



TUWAIQ  
SCULPTURE  
A RIYADH ART PROGRAM  
**2025**

15 Jan - 24 Feb, 2025

6TH EDITION OF TUWAIQ SCULPTURES

**OPEN CALL  
FOR ARTISTS**

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# 1. General Information

## 1.1. Background

The rapid growth in population and subsequent urban expansion of Riyadh, the capital of Saudi Arabia in the last two decades, together with a booming economy, have created an opportunity for the city to revitalise the urban landscape through art and cultural development. Riyadh Art was launched as part of Riyadh's Four Grand Projects by His Majesty King Salman bin Abdulaziz in March 2019, under supervision of the Committee, chaired by His Royal Highness Mohammad bin Salman bin Abdulaziz, Crown Prince, Prime Minister and Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Royal Commission for the City (RCRC) of Riyadh, with an aim to transform the Saudi Capital into a 'Gallery without Walls'.

The RCRC is committed to Riyadh Art's vision, by encouraging excellence in the design of artistic interventions, public buildings, parks, streets, and infrastructure. RCRC recognizes that public art, along with architecture, landscape architecture, urban design, environmental-based design, and historic preservation are some of the tools the city can use to face this challenge.

Riyadh Art will engage aspects of Riyadh's landscape, urban design, history and culture that make the city distinct and special among world capitals. It will also aim to reflect Saudi Arabia's Vision 2030 plan and create strong, meaningful connections between the citizens of Riyadh, their community, and civic life.

Riyadh Art's vast scope has been divided into a program of 10 projects and two annual festivals: Tuwaiq Sculpture and Noor Riyadh.

## 1.2. Tuwaiq Sculpture

Tuwaiq Sculpture is an international sculpture symposium, part of Riyadh Art, one of the largest public art programmes undertaken in the world today. Taking place annually since 2019, Tuwaiq Sculpture has so far engaged over 120 internationally renowned sculptors and thousands of visitors.

Celebrating its 6th edition, Tuwaiq Sculpture will host a group of 30 local and international sculptors from 15 January to 8 February, 2025. Artists will create original artworks that will later become an integral part of Riyadh's urban fabric. The entire process will be open and accessible to the public, as a live sculpture-making event based at a special location in Riyadh.

**The Aim:** To promote new dialogues in line with Riyadh Art's vision, and create cultural platforms where local and international artists meet and collaborate, effectively contributing to the enrichment of the cultural scene in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

For more information, visit: <http://www.riyadhart.sa>

## 1.3. Key Definitions and Terms

**Symposium** – The 6th edition of Tuwaiq Sculpture that is taking place in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia from 15 January to 8 February 2025.

**Exhibition** – A post-Symposium on-site exhibition that will open on the 12 February and close on 24 February 2025.

**Management Team** – A dedicated team that are responsible for managing the planning and delivery of Tuwaiq Sculpture.

**Delivery Provider** - An agency appointed to plan, operate and deliver Tuwaiq Sculpture under the supervision of the Symposium Management Team.

**Artists** – Creative practitioners who will be contracted by the Delivery Provider, who will also be responsible for issuing the artist fee and arranging and paying for travel and accommodation for Artists.

**Contractual Arrangements** - Whilst the contractual arrangement for the project will be between the Artists and Delivery Provider, Artists will grant Riyadh Art the right to own their sculptures and to permanently display them in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

## 1.4. Dates and Scope of Work

The Symposium will take place from **15 January to 8 February, 2025** (Saturday, 8 February will be the last working day for the artists). The Exhibition will take place from **12 February to 24 February, 2025**.

Artists are expected to arrive in Riyadh on Sunday, **12 January, 2025**, and leave Riyadh not earlier than **12 February, 2025**. Artists are required to work throughout the Symposium and be present at the opening of the Exhibition.

## 1.5. Theme

The curatorial theme for Tuwaiq Sculpture 2025 is **“From Then to Now”** - “Joy in the struggle of making”.

A work of art is never completed. Artists, though, opt to trade completion for abandonment. There can be a wealth of beauty to be taken in from this absurd condition, and the selflessness of such a seemingly endless quest can be a source of freedom and fulfillment.

The symposium aims to acknowledge artistic practices as a fundamental part of the cultural life of cities and as an instrument for collective wellbeing. In times of fast-paced development, such

as the one Riyadh is experiencing, the legacy of Tuwaiq's Sculpture is of particular importance; these will become a placemaking anchor for the present and a witness for the future.

This curatorial proposal vindicates the need for symbolic acts in contemporary society. It invites us to appreciate the fulfillment and poetry contained in the artist's struggle.

## 1.6. Sculpture Relocation

After the Exhibition, the sculptures will enrich the Riyadh Art's collection and later become a permanent feature of the Saudi capital's urban fabric. Exact relocation sites are going to be announced in due course.

## 1.7. Artist Selection and Jury Panel

Tuwaiq Sculpture aims to work with Artists who create meaningful artworks, with a powerful narrative that represent the values of Saudi Arabia's 2030 Vision, enriching the overall quality of life, and inspire the creative spirit of Riyadh's citizens and visitors.

Tuwaiq Sculpture ensures a fair, transparent, and efficient process to select Artists' submissions. The selection process will be conducted by the Tuwaiq Sculpture Jury Panel, and is based on the following six criteria:

- 1. Artist Experience** – Artist participation in previous symposia, education, and exhibition history.
- 2. Concept Presentation** – Artist demonstrates important and contextually relevant aspects of the sculpture proposal.
- 3. Relevance** – Artist demonstrates a clear understanding and creative interpretation of the theme, and proposes a sculpture relevant to public space.
- 4. Artist Approach** – Artist demonstrates a distinct use of the medium with a strong integration of elements and principles of sculpture design.
- 5. Originality** – Artist proposes a unique and distinct artwork.
- 6. Technique and Style** – Artists demonstrates their own technique, style, and methods of using rough or soft surfaces in the finishing of the work. There is clear evidence of great attention to detail.

The Jury Panel for Tuwaiq Sculpture 2025 consists of five renowned experts that will be announced in due course.

*\*Only artists who have not been selected in the last 2 consecutive editions of Tuwaiq Sculpture will be evaluated for nomination. Those who were previously selected in the previous 2 consecutive editions of Tuwaiq Sculpture will not be nominated for evaluation and are not permitted to participate. All Jury Panel's decisions are final, due to the expected number of submissions, and no feedback will be provided to unsuccessful applicants.*

## 1.8. Material and Working Environment

- a. Artists will be working in a live environment open to visitors, including university students, school tours, representatives of embassies, and the general public. While all visits will be led by professional tour assistants, artists are encouraged to engage with visitors while working on-site.
- b. Each Artist will be supplied with approximately 6 cubic meters of granite originating from the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. This should be used for both the sculpture and the base. Artists are required to create a base for their sculpture and specify the dimensions and color of the base.
- c. Artists will select the Granite colours from the following: Royal Rose, Royal Gold, and Green; they also have the option to incorporate Black Basalt in their sculptures. Artists are encouraged to work with more than one colour.
- d. Artists will define the exact measurements for how the stones should be cut, following the guidelines and parameters below:
  - i. Granite (Royal Rose, Royal Gold, Green Granite): 300 (h) x 200 (l) x 100 (d) cm
  - ii. **Black Basalt**(\*): 200 (h) x 100 (l) x 80 (d) cm

**\*Please note, Basalt is to be considered a secondary material and no Sculpture is to be made fully from Basalt alone.**

  - iii. The number of stone pieces, excluding the base, should not exceed 4 (four) pieces.
- e. Each artist is expected to create one sculpture, but Artists are invited to submit up to two different proposals. If selected, Artists will be informed which sculpture proposal was selected.

## 1.9. Tools and Equipment

All required tools and equipment will be provided. However, Artists can bring their own tools (including cutting, polishing, and air tools), if required, for their own technical and creative desires. The following tools and equipment will be included, but not limited to:

- Bosch big and small grinders
- Makita wet diamond core drill bits (90 x 450; 90 x 450; 120 x 45; 160 x 450; 200 x 450; 250 x 450)
- Granite Cutting Disks (4.5"; 5"; 7"; 9")
- Polishing discs (36; 40; 60; 80; 100; 120; 220; 280; 320)
- Bosch Hilti Drill multi drill
- Bosch Hammer L Box drill
- Bosch Hammer drill bits (30mm x 45cm; 25mm x 45cm; 20mm x 45cm; 15mm x 30cm; 10mm x 30cm)
- aluminium lineal 1, 2, and 3 metre length
- stainless steel round bars (15mm; 20mm; 30mm)
- extension for diamond blade (200mm and 300mm)
- polishing paper discs 110pcs 6 holes M14 and 9 inch mixed boxed
- polishing flinch M14 100mm angle grinder polisher sander

- polishing flinch 9-inch angle grinder polisher sander
- diamond discs for marble cutting super pro (115mm; 125mm; 230mm)
- diamond cutting discs
- iron cutting discs
- concrete drill bits 30mm x 45
- 7-inch polishing pads for granite
- Hikory hammers (1.13kg; 2kg; 5kg; 10kg)
- Chisels
- Core drill machines
- Cuturi pneumatic air hammer bottle type Size R and T
- air system for Cuturi; Cuter key
- Chisels for Cuturi pneumatic hammers, different head types
- Makita electric air blower
- Air duster gun compressor
- electric air compressor; line hose, air tube for compressor; air fittings
- transparent marble glue with hardener
- white marble glue / filler with hardener
- wooden battens (15cm x15cm 100cm; 10cm x10cm 100cm)
- portable aluminium extend scaffold tower 3m
- steel corner squares; iron fox wedges; side cutters
- insulated screwdriver set; utility knives; short blades
- spirit levels; working pencils; marker pens; wooden stools; 8m tapes
- ear defenders; working gloves; protective glasses and protectives masks

***\*Artists are obligated to follow the rules of the storage lending of the tools and shall be held liable for any damages that were caused by them.***

## 1.10. Travel and Artist Fee

- a. The following will be provided for each Artist: Economy flight ticket (including two checked bags), ground transportation from and to the airport in Riyadh as well as the symposium, hotel accommodation and food and beverages (three meals a day).
- b. The artist should ensure that the checked bags conform to the size and weight limitations and are properly declared and secured, to avoid any issues during transportation.
- c. An artist fee of **SAR 37,500** will be paid to every participating Artist. Delivery Provider will aim to pay the fee within 30 days from the closure of Tuwaiq Sculpture 2025 Exhibition, and in compliance with the required work conditions. In case an artist does not complete the sculpture for any given reason, the fee will not be paid.

## 1.11. Artists Eligibility and Responsibilities

- a. Artists must have at least five years of experience in stone carving.
- b. Artists agree to propose an original artwork that has never been created before, and is not a copy of a previously made sculpture. If selected, Artists agree to create the proposed sculpture

exclusively for Tuwaiq Sculpture, and not to recreate it elsewhere after the Symposium.

- c. Artists may not change any part of the selected project during the working period, except in agreement with the Curator and Riyadh Art.
- d. Artists confirm they are aware that they will contribute to one of the largest public art projects undertaken in the world today. Artists are expected to contribute to the public engagement programme, including panel talks and press activities. Artists agree to be photographed and filmed for the Symposium and Riyadh Art, for documentation and marketing purposes.
- e. Artists are responsible for shipping any additional tools and/or equipment they require for the Artwork.
- f. Artists must bring with them the selected maquette and/or model for the project; sketches will not be accepted.
- g. Artists grant Riyadh Art the right to own the sculpture maquette and/or model for Exhibiting and Marketing purposes. The sculpture maquette and/or model shall be handed over to Riyadh Art at the end of the Symposium
- h. Artists' companions will not be permitted to attend the Symposium, but are welcome to attend the Exhibition on their own expense.
- i. Selected artists will be sent a participation declaration letter to be signed. If selected, Artists grant Riyadh Art the right of ownership and transfer of title of the sculpture and to permanently display it in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, at its discretion, surviving the terms of this agreement and in perpetuity.
- j. As the owner of the sculptures, Riyadh Art reserves the right to relocate the sculptures anywhere within the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.
- k. Selected Artists will receive an invitation, and this document which will act as an agreement from the Riyadh Art team to be signed and returned back. Should an artist fail to sign the agreement, their participation will be rejected.
- l. Artists will be invited to create only one sculpture. If a selected Artist submits two proposals, the Jury Panel decides which sculpture is to be created.
- m. The exact working days for artists are from 14 January to 8 February, 2025, with a total of 23 working days (approx. 184 working hours). During this period, Artists are expected to work on site for 8 hours per day, Mondays to Saturdays, with Sundays off. The last working day on site is Saturday, 8 February, 2025.
- n. Riyadh Art will provide one professional assistant per artist onsite to support Artists. Artists are not allowed to select their own assistants and assistants will be rotating between Artists, depending on specific tools and progress in sculpting. Management and rotation of assistants and allocation of additional assistants remain at the discretion of the Curator, Associate Curator, and the Artists' Assistants Manager and supervisor. Artists are prohibited from privately financing assistants and other team members.
- o. Throughout the live sculpting process, Artists are required to wear Tuwaiq Sculpture branded clothing (e.g., t-shirts) and avoid clothing visibly showcasing any other brands.
- p. Artists might be accompanied by university sculpture students supporting, assisting, and learning from Artists and their assistants.
- q. Artists are encouraged to participate in the Community Engagement program, including panel talks and engagement with visitors, among other activities (dependent on relevant invitations and availability).
- r. Artists must not have participated consecutively in the previous 2 editions of Tuwaiq Sculpture.

## 1.12. Health and Safety

- a. All Artists must comply with the Health and Safety regulations of Tuwaiq Sculpture.
- b. Riyadh Art will provide public liability insurance.
- c. All Artists are responsible for their own medical insurance to cover all requirements for their stay in KSA.
- d. In case of any failure to accomplish the work within the designated period of time, due to unforeseen reasons such as illness, accident or deliberate reasons such as neglect, recklessness, or lack of cooperation and understanding with the work team, Riyadh Art will determine the status of the Artist's participation.

## 1.13. Intellectual Property Rights and Ownership

- a. The contract is intended to establish the terms and conditions of the artist's participation in the symposium and to ensure that both the artist and Riyadh Art have a clear understanding of their respective rights and obligations. This invitation will be shared with the selected participants to sign and return.
- b. The Artist remains the sole owner of all Intellectual Property Rights in the Artwork. The Artist shall have the unrestricted right to reproduce images of the Artwork for their customary artistic and professional purposes, including, without limitation, for books, publications, materials, and exhibitions dealing with the Artist's artistic work. However, as the work was created for Tuwaiq Sculpture, Artists shall also mention Tuwaiq in any of these publications. Riyadh Art shall grant the Artist reasonable access to the Site and the Exhibition for the purpose of creating photographs and/or videos documenting the completed and installed Artwork.
- c. Notwithstanding point (b), the Artist grants Riyadh Art an irrevocable, global, sub-licensable, royalty-free, non-exclusive licence to exhibit, reproduce and distribute depictions of the Artwork to the public, to transmit or otherwise communicate a display of the Artwork to the public (including but not limited to slides, films, photographs, branded merchandise, exhibition collateral, video, television, online and other electronic or broadcast media) for any purpose including marketing purposes, which may involve Riyadh Art appointed agencies. Any reproduction or subsequent exhibition of the Artwork produced or its maquette as a result of Agreements/ Contracts entered into by the Artist, shall be credited.
- d. The Artist grants Riyadh Art an irrevocable, global, sub-licensable, royalty-free, non-exclusive license to Exhibit, Showcase, and Relocate the Artwork anywhere within the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, as well as the submitted maquette by the Artist.
- e. The Artist shall be credited in the Exhibition as the sole artistic creator of the Artwork, such as a customary plaque. The Artist shall also be credited in any materials in which a depiction of the Artwork is reproduced and in all other customary and appropriate circumstances (for example, where the Artwork is clearly visible and the architect and/or any other creative participant is credited). The Artist will collaborate with Riyadh Art to provide all applicable names and/or credit lines, so as to ensure appropriate recognition of in-kind donors and collaborators as needed.
- f. The Artist is to submit the Artwork maquette to Riyadh Art after the end of the Symposium, and the maquette should be in good quality and shape. Riyadh Art holds the right to display the maquette and exhibit it for marketing purposes.

## 1.14. Schedule

Date	Activity
8 September, 2024	Deadline for Artists to submit an application form via online portal (the cut-off time is 8 September, 2024, at 23:59 GMT+3)
22 September, 2024	Announcement of the selected Artists
TBD September, 2024	Deadline for receiving information on the final dimensions of stone blocks' cuts from the selected Artists
12 January, 2025	Arrival of Artists to Riyadh
15 January, 2025	Start of Tuwaiq Sculpture and receipt of work tools
8 February, 2025	Last day of sculpting
12 February, 2025	Exhibition Opening
24 February, 2025	End of Exhibition

## 1.15. Artists Submissions

To apply, Artists are required to complete and submit an online application form through the following link: <https://riyadhart.sa/en/opencall/tuwaiq-sculpture-2025-open-call/>

The key submission documents include:

**Part 1:** Participant Information, including name, surname, nationality, country of residence, address, and contact details.

**Part 2:** Professional Information, including biography, photo portrait, exhibition history, and five photos of previous stone sculptures with relevant captions.

**Part 3:** Sculpture Proposal, including title, size, and description of the proposed sculpture.

**Part 4:** Participant Declaration.

## 1.16. Contact Details and Queries

If you have a question about the Artist Open Call or Tuwaiq Sculpture, please refer to the Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) document available on the Riyadh Art website, or use the following link: [https://riyadhart.sa/wp-content/uploads/2024/08/FAQs\\_2025\\_EN.pdf](https://riyadhart.sa/wp-content/uploads/2024/08/FAQs_2025_EN.pdf)

If you have a specific question that is not answered in the FAQ document, please send an email directly to the Tuwaiq Sculpture Team. All correspondence must be sent to the following email address only: [tsopencall@riyadhart.sa](mailto:tsopencall@riyadhart.sa)