

Manar Abu Dhabi Unveils Artist Line-Up For Second Edition Exhibition

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Manar Abu Dhabi Announces Artist Line-Up For Its Second Edition Exhibition Featuring International Talent

The Department of Culture and Tourism – Abu Dhabi (DCT Abu Dhabi) is set to host the second edition of Manar Abu Dhabi. This event will feature 15 artists and collectives from 10 countries, showcasing 23 light sculptures and immersive installations. The exhibition, themed "The Light Compass," celebrates creativity and highlights Abu Dhabi's diverse landscapes.

Running from 1st November 2025 to 4th January 2026 in Al Ain, and from 15th November 2025 to 4th January 2026 in Abu Dhabi, the event draws inspiration from the Gulf's historical connection with light as a navigational tool and symbol. Curated by Khai Hori, with co-curators Alia Zaal Lootah, Munira Al Sayegh, and Mariam Alshehhi, it promises a unique artistic experience.

Jubail Island will be a central location for the exhibition, featuring large-scale light sculptures and interactive installations. Artists such as Pamela Poh, DRIFT, Shaikha Al Mazrou, and Montreal-based studio Iregular will present works that integrate art with the island's natural mangrove environment. This fusion of art, technology, and nature aims to create an engaging experience for visitors.

In Al Ain, the Al Qattara and Al Jimi Oases will transform into illuminated art trails. These trails will celebrate the connection between water, light, and life. Emirati artists Ammar Al Attar, Khalid Shafar, Maitha Hamdan, and Abdulla Al Mulla will showcase their works alongside international artists Rafael Lozano-Hemmer and Christian Brinkmann.

Souq Al Mina's Unique Installation

At Souq Al Mina, KAWS will collaborate with AllRightsReserved to present KAWS:HOLIDAY Abu Dhabi. This installation features a monumental illuminated sculpture of the artist's signature COMPANION character lifting a glowing moon. The piece promises to be a highlight of the exhibition.

A comprehensive programme of public talks, workshops, and performances will accompany the exhibition. These activities aim to engage visitors throughout its duration. Further details about these events are expected to be announced soon.

The event spans four main locations: Jubail Island, Souq Al Mina, and for the first time in this edition, Al Ain's Al Qattara and Al Jimi Oases. Each location offers a unique setting for exploring the relationship between light and culture through various artistic expressions.