

Press Release

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In the presence of Zayed bin Sultan bin Khalifa, Louvre Abu Dhabi and Richard Mille Announce Nicène Kossentini as Winner of the 2024 Richard Mille Art Prize

The winner was selected from the five shortlisted artists of the 2024 Louvre Abu Dhabi Art Here exhibition, showcasing contemporary art from emerging and established GCC and North African artists



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Pictured (left-to-right): Dr. Guilhem André, Director of Scientific, Curatorial and Collection Management at Louvre Abu Dhabi, **Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan bin Khalifa Al Nahyan**, a former advisor to the UAE Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA), Chairman of UAE Unlimited, an art collector, and a patron of the Centre Pompidou, the British Museum and Sharjah Art Foundation, **Nicène Kossentini**, winner of the Richard Mille Art Prize 2024, **Tilly Harrison**, Managing Director, Richard Mille FZE, **Alexandre Mille**, Global CEO, Richard Mille, **Manuel Rabaté**, Director of Louvre Abu Dhabi

Abu Dhabi, UAE, 13 December 2024: In the presence of Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan bin Khalifa Al Nahyan, a former advisor to the UAE Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA), Chairman of UAE Unlimited, an art collector, and a patron of the Centre Pompidou, the British Museum and Sharjah Art Foundation, Louvre Abu Dhabi and Richard Mille announced Nicène Kossentini as the winner of the fourth edition of the Richard Mille Art Prize. Nicène was one of five shortlisted artists to showcase her work, *Landscapes*, in the *Louvre Abu Dhabi Art Here 2024* exhibition. The artist accepted her award and prize of USD \$60,000 at the award ceremony that took place at Louvre Abu Dhabi on December 11.

Nicène Kossentini, a Tunisian artist known for her interdisciplinary approach, uses her work to challenge how we perceive the passage of time and the ephemeral nature of the world around us. In her submission, *Landscapes*, Kossentini explores the theme of disappearance through five evocative video pieces, each depicting desolate landscapes from central and southern Tunisia. As the images unfold, they gradually freeze and fade beneath a layer of wax, symbolizing the gradual erasure of these places. This striking work reflects on the impermanence of both physical and emotional spaces, inviting viewers to engage more deeply with their surroundings and prompting a shift from passive observation to active contemplation of the fragility of time and existence.

Manuel Rabaté, Director of Louvre Abu Dhabi, said: “With each edition of Art Here, we witness the growth and evolution of contemporary art in the region, and this fourth edition has achieved an exceptional level of maturity and dynamism. This year’s theme, *Awakenings*, has inspired artists to create works of profound depth and innovation, making the jury’s decision an especially difficult one. We are deeply grateful for our partnership with Richard Mille allowing us to bring together esteemed experts and provide a platform for exceptional artists from the region to present their creations at Louvre Abu Dhabi, fostering the growth of contemporary art and inspiring audiences from around the globe.”

Nicène was selected by a distinguished five-member jury, led by **Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan bin Khalifa Al Nahyan**, a former advisor to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA), Chairman of UAE Unlimited, an art collector, and a patron of the Centre Pompidou, the British Museum and Sharjah Art Foundation. Joining him are **Dr. Guilhem André**, Director of Scientific Curatorial and Collection Management at Louvre Abu Dhabi, **Simon Njami**, Art Here 2024 exhibition guest curator, **Nujoom Alghanem**, a renowned Emirati poet, artist and multi-award-winning film director, and **Maya Allison**, the founding director of the Art Gallery and Chief Curator at New York University Abu Dhabi.

Dr. Guilhem André, Director of Scientific, Curatorial and Collection Management at Louvre Abu Dhabi, commented: “Serving on the jury for the Richard Mille Art Prize was an inspiring experience, offering the chance to witness the exceptional contemporary art emerging from the UAE and the North Africa region. This year’s theme, *Awakenings*, inspired thought-provoking works that reflect the cultural and social complexities of our time. By celebrating the creative contributions of the five shortlisted artists, we not only enrich the UAE’s contemporary art scene but also strengthen its position as a global hub for artistic excellence and dialogue.”

Simon Njami, Curator of Louvre Abu Dhabi Art Here 2024, said: “It was not an easy decision, given the exceptional quality of the proposals from the five shortlisted artists. However, after much deliberation, we concluded that Nicène Kossentini’s work best responded to the multitude of questions posed by the theme and its various interpretations. *Horizon*, *Awakening*, and *Ouverture* were explored in a manner that was both subtle and poetic, yet profoundly impactful, earning the unanimous approval of the jury. I extend my gratitude to all the artists for their remarkable dedication, which elevates this award to an international standard of excellence.”

For its fourth edition, *Louvre Abu Dhabi Art Here 2024* invited artists to propose artworks addressing this year’s theme of ‘Awakenings’, exploring three key concepts reflected in Louvre Abu Dhabi’s three official languages: *awakenings* (in English), *ouvertures* (openings in French) and آفاق (horizons in Arabic). Presented beneath the museum’s iconic dome, the exhibition features a dynamic mix of sculpture, multimedia and installation art, reflecting the

region's evolving dialogue with heritage, environment, and culture. The theme encourages artists to explore ideas of openness and new beginnings, challenging them to translate these abstract concepts into tangible forms across various mediums.

Artworks featured in the fourth edition of *Louvre Abu Dhabi Art Here 2024* included: *Tilling the Soil* by Férielle Doulain-Zouari; *Debutante Ball* by Lamyia Gargash; *The Brides of the Sky* by Moataz Nasr; *Landscapes* by Nicène Kossentini; and *Shared Motion* by Sarah Almehairi.

Tilly Harrison, Managing Director of Richard Mille Middle East, commented: "At Richard Mille, we are deeply inspired by the vision and creativity of artists like Nicène Kossentini. Her work, *Landscapes*, is more than just art—it's a profound meditation on the fragility of time and memory, ideas that resonate strongly with our own pursuit of precision and timeless beauty. It's been a privilege to partner with Louvre Abu Dhabi to support such extraordinary talent. Her ability to capture the essence of disappearance and invite us to reflect on what remains is truly remarkable. We are so proud to see her voice and vision recognized on this platform."

Nicène Kossentini, winner of the fourth edition of The Richard Mille Art Prize, said: "I am truly humbled and grateful to receive the 2024 Richard Mille Art Prize. My work, *Landscapes*, is an exploration of disappearance, both the physical and emotional erasure of the world around us. The landscapes I film in Tunisia, often abandoned or forgotten, serve as metaphors for the fragility of time and memory. With this recognition, I am deeply honoured to be part of a community that values not only the aesthetic dimensions of art, but also the stories and questions it provokes. I hope *Landscapes* invites viewers to reflect on what we are losing and, perhaps, to open their eyes to the urgency of what remains. I extend my heartfelt thanks to the Louvre Abu Dhabi and Richard Mille for their unwavering support of contemporary art."

Louvre Abu Dhabi Art Here and the prestigious Richard Mille Art Prize are key platforms for showcasing contemporary artists from the region, highlighting a broad spectrum of mediums. Each year, a select group of artists is chosen through an open call, presenting powerful works that engage with a unique, thought-provoking theme. *Louvre Abu Dhabi Art Here 2024*, featuring contemporary works from emerging and established GCC and North African artists, will be on display until December 15, 2024. The theme and call for proposal for the highly anticipated 2025 fifth edition of the Richard Mille Art Prize and *Louvre Abu Dhabi Art Here* exhibition will be announced in 2025.

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 Roussel 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.