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## PRESS RELEASE

2010 SHANGHAI WORLD EXPO

**NABATT: A SENSE OF BEING**  
CONTEMPORARY ART FROM SAUDI ARABIA  
11 SEPTEMBER–31 OCTOBER 2010  
Shanghai Duolun Museum of Modern Art  
No. 27 Duolun Road, Shanghai.

[www.nabatt.com](http://www.nabatt.com)

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## GRAND OPENING:

**FRIDAY, 10 SEPTEMBER 2010, 6PM–8PM** PRESS CONFERENCE 3–5 PM

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### PARTICIPATING ARTISTS:

**Jowhara Al-Saud, Ayman Yossri Dayban, Reem Al-Faisal, Zaman Jassim, Fahad Al-Hajailan, Lulwah Al-Homoud, Mohammad Farea, Noha Al-Sharif, Mustapha Al-Arab, Dia Aziz Dia, Maha Malluh, Nasser Al-Turki, Mohammad Al-Ghamdi, Mohammad Al-Ajlan, Fahad Al-Gethami, Saddiek Mohammad Wasil, Farouk Kondakji, Bakr Shaykhon, Bandar Al-Rumaih, Abdulaziz Ashour, Shadia & Raja Alem**

**Poetry by Abdullatif A. Al-Shaikh**  
**Music Produced by Ahmed Al-Mayman**

**CO-CURATORS:**  
**Lulwah Al-Homoud & JW Stella**

**COORDINATOR:**  
**Peifen Sung**

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Saudi Arabian Pavilion at 2010 Shanghai World Expo is delighted to announce **NABATT: a sense of being**, an exhibition of contemporary art from Saudi Arabia.

The exhibition is co-curated by Lulwah Al-Homoud and JW Stella and organised by Cube Arts in collaboration with Shanghai Duolun Museum of Modern Art, premiering Saturday 11th September through 31st October 2010. There will be a Grand Opening on Friday 10th September, 6:00 – 8:00pm.

**NABATT: a sense of being** features over 130 works by 23 Saudi Arabian artists. These works involve visual arts, music and literature, each of them being a catalyst speeding up the creative movement among Saudi artists. The diversity of media creates an intriguing crossover that illustrates the vivid cultural engagement within the Saudi art scene. The artists focus their work on the issue of *glocalisation*, a word that describes the continuous reciprocal reshaping that the local and the global wield on one another, something which has become a central issue of art and culture in the 21st century.

As the first Comprehensive Saudi contemporary art exhibition and the largest ever shown in Asia, this exhibition will provide Asian and international audiences with the opportunity to look at Saudi contemporary art from multiple perspectives.

The exhibition is sponsored by The Saudi Arabian Pavilion, King Abdulaziz Center for World Culture at Saudi Aramco and Huawei.

"I truly believe that 'NABATT: a Sense of Being' will add another dimension to the great success and popularity of the Saudi Pavilion at Shanghai World Expo 2010 among our Chinese friends. The creativity within Saudi Art and Culture will play an important role reaching out to Chinese and International audiences". Dr. A Al-Shaikh, Commissioner General, Saudi Pavilion.

"The King Abdulaziz Centre for World Culture is pleased to support the Nabatt exhibition as an example of contemporary arts within the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. The true wealth of Saudi Arabia is the limitless talent of its young population who are dynamic, ambitious and possess incredible artistic and creative potential". Fuad Al-Therman, Director

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### ABOUT NABATT

The word Nabatt has different meanings. Two of them, "extracting water from the ground" and "to obtain the sense of one word from another word", clearly establish its folkloric and literary values. However, the origin of the word is still debated among scholars. A theory is that it originated from the Nabateans who were the first ancestors of Arabs. Another theory sees it deriving from the 16th Century Nabatti poetry, which is considered the richest form of popular Arabic literature.

Also known as "the people's poetry", Nabatti Poetry deals with all the themes dear to Arabic classical poetry but is free from any formality and constraint. Nabatti poetry's characteristic traits are the simple style and the combination of poetic artistry with direct communication. It allowed the inhabitants of the

Arabian Peninsula to express their creativity and spontaneity, to discuss their sense of place, identity and existence within diverse racial and complex societies, uniting and establishing a nation with Makkah as its centre. In certain eras, this poetry was the only record of historical events. It is a medium that consolidated the Saudi aesthetic genealogy and still practiced nowadays as part of the artistic exploration of contemporary social themes.

The exhibition **Nabatt** presents different forms of art from Saudi Arabia. It is an interaction between visual art, literature and music created in response to one another, showing the creativity of the artists as their 'sense of being'.

## ABOUT THE CURATORS

### LULWAH AL-HOUMOD

Lulwah Al-Homoud is an independent curator, artist, art consultant and a branding expert based in London with extensive international experience of advising high profile individuals, organisations, museums and galleries. She organised cultural events since 1999, curated art exhibitions in London since 2001, Worked on an educational project with the British Museum 2006 and recently co-curated the Saudi Arabian contemporary art exhibition titled 'Edge of Arabia' Brunei Gallery, SOAS, London, 2008.

### JW STELLA

JW Stella is an independent curator, art consultant, lecturer, and cultural mediator based in London and Seoul. She is involved in an advisory capacity with a cross-cultural engagement between the nations. She curated and project managed high-profile international contemporary art exhibitions, such as 'SU:MBISORI, Inaugural International Art Exhibition for Jeju Museum of Art (Korea, 2009) and 'Fantasy Studio'-a collateral project with Liverpool Biennale 2008, (A Foundation, Liverpool, UK).

## NOTE TO EDITORS

— 'NABATT: a sense of being' is organised by 'Cube Arts', London in collaboration with 'Shanghai Duolun Museum of Modern Art', China

— **Shanghai Duolun Museum of Modern Art** is the first professional modern museum of contemporary art in China and a multi-functional and non-profit institution of culture and art, providing services to the development of Chinese contemporary art and a platform for the international exchange of contemporary art.

— **CUBE Art** is a company registered in London for cross-cultural projects, it aims to promote Arab/Islamic culture focusing on Saudi Arabian Art and Culture.


— **The curatorial team and artists will be available for interview.**

— There will be various educational programs running throughout the exhibition period. For further details please visit [www.nabatt.com](http://www.nabatt.com) or [www.duolunmoma.org](http://www.duolunmoma.org)

— The museum is open Tuesday—Sunday 10am—6pm

## EXHIBITION SPONSORS

— The exhibition is sponsored by The Saudi Arabian Pavilion, King Abdulaziz Center for World Culture at Saudi Aramco and Huawei.

Supported by The Ministry of Culture and Information, KSA 



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