

DIRIYAH ART FUTURES EMERGING NEW MEDIA ARTISTS PROGRAMME

1 YEAR, FULL SCHOLARSHIP

PROGRAMME & APPLICATION
INFO SESSION IN MARCH 2024

> To receive session invitation email dafeducation@moc.gov.sa

APPLY BY 29 APRIL 2024
→ APPLICATION FORM

Diriyah Art Futures opens a digital and technology-led creative production and training programme targeting emerging artists working in new media and digital arts. If you are interested in working alongside the most prominent digital and new media artists in the world in this unique supported one-year programme, then Diriyah Art Futures is waiting for you.

Diriyah Art Futures centre, a cornerstone for new media and technology art in the region has developed its emerging artist programme in collaboration with Le Fresnoy – Studio National des Arts Contemporains in France. Diriyah Art Futures is dedicated to advancing the field of digital and new media art by providing emerging artists with access to cutting edge professional equipment, a production budget, as well as a wide range of multidisciplinary learning opportunities which include theoretical, conceptual and technical learning opportunities and personal mentorship by prominent international digital artists.

WHO IS THIS FOR?

Diriyah Art Futures emerging artists programme attracts emerging creative practitioners from all over the world, with a focus on those from the Middle East and North Africa. Applicants should be 35 years or younger, at graduate or postgraduate completion stage and have experience in developing and creating digital and new media art.

Applicants can expect at Diriyah Art Futures an accessible space with exhibitions, screenings and dedicated technical labs for professional creation and innovative digital development. The centre will host throughout the year prestigious artists and international institutions engaged in new media and technology arts.

THE ONE-YEAR EMERGING ARTISTS PROGRAMME

The first three months of the academic year will be a series of thematic and conceptual explorations offered by artists and theorists through seminars, lectures, screenings and workshops. Thematic topics will include:

— **Nature, Human and Non Human:**

In the era of the Anthropocene and in light of the upheavals affecting our environment, the separation that Western society has wreaked with the non-human world is being called into question.

— **Nature, Climate, Environment and Societal Transformation:**

What role does art, particularly digital art, play in all of the current transitions in energy, society, climate, and ecology?

— **The body and technological transformations of living beings:**

From the digital body to the cyborg, effects of digital technologies on corporality and bodily representations. Understanding of the body and its relationship with self, others or its environment with or through technology.

— **Migration, Post-colonialism and a critique of capitalism:**

Critique of a capitalism in crisis through the consequences we are observing today, both from an environmental and migratory point of view.

— **Mapping Memory, the relationships between digital practices and the archive:**

The use or constitution of archives by artists (especially artists from the Arab world) has intensified thanks to the potential to be found in new digital tools and uses of such tools.

— **Internet and the post-internet era:**

« Post-Internet » art sometimes takes its inspiration from the « Internet Art » movement, but goes beyond and questions the notions of network, immaterial and material concepts. It questions the increase in connectivity, information overload or so-called concepts of community.

— **Global Modern and Contemporary Art and Arabic Regionalism:**

Reviews on the digital arts related histories of modern and contemporary art, and an additional focus on contemporary art practice from the MENA region and through the lens of the Arab region.

In the following six months, as emerging artists in the programme you will receive personalised mentorship from prominent artists, while you produce your artwork using the technologies offered by the Diriyah Art Futures labs. You will have access to cutting-edge technologies such as advanced audio-visual, immersive reality, coding, sensing, machine learning and spatial audio-visual environments. The artwork you produce will be exhibited with Diriyah at Futures as a final curated and juried outcome of the one-year programme.

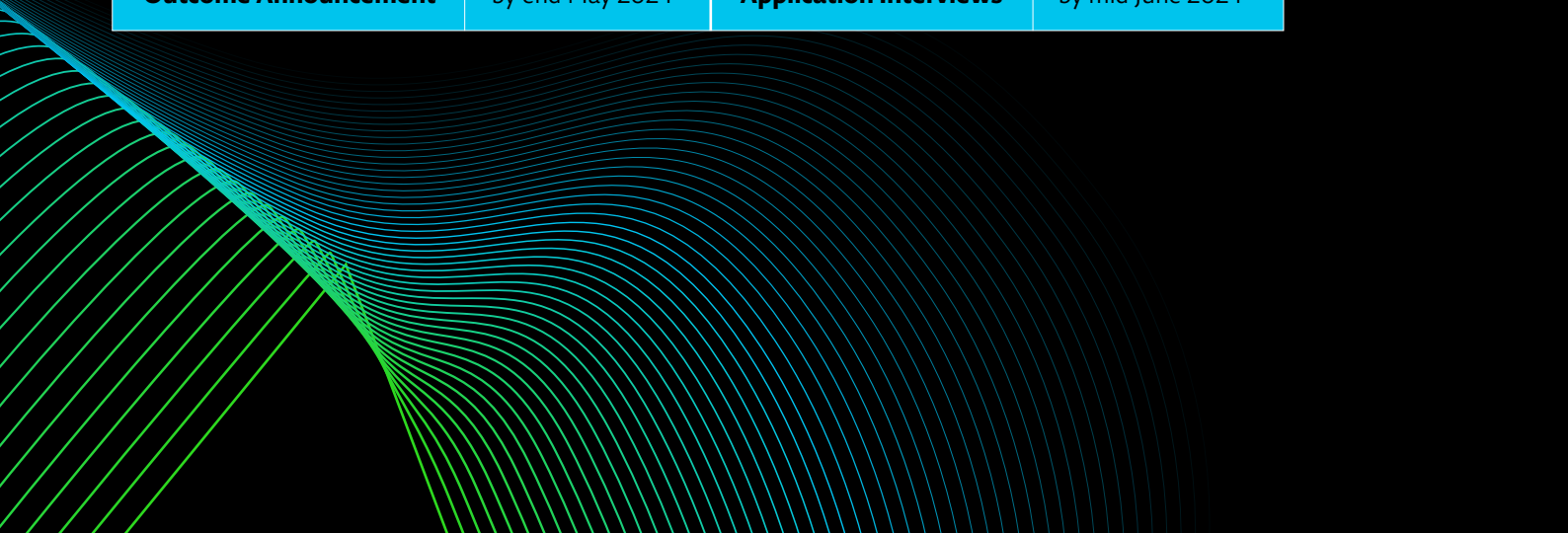
— **Reality and Artificial Reality**, an invitation to explore the intersection between the physical and virtual worlds, within a range of technical engagements from immersive worlds to bio or synthetic material. Questions in this track include how virtual spaces embed themselves in corporality or how virtual spaces engage non-visual sensory experiences? Lastly, the topic explores how artists can subvert this reality using technologies that currently impact human engagement.

— **Sound and Cinema Creation**, an invitation to examine the ways in which artists push the boundaries of cinema, archive and documentary. A key question is how artists can expand the cinematic and spatial sound experience through digital means, installation or new cinematic immersive experiences. Additionally, the topic explores how artists envision an expansive and narrative-led digital encounter.

— **Humans and Artificial Intelligence**, an invitation to examine the intersection of humans and machines, with a particular emphasis on the role of artists within this framework. This track focuses on computational creativity, code, machine learning & AI (image, text, speech), robotics, code art, interactivity, and living in data. A key question that arises within this topic is what role artists can play in offering a unique perspective on the social and technical events that are reshaping our era and the different perspectives on the issue of new intelligences.

THE 2024 PROGRAM (not including Dec/Jan break)

Beginning	September, 2024		
Thematic Exploration	October – November, 2024		
Track, Tools, Mentorship & Validation Jury	November, 2024 – January, 2025		
Production, Mentorship, Scenography & Curation	January – June, 2025		
Exhibition & Jury	June – end August 2025		
Application	by 29 April 2024 Application Form		
Outcome Announcement	by end May 2024	Application Interviews	by mid June 2024



SELECTION PROCEDURE

CONDITIONS FOR PARTICIPATION

The selection procedure is open to all candidates, of any gender or nationality, aged 35 years maximum on 1st January of the current year (i.e. born after 31st December 1988). Please note that a percentage preference will be made for artists from the Middle East and North African Region. The candidates must be able to provide proof of:

- A levels or High School completion (or recognized equivalent) and 4 to 5 years of study validated by a diploma or degree;
- (or)
- A levels or High School completion (or recognized equivalent) and 7 years of artistic or professional experience.
- Exhibition and practice experience in new media and technology arts.

The candidates in the second case will be reviewed by a special committee, who will judge and validate their application. Their decision is final.

LANGUAGE SKILLS

Candidates must have knowledge of spoken and written English.

SCHEDULE

The selection will take place according to the following schedule:

• 29 April 2024

Administrative application and dispatch of artistic files online no later than 2:00 pm (Riyadh time) through application form.

*A confirmation email of your application receipt will be sent to you at the end of the procedure and is essential for the validation of your application.

• June 2024

Interviews are held. The results will be confirmed directly by electronic mail.

APPLICATION

Following completion of the application form, applications will be short listed for meeting the criteria listed above. Each shortlisted application package is reviewed by two of the jury members. Each applicant will be informed via electronic mail of the status of their application. The jury's deliberations are secret and irrevocable.

Administrative

- One colour photograph.
 - Biographical details, including country, age and gender.
 - A copy of identity card or passport.
 - A detailed curriculum vitae.
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Artistic

Texts

All the texts may be backed up with images.

- Education and Artist Biography, brief overview prepared as a summary to be supported by CV and Artists Statement
- Letter of Interest and Artist Statement: This document explains how the candidates background led them to apply.

A letter of interest as to why you would like to join the DAF year-long emerging artists programme. In this document, the candidates explain what their motivations are and argue how their artistic practice may develop at Diriyah Art Futures. The candidates will be judged on the quality of writing and the relevance of their arguments. It is possible to join a PDF portfolio.

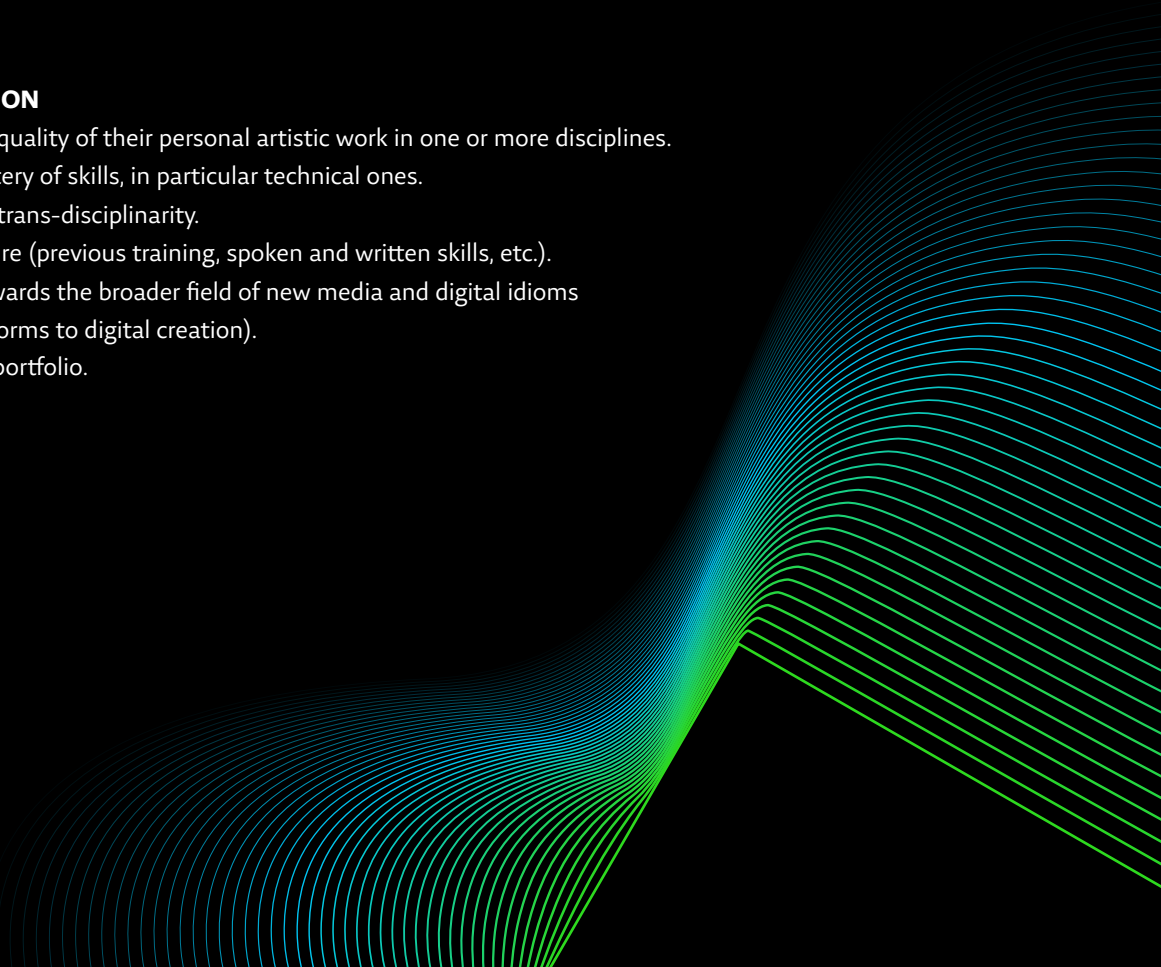
An artist statement on your current practice and use of new media or technology arts tools.

- A presentation about a project you would like to develop for the programme with proposed tools and timeline. This document should indicate the type of work that the candidates envisage making at DAF in the field for the 10-months and in a transdisciplinary mode; as well as the artists and works that have inspired them in these fields.

Visual Material:

Portfolio of work and a work (*or several extracts of works*) made by the candidates and which they consider representative of their specific practice, should be provided in the form of an MP4 file, maximum duration 8 minutes. This file could contain for example: 3 video extracts, or a slide show of photographs or a series of sound excerpts, or one or several views of video installations, etc. Each extract of work should be preceded by a label indicating the nature and context of the work. If the work presented is an artistic collaboration, the candidates will be required to specify their role. This part of the application will be seen by two different juries.

APPLICANTS JUDGED ON

- The originality, reach, and quality of their personal artistic work in one or more disciplines.
 - Their experience and mastery of skills, in particular technical ones.
 - Their relation to multi- or trans-disciplinarity.
 - Their level of general culture (previous training, spoken and written skills, etc.).
 - Their effective interest towards the broader field of new media and digital idioms (ranging from traditional forms to digital creation).
 - The presentation of their portfolio.
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APPLYING AS A DUO

It is possible to apply as a duo. This means that both members of the duo must enrol, meaning that there will be two administrative files for the same artistic dossier. A double application is acceptable only on the express condition that both members of the duo participate fully in the pedagogical propositions (jointly and not alternately).

JURISPRUDENCE

Applicants may only apply three times, provided they remain within the age limit. Any objections or appeal concerning the selection procedure, or its results should be addressed to the overseeing committee, headed by the Director of Diriyah Art Futures, and including the Director of Education, the two teaching coordinators and one member of the jury. This commission will call on any person it considers susceptible to help in its decision. Its decisions are final and without appeal.

Apply by 29 April 2024

› **Application Form**

For any further queries about application processes, housing etc.

Please contact: DAFEducation@moc.gov.sa



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Ministry of Culture