



اللوفر أبوظبي  
LOUVRE ABU DHABI



ANNUAL  
REPORT

2018

See  
humanity  
in a  
new light

2018  
ANNUAL REPORT



Truly a feat of modern engineering, the museum is entirely surrounded by water.  
Architect: Jean Nouvel

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## An Architectural Masterpiece

*Louvre Abu Dhabi: Jean Nouvel's spectacular palace of culture shimmers in the desert. "Standing beneath his vast cosmic dome, with rays of light piercing through its layers of star-shaped latticework, casting dapples across the facades of the white concrete buildings, you feel transported to another realm."*

- Oliver Wainwright, The Guardian

Louvre Abu Dhabi was designed by Pritzker Prize winning architect Jean Nouvel, who sought inspiration for the concept of Louvre Abu Dhabi in traditional Arabic architectural culture. Its contrasting series of white buildings are inspired by the medina and low-lying Arab settlements. In total, 55 individual but connected buildings, including 26 galleries, make up this museum city.

### Facts about the museum's architecture:

- Built-up area: 97,000 m<sup>2</sup>
- Total gallery spaces: 8,600 m<sup>2</sup>
- Auditorium: 420 m<sup>2</sup> / 270 seats
- The iconic floating dome has 7,850 unique stars
- The dome is 180 metres in diameter and rises up to 40 metres above sea level, and 36 metres above ground floor level
- The dome alone weighs 7,500 tonnes, almost as much as the Eiffel Tower





The last piece of the roof is put into place at the Louvre construction site on Saadiyat Island in Abu Dhabi on September 17, 2015.

## Message from the Chairman

It gives me great pleasure to share with all of our stakeholders and partners the first annual report for Louvre Abu Dhabi. The museum has been over a decade in the making and as we close the books on its first year of operations, we can be proud of its many achievements. We look back on 2018 as a crucial year for the museum, as it transformed into a globally recognised institution, welcoming over one million visitors through its doors. The operational requirements to make this happen are considerable, as is the workload required to deliver the diverse range of exhibitions and programming on offer. Louvre Abu Dhabi stands as a shining example of what is possible in the field of art and culture in the United Arab Emirates and is one of the flagship projects for the Department of Culture and Tourism – Abu Dhabi.

Louvre Abu Dhabi is part of a wider cultural ecosystem managed by the Department. In the coming years it will be joined on Saadiyat Island first by the Zayed National Museum and then Guggenheim Abu Dhabi, which currently presents an active programme of activities using the expansive exhibition halls at Manarat Al Saadiyat. We saw major milestones in the fields of culture and heritage in 2018, with the reopening of Qasr Al Hosn and the Cultural Foundation and the restoration of the Al Ain Museum, among other projects. Other recent attractions, including the opening of Warner Bros. World Abu Dhabi in 2018 or of Qasr Al Watan in 2019, illustrate the dynamism of Abu Dhabi as a continually evolving and improving destination, offering activities to visitors in the areas of art, culture, sport, leisure and entertainment.

Ten million visitors came to the emirate of Abu Dhabi in 2018, representing a staggering array of nationalities. This diversity is reflected in the visitor numbers and nationalities of Louvre Abu Dhabi. The museum is notable for its balance between international visitors (60%) and local residents (40%), and for its increasing levels of repeat visitors, particularly Emiratis. Louvre Abu Dhabi has become, in the space of only one year, both a cultural site and a public space for all. In addition, the museum and the other projects developed by the Department of Culture and Tourism – Abu Dhabi play a key role in offering Emirati professionals new opportunities for careers in the field of art and culture.

Another important demographic to consider is the age of our visitors, with millennials and younger audience forming a considerable part of our visitor breakdown. Louvre Abu Dhabi's



role as an educator is vital to its mission, and as such the museum targets much of its programming at children and the younger generation. Working closely with federal bodies such as the Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Culture and Knowledge Development, as well as Abu Dhabi's Department of Education and Knowledge, the museum ensures that its rich resources are utilised as an important educational tool for all schools in the UAE.

The year 2018 marked the centenary of the birth of the late Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan and was widely celebrated as the Year of Zayed, reflected in the many activities organised by the Department that took place across Abu Dhabi. As we look ahead to 2019, declared the Year of Tolerance, we hope to see even greater success in the visitor experience and programming framework of Louvre Abu Dhabi, our beacon of global excellence. With a unique curatorial narrative dedicated to dialogue between cultures and civilisations, a visit to Louvre Abu Dhabi is a memorable experience for all visitors.

**Mohamed Khalifa Al Mubarak**  
Chairman, Department of Culture and Tourism - Abu Dhabi





A fine example of Syrian architectural decoration, this octagonal fountain and its flooring were originally part of the inner courtyard of an 18th-century mansion in Damascus.  
Architect: Jean Nouvel

## Message from the Museum's Director

Louvre Abu Dhabi is a truly significant venture, for Abu Dhabi and the world. The first international museum of its kind, the first universal museum in the Arab world and the first to open in the 21st century, it has become an iconic institution and a model of international cultural collaboration.

As a core component of Abu Dhabi's vision to invest in culture, education and tourism, Louvre Abu Dhabi has prospered in the rich context of a dynamic, future-facing city establishing itself as one of the new cultural centres of the world. The inspired leadership of Abu Dhabi, and the unprecedented cultural partnership with France, has enabled the museum to achieve incredible heights in its first full calendar year in 2018. Louvre Abu Dhabi is a shining example of how a long-standing, strong friendship between two countries at the highest levels can produce exceptional outcomes.

By its first anniversary in November 2018, the museum had welcomed more than one million visitors, placing Louvre Abu Dhabi amongst the most popular museums in the world. Moreover, 60% of the museum's visitors are international tourists and 40% residents in the UAE, with Emirati nationals consistently amongst the top nationalities of repeat visitors. A strong indicator of the museum's relevance to its local community, and its appeal to today's 21st century audience.

At the core of the museum's success lies its exceptional and innovative permanent display. In 2018, the collection has continued to grow, through a robust acquisition process, and its display evolved through a constant reexamination of the Scientific and Cultural Programme. Thanks to unprecedented access to some of the world's most esteemed institutions, we are privileged to display significant artworks as part of the museum's annual rotation policy. Whether with our French partner museums, led by Agence France-Muséums and Musée du Louvre, or our regional partners Zayed National Museum, Guggenheim Abu Dhabi, National Museum – Sultanate of Oman and Jordan's Department of Antiquities, we are constantly looking to enrich our galleries with exquisite artworks and artefacts.

Moving beyond its permanent display, a major priority of Louvre Abu Dhabi is to engage with its diverse audiences in a variety of ways that embrace its role as an interactive social space. Notably, Louvre Abu Dhabi put on three outstanding international exhibitions in 2018: *Globes: Visions of the World*, in partnership with Bibliothèque nationale de France; *Japanese Connections: The Birth of Modern Décor*, in partnership with Musée d'Orsay; and the museum's first ever regional blockbuster show - *Roads of Arabia: Archaeological Treasures of Saudi Arabia*, in partnership with the Saudi Commission for Tourism and the Musée du Louvre in Paris.



Louvre Abu Dhabi has hosted over 400 artists from 22 countries as part of its cross-cultural programming, with ambitious performances taking place under the dome and throughout the museum. Programming plays to both local Emirati culture and a global perspective, demonstrating how culture can be a central part of everyone's life. Key moments were the celebration of the museum's first anniversary in November and the Rain of Light Festival in December.

Louvre Abu Dhabi is breaking new ground and pioneering the way forward in terms of object-based learning. With over 1,000 trips from schools and universities to the museum to date, as well as over 5,000 guided tours, masterclasses and workshops conducted, Louvre Abu Dhabi is helping define the role of the museum within the UAE education community. In addition, contributing to the ongoing global discussion on the future of museums, Louvre Abu Dhabi, in partnership with École du Louvre, held the museum's first symposium *Worlds in a Museum* in November 2018, bringing world leaders in the fields of museums and academia to Abu Dhabi to discuss museums and globalisation.

As an industry leader, Louvre Abu Dhabi's mission is to inspire the next generation of artists, creatives and museum professionals. The staff of the museum has more than doubled in number since the beginning of 2018 with almost half of the current staff being Emirati. The museum plays an essential role in offering Emirati professionals new opportunities for careers in the field of art and culture.

Louvre Abu Dhabi is extremely proud of what has been achieved in 2018, and yet the museum remains at the beginning of its journey. 2019 will witness an even more ambitious programme, with an incredible calendar of international exhibitions. The public programme will pioneer new ways to engage the museum's diverse audiences, and the permanent display will see a significant evolution, allowing visitors to enjoy new works and dialogues. Through its innovative curatorial approach, Louvre Abu Dhabi will remain an innovator of cross-cultural connections, past and present. And in line with the UAE's Year of Tolerance, celebrate its role as a hub for all cultures and a symbol of openness, tolerance and inclusivity in the Arab world.

**Manuel Rabaté**  
Museum Director, Louvre Abu Dhabi



# Our Communal Story

We invite you to experience a different way of looking at art. A space where artworks from every culture and all eras reveal new stories about you and your place in the world.

**Be part of the art, tell your own story**

We reveal unexpected connections that illuminate the universal creativity of mankind and foster understanding across cultures.

**See the world through new eyes  
See humanity in a new light**

## Our Vision

## Our Mission

We are redefining what an art museum can be by creating a social space where lively encounters stimulate imaginations and open minds to new connections.

**Lively encounters, new connections**

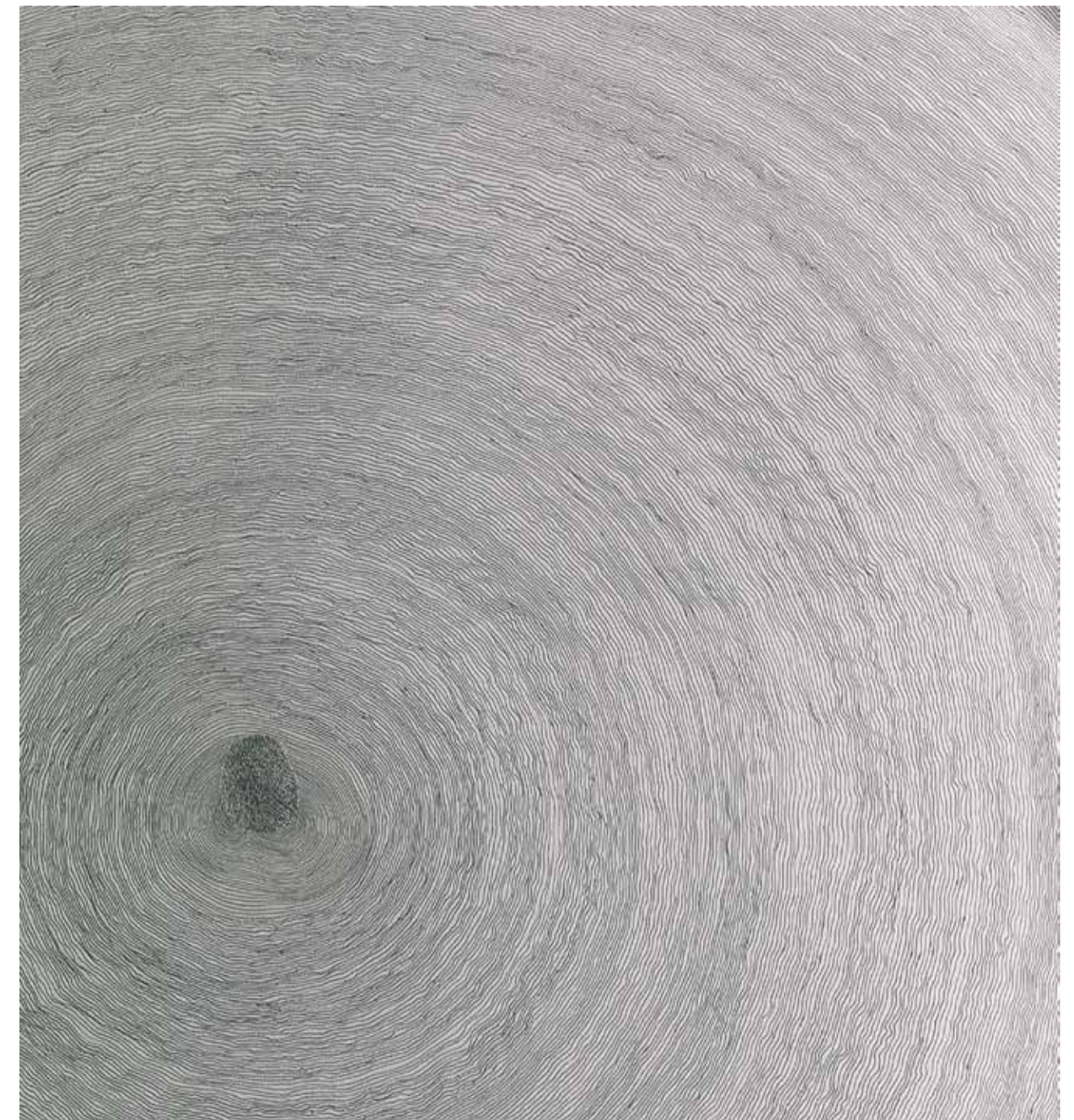
Connected  
Open-minded  
Empathic  
Courageous

## Our Values

## Ten Years in the Making

*"It took 800 years for the Louvre to become the Louvre and it only took 10 years for another Louvre to be born in Abu Dhabi"*

- Jean-Luc Martinez, director of the Louvre Museum in Paris



Propagation is part of the four-part installation, Germination by artist Giuseppe Penone. The wall of porcelain tiles depicts hand-drawn circles originating from a single fingerprint from Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan.



2007

**MARCH****Inter-governmental agreement signature**

Louvre Abu Dhabi was born when an unprecedented 30-year inter-governmental agreement was signed between the United Arab Emirates and France on 6 March 2007. The agreement guaranteed the collaboration between Abu Dhabi, Musée du Louvre and sixteen other French museums and institutional partners to create the first universal museum in the Arab world.

2009

**FEBRUARY****First acquisition**

LAD 2009-001, Louvre Abu Dhabi's first acquisition 'Composition with Blue, Red, Yellow and Black' by Piet Mondrian (1922) was purchased at a Christie's auction in Paris. The painting was formerly part of the collection of the French fashion designer and art collector Yves Saint-Laurent and is an exquisite example of abstract art.

**MAY****Groundbreaking**

In May 2009, French President Nicolas Sarkozy, and HH Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi, Deputy Supreme Commander of the UAE Armed Forces, attended the ceremony of the groundbreaking of Louvre Abu Dhabi. During the ceremony, a message was put in a metallic urn, which was then buried in the first step of the construction of the museum.

**NOVEMBER****Mock-up of the dome**

A six-metre high prototype of Jean Nouvel's dome is installed on Saadiyat Island, used by engineers to test the functionality and feasibility of the unique design. It is here that the Rain of Light is first seen.

2011

**SEPTEMBER****Launch of Talking Art series**

In order to engage with the local audience, Louvre Abu Dhabi: Talking Art series brought together eminent specialists, curators and academics to initiate dialogue in a public forum. Focusing on topics ranging from ancient to the contemporary, talks were inspired by the overarching themes explored by the museum: ideas of shared knowledge across cultures and the Middle East's position at a global crossroads.

2013

**JANUARY****Beginning of the construction**

Construction of the main phase of the museum began in early 2013, including water-proofing and building of the four concrete pillars necessary to support the dome.

**APRIL - JULY****Birth of a Museum exhibition, Manarat Al Saadiyat, Abu Dhabi**

A major exhibition of almost 130 artworks, designed to give visitors insight into the museum's narrative and the diversity of the collection ahead of its opening. This was the first time masterpieces such as the Bactrian Princess (end of 3rd century BCE) and Pablo Picasso's 'Portrait of a Lady' (1928) were displayed in Abu Dhabi.

2014

**MAY - JULY****Birth of a Museum - Louvre Paris**

More than 160 pieces from Louvre Abu Dhabi's growing collection formed this major exhibition in the Louvre's Napoleon Hall. It explained to a Parisian audience the key messages of the Abu Dhabi museum.

2015

**MARCH****Installation of the last piece of dome cladding**

A year and a half after construction had begun, the final piece of the dome cladding was put into place. The dome is made up of eight layers forming 7,850 star shapes which together present a geometric pattern that gives a unique 'Rain of Light' effect from below.

2017

**SEPTEMBER****HH Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, HH Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan visit the museum**

The first visitors to Louvre Abu Dhabi were the Vice President and Ruler of Dubai, HH Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum and the Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi and Deputy Supreme Commander of the Armed Forces, HH Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan. Two months before the museum officially opened, the leaders experienced the Rain of Light and had a tour of major artworks from the collection during the artworks installation.

**NOVEMBER****Official opening - 8 November**

The President of France, Emmanuel Macron joined the rulers of the UAE and other officials for a formal opening ceremony of Louvre Abu Dhabi.

VIPs and officials toured the newly opened museum including HH Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi and Deputy Supreme Commander of the UAE Armed Forces, HE Mohamed Khalifa Al Mubarak, Chairman of Abu Dhabi Tourism and Culture Authority, HE Emmanuel Macron, President of France, and Jean-Luc Martinez, director of the Louvre Museum in Paris.

**Public opening - 11 November**

A week-long programme of activities marked the public opening of Louvre Abu Dhabi in November 2017. Members of the public and invited guests were able to visit the main galleries, see the first temporary exhibition, contemporary commissions, Children's Museum and experience the broad cultural programming prepared in celebration of this momentous occasion.

2016

**JUNE****Flooding of the site**

Temporary seawalls which had been separating Louvre Abu Dhabi from the sea in order to have dry conditions for construction were removed in three stages, allowing the site to be flooded in a controlled way to best reflect Jean Nouvel's designs.

**JULY****Sheikh Zayed Pavilion opening in Paris**

The Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan Centre opens in the Pavilion de l'Horloge at the Louvre, Paris. It is a space where the history of the Louvre is told through interactive displays and models as well as where the collection is reinterpreted and positioned within a wider global context.






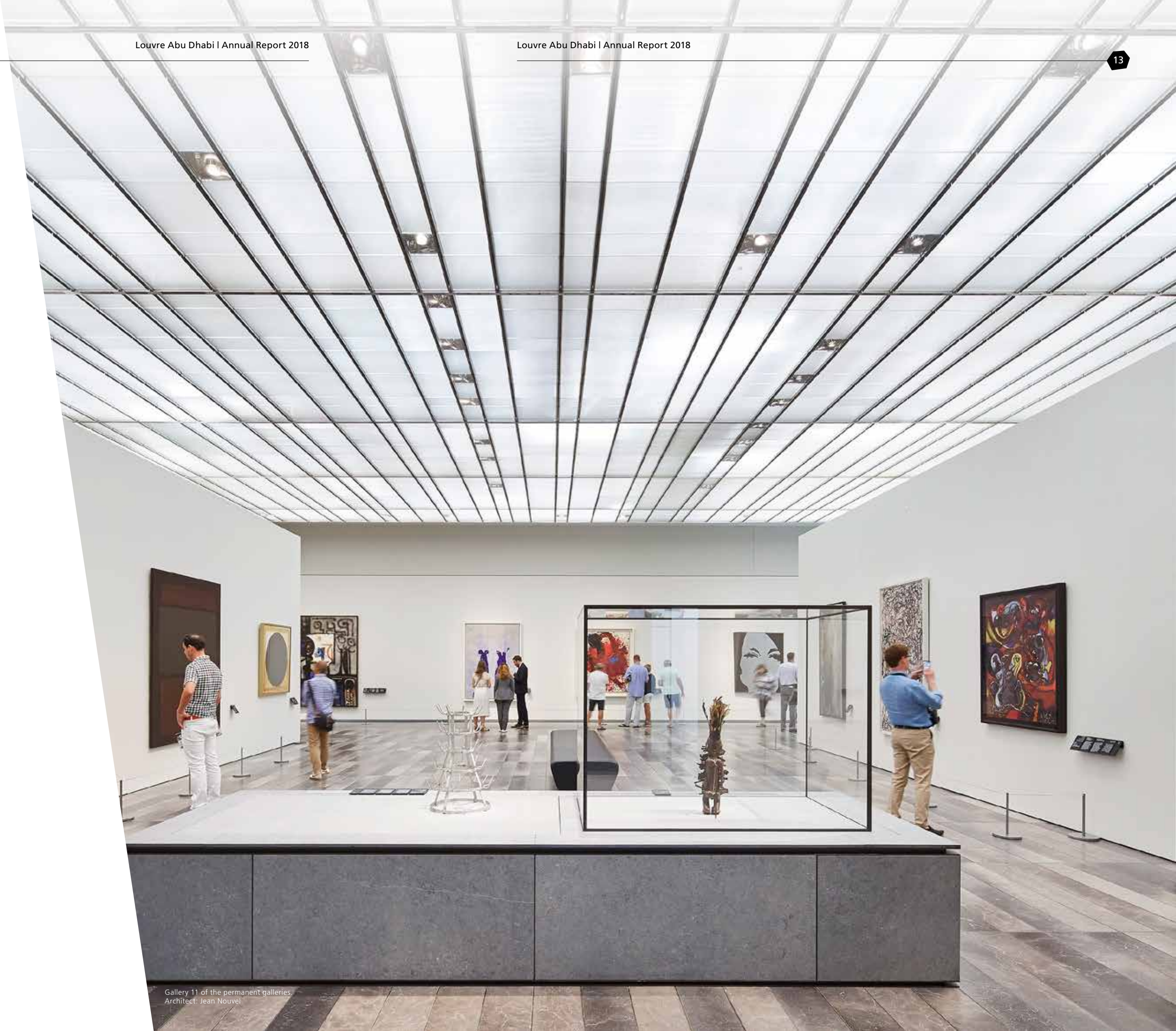
## 2018 Key Accomplishments

 **1M**  **Visitor Numbers**  
 Louvre Abu Dhabi welcomed 1,000,733 visitors from January to December

 **24k**  **School Engagement**  
 Over 24,000 students from 130+ unique schools hosted

 **25k**  **Press Coverage**  
 Media coverage in traditional media since January

 **9.4**  **Visitor Satisfaction with the artwork**  
 Visitors indicated satisfaction with the quality of the presentation of collection and exhibits  
out of 10



Gallery 11 of the permanent galleries  
 Architect: Jean Nouvel



# The Collection

The museum exhibits works from various regions and civilisations, from prehistory to modern and contemporary times, in accordance to common themes that constitute milestones of artistic, historical, cultural and sociological development in the history of humankind. The principle of juxtaposing artworks from different historical periods and geographical areas in the display was essential from the start and remains the guiding curatorial drive in the main galleries.

The collection presents a narrative of human world history, played out in four acts across the four permanent gallery wings, comprised of twelve chapters. The displays are not static, 22 new acquisitions since the opening are on show, alongside 403 new exceptional loans from French partner institutions, regional and international museums.

In 2018, the collection continued to be developed through new acquisitions and loans. 233 artworks are owned by Louvre Abu Dhabi and more than 600 artworks are presented in the permanent galleries from about 20 regional and international cultural institutions and museums.

Ranging from ancient precious objects to modern masterpieces, the new acquisitions and loans bolster the universal narrative running through the collection and ensure visitors always find something to fascinate and inspire them.



Sarcophagus of Princess Henuttawy: coffins and mummy wrappings. Egypt, 2nd half of 10th century BCE - beginning of the 22nd dynasty. Wood with polychromy 163.0 x 38.0 x 31.0 cm



One of four tapestries depicting *The Hunts of Maximilian* from an original drawing by Bernard van Orley from France (1665-1674) which are part of series of tapestries currently in Musée du Louvre's collections, depicting the hunting parties of Archduke Maximilian, the Habsburg Duke of Brabant, commissioned by the Habsburg court. The new acquisition represents the hunt in November.



*Bactrian "princess"*  
Central Asia, late third millennium BCE - early second millennium BCE  
Chlorite for the body and headdress, calcite for the face.



## 2018 Acquisitions

Louvre Abu Dhabi's acquisition strategy aims to maintain the universal identity of the collection, reinforce the local and regional contexts and enhance the international reputation of the institution.

Details of the new acquisitions:

**A monumental sculpture from China representing Guanyin**, a divinity of compassion, made in the Buddhist classical form of the Song dynasty (960-1279)

**Four tapestries depicting the Hunts of Maximilian** from an original drawing by Bernard van Orley from Brussels, ordered during the 2nd half of the 17th century by Jean-Baptiste Colbert, one of the main ministers of the French King Louis XIV

**Japanese Samurai armour** (18th CE) bearing the crests of the 4th Lord Nabeshima, feudal lord of Saga in Hizen, a masterpiece by famous armour maker Miyata Katsusada (1707-1730)

**Rare conical helmet damascened in silver**, from Mongolia or China (13th - 14th CE)

**Phoenix-headed ewer from the Tang Dynasty**, China (8th CE) in white earthenware with a three-coloured glaze

**Rock crystal knife with a jewelled parrot** from India (ca. 1600)

**Jewelled katar dagger** from India (18th CE) inlaid with 481 rubies and almost one hundred emeralds

**A rare Albarello decorated with fleurs-de-llys** from Syria or Egypt (14th - 15th CE), used for medicines or perfumes belonging to a group of Syrio-Egyptian ceramics of the Mamluk period influenced by Chinese Yuan dynasty ceramics

**Three Medallion Mamluk carpet** from Egypt (late 15th CE)

**Rare Ottoman horse armour** (15th - 16th CE) bearing the Saint Irene mark of the imperial Ottoman arsenals in Istanbul

**A Mamluk bowl** from Egypt or Syria (late 13th or early 14th CE), an example of early metalwork, commissioned by Ahmad ibn al-Jundi al-Tarrab, a high ranking Mamluk officer under the sultanate of Al-Malik al-nasir Muhammad ibn Qala'un (1299-1340)

**A marble sculpture of the Egyptian Queen Cleopatra VII's head**, a marble monumental head from Egypt representing a queen of Egypt striking for its monumental size and its stylistic treatment which indicates that the figure is of a member of high rank family



Mamluk bowl from Egypt or Syria (late 13th or early 14th CE), an example of early metalwork that flourished under the Mamluks, at a time where the inlaying tradition, one of the jewels of the arts of Islam, was developed.



The uncrating of Rembrandt's study of the head and clasped hands of a young man as Christ in prayer attended (from left) by Dr. Souraya Noujaim, Scientific, Curatorial & Collections Management Director and Rana Al Hammadi, Senior Acquisitions Officer.

**Rembrandt's study of the head and clasped hands of a young man as Christ in prayer**, (1669) this oil sketch belongs to a group of work known as the Face of Jesus, which were all painted from the same model. It was identified a few decades ago as Rembrandt's work produced in the middle of the 17th century



Part of Japanese Samurai armour is put in place by specialist handlers during an artwork rotation in October 2018.

## Loans & Rotations

As part of Louvre Abu Dhabi's first large-scale loan rotation and in partnership with Agence France-Muséums, the museum updated its displays, for example curating a major rehang of its modern and contemporary art galleries. Some major loans, such as Leonardo da Vinci's *La Belle Ferronnière* from Musée du Louvre, were extended for another year due to their popularity. In total, five artwork rotations took place in 2018.

Rotation work included replacement of loans, filling the gaps within the museum's collection, particularly in the areas of: Islamic Art, Modern Arab Art, Indian sculpture, Islamic and Chinese carpets and textiles, Old Master paintings, women artists, immersive artworks and contemporary commissions.

Artwork presented in the permanent galleries slightly changes from one quarter to another due to the rotation of sensitive artworks.



Arabic manuscript being reviewed by Fakhera Alkindi, Senior Curatorial Assistant, during a rotation of artworks in February of 2018 at Louvre Abu Dhabi.



## 2018 Loans

The museum displayed exceptional loans in its permanent galleries for the public to enjoy. Notable loans in 2018 included iconic masterpieces such as *La Belle Ferronnière* by Leonardo da Vinci, *Portrait of the Artist's Mother* by James Abbot McNeill Whistler, a King Ramesses II statue and a bronze fountain spout known as the "Monzon Lion".

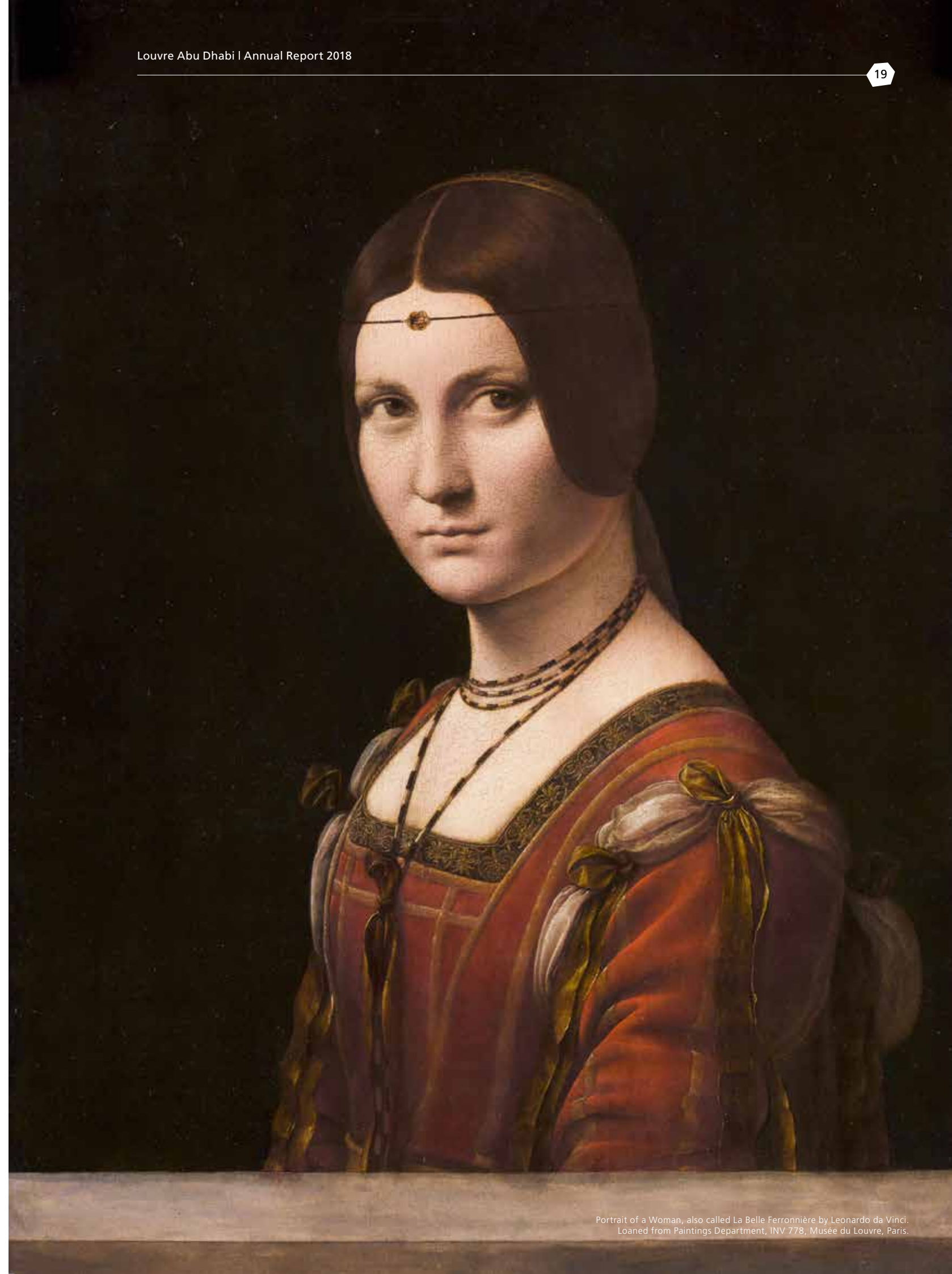
Within its permanent galleries the museum showcased 403 loans from French museums, including Musée du Louvre, Centre Pompidou, Musées d'Orsay et de l'Orangerie, Bibliothèque nationale de France, Musée du quai Branly-Jacques Chirac, Grand Palais (RMN-GP), Château de Versailles, Musée national des arts asiatiques-Guimet, Musée de Cluny – Musée national du Moyen-

Âge, Musée Rodin, Domaine National de Chambord, Musée des Arts Décoratifs (MAD), Cité de la Céramique – Sèvres & Limoges, Musée d'Archéologie nationale – Saint-Germain en Laye, and Château de Fontainebleau.

The museum also secured new partnerships with loans from national and regional institutions including Abu Dhabi's Department of Culture and Tourism, Al Ain National Museum, Zayed National Museum, Guggenheim Abu Dhabi, Dubai Municipality, National Museum of Ras Al Khaimah, Saudi Commission for Tourism & National Heritage, National Museum of Oman, and Jordan's Ministry of Tourism & Antiquities - Department of Antiquities.



Portrait of the Artist's Mother, Arrangement in Grey and Black No.1 (1804-1881) by James Abbott McNeill Whistler (1834-1903). Loaned from Musée d'Orsay, Paris.



Portrait of a Woman, also called La Belle Ferronnière by Leonardo da Vinci. Loaned from Paintings Department, INV 778, Musée du Louvre, Paris.



**668**   
 Works on display in permanent galleries

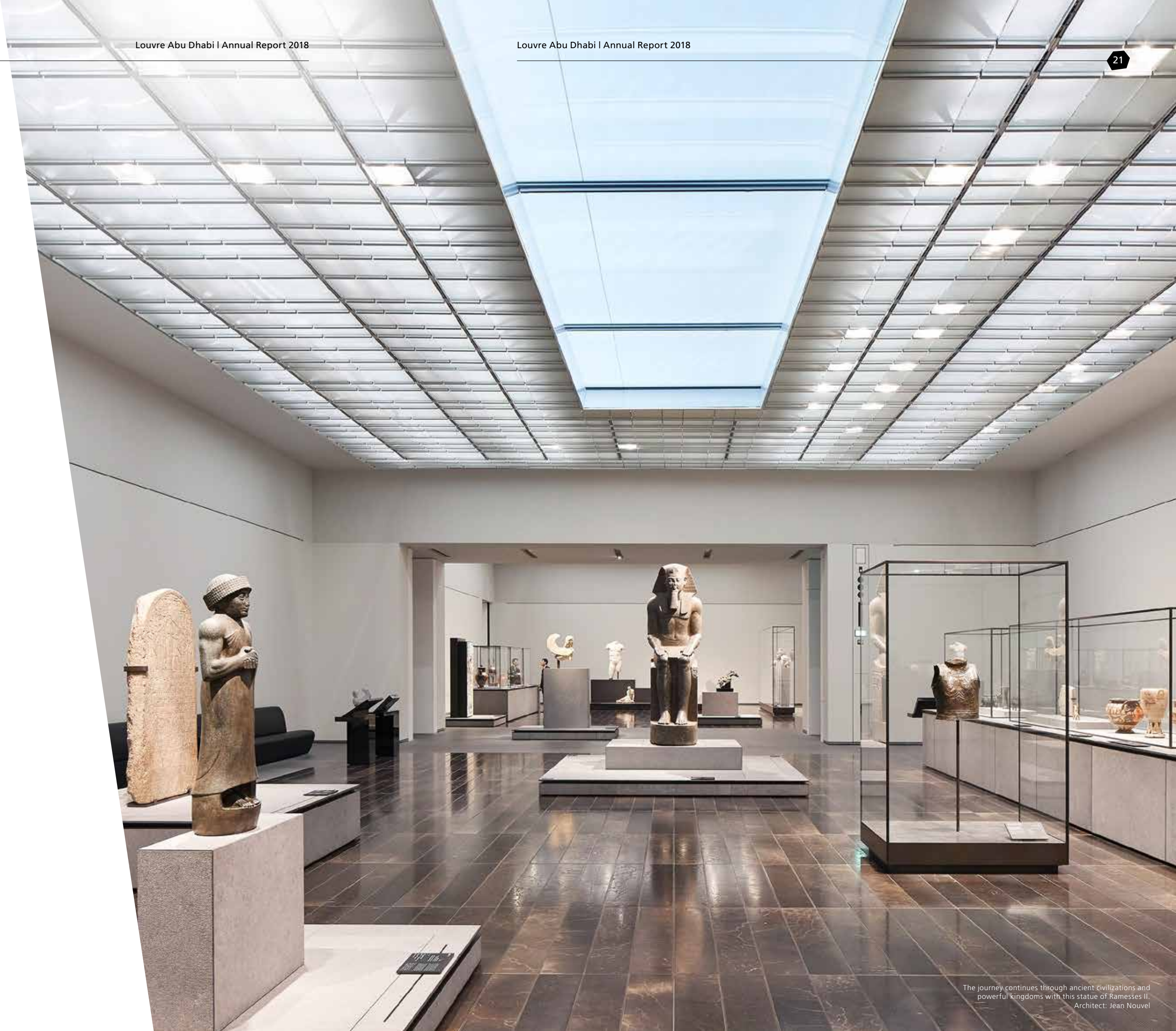
**13**   
 New artworks acquired increasing the collection to 668

**4**   
 Temporary exhibitions with a total of 713 loans

**15k**   
 Publications sold

**115**   
 Performances by artists from 20 nationalities

**6**   
 Lectures organised





# Exhibitions

Temporary exhibitions give audiences the opportunity to explore specific moments from the universal narrative of the museum in more detail.

In 2018, Louvre Abu Dhabi had 4 special exhibitions and 2 exhibitions in the Children's Museum.

The first cultural season 'A World of Exchanges' demonstrated the connections drawn between different periods of art history and societies, confirming Louvre Abu Dhabi's primary interest in cross-cultural transfer and global approaches to historical research.

## Exhibition Programme 2017-2018

**'From One Louvre to Another: Opening a museum for everyone' (21 Dec 2017 – 7 April 2018)**, in partnership with Musée du Louvre. Curated by Jean-Luc Martinez, President of the Musée du Louvre and Juliette Trey, curator of 17th and 18th century drawings and prints, Musée du Louvre. It presented 143 works from 7 cultural institutions and museums. The exhibition traces the birth of the Musée du Louvre in Paris in the 18th century, and exhibits artwork from the collections of the Musée du Louvre and the Château de Versailles.

**'Globes: Visions of the World' (23 March – 2 June 2018)**, in partnership with Bibliothèque Nationale de France, it was curated by Catherine Hofmann, Chief Curator at Bibliothèque nationale de France, and Francois Nawrocki, Chief Curator and Deputy Director at Bibliothèque Sainte-Genevieve. It presented 157 works from 10 cultural institutions and museums. For this

exhibition, 3 artworks from the Louvre Abu Dhabi collection were exhibited, including the ewer with zodiac signs.

## Exhibition Programme 2018-2019

**'Japanese Connections: The birth of modern décor' (6 September - 8 December 2018)**, presented with Musée d'Orsay. Curated by Isabelle Cahn, General Curator of Paintings at Musée d'Orsay. For the first time in the Middle East, masterpieces from a pioneering group of post-impressionist artists were exhibited alongside the prints of the Japanese masters Hiroshige and Hokusai, which inspired them. It presented 59 works from 5 cultural institutions and museums. For this exhibition, 5 artworks from the Louvre Abu Dhabi collection were included.

## Emirati-French Cultural Programme 2017-2018

**'Co-Lab: Contemporary art and savoir-faire' (21 December 2017 – 26 August 2018)**, part of the Emirati-French Cultural Programme - Dialogue with the Louvre Abu Dhabi. The initiative established by the Department of Culture and Tourism - Abu Dhabi, the French Embassy in the United Arab Emirates and the Institut Français as a collaborative project, focused on a cooperation between four artists living in the UAE and four historical French manufacturers. The exhibitions presented new artworks from Zeinab Alhashemi, Vikram Divecha, Talin Hazbar and Khalid Shafar who worked respectively with Saint-Just/Saint Gobain, MTW Broderie Artchitectuale, Manufacture nationale de Sèvres and Mobilier national et manufacture des Gobelins, de Beauvais et de la Savonnerie.



Members preview of Japanese Connections: Birth of Modern Décor.

**'Roads of Arabia: Archaeological Treasures of Saudi Arabia' (8 November 2018 – 16 February 2019)**, with the Saudi Commission for Tourism and National Heritage and the Musée du Louvre.

This blockbuster exhibition was curated by Dr. Souraya Noujaim (general curator), Scientific, Curatorial and Collections Management Director at Louvre Abu Dhabi, and Noemi Dauce (curator), Chief Curator – Archaeology at Louvre Abu Dhabi, with Dr. Jamal Omar (general curator), Vice President for Antiquities and Museums, Director General of the National Museum, Riyadh. It presented around 400 artworks from 8 cultural institutions and museums. Gold funeral masks, bronze statues, ancient steles (vertical stone slabs) and a door to the Kaaba of Makkah's Grand Mosque were on display. The exhibition explored the rich history of the Arabian Peninsula through archaeological and cultural artefacts, including a selection of rare pieces from the United Arab Emirates.

Roads of Arabia Temporary Exhibition Installation Views, Louvre Abu Dhabi. The Exhibition ran from November 2018 - February 2019.

## Children's Museum Exhibitions

As part of Louvre Abu Dhabi's audience building, the Children's Museum gives the next generation an opportunity to learn about the themes running through the permanent galleries with a playful and smart approach. Two main exhibitions took place in the Children's Museum.

**'Travelling Shapes and Colours' (11 November 2017 – 16 August 2018)**, presented 8 artworks, 1 being a loan from the Musée du Louvre, Département des Objets d'art.

**'Animals, Between Real and Imaginary' (6 September 2018 - 9 June 2019)**, focuses on the representation of animals throughout art history from all eras and regions and exhibited 6 artworks, 2 of them loans from the Musée du Louvre.



A rooster artwork on display inside the Children's Museum as part of the Animals, Between Real and Imaginary Exhibition.



# Publications

Louvre Abu Dhabi's publications reinforce the universal narrative of the museum through a variety of books.

From exhibition catalogues, guides on the permanent collection and digital books to richly illustrated art and architectural publications, children's books and scholarly monographs further support the museum's mission to make art and culture accessible to all.

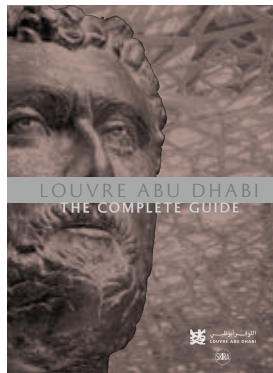
Produced in partnership with international publishers, the museum's publications are published in Arabic, English and French, with additional languages to come.

## General museum publications



**Louvre Abu Dhabi: Masterpieces of the Collection**  
 Published in November 2017  
 Languages English, French, Arabic 128 pages  
 An image-rich album highlighting the major works of Louvre Abu Dhabi's collection including captions and brief introductions to the different thematic sections of the museum.

**Louvre Abu Dhabi: The Complete Guide**  
 Published in April 2018  
 Languages English, French, Arabic 392 pages  
 The comprehensive guide to Louvre Abu Dhabi's collections with illustrations, historical references and descriptions of many objects, as well as maps and section headings outlining the museum's universal narrative.



**Louvre Abu Dhabi at a Glance**  
 Published in November 2018  
 Languages English, French, Arabic  
 A unique small-format foldout, this panoramic guide features one key work from each of the museum's main galleries and its groundbreaking building.

## Exhibition catalogues and albums

### From One Louvre to Another

Published in November 2017

Languages English, French, Arabic 384 pages

This catalogue was published to accompany the first temporary exhibition at Louvre Abu Dhabi and contains more than 200 images. Through a number of scholarly essays, the book presents a detailed historical account of the formations of Louis XIV's royal collection and the subsequent transformation of the Louvre Palace from a royal residence to a centre for practicing artists, before finally becoming a national museum.



### From One Louvre to Another

Published in November 2017

Languages trilingual version English, French, Arabic 96 pages

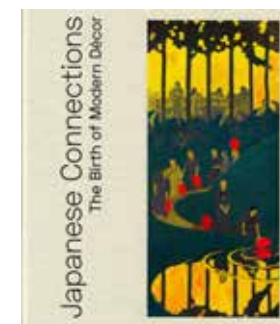
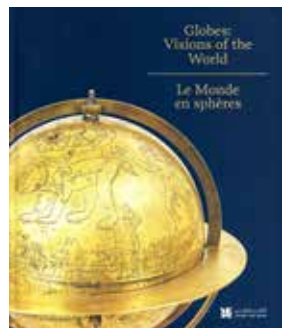
This album presents an overview of the first temporary exhibition at Louvre Abu Dhabi. It traces the birth of the Musée du Louvre in Paris in the 18th century and sheds light on the way a public collection is formed, drawing mainly from the collections of the Musée du Louvre and the Château de Versailles.

### Globes: Visions of the World

Published in March 2018

Languages trilingual version English, French, Arabic 152 pages

Published for the museum's second temporary exhibition, this trilingual album contains illustrations and descriptions of objects which testify to our spherical conception of the world and universe since antiquity. It chronicles humankind's feats of engineering and science in the exploration and discovery of the earth and beyond.



### Japanese Connections: The Birth of Modern Décor

Published in September 2018

Languages English, French, Arabic 176 pages

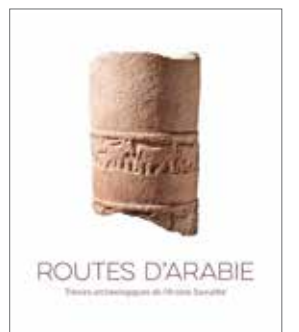
Published to accompany the museum's third temporary exhibition, this catalogue chronicles the influence of Ukiyo-e, Japanese print making, and Japonism on Western art at the turn of the 20th century. This mixing of aesthetics and cultural exchange led to the development of a new style, which sought to bring art into the decorative elements of daily life – and daily life into the subject matter of art.

### Roads of Arabia: Archaeological Treasures of Saudi Arabia

Published in November 2018

Languages English, French, Arabic 96 pages

Following the major themes of the museum's fourth temporary exhibition, this catalogue highlights significant archaeological findings and presents a historical journey through the trade routes, incense roads and pilgrimage paths of the Arabian Gulf - from the Neolithic period to the early 20th century.





# Public & Educational Programmes

Louvre Abu Dhabi engages multiple community segments through its cultural and educational public programmes and educational institutions outreach.

## Public Programmes

The museum's public programmes offered a diverse and engaging range of performing arts to the community. Such cultural programming complements the collection on show in the museum's galleries as well as the special exhibitions and aims to celebrate both traditional and contemporary art forms from around the world.

Louvre Abu Dhabi's 2018 programme of events and activities began with the court dances of the Royal Palace of Yogyakarta (2 - 3 February), a slow-paced elegant dance that combines Indian, Islamic and Indonesian touches dating back as far as the 7th century.

Targeting children and families, a puppet show 'A Tree and A Boy' (15 - 17 March) presented by Korean theatre company Thebefe told the story of a tree and a boy as they go through the natural phases of life.



Visitors take part in a drawing workshop based on the Royal Ballet of Cambodia.

Outdoor performances included Shantala Shivalingappa performance, alongside the world renowned cellist Sonia Wieder-Atherton (30 - 31 March). Shantala returned (5 - 6 April) with Swayambhu, a recital of five pieces, which is dedicated to five different stories-characters-energies from Hindu mythology. Dynamic dances by South African band Via Sophiatown combined step-dancing, hip-hop accompanied by three live jazz musicians (19 - 20 April). Concluding the season on 2 - 3 May was a concert of popular Arab throwback music with a modern twist by Lebanese hip-hop enthusiast Rayess Bek and visual artist La Mirza in Love and Revenge.

### Manga Lab (6 September - 14 April)

To accompany the exhibition *Japanese Connections: The Birth of Modern Décor*, Louvre Abu Dhabi opened Manga Lab, an experimental, creative zone specifically targeted towards teenagers and young adults around the aesthetic of the popular art of Manga. It recorded more than 30,000 visitors. Teens got the chance to attend 19 free masterclasses led by UAE-based artists, the classes covered manga drawing techniques as well as woodblock printing.

### 1st Year Anniversary (6 - 11 November)

Louvre Abu Dhabi celebrated its first year anniversary with a week full of events including the opening of the *Roads of Arabia* exhibition, public programmes and performances, an international symposium and a newly updated permanent gallery.

### On the Roads of Arabia: Premiere Performance (8 - 10 November)

80 artists came from over 9 different countries for a series of performances and workshops to celebrate the museum's one year anniversary celebrations and the opening of the *Roads of Arabia: Archaeological Treasures of Saudi Arabia* exhibition in November 2018.

**24.6k**   
student visitors



### Spoken Art (9 - 10 November)

As part of the celebration, a series of live poetry performances titled Spoken Art (9 to 10 November), directed by Dorian Paul Rogers, where seven UAE-based poets perform throughout the museum inspired by artworks in Louvre Abu Dhabi galleries

### Salem Al Mansoori's Constellations (6 - 18 November)

Using Louvre Abu Dhabi visitor data, Al Mansoori's digital art installation showcased interactive, distinctly shaped constellations. Each "star" represents one nationality, while the size of each star reflects the number of visitors from that nationality.

### Pop-up Architecture (9 - 10 November)

Hosted in the museum's park, this activity allowed families to use large-scale geometric shapes to create new structures inspired by our dome. The event ran in partnership with Noa Haim, Collective Paper Aesthetics. This event included a university challenge 'Everyone is a Designer!', attended by 109 students. The activity welcomed nearly 800 visitors over two days, aided by 29 volunteers.

### International Symposium (10 - 11 November)

Louvre Abu Dhabi hosted its first symposium 'Worlds in a Museum' as part of its first year anniversary events and in collaboration with École du Louvre, the symposium addressed the topic of museums in a globalised world and brought together leaders in the field to discuss contemporary museology in keynote speeches and panel discussions. The symposium featured over 20 important figures from institutions around the world, such

as Musée du Louvre, Paris, Aga Khan Museum, Toronto, British Museum, London, J. Paul Getty Trust, Los Angeles, Bahrain Authority for Culture and Antiquities, Asian Civilisations Museum, Singapore and the National Museum of Beirut, Beirut.

### Rain of Light Festival (11 - 15 December 2018)

A week-long performing arts festival celebrating the museum's architecture and second cultural season, 'A World of Exchanges'. The festival included a series of performances to showcase intangible heritage and styles from different continents and create artistic encounters between performers and the collection.

Highlight of performances was a traditional Khmer dance performance by the Royal Ballet of Cambodia, one of UNESCO's Masterpieces of the Oral and Intangible Heritage of Humanity. The Khmer dance tradition is amongst the most refined in the world. The Ballet performed a homage to famous French sculptor Auguste Rodin, titled Metamorphosis, an adaptation of the myth of Psyche through the history of Vaddhana Devi by Artistic Director Jean-Hervé Vidal.

Other performances in the season included a concert by Hindi Zahra of her latest album Homeland, a performance by Etienne Saglio titled The Ghost Project, a reinterpreted dance battle titled Battle of Styles, an ancient Egyptian dance from the time of the Pharaohs by Medhat Fawzy Centre titled The Nile Men in the Circle, La Transumante by Johann Le Guillerm, as well as Al Ayala performances by Mubarak Al Otaiba group.



Panel discussion from the symposium debating the challenges and opportunities for museums in a new global world, speakers included (from left) HE Mohamed Khalifa Al Mubarak, Chairman, Department of Culture and Tourism and Hartwig Fischer, Director of the British Museum.



### Educational Outreach

Louvre Abu Dhabi museum's school programme allows the students an opportunity to experience the collection and cultivate their own unique perception of it guided by a museum's guide or their teachers.

In 2018, more than 5,000 guided tours, workshops and masterclasses for schools, university students, families and adults were conducted. The museum also hosted, in partnership with Ministry of Education (MOE) and The Department of Education and Knowledge (ADEK), a training week for teachers to lead their own classroom tours in the galleries.

The ARTogether Street Artist initiative (September - 27 October 2018) gave 31 school students the opportunity to explore visual culture and to work with the UAE-based artist MyneandYours.

During a set of events between August and November, an 'Educator's Circle' was hosted at the museum with 130 attendees, from 62 public and private schools, 8 universities to focus on sharing knowledge of collection and discuss ways to integrate that in school's art and history classes.

Other collaborations included school and university visits, circulation of an educator resource kits, and educational newsletters availed to all schools in the UAE.

## Resource Centre

Louvre Abu Dhabi is committed to the mission of collection, research and documentation, and to establishing a scientific thesaurus in the region. Although the library is not yet open, it now contains about 3,000 books in 15 languages, including 1,491 from Agence France-Muséums, 1,085 directly acquired, and 500 donated as gifts. The books are currently being catalogued and will be assessable to researchers later in 2019.

Louvre Abu Dhabi follows the Getty Research Institute standards, as established by ICOM (International Council of Museums), in all artwork documentation and cataloguing efforts.

Louvre Abu Dhabi plans to develop a laboratory to foster research, preservation and documentation of its permanent collection.



Children attending a workshop in the Children's Museum.

## Interpretation & Mediation

By offering multiple lenses in which to consider art, Louvre Abu Dhabi offers diverse interpretive approaches to engage our visitors and enrich their experience. The museum offers numerous free-learning resources to visitors, including the smart phone app, multimedia guides, audio tour guides, social media posts, activity booklets inside the galleries, art kits and online resources.

Throughout the permanent galleries the tactile stations provide visitors with guidance and orientation and also with information on the artworks. The galleries now also include newly added visual stories.

50k  Multimedia guide rentals

4  New tours created

250  New audio commentaries



Family and children interacting at tactile station.



# Visitors Information

## Visitor Profile

Louvre Abu Dhabi has become a key attraction for international visitors to Abu Dhabi, tourists account for 60% of recorded visits. The museum is driving tourism to the Emirate and visitors come from all parts of the globe.

Top recorded international visitors come from France, China, Germany, the UK, the US, India, Russia, and the GCC being the top-recorded visitors. In terms of resident visitors, India is the top nationality of visitors followed by France and China.

UAE residents have rapidly adopted the museum and made it a favourite destination to gather with family and friends. They represent 40% of the museum's total number of visitors. Meanwhile, Emirati visitors represent the second top visitors to the museum with an increasing trend and the percentage of repeat visits of this segment reached 24%.

Almost 80% of the Emirati visitors are from Abu Dhabi and Dubai; however, Northern Emirates visitors have shown a 10% increase during the last quarter of 2018.

The visitor split is almost equal between males and females. Visitors spend an average of 2 hours 18 minutes in the museum. The overall visitor satisfaction is 89%.

## Accessibility & People of Determination

Louvre Abu Dhabi museum aims to create a welcoming and comfortable experience for everyone. The museum building and its galleries were designed to be a fully accessible. In 2018, the museum improved its service for people of determination further, by added new tactile stations and maps in permanent galleries for visitors with visual impairments.

Also in 2018, the museum launched a new Sensory tour guide.

During UN's International Week for People of Determination (4 December 2018), three centres were invited to experience the sensory tour at the museum, with a total of 33 in attendance. The participating centres were the Future Rehabilitation Centre, Al Shurooq Center for the Rehabilitation of Persons with Disabilities and Zayed City Center for Care and Rehabilitation.

## Art Club Membership

The membership programme of Louvre Abu Dhabi gives visitors the opportunity of having exclusive access to its exhibitions and permanent galleries, as well as entry to partner museums around the world. Artclub member in 2018 reached approximately 5,000.



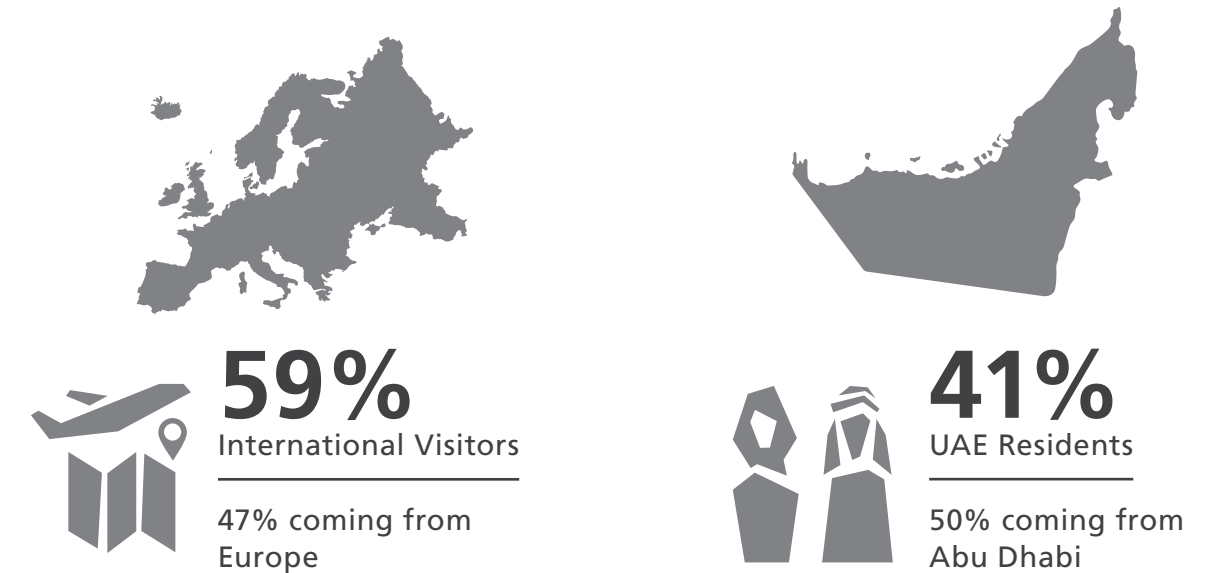
Visitors from all walks of life enjoy a masterpiece by Jacques-Louis David.

**1M** Louvre Abu Dhabi attendance

**89%** Overall visitor satisfaction

# 2018 Visitor Demographics

## Where are they coming from?



	Total Visitors: 100	International Visitors (IVS): 59	UAE Residents: 41
<b>Top Nationalities</b>			
India	10.2	2.4	7.8
France	7.4	6.0	1.4
China	6.9	5.4	1.6
UK	6.1	3.8	2.2
Germany	5.6	5.1	0.5
USA	4.8	3.6	1.2
UAE	4.5	0.1	4.4
Philippines	4.2	0.6	3.5
Russia	2.9	2.0	0.8
Australia	2.1	1.7	0.4
Italy	2.1	1.7	0.4
Japan	2.0	1.7	0.3
Netherlands	1.9	1.5	0.4
South Korea	1.9	1.6	0.3
Others	35.1	20.3	14.8
GCC EXCL. UAE	2.3	1.9	0.4

Source: Louvre Abu Dhabi visitor barometer




## 2018 Visitor Demographics

### Visitor's Group

Average Group Size

**3.0** 

### Repeat Visitors


**8%**   
of Louvre Abu Dhabi  
are Repeaters

### Time spent at Louvre Abu Dhabi

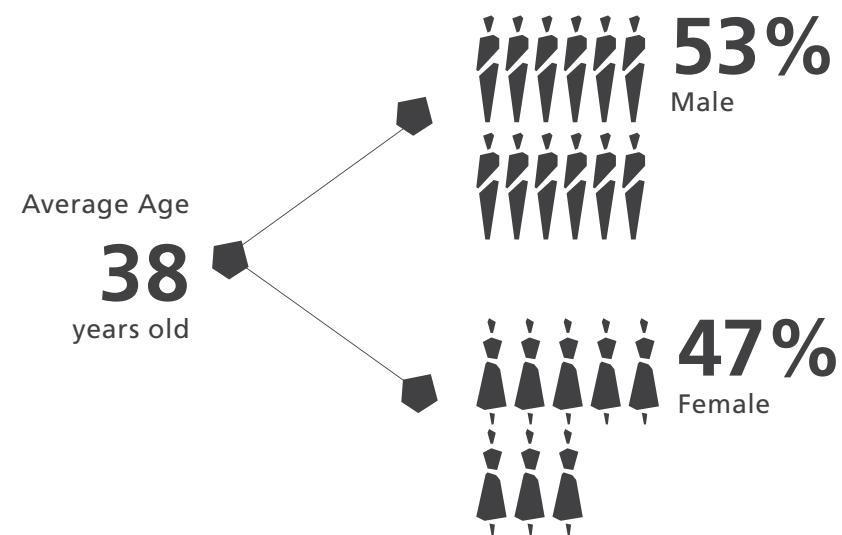
Average Time

**2H:18M** 

### Main Motivation to visit

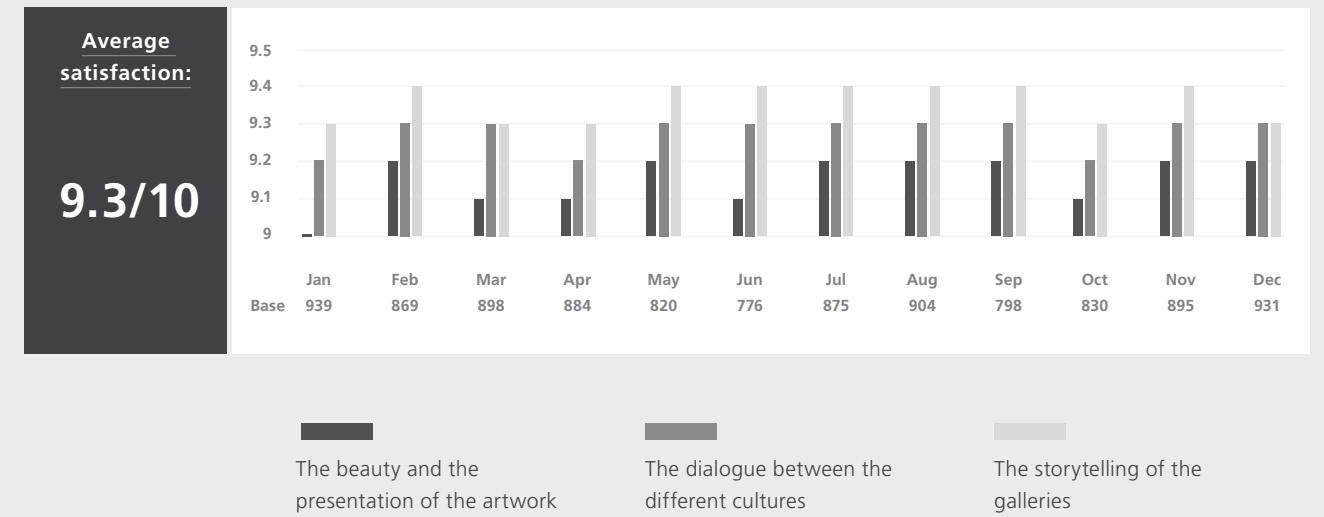
**37%**  Art content  
**33%**  Architectural design  
of the building

### Visitors Demographic Profile



## 2018 Visitor Satisfaction on the Artwork

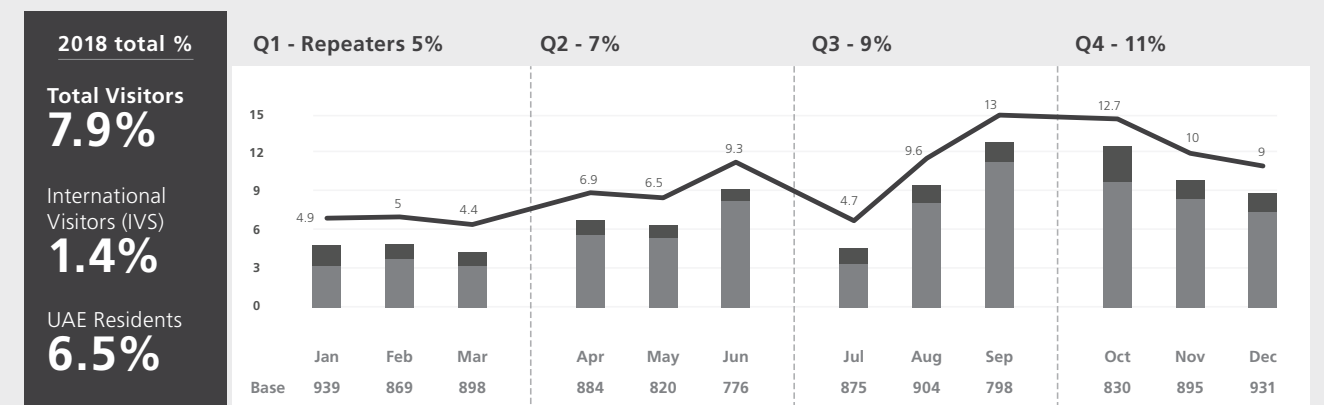
### Satisfaction level on presentation of artwork



Source: Louvre Abu Dhabi visitor barometer

## 2018 Repeat Visit Trend

### Repeaters showing an increasing trend quarter on quarter, peaking in September/October



Source: Louvre Abu Dhabi visitor barometer



# Operational Excellence

## Emiratisation

As part of the museum's training and Emiratisation policy, almost half of the staff comprises of Emiratis, with the remainder from diverse nationalities. In 2018, Emirati nationals received training and placement opportunities in renowned French museums through the intergovernmental agreement. Furthermore, the second class of the Student Ambassadors programme graduated.

## Sustainability

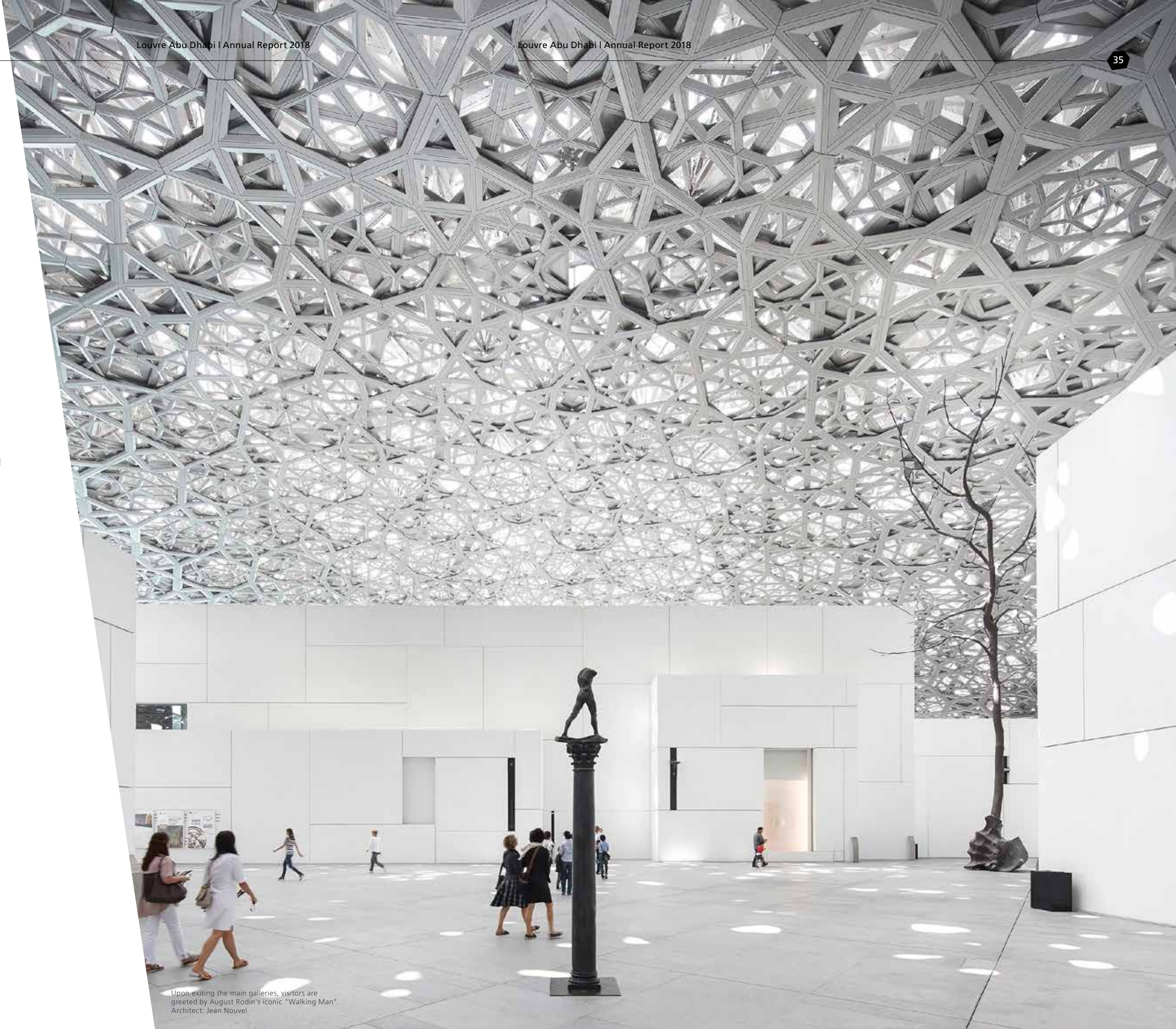
In July 2018 it was confirmed that Louvre Abu Dhabi had fulfilled the requirements of the LEED green building rating system certification established by the US green building council and verified by green business certification inc. LEED v2.2 New construction and major renovations: Silver level.

With the aim of adopting good health and safety practices to both its visitors and staff, Louvre Abu Dhabi established in 2018 its Health, Safety & Environment Committee.



# 1.6k

Total museum-specific training hours



Upon exiting the main galleries, visitors are greeted by August Rodin's iconic "Walking Man". Architect: Jean Nouvel



# Promotion & International Outreach

## Marketing & Awards

Throughout 2018, Louvre Abu Dhabi strengthened its position and reputation as a leading cultural institution in the region and internationally. Delivering critically acclaimed exhibitions and receiving endorsement from peers and influencers for its innovative cultural approach, media coverage has been mainly centred around the museum's cycle of international exhibitions, driven by press trips and previews, as well as the cultural programming.

With over 25,000 articles recorded in 2018 alone, Louvre Abu Dhabi has had significant coverage in key publications globally, including prominent features in the New York Times, CNN, Le Quotidien de L'Art, Il Sole 24 Ore, Die Welt, Apollo and The Art Newspaper. Arabic coverage was equally widespread, including pieces in Al Ittihad, Al Bayan, Al Khaleej, Asharq Al Awsat and Emarat Al Youm.

The 1 million visitor announcement for the first-year anniversary has been celebrated as a major achievement and nurtured confidence in the museum and its future, in terms of audiences, excellence and knowledge transfer.

Complementing the museum's media engagement efforts, Louvre Abu Dhabi's website and social media platforms added to the institution's global positioning and transported its message


to a wide audience, including a 56% growth of Louvre Abu Dhabi's Instagram followers and attracting 1.5 million visitors to its website.

Equally, the museum features prominently on third-party platforms, boasting consistently positive reviews on Tripadvisor and forming a key part of the Abu Dhabi Culture digital portal, a well-visited website for cultural sites in the emirate.

Alongside the museum's communications and marketing efforts, Louvre Abu Dhabi received a number of prestigious awards and recognitions throughout 2018. The museum's marketing campaign Highway Gallery, created to take its art beyond the museum walls, won 10 awards including four of the prestigious Cannes Lions and others including London International Awards, Dubai Lynx and the Effie Awards MENA.

The museum was featured in Time Magazine's list of the World's Greatest Places to visit in 2018 and received the Apollo Museum Opening of the Year 2018 Award, two Grazia Style Awards, the MEP Sustainable Project of the Year Award, and was announced as the winner of the Best Cultural Opening, presented by Condé Nast Traveller Middle East Editor's Choice Award 2018.

 **1.5M**  
Website visitors

 **3.2k**  
Protocol and VIP visitors



Launch of the 1st highway gallery by HE Noura bint Mohammed Al Kaabi - Minister of Culture and Knowledge Development, HE Mohamed Khalifa Al Mubarak - Chairman of DCT, HE Saif Saeed Ghobash - Undersecretary of DTC, and Manuel Rabat - Museum's Director.



Self portrait of Van Gogh seen on the highway gallery



## National & International Outreach

As part of its promotional drive, the museum participated in 24 conferences globally, including 10 in the UAE and others in Asia, North Africa, Europe and the United States (in 15 countries). Key events included Art Basel Conversations, Switzerland, M+, Hong Kong Musée de Cluny, France, Frankfurter Buchmesse, Germany and Yale University, USA.

Presence at conferences include:

Kuwait city, institutional presentation of the project at the French Institute, institutional presentation of archaeology at Louvre Abu Dhabi at the CEFAS.

Bellevue Theater, Amsterdam, Netherlands, Act for Democracy! "The 21st Century Museum: a place where cultures meet?" How can museums build bridges both within and beyond societies?, 1 June 2018.

Frankfurt Book Fair: Kalima Translation Project and Louvre Abu Dhabi as Models for the Cultural Transfer of Literature and Art, 14 October 2018.

Yale University: Border Crossing, Historians of Islamic Art Association 2018 Biennial Symposium, 25 - 27 October 2018,

Louvre Paris, 24 hours at Louvre Abu Dhabi, 17 - 18 November 2018.

Abu Dhabi Art Fair, Markets, Museums and the Global Circulation of Art, 16 November 2018.

Friends of Cluny/Friends of Musée du Louvre and museum partners, Le Louvre Abu Dhabi, un musée universel, histoire de l'enrichissement d'un nouveau musée, 13 December 2018.

Louvre Abu Dhabi attended five trade shows, including London's World Travel Market and Dubai's Arabian Travel Market. Partnerships have been established with 91 resellers from the tourism trade industry, accounting for an average of 12% of ticket sales.

## VIP & Protocol Visits

Moreover, approximately 6,000 guests attended 40 private events for corporate and government partners at the museum, including conferences, evening receptions and gala dinners. In total, there were almost 400 official diplomatic visits and VIP visits arranged at Louvre Abu Dhabi museum.



Nepalese President Bidhya Devi Bhandari (centre) visits Louvre Abu Dhabi, 16 November 2017.

# Thank You

## Permanent galleries

Louvre Abu Dhabi would like to thank all the museums and institutions gathered through its French Partner Agence France-Museums for their loans and support to the museum activities:

Musée du Louvre, Centre Pompidou, Musées d'Orsay et de l'Orangerie, Bibliothèque nationale de France, Musée du quai Branly-Jacques Chirac, Réunion des Musées Nationaux et du Grand Palais (RMN-GP), Château de Versailles, Musée national des arts asiatiques-Guimet, Musée de Cluny – Musée national du Moyen-Âge, École du Louvre, Musée Rodin, Domaine National de Chambord, Musée des Arts Décoratifs (MAD), Cité de la Céramique – Sèvres & Limoges, Musée d'Archéologie nationale – Saint-Germain en Laye, Château de Fontainebleau, and OPPIC (Opérateur du patrimoine et des projets immobiliers de la culture).

Louvre Abu Dhabi deeply thanks its Emirati and regional partners who lent major artworks displayed in the museum galleries: Department of Culture and Tourism, Al Ain National Museum, Zayed National Museum, Guggenheim Abu Dhabi, Dubai Municipality, National Museum of Ras Al Khaimah, Saudi Commission for Tourism & National Heritage (Kingdom of Saudi Arabia), National Museum (Oman), and Ministry of Tourism & Antiquities - Department of Antiquities (Jordan).

## Special Exhibitions

Louvre Abu Dhabi also wishes to express its warmest thanks to the museums and institutions that have offered their support by lending important works from their collections for the temporary exhibitions in 2018:

## From One Louvre to Another 21 December 2017 - 7 April 2018

Musée du Quai Branly - Jacques Chirac, Paris, France  
Institut National d'Histoire de l'Art, Paris, France  
Petit Palais - Musée des Beaux-Arts de la Ville de Paris, Paris, France  
Bibliothèque Nationale de France, Paris, France  
Musée Carnavalet – Histoire de Paris, Paris, France  
École Nationale Supérieure des Beaux-Arts de Paris, Paris, France  
Château de Fontainebleau, Fontainebleau, France  
Musée National de la Marine, Paris, France  
Musée des Beaux-Arts de Tours, Tours, France

## Globes: Visions of the World

### 23 March 2018 - 2 June 2018

Bibliothèque nationale de France, Paris, France  
Bibliothèque Sainte-Geneviève, Paris, France  
Centre National d'Art et de Culture Georges-Pompidou, Paris, France  
Centre National des Arts et Métiers, Paris, France  
CNC, Centre National du Cinéma et de l'Image Animée – Direction du Patrimoine, Paris, France  
CNES, Centre National d'Études Spatiales, Paris, France  
Collection Rudolf Schmidt, Austrian National Library, Vienna, Austria  
Galerie J. Kugel, Paris, France  
Musée du Louvre, Paris, France  
Musée d'Art et Archéologie, Valence, France  
Musée national des châteaux de Versailles et de Trianon, Versailles, France  
Société de Géographie, Paris, France

## Japanese Connections: The Birth of Modern Décor

### 6 September 2018 - 8 December 2018

Bibliothèque nationale de France, Paris, France  
Musée des Arts décoratifs, Paris, France  
Musée National des Arts Asiatiques – Guimet, Paris, France

## Roads of Arabia: Archaeological Treasures of Saudi Arabia

### 8 November 2018 - 16 February 2019

Saudi Commission for Tourism and National Heritage, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia  
Bibliothèque nationale de France, Paris, France  
Department of Culture and Tourism - Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates  
Department of Tourism and Archaeology, Umm al-Quwain, United Arab Emirates  
Musée des Arts décoratifs, Paris, France  
Musée du Louvre, Paris, France  
National Museum of Ras al-Khaimah, Department of Antiquities and Museums, Ras al-Khaimah, United Arab Emirates



# Corporate Partners

Louvre Abu Dhabi is grateful for the support received from our Corporate Partners, which is instrumental in helping the museum achieve its objectives.

The way in which we connect these partners with the museum not only strengthens relations with the wider community, but also enables us to organise a wide range of special exhibitions, educational, cultural activities and enhance our permanent collection. With this in mind, we would like to thank the following:

**Bank of Sharjah**  
**Etihad**  
**First Abu Dhabi Bank**  
**Masdar**  
**Murex**  
**Total E&P**  
**UAE Embassy in US**  
**VMWARE**



A tiered amphitheater of fiber concrete panels above the water level separates the park from the museum buildings.

# About

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

The Department of Culture and Tourism – Abu Dhabi conserves and promotes the heritage and culture of Abu Dhabi emirate and leverages them in the development of a world-class, sustainable destination of distinction that enriches the lives of visitors and residents alike. The Department manages the emirate's tourism sector and markets the destination internationally through a wide range of activities aimed at attracting visitors and investment. Its policies, plans and programmes relate to the preservation of heritage and culture, including protecting archaeological and historical sites and to developing museums, including the Louvre Abu Dhabi, the Zayed National Museum and the Guggenheim Abu Dhabi. The Department of Culture and Tourism supports intellectual and artistic activities and cultural events to nurture a rich cultural environment and honour the emirate's heritage. A key role played by the Department is to create synergy in the destination's development through close coordination with its wide-ranging stakeholder base.

## ABOUT SAADIYAT CULTURAL DISTRICT

Saadiyat Cultural District on Saadiyat Island, Abu Dhabi, is devoted to culture and the arts. An ambitious cultural undertaking for the 21st century, it will be a nucleus for global culture, attracting local, regional and international guests with unique exhibitions, permanent collections, productions and performances. Its ground-breaking buildings will form a historical statement of the finest 21st century architecture; Zayed National Museum, Louvre Abu Dhabi and Guggenheim Abu Dhabi. These museums will complement and collaborate with local and regional arts and cultural institutions including universities and research centres.

## ABOUT AGENCE FRANCE-MUSÉUMS

Created in 2007 following the intergovernmental agreement between Abu Dhabi and France, Agence France-Muséums (AFM) has been for 10 years a key link between France and the UAE in the accomplishment of the Louvre Abu Dhabi.

By gathering for the first time the collections and the expertise of the French cultural institutions involved, AFM has provided since its creation assistance and expertise to the authorities of the United Arab Emirates in the following areas: definition of the scientific and cultural programme, assistance in project management for architecture including museography, signage

and multimedia projects, coordination of the loans from French collections and organisation of international exhibitions, guidance with the creation of a permanent collection, and support with the museum's policy on visitors.

AFM now continues its missions for Louvre Abu Dhabi after its opening with the training of the museum's professionals, the coordination of loans from French museums for 10 years and the organisation of international exhibitions for 15 years.



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