

Al Jaw

The Artistic Journal of the Arab World



Poets' Night in AlUla

It takes place on 5 January in AlUla, as part of the AlUla Moments' program.

Saudi artist Abderrahmane Mohammed will share his latest compositions, mixing Arabic love poems and ghazal. Egyptian artist Ash, famous for his electronic music, will also participate, along with Saudi artist Abdellatif Youssef.

Shadow, light and sand shows are expected.



Mashup queens

In 2023, mashups made their mark on the music scene. These hybrid compositions, resulting from the fusion of distinct songs, have contributed to increase the influence of Arab music.

Some of the most popular 2023 mash-ups include Egyptian singer Sherine Abdel Wahab, with her successful collaboration with rapper Nelly for "Just a Dream", and the one of Palestinian singer Elyanna. Her cover of "Calling U" by Danish band Outlandish combined with Amr Diab's "Tamally Maak" was a hit.





This photograph was taken by Mohammed Zaanoun in Gaza last February. It shows Ali Al-Mallahi, a balloon seller on the seafront, with the Gazan sunset in the background.

Mohammed Zaanoun is a Palestinian photographer who documents the violence and destruction he witnesses in Gaza. He has been working as a photojournalist for over fifteen years. He has taken portraits of residents who, like him, have had to abandon their homes following Israeli strikes.

Today, he is covering the horrors of the conflict in Gaza; the constant bombardment; the despair of the inhabitants; the lack of water, bread, medicine, support... The lack of everything.

Happy New Year to everyone, and to Ali in particular.

Coming in January on Netflix

« From the Ashes »

The film revolves around a fire that breaks out in the basement of an all-girls school. This is the second feature by Khaled Fahed, director of Valley Road.

It features emerging Saudi talent, including Shaima AlTayeb, Khairia Abu Laban, Adwa Fahad, Darin Al Bayed and Aesha Al Refai.

Release date: 18 January.



The Bohemia Café in Alkhobar

It is a popular meeting place for local musicians. Opened in early 2023, this hybrid café is also a vinyl record shop.

It offers a stage for live performances, attracting new musical talent. Open mic sessions are popular, allowing both amateur and professional artists to perform.

Owner Fawaz Alsoulaim actively encourages local talent. Artists such as Nader al-Fassam regularly perform there.



Restoration of iconic Arab films

This project involves the restoration of 50 films. The process will update them to 4K format to ensure image clarity and protection against the eleme film.

The 1st film restored is "Les Misérables" by Atef Salem, 1978, and based on the novel by Victor Hugo. It features famous actors such as Farid Shawqi, Mohsena Tawfik, Adel Adham, Laila Eloui, Ferdos Abdel Hamid, ...



The list includes 62 men and 38 women, with three from Morocco, three from Tunisia, two from Algeria and two from Egypt.

Some of them: tennis star Ons Jabeur; multi-award-winning director Kaouther Ben Hania, whose last film "Four Daughters" continues to collect awards; Franco-Algerian footballer Benzema; Moroccan entrepreneur and politician Nadia Fettah Alaoui ; President of Columbia University Nemat Talaat Shafik; ...



A look back at "Fault Lines"

The exhibition by Lebanese artist Ramzi Mallat was recently held at the P21 gallery in London. It pays tribute to the victims of the explosion in the port of Beirut on 4 August 2020.

Mallat, a graduate of the Royal College of Art, presented sculptures of coloured maamouls in glass and resin. His work explores themes of individual vulnerability and hope, while questioning social and political fractures. The exhibition also included other three-dimensional works and a film, 'Sobhiyé', which weaves a political and socio-economic narrative of Lebanon.

A notable piece was a grid decorated with small cups, representing the interdependence of the world's economies.



Partisans *of the* **Nude**



"Partisans of the Nude"

The exhibition explores the nude in Arab art, and runs until 14 January at the Wallach Art Gallery, part of Columbia University in the US.

Curated by Kirsten Scheid, it features over 50 paintings and 20 drawings. It highlights the importance of the nude in defining the identity and modern Islamic practice of future Arab citizens. A series of short videos of contemporary testimonies explore the implication of the nude in aesthetic developments, political debates and literary and musical movements.

Mariam, the first Lebanese model, is also mentioned as a central figure in the evolution of this art form in the region.



Shakira has a statue in her hometown of Barranquilla

Inaugurated on 26.12.23, the 6.5-metre bronze and aluminium sculpture captures Shakira in one of her iconic dance moves. The ceremony was attended by Shakira's parents.

The singer thanked sculptor Yino Márquez and the students from the district's art school for the work.



Majorelle garden turns 100!

Originally established in 1924 by French painter Jacques Majorelle, it is known for its blue colours, and its botanical wonderland inspired by Islamic and tropical gardens.

It houses two museums: the Musée Pierre Bergé des Arts Berbères and the Musée Yves Saint Laurent Marrakech.

It welcomes 900,000 visitors each year, and will celebrate its anniversary with many cultural events this year.



كل عام وأنتم بخير
HAPPY NEW YEAR

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