

## Press Release

### Art Jameel announces an artist residency in collaboration with Elizabeth Foundation for the Arts

Selected artists include Husam Al-Sayed, filmmaker and member of Telfaz11, and SALAR, performance artist and electronic composer



**New York, USA – February 12, 2015**

**Art Jameel**, in partnership with **Edge of Arabia**, is pleased to announce the participants of their 2015 artist residency in collaboration with the Elizabeth Foundation for the Arts (EFA). Selected artists include filmmaker **Husam Al-Sayed** and multidisciplinary artist and composer **SALAR**. From **February to April, 2015** the two artists will live, create and present new work in New York City.

Husam Al-Sayed is a Saudi-based Palestinian filmmaker, musician and founding member of the [Telfaz11](#), one of the Middle East's most influential Arabic online video networks based in Riyadh. With over seven million subscribers and over 750 million views throughout its network, Telfaz11 has attracted and helped launch some of the most popular creative talent in the Middle East. SALAR is a Dubai-based Iranian multidisciplinary artist, electronic music composer and founding member of the Analog Room, a DJ and music platform in the Middle East with an international residency program for electronic music composers. Since launching in 2012, Analog Room has cultivated an extensive network of regional-grown electronic music composers and created awareness about the medium in the region.

The three month long residency includes access to EFA's Studio spaces, introductions to artists and curators through studio visits and collaborations, accommodation and travel costs, as well as a stipend for living expenses in New York City. Art Jameel's ongoing residency programs aim to connect Middle Eastern artists with new audiences, and to explore interconnected stories that link ideas and people across physical and psychological borders. Art Jameel, in partnership with Edge of Arabia, launched their first US based artist residency in collaboration with the International Studio & Curatorial Program (ISCP) in Summer 2014.

During the EFA residency Husam Al-Sayed will direct three short films, for which SALAR will compose original scores. Continuing Art Jameel and Edge of Arabia's focus on dialogue across cultures, two of the films will take viewers on a trek through New York city's neighbourhoods of Little Syria and Harlem through the perspective of selected artists whose practice is inspired by these historical landscapes. The third film will be a Telfaz11 video diary of The Armory Show through the perspective of artists from the MENAM region.

The three short films will screen via Telfaz11 and *FREEWAY*, the online broadcast platform of Edge of Arabia's ongoing US Tour in partnership with Art Jameel. *FREEWAY* will launch in New York in March 2015, in conjunction with The Armory Show Focus: Middle East, North Africa, and the Mediterranean (MENAM), of which Art Jameel is Education Partner and Edge of Arabia is Lead Cultural Partner.

**Facebook:** Abdul Latif Jameel Community Initiatives | Edge of Arabia  
**Instagram:** @ALJ\_CI, @edgeofarabia | **Twitter:** @ALJCI, @edgeofarabia

**#ARTJAMEEL | #ALJCI | #EOAUSA**

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### **Art Jameel**

Art Jameel – Abdul Latif Jameel Community Initiatives (ALJCI) arts and culture initiative – aims to foster and promote a thriving arts scene within the Middle East, North Africa and Turkey (MENAT) region and to support the development of creative enterprises. In partnership with art organizations worldwide, Art Jameel develops cultural exchange programs to encourage networking and knowledge sharing. Art Jameel is the founding partner of Edge of Arabia, The Crossway Foundation, Arabian Wings, Jeddah Art Week and The Archive. In partnership with the Victoria & Albert Museum in London it provides the biannual Jameel Prize for contemporary art inspired by Islamic traditions. Additional projects include: Jeddah Sculptures Museum, a public park established in collaboration with Jeddah Municipality; the Art Jameel Photography Award; the Art Jameel Art Olympics in collaboration with the Ministry of Education in Saudi Arabia; and the Art Jameel Program for Traditional Arts and Crafts in collaboration with the Prince's School of Traditional Arts.

ALJCI was established in 2003 to promote positive social change through the establishment of long-term partnerships with international institutions, and the creation of initiatives in the fields of Job Creation – Bab Rizq Jameel; Global Poverty Alleviation; Arts and Culture – Art Jameel; Education and Training – Education Jameel; and Health and Social – Social Jameel. More information on ALJCI's considerable set of initiatives can be found online at [www.aljci.org](http://www.aljci.org).

**Elizabeth Foundation for the Arts (EFA)**

EFA is dedicated to providing artists across all disciplines with space, tools and a cooperative forum for the development of individual practice. EFA is a catalyst for cultural growth, stimulating new interactions between artists, creative communities, and the public. The EFA Studio Program, initiated in November 1998, is an open-submission, juried membership program for professional visual artists, providing subsidized workspace in midtown Manhattan. Individual studio practice within the EFA community is enriched by career development opportunities including open studio events, exhibitions, professional seminars and collaborative projects with collectors and curators. Other core projects include the EFA Robert Blackburn Printmaking Workshop Program, a fully equipped, professional, cooperative print workspace offering affordable studio access, classes, lectures, demonstrations and skilled staff assistance that opened in September 2005. The EFA Project Space Program, launched in September 2008, is a public forum that expands beyond the activities in the studios and the workshop, and encourages a critical engagement with the world at large. EFA is more than the sum of its programs, creating a welcoming and engaging community in the center of New York City.

For more information, please visit [www.efanyc.org](http://www.efanyc.org)

### **Edge of Arabia**

Edge of Arabia is an independent arts initiative developing an appreciation for contemporary Middle Eastern art and culture with a particular focus on Saudi Arabia. Edge of Arabia is dedicated to connecting Middle Eastern artists and international audiences. To date, Edge of Arabia has welcomed 250,000 visitors to its exhibitions, distributed over 50,000 books & catalogues worldwide, impacted over 300 schools & universities through its award winning education program and reached a wider audience of over 10,000,000 through a dedicated communications campaign. International exhibitions include: Rhizoma, 55th Venice Biennale (2013); #COMETOGETHER, East London (2012); We Need to Talk, Jeddah (2012); The Future of a Promise, 54th Venice Biennale (2011); Terminal, Dubai (2011); Transition, Istanbul: European Capital of Culture (2010); Grey Borders/Grey Frontiers, Berlin (2010); Edge of Arabia, Riyadh (2010); Edge of Arabia, 53rd Venice Biennale (2009); and Edge of Arabia, University of London (2008).

For more information, please visit [www.edgeofarabia.com](http://www.edgeofarabia.com).

### **For more information, please contact:**

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