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News

Diriyah Biennale announces artists for 2026 edition.

Maxwell Rabb

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Exterior view of the JAX District, the site of the 2026 Diriyah Contemporary Art Biennale. Courtesy of the Diriyah Biennale Foundation.

The third edition of the Diriyah Contemporary Art Biennale will

feature 67 artists, including Pacita Abad and Etel Adnan. The event will open on January 30th in Diriyah, Saudi Arabia, a historic city 20 minutes from the country's capital, Riyadh.

Titled “In Interludes and Transitions,” the 2026 edition will focus on themes of movement, migration, and transformation. The Biennale will aim to frame these ideas through the historical and contemporary connections linking the Arab region with broader global contexts. The exhibition is led by artistic directors Nora Razian and Sabih Ahmed, the curator of Art Jameel in Dubai and the former director of Ishara Art Foundation, respectively.



Exterior view of the JAX District, the site of the 2026 Diriyah Contemporary Art Biennale. Courtesy of the Diriyah Biennale Foundation.

“This edition of the Biennale takes place at a moment when the role of art feels ever more urgent,” Razian and Ahmed said in a joint statement. “Over the last year, participating artists and our curatorial team have immersed themselves in the nuanced histories of the Arab region, the rapid transformations reshaping it, and the wider philosophical questions that echo across different geographies.... We see the Biennale as an invitation to think rhythmically, to approach time as layered, pulsating, and collectively embodied.”

The exhibition will be staged in the JAX District, an arts area located near At-Turaif, a UNESCO World Heritage Site that was the capital city of the First Saudi State. More than 22 new commissions will be presented; however, exact details have yet to be announced.

Exhibition design will be developed by the Italian studio Formafantasma, working in close collaboration with the curatorial team. Milan-based architect Sammy Zarka has also been appointed associate architect and exhibition designer.

Here is the complete list of artists:

- Pacita Abad
- Pio Abad
- Rand Abdul Jabbar
- Abdullah Miniawy Trio
- Etel Adnan

- Yussef Agbo-Ola (Olaniyi Studio)
- Leen Ajlan
- Ahaad Alamoudi
- Elyas Alavi
- Afra Al Dhaheri
- Shadia Alem
- Mohammad Al-Ghamdi
- Mohammed Alhamdan (7amdan)
- Nouf Al-Harhi
- Ramy Alqtham
- Abdullah Al Saadi
- Ruba Al-Sweel
- Lulua Alyahya
- Ismail Bahri
- Taysir Batniji
- Dineo Seshee Bopape (Raisib)
- Raven Chacon
- Ayman Yousry Daydban

- Nolan Oswald Dennis
- Rohini Devasher
- Merve Ertufan
- Ivana Franke
- Rahima Gambo
- Eric Gyamfi
- Samia Halaby
- Petrit Halila
- Hazem Harb
- Aziz Hazara
- Ho Rui An
- Alana Hunt
- Kamala Ibrahim Ishag
- Amaka Jaji
- Kayfa ta
- Yazan Khalili
- Moshekwa Langa
- Daniel Lind-Ramos

- George Mahashe
- Guadalupe Maravilla
- Yu Ji
- Théo Mercier
- Nour Mobarak
- Mochu
- Nancy Mounir
- Hussein Nassereddine
- Daniel Otero Torres
- Thao Nguyen Phan
- Gala Porras-Kim
- Sarker Protick
- Abdelkarim Qassem
- Raqs Media Collective
- K.P. Reji
- Faisal Samra
- Oscar Santillán
- Amina Saoudi Aït Khay

- [Bogosi Sekhukhuni](#)
- [Karan Shrestha](#)
- [Elias Sime](#)
- [Trương Công Tùng](#)
- Rajesh Chaitya Vangad
- Wolff Architects
- [Agustina Woodgate](#)
- [Müge Yılmaz](#)

Maxwell Rabb



Maxwell Rabb (Max) is a writer. Before joining Artsy in October 2023, he obtained an MFA from the School of the Art Institute of Chicago and a BA from the University of Georgia. Outside of Artsy, his bylines include the Washington Post, i-D, and the Chicago Reader. He lives in New York City, by way of Atlanta, New Orleans, and Chicago.