

## HONORARY KNIGHTHOOD AWARDED TO MOHAMMED ABDUL LATIF JAMEEL

*Chairman of the Abdul Latif Jameel Community Initiatives, Mohammed Abdul Latif Jameel is recognized for philanthropic activities and support of arts and culture*



Jameel Gallery of Islamic Art at the Victoria & Albert Museum in London

**RIYADH/ NEW YORK** (November 5, 2014) – **Mohammed Abdul Latif Jameel** has been awarded an Honorary Knighthood in the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire Her Majesty The Queen for his philanthropic activities and support for the development of the arts and culture in the UK.

Mr. Jameel, a businessman and noted philanthropist, is chairman of Abdul Latif Jameel Community Initiatives (ALJCI), which is dedicated to social and economic sustainability in the Middle East and beyond. Recognized for his international support for the development of the arts and culture, Mr. Jameel has played a significant part in a project to restore the Islamic Gallery housed in the Victoria & Albert Museum in London.

Through its cultural initiative, **Art Jameel**, ALJCI founded the Jameel Prize in partnership with the Victoria & Albert Museum. Art Jameel aims to foster and promote a thriving arts scene within the MENAT region and to support the development of creative enterprises. Art Jameel is also the founding partner of a number of initiatives such as Jeddah Art Week, The Crossway Foundation and Edge of Arabia. Art Jameel continues to partner with these and other art organizations.

Mohammed Abdul Latif Jameel said: “I am deeply humbled that Her Majesty The Queen would see fit to bestow this honor upon me. This award is a great honor for my family and me, and also reflects the hard work and support of the hundreds of ALJCI team members who run the numerous programs that help make such a difference. I would also like to thank the many partners that we work with across the globe, including MIT, and particularly the Victoria & Albert Museum for their support in preserving and promoting Islamic arts and culture.”

Honorary knighthoods are awarded by the Queen, on the advice of the Foreign Secretary, to those who have made an important contribution to British interests. Mohammed Abdul Latif Jameel is the first Saudi businessman to be conferred this honor.

**NOTE TO THE EDITORS**

### **About ALJCI**

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, Global Poverty Alleviation, Arts & Culture, Education & Training, and Health & Social. More information on ALJCI's considerable set of initiatives can be found online at [www.aljci.org](http://www.aljci.org).

### **About Art Jameel**

*Art Jameel* – the new name for ALJCI's arts and culture initiative – was created to form partnerships with art organizations worldwide to foster and promote a thriving arts scene inside the MENAT region, support the development of creative enterprises, and develop cultural exchange programs to encourage networking and knowledge sharing. *Art Jameel* has a longstanding partnership with the Victoria & Albert Museum in London providing the Jameel Prize for contemporary art and design inspired by Islamic tradition. The Prize was conceived after the redesign and redisplay of the V&A's Jameel Gallery of Islamic Art, which opened in July 2006. *Art Jameel* is also the founding partner of *Edge of Arabia*, *The Crossway Foundation*, *Jeddah Art Week*, *1001 Inventions* and *The Archive*. Additional projects include *Jeddah's Open Air Museum*, a public sculpture park of international artists established in collaboration with Jeddah Municipality, an art center in Dubai, and the development of art courses in Saudi schools, in collaboration with the Ministry of Education in Saudi Arabia.

### **For Further information:**

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