



7th Edition of Tuwaiq Sculpture

ARTIST OPEN CALL GUIDELINES

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1. General Information

1.1. Background

The rapid population growth and subsequent urban expansion of Riyadh, the capital of Saudi Arabia, over the past two decades, coupled with a booming economy, have created an opportunity to reshape the city's landscape through cultural transformation. Riyadh Art was launched in March 2019 as one of Riyadh's Four Grand Projects, under the patronage of the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Salman bin Abdulaziz. It is supervised by the Committee of Grand Projects, chaired by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman bin Abdulaziz, Prime Minister and Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Royal Commission for Riyadh City. The initiative aims to position Riyadh as a leading cultural capital.

The Royal Commission for Riyadh City is committed to realizing the vision of Riyadh Art by encouraging excellence in the design of artistic interventions, public buildings, parks, streets, and infrastructure. It recognizes that public art, alongside architecture, landscape architecture, urban design, environmental design, and historic preservation, is a key tool for shaping the city's identity and enriching its public realm.

Riyadh Art engages with the city's landscape, urban form, history, and culture, making Riyadh distinct among world capitals. The program also reflects Saudi Arabia's Vision 2030, aiming to build meaningful connections between the people of Riyadh, their communities, and civic life.

Riyadh Art encompasses a growing permanent collection, dynamic cultural collaborations, and two annual festivals: Tuwaiq Sculpture and Noor Riyadh.

1.2. Tuwaiq Sculpture

Tuwaiq Sculpture is an annual international sculpture symposium and a cornerstone of Riyadh Art, one of the largest public art initiatives in the world today. Since its inception in 2019, the symposium has welcomed over 150 internationally renowned sculptors and thousands of visitors.

Now entering its seventh edition, Tuwaiq Sculpture 2026 will bring together 25 local and international sculptors, working in stone and reclaimed metal, to create original works that will become part of Riyadh's evolving public realm. The entire creative process will take place on site in a dedicated location in Riyadh and will be open to the public, offering an opportunity to witness the transformation of raw material into finished artwork in real time.

The aim is to encourage new artistic dialogues in line with Riyadh Art's vision, and to provide a platform where local and international artists can exchange ideas, collaborate, and contribute meaningfully to the cultural landscape of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

For more information, visit: www.riyadhart.sa

1.3. Key Definitions and Terms

Symposium: The dedicated location in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, where all participating artists will produce their sculptures during the live sculpting period. The site will be open to the public and active from 5 January to 31 January 2026..

Exhibition: The on-site exhibition that will take place following the symposium, opening on 4 February and closing on 18 February 2026.

Management Team: The dedicated team responsible for overseeing the planning and delivery of Tuwaiq Sculpture.

Delivery Provider: An appointed agency responsible for the planning, operation, and delivery of Tuwaiq Sculpture. The Delivery Provider will issue artist fees and arrange all travel and accommodation for participating artists, under the supervision of the Management Team.

Artists: Creative practitioners contracted by the Delivery Provider to produce original sculptures for Tuwaiq Sculpture 2026.

Contractual Arrangements: Although 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 Tuwaiq Sculpture Symposium will take place from **5 January to 18 February 2026**. The final working day for artists on site will be **Saturday, 31 January 2026**. The on-site exhibition will open on **4 February and close on 18 February 2026**.

Artists are expected to arrive in Riyadh on **Thursday, 3 January 2026**, and depart upon completion of their sculptures. They are required to work on site throughout the duration of the symposium and be present for the opening of the exhibition.

1.5. Theme

Traces of What Will Be

Set in Tahlia, a district in Riyadh whose name means desalination, the 2026 edition of the Tuwaiq Sculpture Symposium and Exhibition unfolds under the theme *Traces of What Will Be*. This year's edition explores transformation as both a physical process and a metaphor for urban renewal. Tahlia is inseparable from its history as the site of Riyadh's first desalination plant, a pioneering infrastructure that converted scarcity into sustenance, and saltwater into life.

The Kingdom's journey with desalination began in 1907, when a salvaged shipwreck was repurposed in Jeddah. From that ingenious beginning, Saudi Arabia became the world's largest producer of desalinated water. This technology now sustains life in coastal cities around the globe. Tahlia's early embrace of desalination reflects a broader civic urgency, grounded in innovation, adaptability, and collective well-being.

The symposium celebrates this legacy by inviting artists to respond to a site shaped by environmental ingenuity and transformation. Working with local stone and reclaimed metal, materials that hold both memory and potential, artists will create new sculptural works that mark the present while imagining the future. Tahlia will become a shared space for artistic production, reflection, and global exchange, culminating in an exhibition at the very site of their creation.

1.6. Sculpture Relocation

Following the exhibition, the sculptures will become part of Riyadh Art's growing permanent collection and will be integrated into the city's public realm. Each work will be installed in a carefully selected location within Riyadh, contributing to the cultural and spatial transformation of the capital. Final relocation sites will be announced in due course.

1.7. Artist Selection and Curatorial Team

Tuwaiq Sculpture seeks to work with artists whose practices convey a strong narrative, align with the values of Saudi Arabia's Vision 2030, and contribute meaningfully to public life by enriching the quality of the built environment.

1. **Artist Experience:** Demonstrated participation in past symposia, educational background, and exhibition history.
2. **Concept Presentation:** A clearly articulated and contextually relevant proposal.
3. **Relevance:** A thoughtful interpretation of the theme and suitability of the proposed work for a public setting.
4. **Artistic Approach:** A distinctive and well-considered use of materials, form, and sculptural principles.
5. **Originality:** A unique and innovative concept that adds value to the cultural landscape.
6. **Technique and Style:** Evidence of craftsmanship and command of form, texture, and detail in the proposed execution.

The Curatorial Team for Tuwaiq Sculpture 2026 includes:

- A. **Lulwa Alhamoud:** Internationally recognized expert in Islamic and contemporary art.
- B. **Sarah Staton:** Director Spatial Value Catalyst, Royal College of Art, Expert in Sculpture.
- C. **Rut Bles Luxemburg:** Artist, Director Spatial Value Catalyst, Professor of Urban Aesthetics, Royal College of Art.

**Artists selected for Tuwaiq Sculpture 2025 are not eligible to apply again for the 2026 edition unless applying under the reclaimed metal category. Due to the volume of applications, the Curatorial Team is unable to provide individual feedback. All decisions are final.*

1.8. Apprenticeship Program

Running in parallel with the symposium, the Tuwaiq Sculpture Apprenticeship Program offers a specialized hands-on training opportunity for aspiring sculptors. In this edition, 15 trainees will be selected to work alongside a distinguished group of international and local artists during the live sculpting period.

Participants will gain practical experience in stone sculpting, guided from initial concept development through to final execution. Working directly on site, trainees will learn to use professional tools and techniques in a real-world setting, while engaging with the creative and technical challenges of sculptural production.

The program offers a rare opportunity to observe and collaborate with leading practitioners, providing foundational knowledge and experience within the context of one of the world's most ambitious public art initiatives.

1.9. 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 the visitors while working on site.
- b. Each artist is expected to create one sculpture.
- c. Each **stone artist** will be supplied with up to approximately 10 cubic meters of granite originating from the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. Artists are required to specify the dimensions and colour of the sculpture, with the final height of the artwork ranging between 4 and 7 meters.

- d. **Reclaimed metal artists** will be taken to the reclamation site to select the metal pieces that best suit their artwork designs upon their arrival in Riyadh. The final artwork should have a height or width ranging between 3 to 4 meters.
- e. **Stone artists** will select the **granite** colours from the following: **royal rose, royal gold, and green**. They also have the option to incorporate **stainless steel** in their sculptures. Artists are encouraged to work with more than one colour.
- f. **Stone 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):
 - Height: 300 cm
 - Length: 200 cm
 - Depth: 100 cm
 - ii. Stainless steel: *Please note that stainless steel is considered a secondary material and must not exceed 12 percent of the total artwork.*
 - iii. The number of pieces of stone, excluding the base, should not exceed four.

1.10. Tools and Equipment

All required tools and equipment will be provided. However, artists may bring their own tools (including cutting, polishing, and air tools) if they prefer to use specific items for technical or creative purposes. The following tools and equipment will be included, but are not limited to:

Stone Artists

- Bosch large and small grinders
- Makita wet diamond core drill bits (90 x 450, 120 x 450, 160 x 450, 200 x 450, 250 x 450)
- Granite cutting discs (4.5, 5, 7, and 9 inch)
- Polishing discs (grit 36, 40, 60, 80, 100, 120, 220, 280, 320)
- Bosch Hilti multi drill and hammer drill
- Bosch hammer drill bits (30 mm x 45 cm, 25 mm x 45 cm, 20 mm x 45 cm, 15 mm x 30 cm, 10 mm x 30 cm)
- Aluminium lineals (1 meter, 2 meters, 3 meters)
- Stainless steel round bars (15 mm, 20 mm, 30 mm)
- Diamond blade extensions (200 mm and 300 mm)
- Polishing paper discs (110 pieces, 6-hole, M14 and 9 inch mixed box)
- Angle grinder polishers and sanders (M14 100 mm and 9 inch)
- Super pro diamond discs for marble cutting (115 mm, 125 mm, 230 mm)
- Diamond cutting discs and iron cutting discs
- Concrete drill bits (30 mm x 45)
- Polishing pads (7 inch)
- Hickory hammers (1.13 kg, 2 kg, 5 kg, 10 kg)

- Chisels
- Core drill machines
- Cuturi pneumatic air hammers (bottle type, sizes R and T)
- Air system for Cuturi tools and air key
- Chisels for Cuturi hammers (varied head types)
- Makita electric air blower
- Air duster gun, compressor, hoses, and air fittings
- Transparent marble glue and white marble filler (with hardeners)
- Wooden battens (15 cm x 15 cm x 100 cm and 10 cm x 10 cm x 100 cm)
- Portable aluminium scaffold tower (3 meters)
- Steel corner squares, iron fox wedges, side cutters
- Insulated screwdriver set, utility knives, short blades
- Spirit levels, working pencils, marker pens, wooden stools, 8 meter tapes
- Ear defenders, working gloves, protective glasses, and masks

Additional Tools For Reclaimed Metal Artists

- Angle grinder (DeWALT)
- Bench grinder
- Cut-off saw or chop saw
- Oxy-acetylene cutting set with oxygen and acetylene cylinders
- Regulators, gas hoses, cutting torch, cutting nozzle
- Welding cart
- Tinman's snips
- Cutting discs and depressed center grinding discs
- Flap discs and reinforced fiber sanding discs
- Sandpaper sheets (various grits)
- Electric drill (DeWALT) and metal drill bit set
- Mounted stone set (REGAL)
- Utility cutter knife
- Welding machines (SC 350A and TELWIN)
- Handheld welding shield and protective face mask
- Welding electrodes (J421) and welding rods
- Wire cup brush (twisted knot)
- Mini wire brush wheel
- Manual wire brushes (wooden and plastic handles)
- Wire brush set (5 pieces, TACTIX and others)
- Measuring tape
- Flat head hammer
- Heat-resistant welding gloves
- Black and clear safety goggles
- Full face shield
- Ear plugs or ear muffs
- C-clamps or quick grip clamps
- Welding work table
- Angle grinder stand
- Right angle ruler or try square

- Small spirit level
- Caliper or compass
- Impact driver or cordless screwdriver
- Band saw for metal

**Artists are obligated to follow the site's tool storage and lending regulations and will be held liable for any damage caused by misuse or neglect.*

1.11. Travel and Artist Fee

1. The following will be provided to each participating artist:

- An economy-class flight ticket (including two checked bags with a total combined weight of up to 50 kilograms)
- Ground transportation between the airport, hotel, and symposium site
- Hotel accommodation for the full duration of the symposium
- Daily meals (breakfast, lunch, and dinner)

2. Artists are responsible for ensuring that their luggage complies with airline size and weight restrictions. Any additional tools or personal items must be properly declared and packed to avoid delays or damage during transport.

3. An artist fee of **37,500 Saudi Riyals** will be paid to each participating artist. This fee will be processed and disbursed by the Delivery Provider within 30 working days following the close of the Tuwaiq Sculpture 2026 exhibition, provided that all work requirements have been fulfilled. In the event that an artist does not complete their sculpture for any reason, the fee will not be issued.

1.12. Artists Eligibility and Responsibilities

- a. Artists must have a minimum of three years of experience in producing and exhibiting sculptural work.
- b. Artists agree to propose an original artwork that has never been created before and is not a copy of any previous sculpture. If selected, the artist agrees to produce the proposed work exclusively for Tuwaiq Sculpture and not to replicate it elsewhere after the symposium.
- c. Artists may not modify any part of the approved proposal during the symposium period without prior written approval from the Curators and Riyadh Art.
- d. Artists acknowledge that they are contributing to one of the largest public art programs in the world and agree to participate in public engagement activities, including talks, workshops, and press-related events.

- e. Artists agree to be photographed and filmed for documentation and marketing purposes related to the symposium and Riyadh Art.
- f. Artists are responsible for shipping any personal tools or equipment needed beyond those provided on site.
- g. At the time of submission, artists must provide a high-quality maquette or model of the proposed sculpture. The model must be no less than 50 to 60 centimeters in height or width. Sketches will not be accepted.
- h. Artists grant Riyadh Art the right to own the sculpture maquette or model for exhibition and marketing purposes. The maquette or model must be submitted at the end of the symposium.
- i. Selected artists will receive a participation declaration letter, which must be signed and returned. By signing this agreement, the artist grants Riyadh Art ownership and full title to the final sculpture and its permanent display anywhere in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. The artist retains copyright of the work.
- j. Riyadh Art reserves the right to relocate the sculpture at its discretion, anywhere within the Kingdom.
- k. The signed invitation and this document will serve as the binding agreement between the artist and Riyadh Art. Failure to sign and return the agreement will result in disqualification.
- l. Each selected artist will be invited to create one sculpture.
- m. Working days for artists will run from 5 to 31 January 2026, totaling 25 working days (approximately 194 hours). Artists are expected to be present on site for eight hours per day, Monday to Saturday. Sundays are considered rest days.
- n. One professional assistant will be assigned to each artist on site. Artists may not bring or select their own assistants. Assistants will rotate based on sculpting progress and technical needs. The assignment and management of assistants is at the discretion of the Curator, Associate Curator, and Assistant Manager.
- o. Artists are not permitted to hire or fund additional assistants or bring personal team members into the country.
- p. The symposium site will remain accessible to the public throughout the sculpting period.
- q. Branded protective clothing (such as t-shirts or workwear) will be provided to each artist.
- r. Artists may be joined on site by university students who will support, observe, and learn during the symposium.
- s. Artists are encouraged to participate in the Community Engagement Program, including artist talks, public interactions, and other relevant activities (subject to availability and invitation)..

1.13. 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 securing their own medical insurance to cover the full duration of their stay in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.
- d. In case of failure to complete the work within the designated period, whether due to unforeseen reasons such as illness or accident, or deliberate reasons such as negligence, recklessness, or lack of cooperation with the team, Riyadh Art will determine the artist's participation status.

1.14 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, use in 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 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, film, 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 or contracts entered into by the artist shall be credited.
- d. The artist grants Riyadh Art an irrevocable, global, sub-licensable, royalty-free, non-exclusive licence 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 on 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 other creative participants are credited). The artist will collaborate with Riyadh Art to provide all applicable names and credit lines 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. The maquette should be in good condition and shape. Riyadh Art holds the right to display the maquette and exhibit it. Artists grant Riyadh Art the right to own the sculpture maquette or model for exhibiting and marketing purposes, and the sculpture maquette or model shall be handed over to Riyadh Art at the end of the symposium.

1.15. Schedule

| Date | Activity |
|------------------|--|
| 1 October 2025 | Deadline for artists to submit an application form via the online portal (cut-off time is 1 October 2025 at 23:59 GMT+3) |
| October 2025 | Announcement of the selected artists |
| 3 January 2026 | Arrival of artists in Riyadh |
| 5 January 2026 | Start of Tuwaiq Sculpture and distribution of tools |
| 31 January 2026 | Last day of sculpting |
| 4 February 2026 | Exhibition opens |
| 18 February 2026 | Exhibition closes |

1.16. Artists Submissions

To apply, artists are required to complete and submit an online application form.

Link: <https://riyadhart.sa/en/opencall/tuwaiq-sculpture-2026-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 three photos of previous stone sculptures with relevant captions.

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

Part 4: Suggestions for possible panel talk or workshop topics.

Part 5: Participant Declaration

1.17. Contact Details and Queries

If you have a question about the artist call or Tuwaiq Sculpture, please refer to the Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) document available on the open call website.

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