



# NEIGHBORS

**Culture  
core in  
connectivity ...  
come see  
who we are**

... and still only just 50



This new season explores the many geographic paths and singular voices that have created significant artistic and cultural connections across the globe.

Louvre Abu Dhabi's new cultural season will be anchored by three international exhibitions, the launch of a new annual exhibition and art prize, and a popular ongoing exhibition at the Children's Museum, accompanied by a rich public programme. This new season explores the many geographic paths and singular voices that have created significant artistic and cultural connections across the globe. In celebration of the UAE's 50th National Day and the museum's own recent fourth anniversary on 11 November, Louvre Abu Dhabi offers a range of programming and events celebrating global exchange and connectivity with Abu Dhabi and the United Arab Emirates.

Manuel Rabaté, Director, Louvre Abu Dhabi, said: "As the UAE welcomes the world over the coming months, Louvre Abu Dhabi will truly offer something for everyone in this upcoming season of exhibitions, events and programming. New international exhibitions, new acquisitions and masterpieces on loan will join a display of works from each of the seven Emirates. In this extraordinary Jubilee year, we remain resilient and deeply rooted in our community, committed to our mission of telling stories of cultural connections throughout this season, beginning with Dragon & Phoenix."

Dr. Souraya Noujaim, Scientific, Curatorial and Collections Management Director, added: "The strength of our collection and display of artworks at Louvre Abu Dhabi comes from our unique semi-permanent model and the storytelling potential this represents. There is always a renewed narrative on global connectivity and the many shared threads therein. Through collaboration with our generous network of partners, we are able to present masterworks on loan alongside our permanent collection, rather than taking an approach of encyclopaedic and exhaustive acquisition. Through telling these constantly refreshed stories in this way, we are building a national collection for the people of the UAE."

#### Exhibitions

An exceptional new exhibition, held in partnership with the Musée National des Arts Asiatiques – Guimet and curated by Sophie Makariou, looks at artistic and cultural exchanges between China and the Islamic world. Running from 6 October 2021 – 12 February 2022, Dragon and Phoenix – Centuries of Exchange between Chinese and Islamic Worlds explores this history of mutual exchange and fascination, unfolding over five chapters and featuring immersive scenography chronicling the 8th – 18th centuries. The Islamic world consistently turned its gaze towards China, the model for technical advances and objects of beauty. In contrast, the Islamic world was a supplier of luxury objects – particularly

those made of glass – and an important source of inspiration for China, whose interest was sparked following a long history of cultural and material exchange. The primacy of Chinese artistic production would only be rivalled when an alternative model with a radically different aesthetic captured the attentions of the Islamic world: that of Europe.

Complementing the exhibition is a selection of hand-picked weekend family film screenings and kayak cinema shows in November and December. In addition, Dragon Boats will join the popular, ongoing yoga and kayaking activities at the museum.

Through a joint collaboration with leading Swiss watchmakers Richard Mille, Louvre Abu Dhabi has established an annual exhibition and art prize for contemporary artists. The inaugural exhibition Louvre Abu Dhabi Art Here 2021 features all short-listed, UAE-based artists' proposals from 18 November 2021 to 27 March 2022 in the Forum, a space of interaction and exchange dedicated to contemporary art. From these shortlisted artists, one will be selected as the winner of the Richard Mille Art Prize and awarded \$50,000. This collaboration creates a significant platform for artists in the region, as well as an expansion of Louvre Abu Dhabi's display of and engagement with contemporary art.

The first international exhibition of 2022, Versailles and the World (26 January – 4 June 2022), will be held in partnership with musée national des châteaux de Versailles et de Trianon and tells the story of Versailles as a central diplomatic instrument that solidified the prowess of the French royal court and served as the stage for its fascination with various civilisations in a rapidly globalising world. This exhibition is curated by Hélène Delalex, Curator, Furniture and Decorative Arts, and Bertrand Rondot, Chief Curator, Furniture and Decorative Arts, at the musée national des châteaux de Versailles et de Trianon. Global cultures and aesthetics found themselves represented at Versailles as it transformed into a diplomatic hub receiving foreign dignitaries from all around the world. These visits ushered in an unparalleled era of artistic and commercial exchanges, which will be brought to life in this exhibition through an array of objects, from Chinese and Japanese lacquerware to wallpapers and porcelain.

Delving into one medium that is crucial to artistic production, documentation, and communication, Stories of Paper (April – July 2022) will trace the origins of paper in all its forms, from ancient China and the Islamic world, to contemporary global societies. At a time when the use and purpose of paper is being questioned in an increasingly digital world, this exhibition seeks to define paper

**Continued on Page 3**

The Louvre Abu Dhabi. Inset left: New acquisitions and loans in galleries. Inset right: Emotions! The New Art Adventure at Louvre Abu Dhabi Children's Museum.  
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**editor's choice**

