

For Immediate Release

Delfina Foundation and Art Jameel Announce Major New Partnership

- Art Jameel is the first major strategic partner for Delfina Foundation; the two like-minded organisations will share expertise and know-how
- Collaborative programmes are set to include new exhibitions and residency programmes in London, Dubai, Jeddah and beyond
- The partnership allows both organisations to extend their reach internationally and across disciplines



Delfina Foundation, London

Jameel Arts Centre, Dubai

Dubai, United Arab Emirates | March 14, 2018 – [Art Jameel](#) and [Delfina Foundation](#) are delighted to announce that they are entering into a significant new partnership, extending the international reach of both organisations, and developing new programming and residency initiatives. The collaboration marks a major new chapter for both organisations, with Art Jameel set to open two new art centres in 2018-2019 and Delfina Foundation looking to both secure and expand its current mandate more broadly.

By aligning networks, both organisations will be able to maximise their reach and impact. Art Jameel will have access to Delfina Foundation's expertise in running artists' residencies, and its accompanying network; Delfina Foundation will be able to harness the strategic thinking behind Art Jameel and its

sister organisation Community Jameel, to expand the London organisation's work exploring the relationship between the arts and social change.

The partnership entails sharing expertise and strategies across the two organisations. **Aaron Cezar**, the director of Delfina Foundation, has been appointed as Senior Advisor at Art Jameel, working at large across curatorial, educational and residency planning, collection building, advocacy and organisational development. Meanwhile, **Fady Jameel**, President of Art Jameel, will join Delfina Foundation's board of trustees and, with Art Jameel director **Antonia Carver**, will contribute to shaping Delfina Foundation's future over the next few years.

"We have long admired the work of Delfina Foundation and its founder, Delfina Entrecanales, who has nurtured artists for more than 30 years; their base at Catherine Place is a home-from-home for artists in London, particularly those from the Middle East," said **Fady Jameel**, President, Art Jameel. "Art Jameel shares with Delfina Foundation an ethos that is artist-centric and that is committed to the exceptional power of the arts to generate ideas and facilitate exchange – between practitioners, between artists and audiences, and between contrasting disciplines and schools of thought. Art Jameel has always worked in collaboration with like-minded organisations to create opportunities for artists from the Middle East; this major new partnership marks a truly exciting new chapter for both organisations."

Delfina Entrecanales CBE, Founding Patron of Delfina Foundation, said: "Although the organisation carries my name, Delfina Foundation was never a vanity project, it was set up as an initiative to develop support and infrastructure to nurture cultural practices. Through residencies for artists, curators, and recently collectors, Delfina Foundation has worked tirelessly to develop the wider arts eco-system. Our director Aaron Cezar has had autonomy to shape the organisation and our board of trustees have supported his vision. All along I have encouraged collaboration. I have always admired Art Jameel's own ambitions and its profound engagement in the arts. This major partnership aligns our shared values and aspirations, while recognising each organisation's future goals."

Delfina Foundation is London's largest provider of international residencies, hosting 40 artists and practitioners each year. The Foundation launched in 2007 with an initial focus on the Middle East and North Africa. It expanded its remit internationally in recent years by concentrating on themes such as its popular programmes on performance, food, and public space.

Based in Dubai and Jeddah, Art Jameel's programmes range from heritage preservation and traditional arts institutes through to contemporary art exhibitions and commissions. Research and learning opportunities are central to the organisation's mandate; initiatives include specialist youth programming, building in-centre libraries and archives, as well as public talks, workshops and seminars. Art Jameel foregrounds collaboration: major long-term international partners include the Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York; and the Prince's School of Traditional Arts; and the Victoria and Albert Museum, both based in the UK.

Jameel Arts Centre, Dubai, opening later this year, offers opportunities for research and writers' residencies, while Hayy: Creative Hub – Art Jameel's major complex in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, opening 2019 – includes artists' studios, alongside galleries, performance spaces, a theatre, digital studio and more.

Building on the success of 'Plan for Feminist Greater Baghdad', the solo exhibition by **Ala Younis** that is simultaneously being held in Dubai and London, Art Jameel and Delfina Foundation will partner on discrete projects including co-commissions, exhibitions, and events.

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For more information visit www.artjameel.org and join the conversation on Instagram [@art_jameel](https://www.instagram.com/art_jameel) | Facebook [Art Jameel](https://www.facebook.com/ArtJameel) | Twitter [@Art_Jameel](https://twitter.com/Art_Jameel) using the hashtag #artjameeldxb

For more information on Delfina Foundation, visit: www.delfinafoundation.com and join the conversation on Twitter: [@delfinafdn](https://twitter.com/delfinafdn) | Instagram: [@delfinafdn](https://www.instagram.com/delfinafdn)

Press Contacts

Regional media

Yusur Wissam
00971 56 6363 906
yusur@rpr.ae

International media

Katrina Weber Ashour
1-917-601-8618
katrina@krwaconsulting.com

Notes to Editors:

Ala Younis's solo exhibition, '[Plan for Feminist Greater Baghdad](#)', is simultaneously being held in Dubai at Project Space Art Jameel (until April 14) and in London at Delfina Foundation (until March 24); the exhibition includes a major new installation co-commissioned by the two organisations.

About Art Jameel

Art Jameel supports artists and creative communities. Current initiatives include running heritage institutes and restoration programmes, plus a broad range of arts and educational initiatives for all ages. The organisation's programmes foster the role of the arts in building open, connected communities; at a time of flux and dramatic societal shifts, this role is understood as more crucial than ever.

Art Jameel's model is collaborative: major institutional partners include [the Victoria & Albert Museum](#), the [Prince's School of Traditional Arts](#) and the [Metropolitan Museum of Art](#); locally, the organisation works with individuals and organisations to develop innovative programming that embraces both ancient and new technologies, and encourages entrepreneurship and the development of cultural networks.

In 2018-2019, Art Jameel is set to open two new cultural centres: [Hayy: Creative Hub](#), a major complex for the creative industries in Saudi Arabia, and the [Jameel Arts Centre](#), a contemporary arts institution in the UAE.

Art Jameel is positioned alongside [Community Jameel](#), and complements its sister organisation's work in promoting positive social change, job creation and poverty alleviation across the Middle East, North Africa and Turkey.

www.artjameel.org

Delfina Foundation

Founded in 2007, Delfina Foundation (DF) is an independent, non-profit foundation dedicated to facilitating artistic exchange and developing creative practice through residencies, partnerships and public programming. Delfina Foundation has hosted over 300 artists, curators and writers in residence from around the world, partnering with institutions such as Tate Modern, Victoria & Albert Museum, Videobrasil, Hayward Gallery, and Chisenhale Gallery. Delfina Foundation's board of trustees provide 40% of the Foundation's annual funding, which is complemented by individual supporters, foundations, public funding and partnerships. Founding patron, Delfina Entrecanales CBE, currently provides rent-free space to the Foundation.

DF's public programme of events and exhibitions fosters critical discourse on the contemporary arts in relation to everyday life. DF brings salient issues and common ideas together through recurring thematic programmes such as The Politics of Food, The Public Domain, Performance as Process, and Collecting as Practice, the first ever residency programme for collectors alongside artists.

www.delfinafoundation.com