

EMERGING NEW MEDIA ARTISTS PROGRAMME

2026

2027

مركز الدرعية
لفنون المستقبل
DIRIYAH ART FUTURES

Diriyah Art Futures
King Faisal bin Abdulaziz at Tarif al Jadid
New Diriyah 13712, Riyadh
Saudi Arabia

For any further queries about application processes,
housing etc. Please contact: dafeducation@moc.gov.sa

Apply by May 31st, 2026

[Application form](#)

Diriyah Art Futures Emerging New Media Artists Programme

A one-year supported learning and production programme at Diriyah Art Futures

1 year

2026-2027

Riyadh

Saudi Arabia

APPLY BY MAY 31ST, 2026
→ [APPLICATION FORM](#)

ABOUT

Diriyah Art Futures announces an open call for applications to its next digital and technology-led creative production and training programme targeting emerging artists working in New Media and Digital Art.

If you are interested in working in a dedicated media arts facility, alongside prominent digital and new media artists in this unique supported one-year programme, then Diriyah Art Futures is waiting for you.

The Diriyah Art Futures centre, a cornerstone for new media and technology art in the region, has developed its Emerging New Media Artists Programme in collaboration with Le Fresnoy - Studio National des Arts Contemporains in France. Diriyah Art Futures is dedicated to advancing the field of New Media and Digital 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. These include theoretical, conceptual, and technical learning opportunities as well as personal mentorship by prominent international digital artists. Diriyah Art Futures facilities will support development through Fabrication Lab, Sound & Recording Studio, XR Lab, Film & Photography Studios, in addition to support in Machine Learning and CGI capacities.

WHO IS THIS FOR?

The Emerging New Media Artists Programme has been developed with emerging creative practitioners from all over the world in mind, with a particular 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 New Media and Digital Art.

Successful applicants will be provided with an accessible space featuring exhibitions, screenings and dedicated technical labs for professional creation and innovative digital development. Throughout the year, the Diriyah Art Futures centre will host prestigious artists and international institutions engaged in New Media and Digital Art forms.

THE ONE-YEAR EMERGING NEW MEDIA ARTISTS PROGRAMME

Three months

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:

● TECHNOLOGY, DIGITALLY AND MATERIALITY.

Making art in a technological era allows us to engage with digital technologies while furthering the progress of science and technology through material experimentation. New Media Art practices have the capacity to impact our social and cultural understanding of technology and science, offering opportunities to respond to contemporary crises by examining the environmental and techno-material consequences we observe today.

We encourage deeper investigation into what material engagements offer, not only in the process of artmaking but also in critiquing science and interrogating its impact on our cultures and societies

● INTERNET, DATA AND POST INTERNET

The Internet and data collection have become cultural phenomena that have both transformed how we live and opened avenues for critically questioning the motives of big tech. Here, we address the "Post-Internet" movement and its distinctions from the "Net Art" movement of the 1990s. While Post-Internet art sometimes takes inspiration from Net Art, it goes beyond to question notions of networks, immaterial and material concepts, connectivity, information overload, and communities. The volume of digital data produced, combined with exponential storage capacities and real-time analysis tools, now offers unprecedented possibilities for exploring, exploiting, and visualising information. We invite artists to engage with how the Internet shapes culture, power structures, and everyday life, examining the implications of data-driven systems and the evolving relationship between online and offline worlds.

● **THE BODY & TECHNOLOGICAL TRANSFORMATIONS**

Digital technologies have profound effects on corporality and bodily representation, reshaping how we understand ourselves, others, and our environment with or through technology. We invite exploration of the body's metamorphosis in technological contexts, the "featured," transformed, or masked body through avatars, filters, and digital personas; the "calculated" body tracked and quantified through data; the "augmented" body enhanced by technology; and the "dispersed" or "displaced" body mediated through connected objects, video, and networked presence.

Artists are encouraged to investigate how technology transforms embodiment, identity, and physical experience in contemporary life.

● **NATURE, CLIMATE, ENVIRONMENT AND SOCIETAL TRANSFORMATION**

What role does art, particularly digital art, play in the current transitions around energy, society, climate, and ecology? Artists are exploring new territories as diverse as urban planning and biology, engaging creatively with the fields of science and technology. They act as social actors in public space, often working in collectives to address urgent environmental and societal challenges.

We invite artists to develop new representations and imaginaries, both utopian and dystopian, that respond to ecological crisis, environmental degradation, and the need for systemic transformation.

● **HUMAN, NATURE, NON-HUMAN**

In light of the upheavals affecting our environment, the separation society has imposed between the human and non-human world is being called into question. The idea that nature exists on one side and humanity as a separate entity on the other is no longer tenable.

Here, artists are called to interrogate the nature of both technology and our world, exploring the resonances and entanglements between them. How can artistic practice challenge anthropocentrism and reimagine relationships across human, natural, and non-human systems? What new forms of coexistence, collaboration, or understanding emerge when we refuse these boundaries?

● **MAPPING MEMORY IN THE ARAB WORLD**

Artists, particularly those from the Arab world, are increasingly engaging with archives through new digital tools and methodologies. This practice is especially relevant in work that questions memory and cultural heritage, with a view to transmission for future generations.

We invite artists to explore how digital technologies can preserve, reimagine, or challenge historical narratives. How can archival practices become acts of reclamation, resistance, or reconstruction? What new forms of memory-making emerge when traditional archives are digitized, disrupted, or created anew? How do artists navigate questions of access, representation, and authority in constructing cultural memory for communities and future generations?

Six months

In the following six months, 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 techniques, immersive reality, coding, sensing, machine learning and spatial audio-visual environments. The artwork you produce will be exhibited with Diriyah Art Futures as a final curated and juried outcome of the one-year programme.

Artists are invited to explore a range of contemporary fields in New Media Arts, including:

● REALITY AND ARTIFICIAL REALITY

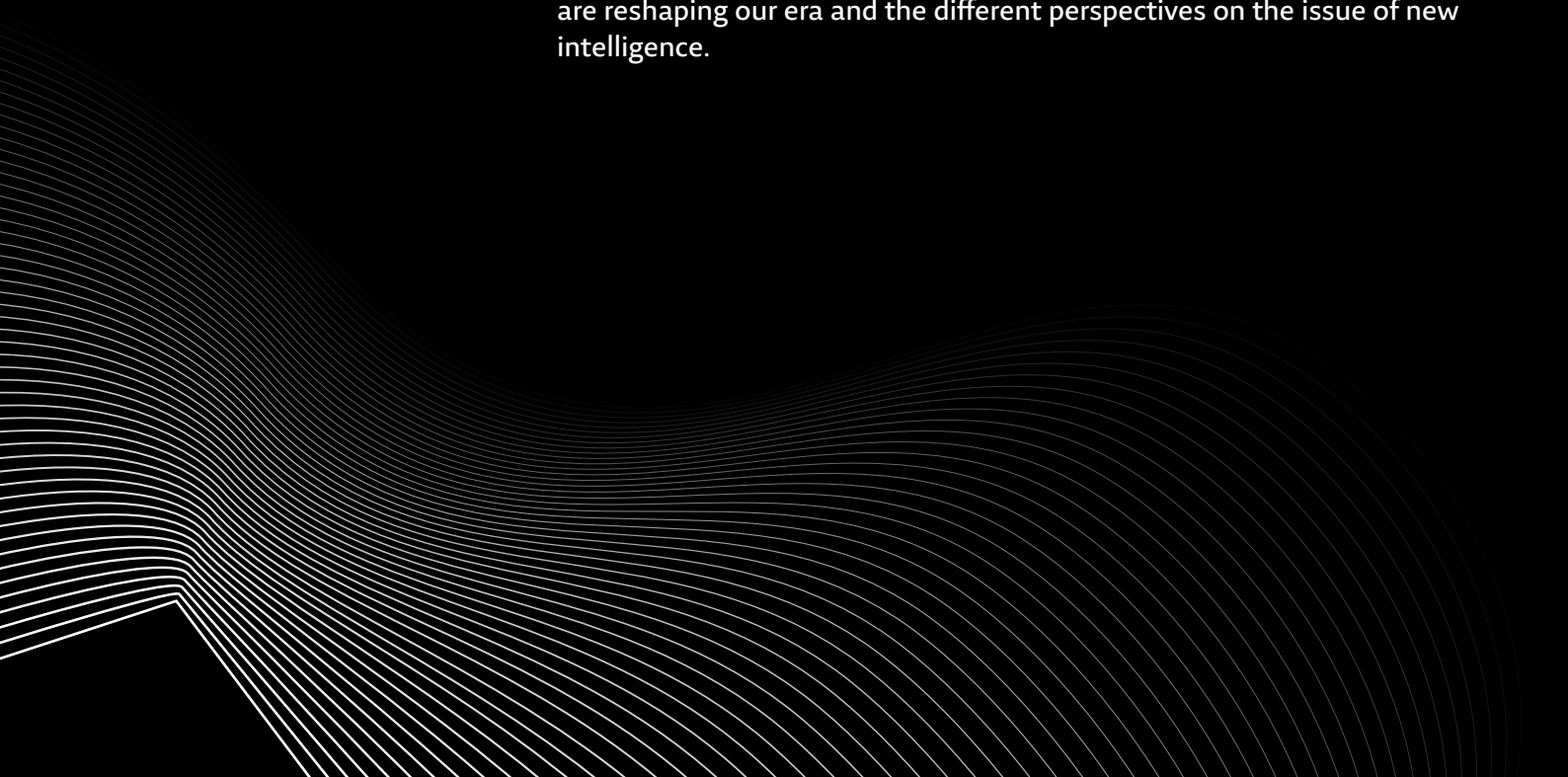
An invitation to explore the intersection between the physical and virtual worlds, within a range of technical engagements from immersive worlds to bio or synthetic material. Questions in this track include how virtual spaces embed themselves in corporality or how virtual spaces engage non-visual sensory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

● SOUND, CINEMA AND IMMERSIVE 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 and 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 intelligence.



THE 2026/27 PROGRAMME*

*not including December - January break

THE TERM WILL BEGIN: October 2026

THEMATIC EXPLORATION, PRE-PRODUCTION & TESTING: October – December, 2026

TRACK, TOOLS, MENTORSHIP & VALIDATION JURY: November, 2026 – January, 2027

PRODUCTION, MENTORSHIP, SCENOGRAPHY & CURATION: February – August 2027

EXHIBITION & JURY: September - October 2027

APPLICATION: by MAY 31ST, 2026

[Application form](#)



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. 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, High School completion (or recognized equivalent) and **5 years** of tertiary level study validated by a diploma or degree;
- (or) —
- A levels, High School completion (or recognised 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 in educational capacity will be reviewed by the overseeing committee, who will judge and validate their application before issuing a final decision.

● LANGUAGE SKILLS

Candidates must have knowledge of spoken and written English.

● SELECTION SCHEDULE

The selection will take place according to the following schedule:

● MAY 31ST, 2026

Administrative application and dispatch of artistic files online no later than 12:00 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.

● JULY 20 TO JULY 1, 2026

Interviews will be held. The results will be confirmed directly via email.

● APPLICATION

Following completion of the application form, applications will be shortlisted for meeting the criteria listed above. Each shortlisted application package is reviewed by two of the jury members.

Each applicant will be informed via email of the status of their application.

The jury's deliberations are confidential and final.

Candidates must put online or deliver the following elements as part of their application:

● 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

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**, as motivation for the application to Diriyah Art Futures.
 - *A statement on the candidate's current practice and use of technological tools*
 - *A detailed project proposal including tools, timeline, transdisciplinary approach, and inspirations.*

Visual Material

- **Personal video – 8-minute MP4**
 - *Portfolio of work or showreel representative works.*
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THE APPLICANTS ARE MAINLY JUDGED ON

- The originality, reach, and quality of their personal artistic work.
- Their technical experience and mastery.
- Their relation to multi- or trans-disciplinarity.
- Their level of previous training and communication skills.
- Their demonstrated interest in New Media Arts.
- The clarity and presentation of their portfolio.

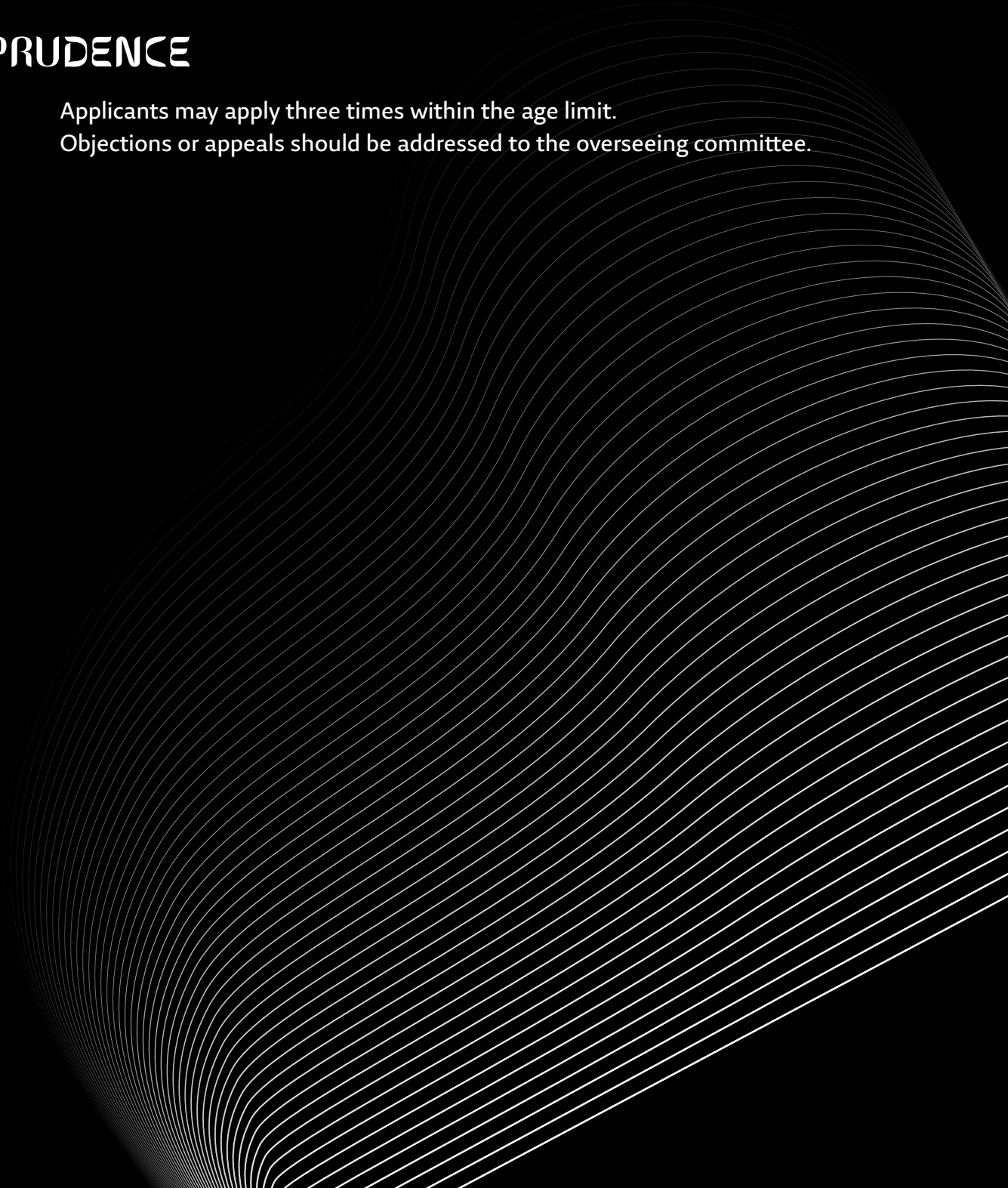
APPLYING AS A DUO

It is possible to apply as a duo; both members must submit administrative files and participate fully and jointly.

JURISPRUDENCE

Applicants may apply three times within the age limit.

Objections or appeals should be addressed to the overseeing committee.



Diriyah Art Futures

3029 King Faisal Road,
Al Bujairi, 7719, Riyadh 13712
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For any further queries about application
processes, housing etc. Please contact:
dafeducation@moc.gov.sa

Application

Deadline: MAY 31ST , 2026

[Application form](#)