

ATHR Gallery Presents ALAMAAT



AIUla, Saudi Arabia – 24 December 2024

ATHR Gallery is proud to announce the soft opening of ALAMAAT on December 26th 2024, an exhibition featuring the works of artists Daniah Al Saleh and Susanne Kriemann, created during their residency in AIUla, supported by the Goethe Institute and the German Embassy. This exhibition is expertly curated by Salma Al Khalidi and celebrates the intersection of art, archaeology, and cultural exchange and will be presented for the first time in AIUla.

ATHR extends its deepest gratitude to the Goethe Institute, the German Embassy, and the German Archaeological Institute (DAI) for their essential support. DAI's expertise guided the artists' research, contributing to the depth and resonance of the works on display.

In 2023, as part of the 20th anniversary of DAI's excavations in Saudi Arabia, Al Saleh and Kriemann travelled to the archaeological sites of Tayma and AIUla, exploring the intersection of ancient histories and contemporary realities.

ALAMAAT invites viewers to reflect on how historical and contemporary narratives intersect, shaping our present-day realities. It reminds us that time is marked not only by significant events, but also by the subtle traces we leave behind. These remnants—both tangible and intangible—deepen our understanding of the world and our place within it, revealing how the past continues to resonate in the present.

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Daniah Alsaleh and Susanne Kriemann weave a narrative exploring the lasting impact of both physical and organic materials, ancient and modern, on our evolving relationship with time and the environment.

Alsaleh's work focuses on carnelian stones and beads —semi-precious gemstones often found in ancient artifacts, examining how these objects bridge the gap between past human activities and present-day contexts. Kriemann examines the paradoxical coexistence of ancient artifacts and modern consumer waste, highlighting the contrast between the visible and hidden elements of today's environmental challenges.

ALAMAAT invites reflection on how traces of the past shape our present and the lasting impact of our fleeting actions - encouraging viewers to consider the remnants of history and the marks we leave for future generations. The exhibition serves as a reminder that the desert, like our histories, is a living space where the past, present, and future continuously intersect.

Exhibition dates: December 26, 2024 to March 26, 2025

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About ATHR

ATHR was founded in 2009 in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, by Mohammed Hafiz and Hamza Serafi. From its onset it has been a pioneering gallery with global aspirations. We represent artists that have been the driving force of the gallery from the beginning and who have inspired our responsive mandate that evolves to accommodate the ever-changing local scene. We pride ourselves on being adaptive which has been a testament to our legacy that



has spanned over a decade. Our diverse roster of artists work across multiple disciplines and subject matter from the more traditional such as painting and sculpture to more unconventional methods that echo the daring nature of the gallery. The subject matter they address also vary wildly covering a spectrum of narratives that vary from the personal scale to the macro-cultural. ATHR has expanded in the kingdom with three locations besides the original space; ATHR Al-Ula is the first contemporary art gallery in the historical city, and our newest outpost is ATHR JAX, an important space in Riyadh, which is the capital of Saudi Arabia and an important art hub in the region. The opening of our Riyadh location is a long-awaited location expansion for ATHR beyond the western region of the kingdom. With our growth to the various outposts in the kingdom, the Jeddah location remains the largest space and continues to be the ATHR headquarters. ATHR has branched out to create the ATHR Foundation, with focus on developing emerging artists and art spaces. ATHR has also diversified its ventures to include AKTHR: an art services agency for the larger art industry in Saudi Arabia where we employ our experience to advise and develop.

About the Goethe-Institut

The Goethe-Institute, with its institute in Riyadh, promotes the German language, provides information about German cultural and social life, and fosters international cultural cooperation. Through its concept of "cultural work in dialogue," it explores artistic methods to create encounters and creativity between Saudi Arabia and Germany, injecting new energy into the cultural and educational sectors.

It aims to develop a culture of togetherness, promote mutual understanding, and inspire cross-cultural exchange by fostering respect and recognition of differences, with an emphasis on collaborative project creation with Saudi partners.

www.goethe.de/saudiarabien

IG: @goetheinstitut_saudiarabien

About the German Archaeological Institute (DAI)

The German Archaeological Institute (DAI) is an internationally active research institution within the portfolio of the Federal Foreign Office, dedicated to worldwide archaeological research and the preservation of cultural heritage. With its headquarters in Berlin and branch offices in key locations, including Baghdad, Damascus, and Sana'a, the DAI plays a significant role in Germany's international cultural and educational policy.

For 20 years, the DAI has been engaged in Saudi Arabia, collaborating with the Heritage Commission in Tayma and, more recently, the Royal Commission for AlUla (RCU) in Al-Ula. These partnerships support the scientific exploration of human history in Saudi Arabia through a global, dialogue-oriented approach to archaeology.

<https://www.dainst.org/en/>

Daniah Alsaleh

(b. 1970, Saudi Arabia) is a Saudi-based artist known for exploring how memory and cultural conditioning shape perceptions and behaviors, challenging mainstream assumptions through various materials and techniques. Her work deconstructs established meanings and offers alternative viewpoints on everyday life, human fragility, and vulnerability. Alsaleh has participated in notable exhibitions and residencies, including the Diriyah Biennale, Biennale Sur, and the Hermitage Museum, and holds an MFA in Computational Art from Goldsmiths. She has also been recognized with the Ithra Art Prize in 2019.

www.daniahalsaleh.com

IG: @daniah_alsaleh

Susanne Kriemann

(b. 1972, Germany) is a Berlin-based artist and professor at the University of Arts and Design Karlsruhe and NYU Berlin, known for her exploration of landscapes as analogue 'recording systems' for human-caused processes. Her work integrates site-specific research with archaeological and geological studies, using materials like microplastics and radioactive elements to layer past, present, and speculative future perspectives. Exhibited internationally at venues such as The Wattis, Kunsthalle Wien, and the 2nd Diriyah Biennale, she also participated in residencies including NTU CCA Singapore and Goethe Institute Colombo.

www.susannekriemann.info

IG: @susanne.kriemann

Salma Al Khalidi

(b. 1994, Germany, Egypt) is an accomplished independent curator and gallery director based in Dubai, UAE. Her experience includes notable roles at Hedonist Gallery in Dubai, Art D'Égypte in Cairo, Open Gallery in London, and Carrie Able Gallery in New York City, among others. She has curated exhibitions that showcase a diverse range of Contemporary and Modern artists on a global scale, demonstrating her expertise in gallery exhibitions, public art installations, and private exhibits. Al Khalidi holds a BA in Interior and Spatial Design from Chelsea College of Art and Design, an MA in Art History from SOAS, London, and is currently pursuing an Art Law course at Sotheby's.

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