Singaporean curator appointed artistic director of Abu Dhabi Light Show, illuminating both cities with light

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The inaugural Abu Dhabi Light Art Show in 2023 will feature artist Rafael Lozano-Hemmer's installation "Translation Islands." (Courtesy of the Department of Culture and Tourism - Abu Dhabi and the artist)

Singaporean curator Khai Hori (51) has been appointed artistic director of the second Manar Abu Dhabi light art exhibition. Organized by the Department of Culture and Tourism - Abu Dhabi, the second edition will be held in two locations: Al Ain from November 1 to January 4, 2026, and Abu Dhabi from November 15 to January 4, 2026, once again illuminating the archipelago, mangroves, and oases of the emirate.

Kay Horry was previously a senior curator in the Curatorial Development Department at the Singapore Art Museum and the Singapore Heritage Board. (Courtesy of the curator)

"Abu Dhabi Light Show invites audiences and artists into an imaginative encounter shaped by traditional Emirati knowledge and contemporary experiences," said Kay Khoury in a press release. "This edition of 'Light Compass' will be a journey of navigation and discovery, inviting us to observe, feel, and connect with the landscapes and stories revealed by light."

Kai Horry, formerly Deputy Director of Artistic Planning at the Palais de Tokyo in Paris and Senior Curator of Curatorial Development at the Singapore Art Museum and the Singapore Heritage Board, co-curated the exhibition with curators Alia Zaal Lootah and Munira Al Sayegh, and assistant curator Mariam Alshehhi.

teamLab's installation at the inaugural Abu Dhabi Light Festival in 2023. (Courtesy of the Department of Culture and Tourism - Abu Dhabi and the artist)

Themed "Compass of Light," the exhibition will feature 19 newly commissioned works by Emirati and international artists, as well as site-specific light sculptures, projections, and installations. Light serves as both a guide and a medium, contextualizing the traditions of seafarers and desert

nomads while also inspiring poetic modes of knowledge and communication through its ephemeral nature. The light show will span Abu Dhabi's diverse landscape, unfolding in mangroves, sandbanks, oases, and on the city's edge. Jubail Island will take center stage.

For the first time, the exhibition will extend to the UNESCO World Heritage site of Al Ain, home to oases and archaeological sites. The light installation will engage with the unique topography of Al Qattara and Al Jimi Oasis, green sanctuaries nestled in the urban desert sustained by the ancient Aflaj irrigation system, illuminating the enduring connection between water, land, and life.

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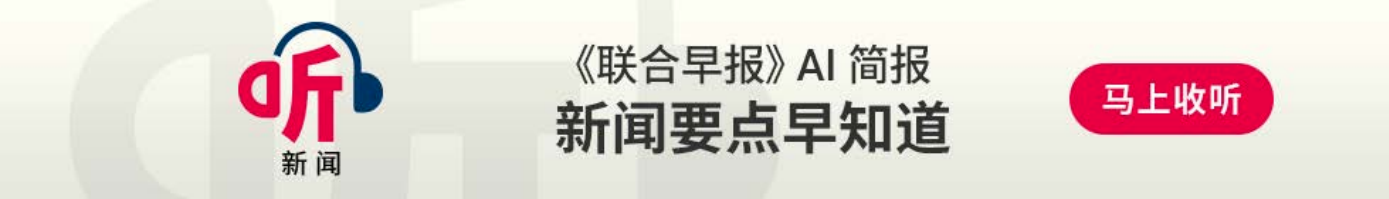

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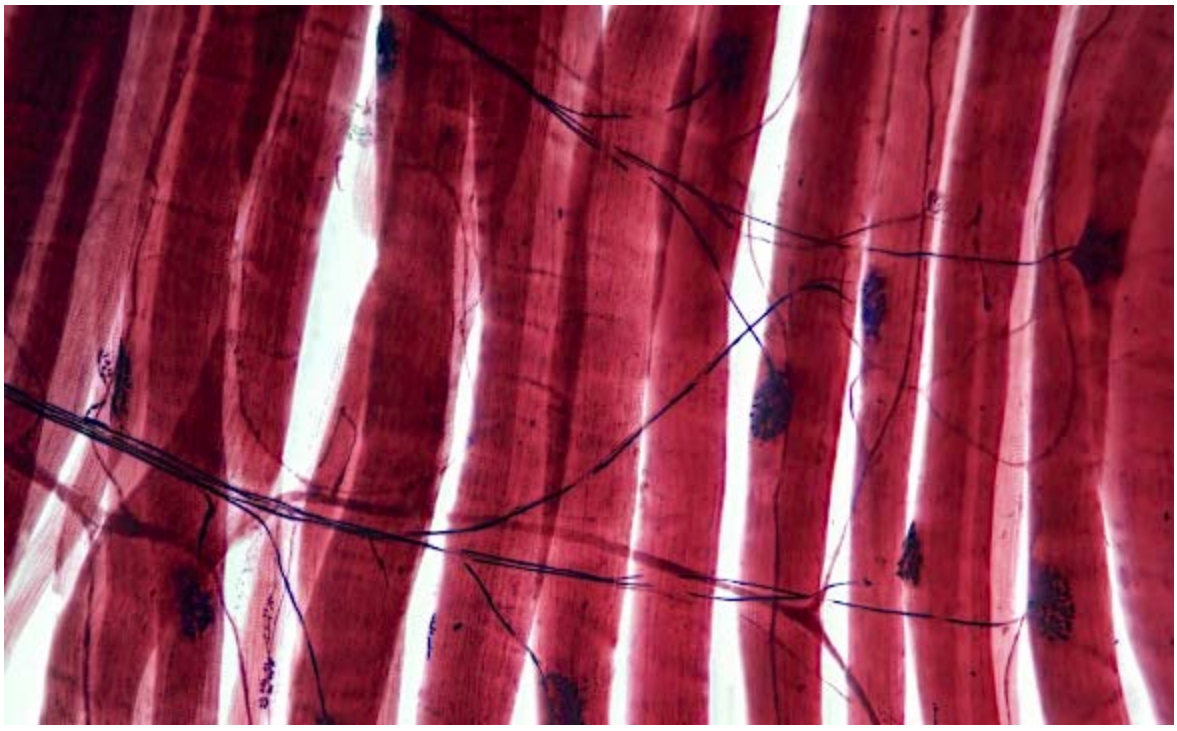

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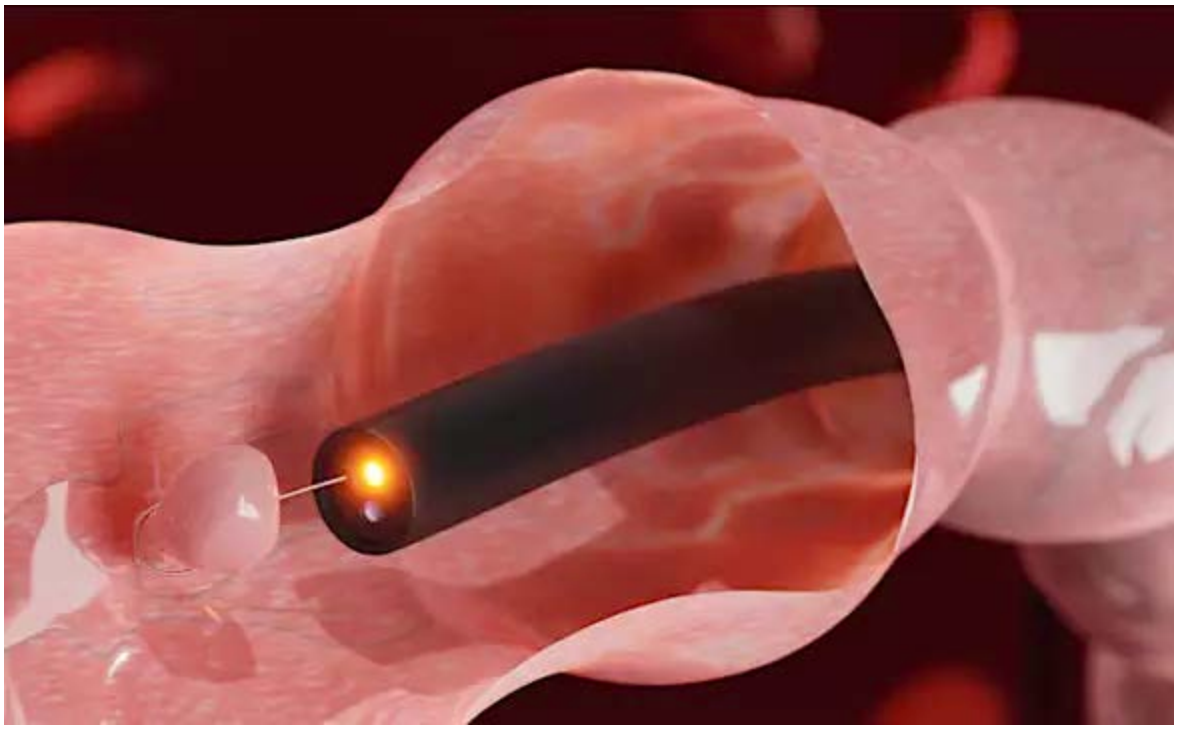

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