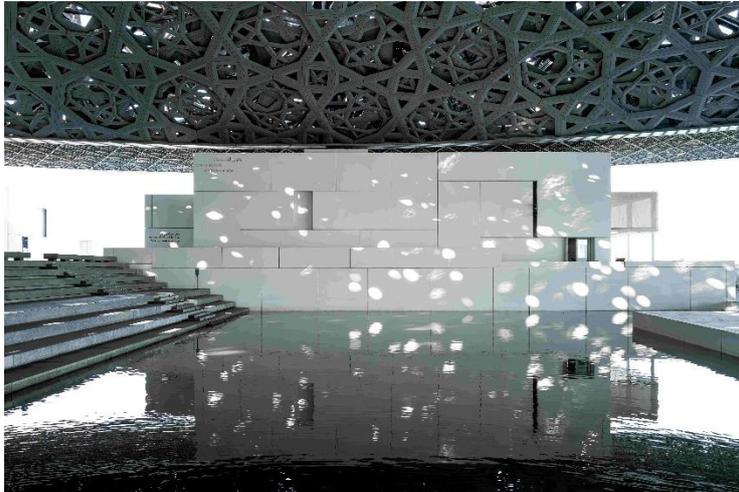


Press Release

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## **Louvre Abu Dhabi Launches Fifth Edition of *Louvre Abu Dhabi Art Here* and the Richard Mille Art Prize**

- Submission Period: 26 February- 30 April 2025
- Curated by Swiss Japanese artist Sophie Mayuko Arni, this year's theme is focused on "Shadows"
- The call for proposals is now open to all contemporary artists based in the GCC and Japan, along with artists from MENA with a GCC connection
- Artists specialising in sculpture and immersive installations for outdoor spaces are encouraged to submit proposals to contribute to the museum's universal story



© Department of Culture and Tourism-Abu Dhabi. Photo by Mohamed Alalawi

**Abu Dhabi, UAE, 26 February 2025** – The annual *Louvre Abu Dhabi Art Here* exhibition returns with an expanded vision for 2025, this year accepting proposals from contemporary artists based in the GCC and Japan, as well as artists based in MENA and connected to the GCC. In partnership with luxury Swiss watchmaking brand Richard Mille, the theme for this year, "Shadows," invites artists to reflect on the interplay of light and shadow, exploring the shared artistic and cultural traditions of the Arabian Gulf and Japan in architecture, art, and poetry.

This year's exhibition will be curated by **Sophie Mayuko Arni**, a Swiss Japanese curator and editor based in the Gulf. Renowned for her innovative approach to site-specific exhibitions,

public art, and digital publishing, Arni continues to shape the narrative of contemporary art in the Gulf and beyond. Her curatorial work bridges inter-Asian geographies and explores architecture, traditions, consumer culture, and technology, making her uniquely positioned to lead this year's exploration of light and shadow.

"Shadows" is more than an artistic theme; it is an invitation to reflect on the beauty of dimly lit spaces where light and darkness merge to create moments of introspection. The Japanese concept of In'Ei (陰影), meaning "shadow," captures the delicate balance of light and shade, often reflected in elements like alcoves and under shoji screens. This aesthetic resonates with the Arabian Gulf's architectural traditions, such as mashrabiyya windows, which diffuse sunlight into serene patterns in shadowed interiors.

Set under the iconic Louvre Abu Dhabi dome, inspired by the layered shadows palm trees, **Art Here 2025** seeks to reinterpret these timeless traditions in a contemporary context. Through materials like Japanese lacquerware, subtly reflecting light, or the carved wood geometries of mashrabiyya windows, this year's exhibition encourages artists to explore how shadows can be framed or enhanced. It also invites them to examine how colours, shapes, and materials interact with dimness instead of brightness and uncover new patterns and meanings that emerge from obscuring and recreating light.

**Manuel Rabaté, Director of Louvre Abu Dhabi**, commented: "As we mark the fifth edition of *Art Here*, we reflect on the incredible journey this initiative has taken. We are proud of our partnership with Richard Mille, which has supported the celebration of 30 talented artists and the recognition of four winners who have left a lasting impact. We have remained rooted in our region by holding an open call for contemporary artists based in the GCC, as well as artists who are connected to the GCC. This year we are excited to extend the call to Japan, broadening the exhibition's geographical and cultural horizons. Featuring sculptures and installations perfectly suited for outdoor spaces, this edition continues to celebrate the evolving dialogue between cultures, offering a fresh lens to reimagine the poetic interplay of light and shadow."

**Dr. Guilhem André, Director of Scientific, Curatorial, and Collections Management at Louvre Abu Dhabi**, added: "The theme 'In'Ei' offers a profound exploration of the subtle balance between light and shadow, encouraging artists to engage with the interplay of texture, material, and form. This year's focus highlights the universal language of art, creating connections that resonate deeply with global audiences. By embracing the unique characteristics of light and shadow, the exhibition offers a platform to rediscover shared cultural values and inspire innovative artistic practices within the exceptional spaces of Louvre Abu Dhabi."

**Peter Harrison, CEO, Richard Mille EMEA**, commented: "The fifth edition of the Richard Mille Art Prize marks a momentous milestone, celebrating five years of a distinguished partnership with Louvre Abu Dhabi in our shared pursuit of artistic excellence and cultural exchange. This year, we are particularly pleased to open the prize to Japanese artists, a decision that underscores the strong cultural ties between the UAE and Japan—two nations that skilfully balance tradition with modern innovation. Art, in particular, remains a powerful force for uniting diverse perspectives, fostering meaningful dialogue, and inspiring creativity on a global scale. With this new chapter, we look forward to further enriching the legacy of this prestigious prize and reinforcing its role as a catalyst for cultural and artistic development."

**Sophie Mayuko Arni, *Art Here 2025* Curator and jury member,** added: "A new horizon is set for the 2025 edition of the Richard Mille Art Prize. The fifth edition of the Prize expands its geographical reach to Japan with an opportunity to foster dialogue between East and East, exploring the relationship between Japanese aesthetics and the MENA region. "Shadows," the theme of this year's edition, responds directly to the architecture of Louvre Abu Dhabi. Outdoor installations will be exhibited under the shade of the dome, equally celebrating light and darkness. To be understood in both material and conceptual form, the theme invites artists from both regions to create moments of contemplation in dimness, to find light in subtle reflections."

This year's *Art Here* exhibition bridges East and West Asia, celebrating the shared "beauty of shadows" and fostering a dialogue on tradition, innovation, and the universal human experience of light and shade. Artists from the Gulf region, MENA and Japan are invited to submit proposals that reflect their own observations and interpretations.

To learn more about *Louvre Abu Dhabi Art Here 2025* and the Richard Mille Art Prize, visit our website [here](#).

## ENDS

### NOTES TO EDITORS

#### Louvre Abu Dhabi's operating hours

Museum: Open: 10 am – 6.30 pm (Tuesday – Thursday); extended hours: 10 am – 8.30 pm (Friday - Sunday); closed on Monday.

Dome: Open: 10 am – midnight (Tuesday - Sunday) - last entry 11 pm; closed on Monday.

Museum Café: Open: 10 am – 7 pm (Tuesday - Thursday); extended hours: 10 am – 9 pm (Friday – Sunday). Closed on Monday.

Art Lounge: Open: 3 pm – 12 am (last order 11 pm); closed on Monday and during summer.

Fouquet's Abu Dhabi and Marta Bar: Open: 12 pm – 12 am (last orders at 10 pm) (Tuesday – Thursday, Sunday); weekends: 12 pm – 1 am (last order at 10.30 pm) (Friday – Saturday); closed on Monday.

Aptitude Café: Open: 9 am – 10 pm (daily including Monday)

Follow Louvre Abu Dhabi on social media: Facebook ([Louvre Abu Dhabi](#)), Twitter ([@LouvreAbuDhabi](#)) and Instagram ([@LouvreAbuDhabi](#)) #LouvreAbuDhabi.

For more information on Louvre Abu Dhabi's acquisitions policies and principles, visit [our website](#).

### ABOUT LOUVRE ABU DHABI

Created by an exceptional agreement between the governments of Abu Dhabi and France, Louvre Abu Dhabi was designed by Jean Nouvel and opened on Saadiyat Island in November 2017. The museum is inspired by traditional Islamic architecture and its monumental dome creates a rain of light effect and a unique social space that brings people together.

Louvre Abu Dhabi celebrates the universal creativity of mankind and invites audiences to see humanity in a new light. Through its innovative curatorial approach, the museum focuses on building understanding across cultures: through stories of human creativity that transcend civilisations, geographies, and times.

The museum's growing collection is unparalleled in the region and spans thousands of years of human history, including prehistoric tools, artefacts, religious texts, iconic paintings, and contemporary artworks. The permanent collection is supplemented by rotating loans from 19 French partner institutions, regional and international museums.

Louvre Abu Dhabi is a testing ground for new ideas in a globalised world and champions new generations of cultural leaders. Its international exhibitions, programming and Children's Museum are inclusive platforms that connect communities and offer enjoyment for all.

#### **ABOUT RICHARD MILLE**

From the very inception of the brand in 2001, Richard Mille's approach to watchmaking has always centred on releasing the watch from its restricted role as a mere tool for timekeeping, augmenting and extending its visual potential by placing it directly in the crosshairs of design, art and architecture. Today, 20 years later, the Richard Mille watch collection now comprises of more than eighty models, each designed and produced with the same passion, uncompromising principles and visionary aesthetics that guided Richard Mille's first creation.

Richard Mille's watches are marvels of technology designed specifically for those with a keen appreciation and love for fine Swiss watchmaking, playing up the full possibilities of three-dimensional space, defined by both the volume of the watchcase and the movement itself. Within these highly confined areas spanning just a few centimeters that serve as a blank canvas for horological creativity.

This assimilation of watchmaking to artistic endeavors is also reflected in the company's close connections with the arts. The brand's partnerships in support of contemporary art and artists include sponsorship of the Palais de Tokyo in Paris, the contemporary art Biennale Desert X; collaborations with choreographer Benjamin Millepied, composer Thomas Rousel and acquisition of Éditions Cercle d'Art, a publishing house created with the support of Pablo Picasso in the 1950s.

#### **ABOUT THE DEPARTMENT OF CULTURE AND TOURISM – ABU DHABI**

The Department of Culture and Tourism–Abu Dhabi (DCT Abu Dhabi) drives the sustainable growth of Abu Dhabi's culture and tourism sectors and its creative industries, fuels economic progress and helps achieve Abu Dhabi's wider global ambitions. By working in partnership with the organisations that define the emirate's position as a leading international destination, DCT Abu Dhabi strives to unite the ecosystem around a shared vision of the emirate's potential, coordinate effort and investment, deliver innovative solutions, and use the best tools, policies, and systems to support the culture and tourism industries.

DCT Abu Dhabi's vision is defined by the emirate's people, heritage, and landscape. We work to enhance Abu Dhabi's status as a place of authenticity, innovation, and unparalleled experiences, represented by its living traditions of hospitality, pioneering initiatives, and creative thought.

#### **ABOUT SAADIYAT CULTURAL DISTRICT**

Home to Louvre Abu Dhabi, Berklee Abu Dhabi, Manarat Al Saadiyat, Abrahamic Family House and the soon-to-open Zayed National Museum, teamLab Phenomena Abu Dhabi, Guggenheim Abu Dhabi and Natural History Museum Abu Dhabi, Saadiyat Cultural District is one of the greatest concentrations of cultural institutions. Saadiyat Cultural District is a global platform, emanating from a rich cultural heritage, celebrating traditions, and advancing equitable culture. It is an embodiment of empowerment, showcasing museums, collections, and narratives that supports the region's heritage while promoting a diverse global cultural landscape. Saadiyat Cultural District is a testament to Abu Dhabi's commitment to preserving heritage while embracing a forward-looking vision. The District invites the world to engage with diverse cultures, fostering dialogue exchange, and offers a global cultural space that supports the region and the global South.