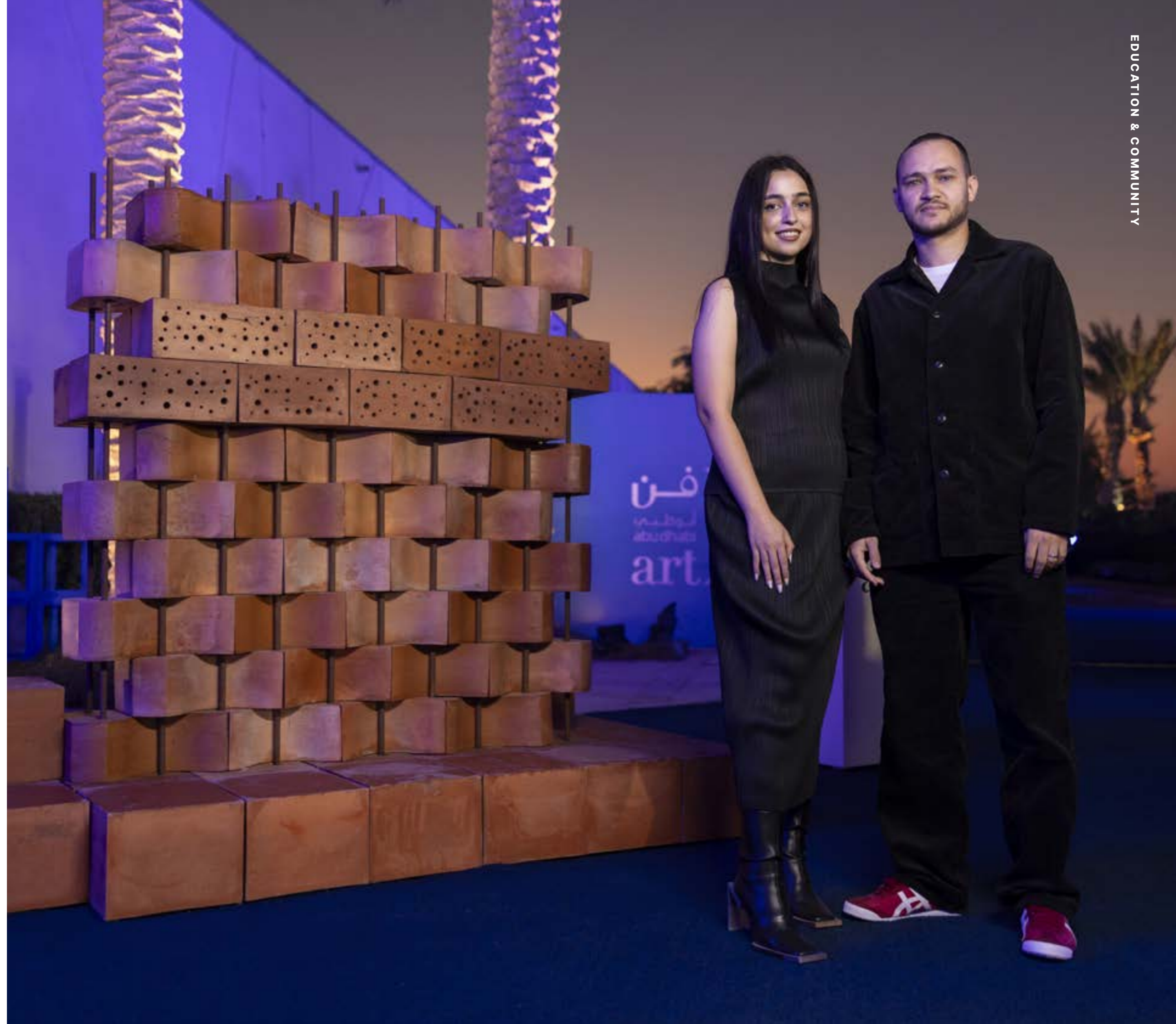
Supported by ADMAF, Azza Al Tawila received a six-month paid internship at Dolce&Gabbana's headquarters in Milan, where the young fashion design had the invaluable opportunity to refine her designs and gain hands-on experience of the fashion industry.

THE CRISTO AND JEANNE-CLAUDE AWARD

The 12th edition of The Cristo and Jeanne-Claude Award, held in partnership with NYU Abu Dhabi and under the patronage of Her Highness Sheikha Shamsa bint Hamdan bin Mohammed Al Nahyan, was unveiled in a special ceremony at Abu Dhabi Art on 19 November 2024, in the presence of esteemed guests. The winning artwork, Datecrete Bee Hotel, by artists Sara Farha and Khaled Shalkha, merges science with ecological awareness, featuring a new, sustainable material made from date pits, without the use of concrete or resin. Designed to attract solitary bees over a three-month period, the project was documented on film and was on display at Abu Dhabi Art until 24 November, followed by an exhibition at NYUAD from 26 November to 11 December, and concluded with a final presentation at Umm Al Emarat Park from 12 to 27 December.

جامعة نيويورك أبوظبي
NYU | ABU DHABI

Christo and Jeanne-Claude





YOUNG MEDIA LEADERS GRADUATION CEREMONY

APRIL

Under the patronage of H.E. Sheikh Nahyan Mubarak Al Nahyan, Minister of Tolerance and Coexistence, ADMAF held its 17th annual graduation ceremony of the Young Media Leaders programme, celebrating the talent, creativity and achievements of the 2024 cohort.

Held at His Excellency's majlis, the ceremony also served as a tribute to the late Arab journalist Giselle Khoury, honouring her pioneering contributions to Arab media and her unwavering dedication to press freedom on the global stage.

Additionally, the 2023 ADMAF Award winners - rising stars in arts, design, media, and sustainability - were also honoured at the special ceremony for their innovation, ambition and artistic excellence.

SOCIAL UNITY

Promoting cultural understanding through initiatives that connect and support diverse social groups and cultural foundations across all seven Emirates.

FESTIVAL IN THE PARK

16 & 17 FEBRUARY

Held under the patronage of H.H. Sheikha Shamsa bint Hamdan bin Mohammed Al Nahyan, the capital's premiere outdoor cultural event, Festival in the Park, returned with two days of creative workshops and live music concerts at Umm Al Emarat Park. This year, the community-led outdoor gathering paid tribute to the rich heritage of Abu Dhabi Festival 2024's Country of Honour through a fun-filled programme - featuring performances, art workshops, storytelling, and more - that celebrated the beauty of Chinese culture, co-organised by the Chinese Language Institute Middle East (CLIME).

The diverse activities at Festival in the Park included interactive art and music workshops, Chinese calligraphy and painting, tea and porcelain displays, cultural exhibitions, traditional costume photo stations, and open-mic performances. On the grass, families enjoyed Chinese games with giveaways, mascots, storytelling sessions, a vibrant costume fashion show, the iconic Lion Dance, Kung Fu performances, and open-mic music. The live talent on stage featured a special theatrical performance of Peter Pan by S4K International and a collective talent showcase, making it a spectacular celebration of Chinese culture, arts, heritage and creativity.

Additionally, attendees had the unique opportunity to engage in traditional arts and creative activities inspired by Emirati culture, including the Al Ghadeer bracelet making, doll-making, mosaic art, and a sustainable agriculture workshop.



MUSICAL PERFORMANCES: EMIRATIS & FRIENDS ON STAGE

FEBRUARY - DECEMBER

Emirati musicians Hamdan Al Abri, Arqam Al Abri and Fafa performed at Abu Dhabi Festival alongside the critically acclaimed American Jazz artist, Kamasi Washington, on 3 February at Emirates Palace.

Meanwhile, at the Arab world premiere of the China National Symphony Orchestra (CNSO), a highlight of the evening was Ya Bahr by Emirati composer Ihab Darwish, featuring twelve fellow Emirati musicians performing alongside the CNSO - including Elham Al Marzooqi, the UAE's first professional female Emirati cellist. Their participation underscored the Festival's commitment to youth development, which was further reflected in a special encore performance featuring twenty members of the Abu Dhabi Youth Orchestra on stage at Emirates Palace on 14 December.



COMEDY NIGHT WITH ABZ & FRIENDS

20 DECEMBER

Abz Ali, one of the first Emirati comedians to make waves in the industry, returned to the Festival for an evening of comedy with friends at The Broadway, Emirates Palace, performing exclusively for ADMAF Alumni including graduates from the Young Media Leaders programme and award winners. Hosted by Noha Bashir and headlined by Abz, the show also featured fellow comedian Imah Dumagay, bringing laughter to audiences in a night of unforgettable humour.



PEOPLE OF DETERMINATION

Developing the skills of People of Determination and providing opportunities for active participation in society, fostering a spirit of inclusion and empowerment.



For nearly three decades, ADMAF has considered the care of people of determination a fundamental pillar of its mission, aiming to involve, inspire and mentor through multiple education and community programmes, as well as headline performances. In the spirit of inclusion, one of the Foundation's key objectives is to develop the skills of people of determination and provide accessible opportunities to actively participate in society. A wide array of carefully tailored programmes encourage compassion and understanding through creative engagements.

FESTIVAL IN THE PARK WORKSHOPS & ACTIVITIES

16 & 17 FEBRUARY

In line with ADMAF's ongoing commitment to promoting inclusivity in the arts, People of Determination were given exclusive access to art, music and cultural workshops throughout Festival in the Park.



ART FOR AUTISM COMPETITION WITH ABU DHABI UNIVERSITY

24 APRIL

In 2024, the 8th edition of the Arts for Autism competition, supported by ADMAF in collaboration with the Abu Dhabi University and the Ministry of Education, received more than 80 artworks from students from various determination centres and schools across the UAE. The competition encouraged young artists to express their creativity through self-chosen themes, with winning pieces displayed at Abu Dhabi University's main campus.

Winners in the 6-11 age group included Muhammad Muneeb Baig from Al Noor Training Centre, Ariana Amelia Baksh from Dubai Autism Centre, and Tanmay Mahajan from Mayoor Private School. Meanwhile winning prizes in the 12-5 category went to Asmaa Ishaq Mohammed Naseeb Al Balushi from Al Ain Autism Centre, Saif Ahmed Jalal from Al-Iman Special School, and Mubarak Ali Mubarak Ali Saeed Al Owlaqi from Al Ain Autism Centre.



STORIES OF INCLUSION

JUNE - JULY

In 2024, ADMAF launched the second edition of Stories of Inclusion, an inspiring four-part digital interview series hosted by Tony Baroud, celebrating the extraordinary achievements of People of Determination. The series features inspiring Emirati and international individuals who share their powerful journeys and the challenges they have triumphantly overcome in fields such as journalism, music, sports, and travel.

The episodes highlight the remarkable Noura Al Blooki, a journalist who defied societal expectations and navigated the challenges of working in a traditionally demanding industry. Ahmad Al Hashemi, a talented pianist, overcame physical limitations to become a celebrated musician, breaking barriers in the world of classical music. Omar Al Chami, a determined swimmer, has faced both physical and mental hurdles on his journey to compete at a professional level. Finally, Tony Giles, a brave blind traveller and author, who has journeyed solo across the world, overcoming the limitations of blindness to inspire others through the documentation of his adventures. The series highlights the UAE's visionary leadership fosters an inclusive and empowering environment for all through championing People of Determination.



HEALING THROUGH THE ARTS

Raising awareness of the importance of arts and culture in patient healing and recovery.



MUSIC IN HOSPITALS

JUNE - JULY

An ADMAF initiative that seeks to use the therapeutic power of music to aid in the healing process, the programme gives patients and medical professionals the opportunity to experience beautiful music recitals performed by the nation's gifted musicians. In 2024, ADMAF partnered with Salma Rehabilitation Hospital and Cleveland Clinic Abu Dhabi to present four performances and a talk by Dr. Noora al Mazrouei and students from the British School Al Khubairat (BSAK).



ADMAF SUPPORT SCHEMES

Enabling independent cultural practice, study and research in the UAE and beyond

ADMAF is committed to nurturing creativity and innovation both at home and abroad, and supporting artists, scholars, and researchers, helping them to develop their skills, explore new ideas, and create groundbreaking work. With a focus on promoting cultural exchange and fostering cross-cultural understanding, ADMAF's support plays an important role in shaping the future of the arts, both locally and globally.

Additionally, ADMAF Support Schemes facilitate artistic and cultural projects that would otherwise not be possible. Through these schemes and mentorships, emerging and established Emirati art practitioners, among other individuals and organisations, with the ambition to further their artistic practice and add value to UAE society.

In 2024, ADMAF supported the production of young Emirati filmmaker Ahmed al Hbsi's short film titled, 'Bus 36.' The film by the rising star explores themes of identity, belonging and personal growth. ADMAF also granted six winners of the 2024 Art for Autism competition - in collaboration with the Abu Dhabi University and the Ministry of Education - with prizes to support their creative aspirations.



DIPLOMACY & CULTURAL EXCHANGE

**BUILDING BRIDGES OF
UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN
CULTURES AND NATIONS
THROUGH MUSIC AND THE ARTS**

In addition to the Foundation's successful cross-cultural collaborations that took place throughout 2024, held in partnership with some of the world's leading cultural institutions, ADMAF continued its commitment to advancing cultural diplomacy and mutual understanding through a series of landmark visits by the Founder, including historic trips to the Republic of Korea, the People's Republic of China, and various cities across Europe, as well as Los Angeles - the creative capital of the United States.





MOU SIGNING WITH ANWAR GARGASH DIPLOMATIC ACADEMY (AGDA)

23 APRIL, ABU DHABI

Anwar Gargash Diplomatic Academy (AGDA) - a globally recognised diplomatic centre of excellence in the UAE, signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Abu Dhabi Music and Arts Foundation (ADMAF) - to introduce collaborative initiatives aimed at boosting the UAE's position on the global cultural and creativity map. The agreement was signed by AGDA's Director General, H.E. Nickolay Mladenov, and ADMAF Founder, H.E. Huda Al Khamis-Kanoo, in the presence of a number of senior officials.



THE ORDER OF THE STAR OF ITALY

30 APRIL, ABU DHABI

H.E. Huda Al Khamis-Kanoo, Founder of ADMAF, was honoured with the prestigious Order of the Star of Italy with the rank of Grand Officer. The esteemed award was presented by the Italian Ambassador to the UAE, H.E. Lorenzo Fanara, on behalf of the President of the Italian Republic, H.E. Sergio Mattarella, in recognition of Her Excellency's exceptional cultural achievements and her significant role in representing Italy on the global stage.

The special ceremony took place in Abu Dhabi in the presence of H.E. Sheikh Nahyan bin Mubarak Al Nahyan, Minister of Tolerance and Coexistence and Patron of ADMAF, celebrating the Founder's unwavering dedication to fostering cultural exchange and enriching the international cultural landscape.



MOU SIGNING WITH THE SEOUL METROPOLITAN GOVERNMENT

8 MAY, ABU DHABI

In the presence of H.E. Sheikh Nahyan Mubarak Al Nahyan, Founder of ADMAF, H.E. Huda Al Khamis-Kanoo, signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) in cultural collaboration between the Abu Dhabi Music & Arts Foundation (ADMAF) and the Seoul Metropolitan Government with the Mayor of Seoul, H.E. Oh Se-hoon, at the Emirates Palace in Abu Dhabi.

This historic agreement strengthens a partnership of over 15 years and seeks to explore new avenues for cross-cultural exchange, deepen bonds of friendship and collaboration, and build bridges that transcend boundaries and connect people.



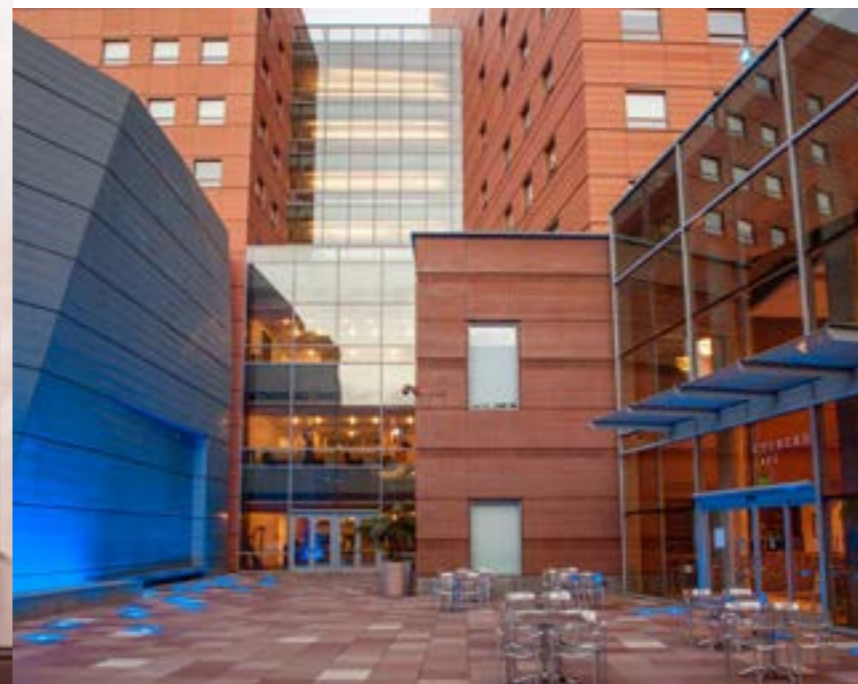
ABU DHABI FESTIVAL HONOURS MAESTRO DANIEL BARENBOIM

4 JUNE, BERLIN

During the Founder's visit to Berlin, world-renowned pianist and conductor, Maestro Daniel Barenboim was honoured with the Abu Dhabi Festival Award - presented in partnership with Chopard - in recognition of his outstanding lifetime contributions to music and culture, and his significant efforts in promoting equality and dialogue through music.



DIPLOMACY & CULTURAL EXCHANGE



ADMAF MEETS WITH COLBURN SCHOOL OF MUSIC

13 JUNE, LOS ANGELES

ADMAF met with counterparts from the Colburn School of Music in Los Angeles, California, including Mrs. Annie Wickert, Senior Vice President of Philanthropy and Director of Capital Campaign, to explore new avenues for collaboration - with a focus on supporting youth empowerment and music education through grants, residencies, masterclasses, as well as international partnerships.

CULTURAL DIALOGUE WITH LOS ANGELES COUNTY MUSEUM OF ART

13 JUNE, LOS ANGELES

H.E. Huda Al Khamis-Kanoo, Founder of ADMAF, met with Ms. Elisabeth Wiatt, Senior Vice President of the Los Angeles County Museum of Art (LACMA), and Dr. Linda Komaroff, Curator of Islamic Art and Contemporary Art from the Middle East at LACMA. The meeting explored the possibility of initiating cultural exchange programmes aimed at fostering creativity and mutual cultural understanding between Abu Dhabi and Los Angeles.





**ADMAF FOUNDER
H.E. HUDA AL KHAMIS-KANOO
HONOURED WITH CERTIFICATE
OF RECOGNITION**

14 JUNE, LOS ANGELES

During Her Excellency's visit to Los Angeles, she was honoured by Mayor Karen Bass with a certificate of recognition for her unwavering dedication to global philanthropy, her influential role as the Founder of ADMAF and Abu Dhabi Festival, and advocacy as a patron of the arts.



**REINA SOFÍA SCHOOL OF MUSIC'S
ANNUAL INTERNATIONAL CIRCLE
MEETING**

18 JUNE, MADRID

As a member of the International Circle of the Reina Sofía School of Music, Madrid, Founder of ADMAF, H.E. Huda Al Khamis-Kanoo, attended the Annual Meeting in Madrid under the presidency of Her Majesty Queen Sofia in Madrid. Mrs. Paloma O'Shea, President of the Reina Sofía School of Music, congratulated members of the International Circle for their continuous contributions to scholarships for students and collaborative programming, enriching and inspiring diverse young talents.



**ABU DHABI FESTIVAL PREMIERES PICTURES AT AN EXHIBITION:
THE PAINTINGS OF BOB PEAK**

14 JUNE, LOS ANGELES

The Abu Dhabi Festival unveiled one of the most ambitious musical commissions of our time: Pictures at an Exhibition: The Paintings of Bob Peak, at Walt Disney Concert Hall in Los Angeles. This groundbreaking work brought together ten renowned composers, each creating a movement inspired by the late legendary artist, Bob Peak, with the Los Angeles Film Orchestra under the baton of internationally acclaimed conductor Leonard Slatkin. Among the contributors is Emirati composer Ihab Darwish, commissioned by the Festival to write a new musical movement inspired by Bob Peak's paintings. This collaboration exemplifies the convergence of cultures and artistic expressions, embodying the spirit of unity and creativity championed by the UAE.

During a special ceremony at the concert, H.E. Huda Al Khamis-Kanoo, Founder of ADMAF and the Abu Dhabi Festival, honoured visionary artist Bob Peak for his outstanding contributions with the Abu Dhabi Festival Award, presented in partnership with Chopard. The award, accepted on behalf of Bob Peak's family by his son Thomas Peak, recognises his enduring legacy and global impact as a pioneering force in visual storytelling and commercial art.

Also on the night, world-renowned conductor Leonard Slatkin was honoured with the Abu Dhabi Festival Award in recognition of his remarkable achievements as an extraordinary conductor, composer, author, and educator, as well as his unwavering commitment to nurturing future generations of musicians, in the presence of the Deputy Mayor of Los Angeles, Karen Bass.

**CULTURAL CONNECTIONS:
ADMAF AND LA SCALA**

21 JUNE, MILAN

H.E. Huda Al Khamis-Kanoo, Founder of ADMAF, met with Mr. Dominique Meyer, Superintendent of La Scala in Milan, to discuss possibilities for cultural collaboration and formalise an agreement on upcoming co-productions - further expanding Abu Dhabi Festival and the UAE's presence on the global stage, while strengthening international dialogue around creativity and innovation.



**DOLCE&GABBANA'S 'FROM
THE HEART TO THE HANDS'
EXHIBITION**

21 JUNE, MILAN

H.E. Huda Al Khamis-Kanoo, Founder of ADMAF, was invited by Ms. Giuseppina Cannizzaro, Head of Couture Division at Dolce&Gabbana and Mr. Stefano Galli, Alta Moda Senior VIP Relations of Dolce&Gabbana to tour D&G's new groundbreaking exhibition, 'From the Heart to the Hands,' in Milan. An occasion to celebrate the craftsmanship and excellence of their collection, while also further discussing collaborative efforts to empower emerging Emirati designers in the luxury industry via the Dolce&Gabbana X ADMAF Design Awards.



ART @ EMBASSIES

2 SEPTEMBER

Art @ Embassies stimulates cultural diplomacy through intercultural dialogue and building bridges between nations through the power of art. This important initiative offers an invaluable insight and access to culture and artistic expressions from the UAE, bringing exceptional Emirati creative talents to the international stage and creating unique opportunities for cultural exchange.

In 2024, ADMAF presented the third edition of Art @ Embassies in Seoul, in collaboration with the UAE Embassy to the Republic of Korea, building on the success of previous editions held in two of the world's leading cultural capitals: London and Paris.

Held at the UAE Embassy in Seoul on 2 September 2024, the event featured an insightful discussion between celebrated Emirati artist Mohammed Kazem, during his artist-in-residence programme at SeMA Nanji Residency, and Gahee Park, curator at the Seoul Museum of Art (SeMA).

In the presence of H.E. Abdulla Saif Ali Slayem AlNuaimi, UAE Ambassador to the Republic of Korea, and H.E. Huda Al Khamis-Kanoo, Founder of ADMAF and Abu Dhabi Festival, the discussion offered insights into Kazem's artistic practice and inspirations, as well as the Emirati art community and cultural landscape. H.E. Abdulla Saif Ali Slayem Al Nuaimi emphasised the importance of cultural dialogue in strengthening ties between the UAE and Korea.

The third edition of Art @ Embassies in Seoul contributed to the unique institutional collaboration between ADMAF and SeMA, paving the way for two upcoming historic exhibitions, one in Abu Dhabi and another in Seoul, while also strengthening ties between the UAE and Korea through cultural dialogue and exchange.



ENERGY PARTNER



ART @ EMBASSIES

Presented by ADMAF in partnership with UAE Embassy to the Republic of Korea Seoul, Korea



STRENGTHENING CULTURAL TIES: ADMAF'S HISTORIC TRIP TO SEOUL

2 SEPTEMBER, SEOUL

H.E. Huda Al Khamis-Kanoo, Founder of ADMAF's most recent visit to Seoul, Republic of Korea, marked a pivotal moment in the enduring partnership between the UAE and Korea. The trip underscored ADMAF's ongoing commitment to strengthening international relations through art and cultural exchange.

During the historic visit, Her Excellency engaged with key Korean ambassadors, artists, creatives, cultural institutions and potential partners - opening a new chapter of collaboration between the two nations. These engagements included strategic discussions with Ms. DooEun Choi, Art Director and Vice President of Artlab at Hyundai Motor Group; Dr. Mariet Westermann, Director and CEO of the Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum & Foundation; the CEO of ADMAF's energy partner, GS Energy, Mr. Yongsoo Huh; Mr. Jung Won-Ju, Chairman of Daewoo Engineering and Construction; and Mr. Choi Jin Young, President of Herald Media Group, to name a few.



MEETING WITH MAYOR OH SE-HOON

4 SEPTEMBER, SEOUL

Founder of ADMAF, H.E. Huda Al Khamis-Kanoo meets with H.E. Oh Se-hoon, Mayor of Seoul as well as Mrs. Song Hyun-Ok, Professor of Film Art, Mr. Hae-sun Lee, Director-General, Global City Policy Bureau at Seoul Metropolitan Government, and Ms. Choi Eunju, General Director of Seoul Museum of Art. The partnership aims to strengthen cultural ties and build long-lasting relations that transcend boundaries.



MOU SIGNING WITH THE KOREAN FOUNDATION FOR INTERNATIONAL CULTURAL EXCHANGE (KOFICE)

5 SEPTEMBER, SEOUL

The Abu Dhabi Music & Arts Foundation (ADMAF) forged partnership with the Korean Foundation for International Cultural Exchange (KOFICE), reaffirming its dedication to strengthening cultural cooperation and artistic exchange between the United Arab Emirates and the Republic of Korea. In the presence of His Excellency Abdulla Saif Ali Slayem Al Nuaimi, Ambassador of the UAE to the Republic of Korea, the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) was signed by H.E. Huda Al Khamis-Kanoo, Founder of ADMAF and Mr. Chang-Shik Park, President of KOFICE.

The MOU marked a pivotal step in expanding the cultural dialogue between the two nations, reflecting a shared vision of fostering creativity and exchange. This partnership became a cornerstone of the '2024 Korea Season in the UAE,' presented as part of the Abu Dhabi Festival 2024. It featured the Middle East premiere of Korean National Contemporary Dance Company (KNCDC) with performances at the Louvre Abu Dhabi and NYU Abu Dhabi; a research trip and panel discussion with artists from the Nam June Paik Art Center at Abu Dhabi Art; and a joint performance by Korea's 'Orchestra of Dream' alongside the Abu Dhabi Youth Orchestra.



MEETING WITH ABU DHABI FESTIVAL AWARD RECIPIENT: MS. MIKY LEE

6 SEPTEMBER, SEOUL

ADMAF's Founder met with Ms. Miky Lee, Chairwoman of CJ ENM and 2024 Abu Dhabi Festival Award recipient, in Seoul. As part of far-reaching engagements with South Korean arts and cultural institutions, their discussion explored ways to expand Abu Dhabi Festival's - and the broader UAE cultural industry's - imprint on the world stage.

HISTORIC VISIT TO THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA

12 - 24 OCTOBER, CHINA - HONG KONG AND SHANGHAI

In October, Founder of ADMAF, H.E. Huda Al Khamis-Kanoo, embarked on a historic trip to the People's Republic of China, from Hong Kong to Shanghai, where Her Excellency engaged with 45 prominent Chinese cultural institutions, ambassadors, artists, creatives, thought leaders and potential partners to explore new avenues for collaboration. The visit builds on over 40 years of friendship and diplomatic ties between the United Emirates and the People's Republic of China, that was celebrated as the country of honour at the 21st edition of Abu Dhabi Festival.

In Hong Kong, the Founder met with Ms. Eve Tam, Hong Kong's Leisure and Cultural Services Department's Deputy Director of Culture, Ms. Betty Fung, CEO of West Kowloon Cultural District, Ms. Veronica Castillo, Acting M+ Museum Director, Mr. Ronnie Chan, Chair Emeritus of the Asia Society and Chairman of the Asia Society Hong Kong Center, Mr. Benedikt Fohr, Chief Executive of the Hong Kong Philharmonic Orchestra, Ms. Meggy Cheng, Executive Director of the Hong Kong Dance Company, amongst others.

Her Excellency also met with a high-level delegation of senior officials from Hong Kong's arts scene, including Mr. Kenneth Fok, Chairman of the Hong Kong Arts Development Council, Dr. Wilfred Wong, Vice-Chairman of the Culture Commission of the Hong Kong Government, and Mr. Nicholas Ho Lik-chi, Commissioner for the Belt & Road Office. The key focus of the meeting was to explore avenues to enhance cultural collaboration between Abu Dhabi and Hong Kong, including co-productions, artist exchanges, and the potential for joint initiatives to foster creative partnerships and cultural dialogue. This potential partnership marks an exciting step forward for the future of UAE-China ties, highlighting the power of culture to build bridges, uniting people and communities across the world.

In Shanghai, the Founder met with Mr. Jian-Jun Zhang, Deputy Director, Shanghai Power Station of Art, Mr. Hao Zheng, Founder of HOW Art Museum in Shanghai, Mr. Paul Freches, Project Manager of the Centre Pompidou x West Bund Museum Project in Shanghai, renowned Chinese conductor Maestro Long Yu, but to name a few. The ADMAF team were also invited for a guided tour of the 8th Jing'an International Sculpture Project (JISP) at Ullens Center for Contemporary Art (UCCA) led by UCCA's Director, Mr. Philip Tinari, Director, and the Deputy Project Director of the UCCA Lab Shanghai, Ms. Gillian King. In addition, the Founder also visited Museum of Art Pudong to meet the team and for a guided tour of the creative space.

In a further engagement, the Founder met with H.E. Shaikh Saoud Ali Almualla, UAE Consul General to Hong Kong and H.E. Muhannad Sulaiman Abdalla Ahmed Alnaqbi, UAE Consul General to Shanghai, to discuss the possibility of presenting an upcoming edition of ADMAF's cultural diplomacy initiative, Art @ Embassies, in Beijing, Shanghai, and Hong Kong. This potential collaboration, in partnership with the UAE Embassy in Beijing and the UAE Consulates in Hong Kong and Shanghai, will build on the success of previous editions held in three of the world's cultural capitals: London, Paris, and Seoul, while further strengthening cultural ties between the UAE and China.



DIPLOMACY & CULTURAL EXCHANGE



ADMAF FOUNDER H.E. HUDA AL KHAMIS-KANOO IS HONOURED WITH THE UAE ORDER FOR CULTURE AND CREATIVITY

6 NOVEMBER, ABU DHABI

In the presence of His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President, Prime Minister, and Ruler of Dubai, His Highness Sheikh Mansour bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Vice President, Deputy Prime Minister, and Chairman of the Presidential Court, H.E. Sheikh Salem bin Khalid Al Qassimi, Minister of Culture, ADMAF and Abu Dhabi Festival Founder, H.E. Huda Al Khamis-Kanoo, received the UAE Order for Culture and Creativity in the Custodian category. The UAE Order was bestowed upon Her Excellency in recognition of her outstanding contributions to cultural and creative expression, supporting the UAE's journey of sustainable development towards a brighter future.



ADMAF AND AGDA HOST PANEL DISCUSSION: INTERCULTURAL RELATIONS EXCHANGE BETWEEN UAE AND CHINA: STRATEGY FOR THE FUTURE AND CHALLENGES

14 NOVEMBER, ABU DHABI

In celebration of 40 years of diplomatic relations between the United Arab Emirates and China, ADMAF co-hosted an insightful panel discussion - in partnership with the Anwar Gargash Diplomatic Academy (AGDA) - titled, 'Intercultural Relations Exchange between UAE and China: Strategy for the Future and Challenges.'

The forum brought together senior diplomats and key experts to discuss the enduring partnership between the two nations and address both the opportunities and complexities involved in strengthening intercultural connections for a progressive future. Moderated by Dr. Tingyi Wang, a researcher fellow at AGDA, the esteemed panel featured H.E. Noura Al Kaabi, Minister of State at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, H.E. Zhang Yiming, Ambassador of the People's Republic of China to the UAE, and H.E. Nickolay Mladenov, Director General of AGDA, who engaged in a discussion on diplomatic strategies and cultural diplomacy as forms of soft power to build mutual understanding and cooperation.



2024 KOREA SEASON IN THE UAE

16 NOVEMBER, ABU DHABI

The cultural bonds between the UAE and South Korea were celebrated at the '2024 Korea Season in the UAE,' organised by the Abu Dhabi Music and Arts Foundation (ADMAF) in partnership with Korean Foundation for International Cultural Exchange (KOFICE). Running as part of the 21st edition of Abu Dhabi Festival, taking place across the UAE's capital, the season featured the Middle East debut performance by the Korea National Contemporary Dance Company (KNCDC), who presented the critically acclaimed production Flow While Still on 16 November at the Louvre Abu Dhabi and Jungle on 20 November at New York University Abu Dhabi.



UNITED ARAB EMIRATES
MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS



الإمارات العربية المتحدة
وزارة الخارجية



MOU SIGNING WITH MOFA

4 DECEMBER, ABU DHABI

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA) and the Abu Dhabi Music & Arts Foundation (ADMAF) reaffirmed their commitment to cultural diplomacy by signing a renewed Memorandum of Understanding (MoU), building upon the initial agreement signed in March 2018. H.E. Noura Al Kaabi, Minister of State at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, H.E. Huda Al Khamis-Kanoo, Founder of ADMAF, signed the agreement, reflecting their shared dedication to enhancing the UAE's global cultural presence.

This renewed commitment for collaboration between MOFA and ADMAF supports the UAE's leadership in promoting the values of openness and peace, and building bridges of international cooperation and cultural exchange, reinforcing the UAE's rich heritage and innovative artistic contributions.

ADMAF FOUNDER H.E. HUDA AL KHAMIS-KANOO JOINS UAE NATIONAL ORCHESTRA BOARD

19 DECEMBER, ABU DHABI

ADMAF and Abu Dhabi Festival Founder, H.E. Huda Al Khamis-Kanoo was appointed to the Board of Directors for the UAE National Orchestra, established under the patronage of His Highness Sheikh Abdullah bin Zayed Al Nahyan Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs. The establishment of the UAE National Orchestra highlights the nation's commitment to advancing various artistic disciplines and recognising their essential role in shaping societal identity while fostering communication and cohesion within the community. Her Excellency joins the Board of Directors, contributing her expertise as patron of arts and culture.



A Key Resource on Arts & Culture in the UAE

ADMAF Publications serves as an essential resource for understanding the development of the UAE's arts and culture sector, offering valuable insights into the Foundation's achievements and its impact on the region's cultural landscape. From newsletters and student-led publications to major works focusing on pioneering artists, ADMAF's extensive archive highlights the diversity of creative expression and cultural dialogue within the UAE. These publications capture the evolution of the arts and the collaborative efforts that have shaped the nation's rich cultural identity, reinforcing ADMAF's position as a key contributor to the region's cultural growth.

For supporters, stakeholders, beneficiaries, and partners, ADMAF Publications provide invaluable insights into the trends, initiatives, and key figures driving the sector forward. These works offer a comprehensive overview of the UAE's creative ecosystem, supporting the promotion of artistic talent, innovation and cultural exchange both within the UAE and beyond.

ABU DHABI FESTIVAL PROGRAMMES

Commemorative programmes are exclusively available to ticket holders of Abu Dhabi Festival's headline performances and exhibitions. Each booklet offers detailed insight into the history of the works presented and performed, as well as biographies of the participating artists and companies.

ADMAF Tribune

NOVEMBER 2024 | THE KOREA EDITION



Abu Dhabi and Seoul Deepen cultural ties with new agreement 2

Bridging Cultures: UAE and South Korea Unite in Abu Dhabi Festival's 2024 Korea Season Celebration

SEOUL

The cultural bonds between the UAE and South Korea were celebrated at the 2024 Korea Season in the UAE, organised by the Abu Dhabi Music and Arts Foundation (ADMAF) in collaboration with the Korean Foundation for International Cultural Exchange (KOFICE).

Running as part of the flagship 2024 Abu Dhabi Festival, taking place across the UAE's capital city, the 2024 Korea Season in the UAE featured the Middle East debut performance by the Korea National Contemporary Dance Company (KNCDC), who presented the critically acclaimed production *Flour While Still* on November 16 and *Jungle* at the Louvre Abu Dhabi and New York University Abu Dhabi.

Also, part of the program—that featured a full itinerary of events that celebrated Korean culture—was *Orchestra of Dream*, a collaborative perfor-

mance featuring KNCDC and the Abu Dhabi Youth Orchestra on 27 November at the Blue Hall, New York University Abu Dhabi.

The initiatives follow a recent visit to Seoul, South Korea, by H.E. Huda Al Khamis-Kanoo, Founder of the Abu Dhabi Music and Arts Foundation and Artistic Director of the Abu Dhabi Festival, where a partnership agreement was formalised with the Korean Foundation for International Cultural Exchange (KOFICE) at the historic Gyeongbokgung Palace. In attendance were the UAE Ambassador to South Korea, H.E. Abdulla Saif Ali Slagem Al Naimi, and KOFICE President Mr. Chang-Sik Park.

H.E. Mrs. Kanoo also engaged with key figures across Korea's cultural, diplomatic, and educational spheres, thus setting the stage for further cultural collaborations to come.



President of KOFICE, Mr. Chang-Sik Park, with ADMAF Founder, H.E. Huda Al Khamis-Kanoo, at Gyeongbokgung Palace.

“The signing of the MoU with the Korea Foundation for International Cultural Exchange (KOFICE) reflects our vision to strengthen cultural diplomacy and international cooperation and to provide cultural and creative programs with a distinguished presence and active Emirati participation globally. In partnership with KOFICE, we will lead on innovation, creative thinking, and cultural understanding to build bridges of dialogue and nurture the arts. Alongside these cultural exchange initiatives, the MoU will support skills development and capacity building through the pioneering experiences of institutions and artists from both countries.”

- H.E. Huda Al Khamis-Kanoo, ADMAF Founder & Artistic Director of the Abu Dhabi Festival



H.E. Abdulla Saif Ali Slagem Al Naimi, the UAE Ambassador to the Republic of Korea, President of KOFICE, Mr. Chang-Sik, with ADMAF Founder, H.E. Huda Al Khamis-Kanoo.

ADMAF TRIBUNE

The ADMAF Tribune is a print and online resource written with contributions from members of the Young Media Leaders programme, providing them with valuable experience in writing interviews, feature pieces and news articles. In 2024, The Tribune covered highlights from the 21st edition of Abu Dhabi Festival, as well as the Founder's historic trip to Seoul - the cultural capital of the Republic of Korea.

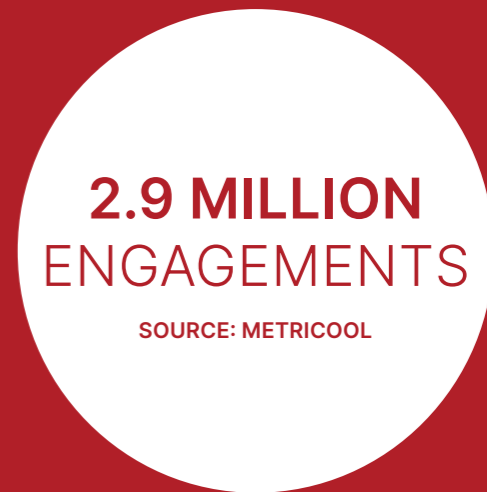
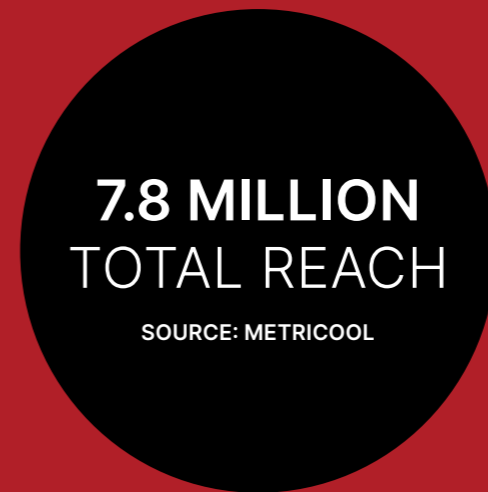
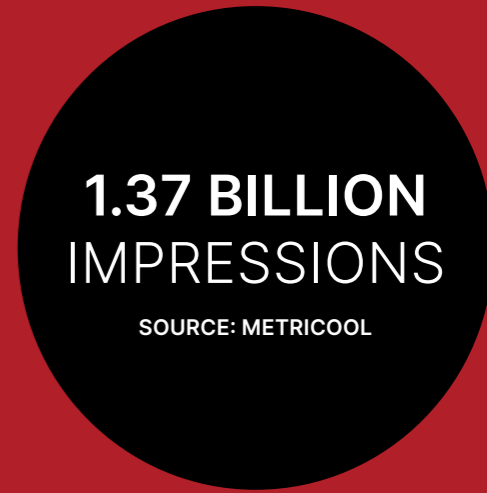
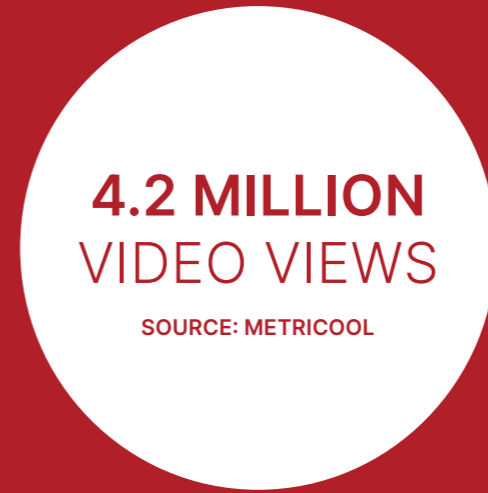
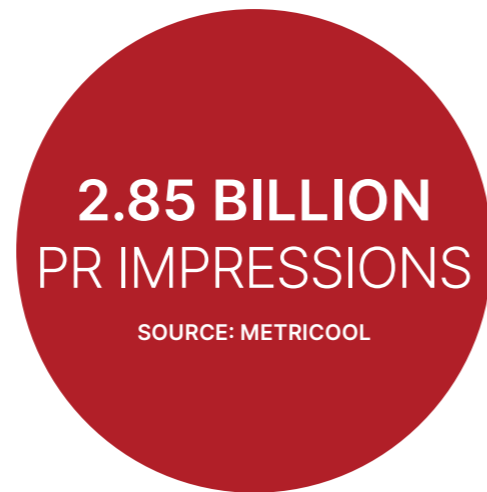
ADMAF MARKETING

ADMAF marketing plays an important role in highlighting the significance of the Foundation's activities and developing audiences for them.



ADMAF MARKETING DATA

Key statistics showcasing the Foundation's milestones and achievements in 2024.



2024

ADMAF TEAM

Michel El Gemayel	Executive Director
Toufic Maatouk	Deputy Executive Director
Amr Gomaa	Chief Finance Officer
Juliet Brown	Executive Manager
Giacomo Marconi	Executive Manager
Jean-Pierre Rouphael	Executive Manager
Souad El Berjaoui	Office Manager
Arianna Grosso	Senior Manager
Sameh Kaawach	Manager
Abdelwahab Benabdallah	Manager
Hanan Wahba	Manager
Zeina Jomaa	Manager
Shahul Hameed	Manager
Sara Jizzini	Manager
David Suaza	Manager
Sue Omar	Editor
Tawfik Alsayed	Graphic Designer
Sheryl Biscocho	Senior Coordinator
Grace Monera	Assistant Manager
Juliana Habib	Personal Assistant
Nour El Hakim	Executive
Mohammed Lari	Executive
Mohamed Al Abed	Executive
Reem Hamdan	Executive
Hyeyoung Kim	Executive
Jacqueline Bibares	Coordinator
Cristine Carillo	Coordinator
Daad Moukahal	Coordinator
Letizia Musella	Coordinator
Bachar Kaawach	Coordinator
Alessandro Viola	Coordinator
Bernafrances Rivera	Assistant Accountant
Francesca Lanto	Accountant
Ana Liza Mayo	Receptionist
Babu K.V Office	Messenger

