

## **Misk Art Institute announces its annual spring exhibition *Brand New Ancients*.**

**Riyadh, Saudi Arabia; March 15, 2023:** Misk Art Institute (MAI) is delighted to present a new exhibition at Prince Faisal bin Fahd Arts Hall titled *Brand New Ancients*, co-curated by **Wassan Al-Khudhairi** (Independent Curator and Co-curator of the 2025 Hawaii Triennial) and **Cecilia Ruggeri** (Curator, Misk Art Institute).

*Brand New Ancients* derives its title from a poem by Kae Tempest. The poem and the exhibition tell a never-ending story of creation and surprise, of weaving the past with the present through stories passed down in oral and material culture. The exhibition considers the ways tradition and history inform contemporary art practices; how innovation can and does exist within traditional modes of making, rather than being static or archaic. Tradition is not the opposite or lack of modernity; rather, the revival of tradition challenges the current culture, carving out a space for the future. The show also aims to highlight contemporary art's significant role in innovating and expanding our understanding of today's world, by using the techniques and traditions of the past.

Bringing together existing works by seventeen Saudi and international contemporary artists, *Brand New Ancients* delves into transnational dialogues of material culture and its perpetuation within current art practice, interacting with and building upon the history of objects within the current context. The exhibition includes a richly varied selection of painting, sculpture, video, photography, and installation—demonstrating how artists are currently exploring the boundary between tradition and innovation.

The show marks a pivotal moment by exhibiting for the first time in the Middle East, artworks by **Derek Fordjour**, **Lotus Laurie Kang**, and **Ornaghi & Prestinari**; and for the first time in Saudi Arabia, artworks by **Pacita Abad**, **Hamra Abbas**, **Abraham Cruzvillegas**, **Tarek Al-Ghoussein**, **Sophia Al Maria**, and **Wardha Shabbir**.

### **Participating Artists:**

Pacita Abad, Hamra Abbas, Dana Awartani, Sarah Brahim, Abraham Cruzvillegas, Derek Fordjour, Tarek Al-Ghoussein, Joana Hadjithomas & Khalil Joreige, Lotus Laurie Kang, Maha Malluh, Sophia Al Maria, Ahmed Mater, Nasser Al Salem, Ornaghi & Prestinari, and Wardha Shabbir.

### **Notes to Editors:**

#### **About Misk Art Institute**

Misk Art Institute was founded in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, in December 2017 and is a non-profit organization that sees its mission in strengthening the local and regional creative community and promoting the appreciation of art and culture. The Institute is committed to facilitating access to art and encourages up-and-coming artists to unfold their creativity in a network of support, expertise, and further education to tap potential and upgrade the country's art infrastructure.

The Institute offers exhibitions, publications, and possibilities for creative development as well as a residency program—in addition to the largest grant program of its kind in the region: the Misk Art Grant. The annual Misk Art Week convenes thought leaders in the creative industries to deliberate the Kingdom's art arena and its ambitions.

#### **Social Media**

Website: [miskartinstitute.org](https://miskartinstitute.org)

Instagram: [@miskartinst](https://www.instagram.com/miskartinst)

Twitter: [@miskartinst](https://twitter.com/miskartinst)

Facebook: [Misk Art Institute](https://www.facebook.com/MiskArtInstitute)

YouTube: [Misk Art Institute](https://www.youtube.com/MiskArtInstitute)

### **Dates**

15 March 2023 – 15 June 2023

Opening Times: 16:00 – 22:00 (Sun – Thurs, Sat)

Location: Prince Faisal bn Fahd Arts Hall, Riyadh Saudi Arabia

### **For Media Enquiries:**

Farah Istanbouli  
Misk Art Institute  
[f.istanbouli@misk.org.sa](mailto:f.istanbouli@misk.org.sa)