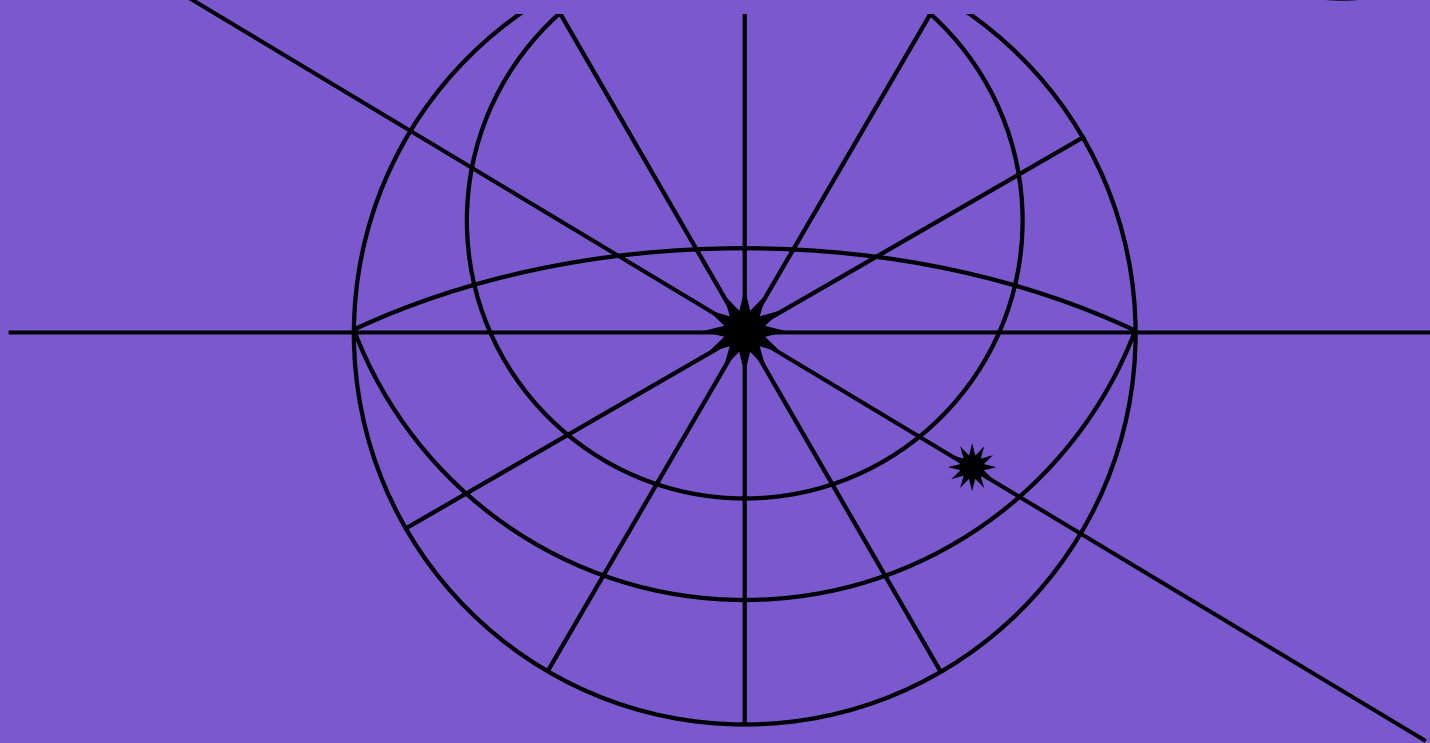

On the occasion
of Art Basel Paris



ARTS فنون
ALULA الحلال

ORBIS TERTIUS



First exhibition in France of
ALULA artists in residency programme

October 15th
to 20th, 2024

5 rue Saint-Merri,
75004 Paris

With the participation of*

MAITHA ABDALLA
MOHAMMAD ALFARAJ
MONIRA AL QADIRI
DANIAH ALSALEH
MARLON DE AZAMBUJA
GRÉGORIY CHATONSKY
SALOMÉ CHATRIOT
SARA FAVRIAU
TALIN HAZBAR
M'HAMMED KILITO
SABINE MIRLESSE
LEO ORTA
LOUIS-CYPRIEN RIALS
ANHAR SALEM
HUGO SERVANIN
SOFIANE SI MERABET
AICHA SNOUSSI
ITTAH YODA
AYMAN ZEDANI


*Artists biographies in the press pack

A journey between fictions and myths

Orbis Tertius is an exhibition bringing together 20 contemporary artists who have participated in the artistic residency programmes in the oasis city of AIUla, Saudi Arabia. Curated by Arnaud Morand, Head of Arts at AFALULA, it borrows its title from the writings of Jorge Luis Borges and unfolds on the foundations of the total idealist philosophy dear to the author. It revolves around themes such as how the world can be embedded into storytelling, and the inconsistent boundaries between fiction and reality.

Continuing their research in this region with its thousand-year history, marked by the archaeological remains of several pre-Islamic civilisations, as well as by innovative urban planning resolutely turned towards the future, the artists of this exhibition undertake to unfold reality throughout their works. They explore various fields of possibility, where ancestral stories and those of the future respond to each other, where alternative versions of the past adjoin possible futures, where myths and legends hybridise with scientific knowledge.

Orbis Tertius key figures

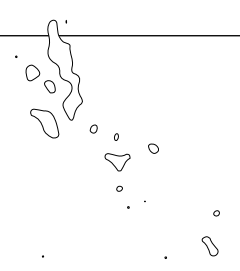


1 200 M²
OF EXHIBITION
SPACE AND 4 LEVELS

20
CONTEMPORARY
ARTISTS

43 WORKS:
PAINTINGS, SCULPTURES,
INSTALLATIONS, PHOTOS,
VIDEOS

13
ORIGINAL
PRODUCTIONS



A fertile international residency programme

The AIUla artists in residency programme serves as a platform for regional and international artists to explore and experiment with their artistic pursuits against the backdrop of AIUla's awe-inspiring landscape, with its 200,000 years of human history. It fosters a dynamic dialogue and collaboration among artists, as well as with the scientific and local communities of AIUla.

Located in the palm grove of Mabiti AIUla and the newly opened artists' lodging in the arts district of AIUla, AlJadidah, the residency programme offers a privileged setting for artists to reflect on and re-evaluate the role and methods of creative practice in the contemporary world.

By delving into questions such as our connection with the past, our responsibility towards the environment, and the integration of local culture into our daily lives, artists contribute to a fresh perspective on our surroundings. Through their art, they weave narratives using various languages of expression, be it through words or visual forms. They draw inspiration from cultural artifacts and natural elements, intertwining them with their imagination.

The AIUla artists in residency programme is an integral part of AIUla's vision for the 21st century, positioning contemporary creation as a fundamental pillar. It acts as a catalyst for the development of artistic practice, leveraging artists' perceptions and critical perspectives while providing them with the time and unparalleled context to nurture their craft.

The residencies serve as an anchor for AIUla's burgeoning arts scene and contribute to the strategic growth of the creative industries, deeply rooted in the land and its heritage. Together, they contribute to the creation of an imagined future for AIUla.

About the AIUla artists in residency programme

The AIUla artists in residency programme is a key element of AIUla's ambitious 21st-century vision, positioning contemporary creation as a cornerstone of the project. It uniquely combines artistic intelligence with scientific expertise to shape the development of this remarkable destination, built by and for artists. This programme contributes to imagining and cultivating AIUla's possible futures.

The programme offers a platform for regional and international artists to explore and experiment in the stunning landscape of AIUla, enriched by 200,000 years of human history. It fosters dynamic dialogues between artists, creatives, experts, and AIUla's local communities.

The AIUla artists in residency programme was established in 2021 by Arts AIUla and the French Agency for AIUla Development (AFALULA).

About Arts AIUla

The creation of Arts AIUla within The Royal Commission for AIUla (RCU) is a commitment to the next chapters in a millennia of artistic creation – celebrating cultural inheritance, presenting the art of our time, and shaping a future propelled by creativity. AIUla has long been a consistent and ever-evolving hub of cultural transfer. It has been a place of passage, a crossroads for trade, and home to successive civilizations who carved, sculpted and inscribed their lives into the landscape. The work of Arts AIUla seeks to preserve this legacy: fuse the old with the new; the local with the international, keeping the arts central to the spirit of AIUla as a place of extraordinary natural and human heritage. Arts AIUla will bring to fruition a series of new initiatives, projects and exhibitions. The artwork curation will speak to RCU's vision for the continued development of AIUla's contemporary art scenes: positioning the arts as a key contributor to AIUla's character, the quality of life for its local community and the region's economic future. Arts AIUla focuses on transferring the talents of the Saudi nation and the local AIUla community into meaningful long-standing social and economic opportunities. This is a key part of the Journey through Time masterplan bringing together the 15 different landmark destinations for culture, heritage and creativity across AIUla.

About the Royal Commission for AIUla (RCU)

The Royal Commission for AIUla (RCU) was established by royal decree in July 2017 to preserve and develop AIUla, a region of outstanding natural and cultural significance in north-west Saudi Arabia. RCU's long-term plan outlines a responsible, sustainable, and sensitive approach to urban and economic development that preserves the area's natural and historic heritage while establishing AIUla as a desirable location to live, work, and visit. This encompasses a broad range of initiatives across archaeology, tourism, culture, education, and the arts, reflecting a commitment to meeting the economic diversification, local community empowerment, and heritage preservation priorities of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia's Vision 2030 programme.

About the French Agency for AIUla Development (AFALULA)

Born as a result of an intergovernmental agreement signed by France and Saudi Arabia in April 2018, the French Agency for AIUla Development (AFALULA) was founded in Paris in July 2018. In the spirit of collaborative development, AFALULA's objective is to support its Saudi partner, the Royal Commission for AIUla (RCU), in the sustainable economic, tourism, and cultural development of AIUla, a region with an exceptional natural and cultural heritage located in the north-west of Saudi Arabia. The Agency's mission is to mobilize all of France's expertise and know-how and to bring together the best operators and companies in the fields of archaeology, museography, architecture, urban planning, tourism, hotel management, infrastructure, education, security, agriculture, botany, and sustainable natural resource management.

About AIUla

About AIUla:

Located 1,100 km from Riyadh, in North-West Saudi Arabia, AIUla is a place of extraordinary natural and human heritage. The vast area, covering 22,561km², includes a lush oasis valley, towering sandstone mountains and ancient cultural heritage sites dating back thousands of years to when the Lihyan and Nabataean kingdoms reigned. The most well-known and recognised site in AIUla is Hegra, Saudi Arabia's first UNESCO World Heritage Site. A 52-hectare ancient city, Hegra was the principal southern city of the Nabataean Kingdom and is comprised of 111 well-preserved tombs, many with elaborate facades cut out of the sandstone outcrops surrounding the walled urban settlement.

Current research also suggests Hegra was the most southern outpost of the Roman Empire after the Roman's conquered the Nabataeans in 106 CE. In addition to Hegra, AIUla is also home to ancient Dadan, the capital of the Dadan and Lihyan Kingdoms and considered to be one of the most developed 1st millennium BCE cities of the Arabian Peninsula, and Jabal Ikmah, an open air library of hundreds of inscriptions and writings in many different languages, which has been recently listed on the UNESCO's memory of the World Register. Also AIUla Old Town Village, a labyrinth of more than 900 mudbrick homes developed from at least the 12th century, which has been selected as one of the World's Best Tourism Villages in 2022 by the UNWTO. Additionally, Hegra Railway and Hegra Fort, which are key sites in the story and conquests of Lawrence of Arabia.

For more information, please visit: experiencealula.com



Information

Orbis Tertius exhibition
October 15th to 20th, 2024 11:00 am to 8:00 pm
5, rue Saint-Merri
75004 Paris

Press preview on Monday October 14th,
9.00 am to 11.30 am

Opening on October 14th,
5:00 pm to 10:00 pm

Talks on October 15th and 17th
in the exhibition at 9:00 am and on October 18th at Asia
Now at 01:30 pm

Communication / media relations contacts

l'art en plus

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AIUla Development (AFALULA)

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