



اللوفا أبو ظبي
LOUVRE ABU DHABI



ANNUAL
REPORT

2019



Al Fursan Airshow over Louvre Abu Dhabi's dome in celebration of the museum's second anniversary.
Architect: Jean Nouvel

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A Message from the Chairman



His Excellency Mohamed Khalifa Al Mubarak
Chairman, Department of Culture and Tourism - Abu Dhabi

Following the success of its inaugural year, during which Louvre Abu Dhabi attracted more than a million visitors, I am delighted to announce that the museum repeated this achievement by welcoming around one million more in 2019. It is especially gratifying that this should have occurred during the UAE's Year of Tolerance, a universal value that informed the teachings of the nation's Founding Father, Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan, whose legacy lives on in Louvre Abu Dhabi's mission to foster mutual understanding and respect between cultures.

It was from just such ambition that Abu Dhabi hosted the unprecedented visit of His Holiness Pope Francis in February 2019, during which the pontiff met with Dr Ahmed Al Tayeb, Grand Imam of Al Azhar Al Sharif, to sign the historic Declaration on Human Fraternity.

A landmark in the quest for inter-faith understanding and coexistence, the Declaration calls for the development of a culture of dialogue and collaboration between religions and in its preface states "faith leads a believer to see in the other a brother or sister to be supported and loved".

The idea of bringing people together to send a message of unity to the world was particularly expressed in the presentation of two artworks by Pope Francis and the Grand Imam in the presence of HH Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed, the Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi: four pages from the Blue Quran and a life-size, 16th century statue of Christ. Louvre Abu Dhabi's gallery dedicated to universal religions, whose unique displays also include artefacts representing Buddhism, Hinduism and Judaism, received the 2019 UAE Pioneer Award for Tolerance.

The use of openness and cultural dialogue as essential tools for building positive intercultural relations will surely find its apotheosis in the forthcoming Abrahamic Family House, which will be built on Saadiyat Island as an architectural expression

of the UAE's commitment to interfaith harmony. A beacon of tolerance and a monument to intellectual exchange and cultural understanding, Louvre Abu Dhabi has established itself as the driving force behind the burgeoning Saadiyat Cultural District and will soon be joined by world-class institutions such as the Zayed National Museum and Guggenheim Abu Dhabi. The Department of Culture and Tourism – Abu Dhabi is also delighted to have brought another outstanding establishment to the District - Berklee College of Music. Berklee Abu Dhabi will offer local and regional students workshops, masterclasses and courses led by world-renowned musicians and Grammy-winning producers, songwriters and composers.

Alongside landmarks such as the Sheikh Zayed Grand Mosque and the recently opened Presidential Palace, Qasr Al Watan, Louvre Abu Dhabi not only plays a key role in affording Abu Dhabi global prestige and recognition but also in developing the capital's vibrant cultural ecosystem. Through our unique blend of ambitious cultural programming and innovative educational initiatives, the museum also complements heritage sites such as Qasr Al Hosn and the recently renovated Cultural Foundation by reaching out to Emiratis, residents and tourists alike. Indeed, the spirit of openness and diversity is reflected in our audience, nearly three-quarters of whom were international visitors in 2019, clearly indicating the broad appeal of the capital's tourist offering.

I am immensely proud of Louvre Abu Dhabi's skilled and dedicated team, whose contribution this year, as last, has been indispensable in serving the needs of our growing public by curating exhibitions, commissioning installations, arranging loans and managing the museum's incomparable collection. Given the unique nature of the museum's origins and ongoing organisation, I would also like to express special thanks to our French colleagues and partner institutions, who have continued to support Louvre Abu Dhabi with their unparalleled knowledge, exquisite loans, operational expertise and unforgettable temporary exhibitions. Together, they have helped to redefine the museum for the 21st century.

The coming year promises to be just as exciting. In 2020, the museum's focus on academic research will see the launch of the Library and Research Centre and the organisation of our next symposium, bringing together scholars and art professionals from around the world to discuss the most relevant topics in the interpretation and presentation of culture. Louvre Abu Dhabi will further its role as a leading publisher in the field with the publication of several scientific titles and will continue to enhance its permanent collection through strategic acquisitions. We see every day as an opportunity to share and explore, to celebrate how far we have all come, together.

A Message from the Undersecretary



His Excellency Saood Abdulaziz Al Hosani
Acting Undersecretary, Department of Culture and Tourism - Abu Dhabi

It is a privilege to be able to assist in the development and further success of an organisation that plays such a crucial role in building Abu Dhabi's future and establishing its reputation as an international beacon of tolerance, educational excellence, artistic and cultural endeavour.

To be able to bring 19 years' experience in strategic financial management in the fields of tourism and culture, media and technology, financial services and investments to bear on such a project is a source of great excitement to me and I am committed to driving excellence throughout the Department of Culture and Tourism - Abu Dhabi.

As such, the organisation's workforce is both my priority and my focus as is enhancing the organisation's culture to achieve optimal operational efficiency for Louvre Abu Dhabi.

Under the exemplary leadership of His Excellency Mohammed Khalifa Al Mubarak and Manuel Rabaté, the Louvre Abu Dhabi team has worked with vision, professionalism and vigour throughout 2019 to build on the remarkable success of its inaugural year.

The museum has not only continued to grow and diversify its audience but has established a unique vision that successfully balances the global with the local, educating, inspiring and building bridges between generations and diverse communities. As the Saadiyat Cultural District develops further, I look forward to working with my colleagues to ensure that the new and existing museums and cultural assets not only achieve individual success but that they also complement one another while aligning with our broader strategy for tourism and culture across the city and the emirate.

To this end, the Department for Culture and Tourism - Abu Dhabi is looking to work with our colleagues in education so that we might embed our museums and cultural sites in the curricula of schools and educational institutions across the emirate, helping to inspire the younger generation whilst

making them aware of the richness of their heritage.

If Abu Dhabi is to compete successfully in an increasingly competitive global tourism market, we must not only find new ways to leverage the emirate's outstanding natural and cultural assets, but also the very latest technologies and the abundance of local talent.

Louvre Abu Dhabi have already proved itself to be an outstanding vehicle for educating, training and for providing enviable career paths for young Emiratis, not least through its unparalleled collaborations with its French partner organisations. We must also find new ways to provide scholarships, internships and institutional opportunities - both at home and abroad - to ensure that we continue to build upon this success.

In December 2019, HH Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President and Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai, and HH Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi and Deputy Supreme Commander of the UAE Armed Forces, announced that 2020 will be the year of preparations for the next half century. As such, 2020 will witness the launch of a national strategy to prepare the country for the coming 50 years and for its Golden Jubilee celebrations in 2021, something we will work to support through the development of clear strategies of our own. These include establishing Louvre Abu Dhabi as a place of educational excellence and as an internationally recognised centre for content generation, academic research and for the publication of scientific papers and texts; a focused short-term ambition that will have a profound, longer-term strategic impact.

A Message from the Director



Manuel Rabaté
Museum Director, Louvre Abu Dhabi

Louvre Abu Dhabi continues to redefine the museum of the 21st century by presenting visitors with new ways to engage with forms of creativity, while revealing and celebrating the universal values that inform our common humanity.

Our unique curatorial and museological perspective not only allows visitors to see their own stories reflected in our collections but also encourages them to forge new connections of their own. That our visitor numbers have grown for a second year is a source of great satisfaction. However, I am especially proud of the diverse nature of our audience and of the fact that we have established the museum as a destination for all members and sectors of society, an achievement that reflects Louvre Abu Dhabi's core values of openness and tolerance.

While launching dedicated initiatives aimed at teachers and students, we have also worked with Emirati seniors, orphans, and the Abu Dhabi Police Force. The museum also provided free admission for local bus and taxi drivers and workers from across the city in 2019. As part of our plan to engage with the widest possible audience, the museum also launched a Volunteers of Determination programme. This was further supported by a new series of Sensory Tactile Tours, which employ different interpretation tools to create an enhanced sensorial experience of the museum and have been enjoyed by visitors from twelve special education centres from around the country.

Almost 30 per cent of Louvre Abu Dhabi's audience is comprised of UAE nationals and local residents while Emiratis form 52 per cent of the museum's workforce, which has access to a wide array of professional development opportunities that include the museum's Research Centre, which currently contains around 4000 volumes in 15 languages. Of our visitor groups, Emiratis are also the most likely to make a return visit to the museum, helping us to achieve an enviable overall visitor satisfaction rating of 95 per cent.

Both here on Saadiyat Island and across the UAE, education is at the core of our mission. We nearly doubled our number of school visits in 2019, which testifies to our integration into the emirate's academic network, and were delighted to welcome 45,000 school pupils to the museum. Louvre Abu Dhabi also undertook approximately ten School, Community and University Roadshows, taking the museum to every corner of the emirates.

Our engagement with younger visitors starts early.

Louvre Abu Dhabi's dedicated Children's Museum caters for families with children aged 4-10 and its exhibitions are subject to the same level of curatorial consideration as those mounted in our main galleries. A Costume Adventure, an interactive display that explores the global history of costume and dress, welcomed 76,752 visitors when opened in the last six months of 2019.

Return visits to the museum have been inspired, in part, by the large-scale rotation of works in our galleries this year.

The collection now stands at an impressive 658 artworks following 37 key recent acquisitions. These range from a truly exceptional 16th century tabletop, designed by Giorgio Vasari for the Grand Duke of Tuscany, Francesco I de Medici, to an exquisite 13th century astrolabe, the saphea of Azarchelis, which is based on the pioneering work of the 11th century Spanish-Arab astronomer, Abu Ishaq Ibrahim Al-Zarquali. The reputation of our permanent collection was further enhanced by our first loan to a major international institution. A 16th century Flemish Collar of the Order of the Golden Fleece was sent to The Metropolitan Museum in New York, where it featured in the temporary exhibition *The Last Knight: The Art, Armor, and Ambition of Maximilian I*, which ran from October 2019 to January 2020.

As always, the museum is profoundly indebted to the unstinting generosity of our French partners, whose loans are the core of our temporary exhibitions and support the narrative of our permanent galleries. We were also delighted to receive remarkable loans from the Musée du Louvre, the Leiden Collection and the Rijksmuseum in 2019, which formed the basis for our highly successful temporary exhibition, *Rembrandt, Vermeer & the Dutch Golden Age: Masterpieces from The Leiden Collection and the Musée du Louvre*.

It was the display of a local object loaned from a local partner, however, that hit the headlines this year and made an impressive contribution to our 25,000 appearances in traditional media. Believed to be the world's oldest, the 8,000-year-old Abu Dhabi Pearl proved to be one of the star exhibits of our winter blockbuster, *10,000 Years of Luxury*, which also inspired the olfactory art installation *USO - The Perfumed Cloud* (*USO = Unidentified Scented Object*), one of our most innovative and ambitious uses of the museum's outdoor spaces to date.

As we move into the new decade, Louvre Abu Dhabi's innovative approach to exhibitions, public events and programming, publications and conservation will continue to reinforce our reputation as a global centre of excellence and knowledge production. In parallel, our interactions with each other, from institutional partners to colleagues or visitors, will continue to inspire curiosity and exploration, and, as always, encourage us to embrace diversity.

"Two years ago, we launched this museum as a gift from Abu Dhabi to the world. Our vision was for a truly universal museum, a place that shines a light on our shared humanity through an incredible collection of artworks and artefacts from every corner of the globe. Today, I could not be prouder of how that vision has been brought to life. Louvre Abu Dhabi celebrates the connections between cultures and tells a story of our collective history, present and future – a story that is now even more important in a world that tends to focus more on our differences than our similarities."

- HE Mohamed Khalifa Al Mubarak, Chairman of The Department of Culture and Tourism – Abu Dhabi

"In just two years, Louvre Abu Dhabi has established its reputation as a space for cultural exchange, community engagement and progressive dialogue. We have achieved some significant milestones during this time, from major acquisitions of artworks for the museum's collection, to outstanding special exhibitions that have garnered global attention. Education is also at the core of our mission and values. We have placed a huge emphasis on building a museum that is accessible to visitors of all ages and are cultivating a new generation of cultural leaders through training programmes and career opportunities. We are so thankful to all who have made this vision possible and look forward to the year ahead."

- Manuel Rabaté, Director of Louvre Abu Dhabi

A 21st Century Museum

Louvre Abu Dhabi offers a fresh and unique way of looking at art. We pride ourselves on being a space where artworks from every culture and all eras reveal new stories about our visitors and their place in the world.

Our Mission

We reveal unexpected connections that illuminate the universal creativity of humanity and foster understanding across cultures.

***See the world through new eyes.
See humanity in a new light.***

Our Vision

We are redefining what an art museum can be by creating a social space where lively encounters stimulate imaginations and open minds to new connections.

Lively encounter, new connections.

Our Values

***Connected
Open-Minded
Emphatic
Courageous***

A Year of Achievements

JANUARY

- Government launches roadshow to present Louvre Abu Dhabi in government entity
- Visits by HE Ibrahim Mohamed Solih, President of Maldives; HE Ban Ki-moon, former Secretary-General of the United Nations, HE Armen Sarkissian, President of Armenia and HE Maurice Gourdault-Montagne, Secretary-General of the French Ministry of Europe and Foreign Affairs
- Publication of *Louvre Abu Dhabi. A Journey through an Architectural Masterpiece*
- Publication of *Louvre Abu Dhabi. Story of an Architectural Project. Jean Nouvel*
- Collaboration launched with The Department of Education and Knowledge (ADEK) and Ministry of Education to organise school visits to the museum

FEBRUARY

- Visits by HRH Prince Badr Al Saud, Advisor to the Saudi Minister of Culture; HE Philippe Juvin, Member of the European Parliament; Bruno Le Maire, French Minister of Economy and Finance; Gerard Collomb, Former French Minister of Interior and Jean-Jacques Bridey, President of the National Defence and Armed Forces Commission of the French National Assembly
- Pope Francis visits Abu Dhabi and is shown a display of artworks from Louvre Abu Dhabi, alongside Dr Ahmad Al Tayeb, Grand Imam of Al Azhar Al Sharif
- *Rembrandt, Vermeer and the Dutch Golden Age* exhibition opens and exhibition catalogue is published
- German, Hindi, Mandarin and Russian languages are added to the Museum's multimedia guide
- Innovation Month
- Louvre Abu Dhabi unveils its new acquisition *Head of a Young Man with Clasped Hands* by Rembrandt
- International Alliance for the Protection of Heritage in Conflict Areas (ALIPH) board meeting hosted at Louvre Abu Dhabi
- Launch of special bundled monthly education activities under Family Weekends

MARCH

- Visits by James Bond actor Pierce Brosnan, Princess Noura of Liechtenstein; Prince Murad Al Husain, Jordan; HE Julius Maada, President of Sierra Leone, singer Nicole Scherzinger, TV personality Caroline Alice Stanbury-Habib and Maria Grazia, Artistic Director of Dior
- Special performance of Living Art: *The Banquet of Anthony and Cleopatra*, where characters from Jan Steen's iconic painting come to life as actors and roam the museum galleries in magnificent costumes
- Addition of accessible content for People of Determination in the Multimedia Guide - specifically sign-language videos & audio-descriptive commentaries
- Launch of Senior Emirati museum visit programme from Happiness Centre, Ajman with 20 guests
- Launch of Volunteers of Determination programme with two school students

APRIL

- Visits by a delegation of Indian Monks, Former French President Nicolas Sarkozy, French comedian and filmmaker Danny Boon, Indian film actress and Miss Universe Urvashi Rautela and Charles Hufnagel, Advisor to the French Prime Minister
- Highway Gallery 2.0 launches
- Special Olympics Torch relay at Louvre Abu Dhabi
- *Photographs 1842 – 1896: An Early Album of the World* exhibition opens and is visited by HH Sheikh Hazza bin Zayed Al Nahyan. The exhibition catalogue is published
- Sheikh Zayed Book Award Ceremony takes place at Louvre Abu Dhabi
- The first acquisition committee meeting of 2019
- Participation in Abu Dhabi International Book Fair
- Community Roadshow visit to Abu Dhabi Juvenile Centre; met with 20 youths

MAY

- HH Sheikh Abdulla bin Zayed visits the exhibition *Photographs 1842 – 1896: An Early Album of the World*
- Visits by General Jean-Pierre Bosser, Chef d'Etat and Major in the French army and Ludovic Colbeau Justin, film director
- Louvre Abu Dhabi representatives attend the opening of the National Pavilion of the United Arab Emirates at the Venice Biennale
- Celebration of International Museum Day



JUNE

- Visits by the King of Malaysia; French actress Isabelle Adjani; French film director and politician Yamina Benguigi; South Korean actor Lee Kyu-Hyung; António Guterres, Secretary-General of the United Nations and HE Brune Poirson, French Politician and State Secretary for Environment
- *Changing Societies*, the 2019/20 Cultural Season is announced
- Publication of children's books: *The Little Magritte* and *The Little Rembrandt*

JULY

- *A Costume Adventure* exhibition opens in the Children's Museum
- Visits by Zhu Zhengting, a Chinese celebrity, and the Yale University acapella group, The Whiffenpoofs

AUGUST

- Indian official delegation visits Louvre Abu Dhabi

SEPTEMBER

- *Rendezvous in Paris: Picasso, Chagall, Modigliani & Co (1900 - 1939)* exhibition opens, inaugurated by HE Noura bint Mohammed Al Kaabi, Minister of Culture and Knowledge Development, and HE Mohamed Khalifa Al Mubarak, Chairman of the Department of Culture and Tourism – Abu Dhabi.
- Visits by General Xavier Buisson, French Army, Eric Giraud Telme, Diplomatic Advisor of HE Jack Lang, Nadia Murad, Nobel Peace Prize, the President of Estonia, and Ryan McCarthy, Under Secretary of the United States Army, UAE Space Agency
- Performance by STREB Extreme Action Troupe - *Revolution* and *Rock*
- Louvre Abu Dhabi participates in the Al Ain Book Fair
- Educators' Circle with university professors from UAE public and private universities including the Northern Emirates
- University roadshow with UAE University Al Ain, including 75 students and 10 faculty members
- Orphans visit from Red Crescent Organisation, Al Dhafra (15 children)

OCTOBER

- *10,000 Years of Luxury* exhibition opens, inaugurated by HH Sheikh Theyab bin Mohamed Al Nahyan and Minister of Europe and Foreign Affairs, Jean-Yves Le Drian. The exhibition catalogue is published
- Visits by Michael Bloomberg, the King of Tonga, HH Sheikhha Hoor and Nawar Al Qasimi, Emirati singer Ahlam Alshamsi, and US fashion designer Tory Burch
- Louvre Abu Dhabi participates in the Frankfurt Book Fair
- The first travelling loan since the museum opened, *Collar of the Order of the Golden Fleece*, goes on show at The Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York
- Educators' Circle with 268 teachers across UAE public and private schools
- University roadshow with Al Falah University – Dubai including 30 students and two faculty members

NOVEMBER

- HH Sheikh Khalid bin Mohamed bin Zayed inaugurates 'Jacques Chirac Street' on Saadiyat Island
- Visits by Kurdish President Nechirvan Barzani, French Senator Damien Regnard; Dr. Berndt Hauptkorn, Chanel's President Europe; HE Jean Baptiste Lemoyne, French Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs and Florence Parly, French Minister of Defence
- Louvre Abu Dhabi hosts Abu Dhabi Art Patrons
- Al Fursan Air show takes place above Louvre Abu Dhabi's dome to celebrate the Museum's second anniversary. The museum announces it has welcomed more than two million visitors since opening
- First in-house analysis of artworks (XRF analysis of the Bible LAD 2013.051 and the Portrait of a man LAD 2014.024) in partnership with New York University Abu Dhabi
- Participation in the Sharjah International Book Fair and Focal Point, Sharjah Art Foundation's independent art book fair
- *Experience the Unexpected* programme with a variety of pop-up performances and recitals in the galleries, entertaining crowds
- Publication of *Louvre Abu Dhabi. A World Vision of Art*, a comprehensive overview with essays by internationally acclaimed art historians discussing the museum's role as a 21st century institution, addressing issues of representation within the collection
- Launch of *Schools Take Over the Museum* programme involving 3,000 students on two open Mondays
- Abu Dhabi School of Management roadshow and school roadshow in Western Region



DECEMBER

- Young Guides: Museum Voices programme launched, allowing children from different schools across the UAE to learn how to present and educate a museum-going audience about the artworks on display
- National Day at Louvre Abu Dhabi with Sadu pop-up performances and workshops
- New public App launched on Apple Store & Google Play
- Visits by Jose Maria Aznar, former Prime Minister of Spain and Rachid Benzine, French writer
- Publication of children's books: *The Little Rodin* and *The Little Gauguin*
- Publication of the *Highlights of the Collection* book
- Senior Emirati visit from Northern Emirates

A Journey Through Time

Louvre Abu Dhabi provides a historical narrative of art from prehistoric times to the present, while illustrating the shared human experience.

Grand Vestibule

A gateway into Louvre Abu Dhabi's galleries, allowing visitors to reflect on the most important theme in the museum: the extent of universality across human existence.



Gallery 1: The First Villages

Archaeological artefacts from some 10,000 years ago, when most of the world's population were still hunter gatherers, while the first villages religious beliefs appeared, leading to the Neolithic Revolution.



Gallery 2: The First Great Powers

Works from as far back 4th millennium BCE, related to the urban revolution and the appearance of the first towns, the invention of writing and the rise of the first sovereigns.



Gallery 3: Civilisations and Empires

Remnants of the earliest civilisations such as the Achaemenid empire in Persia, the Greek civilisations on the shores of the Mediterranean and the Olmec culture in Central America.



Gallery 4: Universal Religions

This gallery highlights world religions with a universal vocation that left a lasting imprint on early civilisations and became one of the driving forces of artistic creation.



Gallery 5: Asian Trade Routes

Showcasing objects from the so called "Silk Road", this gallery looks at the trade between Asia, the Islamic world and Europe.



Gallery 6: From the Mediterranean to the Atlantic

Trade intensified in the Mediterranean Basin between the Byzantine Empire, the Islamic world and Christian Europe around the year one thousand, creating a rich melting pot of civilisations.

Cosmography

This intersection in the permanent display is dedicated to globes, specifically from the 15th century, when the conquest of the oceans brought about a major shift in the world order.



Gallery 7: Thinking the State

Between the 15th and 18th centuries, the circulation of people, goods and ideas intensified. Chinese porcelain fascinated the Islamic world just as much as Europe and America.



Gallery 8: Early Modern Globalisation

New iconographic codes are explored in this gallery, from one continent to another, of a courtly art that revolved around the personality of the sovereign, from the great dynasties of Europe to the former kingdom of Benin to the Japanese Tokugawa dynasty.



Gallery 9: The Art of Living

Due to a greater emphasis on the individual, the 18th century witnessed increased interest in domestic comfort and the art of living, fueled by expanding trade between Europe, India, China and the Ottoman Empire.



Gallery 10: A Modern World?

In the 19th century, the century of revolutions, whether industrial, urban, social or political, technological progress propelled the world into modernity, once again challenging the existing world order.



Gallery 11: Challenging Modernity

At the beginning of the 20th century, artists infused an air of rebellion into art and society, leading to new artistic movements such as Fauvism, Cubism, Surrealism and DADA.



Gallery 12: Epilogue

From September 2019, Louvre Abu Dhabi showcases an immersive installation by contemporary artist Susanna Fritscher, entitled *Für die Luft*, created specifically in response to the museum's unique architecture and the natural play of light in the room.



Pope Francis and Dr Ahmad Al Tayeb, Grand Imam of the Al Azhar Al Sharif unveiled two new artworks belonging to Louvre Abu Dhabi and the Zayed National Museum in presence of His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan and His Excellency Mohammed Al Mubarak

A Beacon of Tolerance

His Highness Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed announced 2019 as the Year of Tolerance, one of the late Sheikh Zayed's most cherished values for his beloved nation, and an intrinsic part of the identity of the United Arab Emirates. Louvre Abu Dhabi epitomises the value of tolerance and has become an emblem of the UAE's multicultural society, in which people from more than 190 countries live together in harmony.

The Declaration on the importance and value of Universal Museums states that "museums serve not just the citizens of one nation, but the people of every nation", an idea that is a part of Louvre Abu Dhabi's intellectual DNA.


Louvre Abu Dhabi presents cultural and religious masterpieces, originating from different societies as well as different points in history. Presented side-by-side, these exhibits form part of a new and innovative curatorial concept, unique in the world. A beautiful example of this is the Universal Religions gallery - which in 2019 won the UAE Pioneer Award for Tolerance - where Muslim, Christian, Jewish, Hindu and Buddhist artefacts are exhibited next to each other, highlighting their shared and universal human unique values.


During a historic visit in February 2019, Pope Francis and Dr Ahmad Al Tayeb, Grand Imam of Al Azhar Al Sharif, visited Abu Dhabi and viewed the museum's statue of Christ showing his wounds and pages from the famous Blue Quran, which were then displayed in the museum's Universal Religions gallery. They were accompanied by His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed, Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi, and His Excellency Mohammed Khalifa Al Mubarak, Chairman of the Department of Culture & Tourism - Abu Dhabi.




Guanyin, Bodhisattva of Compassion from Jin or northern Song dynasty dated to 1050-1150

Key Accomplishments

 **1 M** ● **Visitor Numbers**
 Louvre Abu Dhabi welcomed 975,483 visitors from January to December 2019

 **37** ● **Total number of acquisitions**
 new acquisitions
 In 2019, Louvre Abu Dhabi's collection continued to develop through 37 new acquisitions, bringing the total number of artworks owned by the museum to 685

 **25 K** ● **Press coverage**
 Media coverage in traditional media since January

 **9.5** ● **Overall visitor satisfaction**
 out of 10
 Visitors indicated satisfaction with the quality of the presentation and collection and exhibits

 **45 K** ● **School Engagement**
 Over 45,000 students from 130+ unique schools



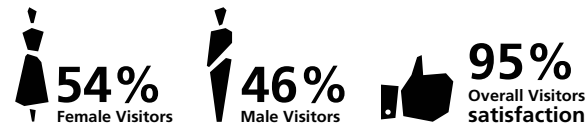
Students enjoying the museum to themselves during the Monday School takeovers initiative. Architect: Jean Nouvel

A Museum for All

International visitors accounted for around 70 per cent of the visits to Louvre Abu Dhabi in 2019, with the largest numbers coming from China, India and France, the United Kingdom and United States, Germany, Russia, the Philippines and Jordan respectively.

Visits by Emiratis and UAE residents formed just under 30 per cent of recorded visits during the same period. The museum's popularity with the local community can not only be seen in the fact that Emiratis were the top group of repeat visitors, most of whom came from Abu Dhabi and Dubai, but in an overall visitor satisfaction rating of 95 per cent.

On average, visitors arrived in groups of three and spent two hours and 21 minutes in the museum. 54 per cent of our audience was female. The works on display were the key driver for visitors, followed by a desire to experience Louvre Abu Dhabi's architectural design.



Accessibility & People of Determination

One of Louvre Abu Dhabi's key values is openness and tolerance, which includes a quest to be as inclusive as possible. The museum aims to create a pleasant and welcoming experience for everyone, including People of Determination. Louvre Abu Dhabi's building was designed to be fully accessible and in 2019, the museum added tactile stations and maps in the permanent galleries for visitors with visual impairments.

In addition, Louvre Abu Dhabi has launched a series of Sensory Tactile Tours as well as a dedicated volunteer programme for people of determination, called the Volunteers of Determination.

Art Club Membership

Louvre Abu Dhabi's unique Art Club Membership programme allows its members and a guest unlimited visits to the museum's galleries and exhibitions, a free multi-media guide, as well as free entry to its partner museums in France. In 2019, Louvre Abu Dhabi welcomed more than 2,000 Art Club members, all of whom were able to enjoy exclusive private views, discounts on tours, workshops and other cultural events as well as the museum boutique and Museum Café.



Student Pass

Alongside the Art Club membership, Louvre Abu Dhabi also launched its student pass in 2019 benefiting students of 13 years and above from the UAE and abroad, this annual pass affords year-round free access to the museum galleries and exhibitions and includes a range of vibrant cultural programmes, including performances, workshops, mini-tours and family weekends. The student pass will also give access to the Research Centre once that has opened.

Teacher Pass

Aimed at teachers, university staff and academics based in the UAE and abroad, Louvre Abu Dhabi's Teacher Pass affords free, year-round access to the museum's galleries and exhibitions as well as our vibrant cultural programme which includes performances, workshops, mini-tours and family weekends.

People of Determination

Designed to be fully accessible, Louvre Abu Dhabi's specially-designed interactive displays and guides afford People of Determination with a range of ways to engage with our collections.

Our Education Department's Academic and Community Engagement team organises inclusive site visits and invites groups to experience the museum through specialised programmes and activities such as our Sensory Tactile Tours and other programmes developed with the UAE's various communities in mind.

Sensory Tactile Tour

Our specially developed Sensory Tactile Tours use tactile stations, audio descriptive tours and sign language within our multimedia guides to enhance any visit to the museum by People of Determination. In 2019, Louvre Abu Dhabi's Education team welcomed a total of 142 children and 82 companions from 12 different centres across the UAE. These were:

- Al Manhal International Private School
- Zahrat Al Lotus Autism Center
- Repton School Abu Dhabi
- Al Mudaif Center
- Ghayathi Center for Care and Rehabilitation
- Al Marfaa' Center for Care and Rehabilitation
- Al Qooa' Center for Care and Rehabilitation
- Al Sela' Center for Care and Rehabilitation
- Al Ain Autism Center
- Abu Dhabi Care and Rehabilitation
- Autism Center- Abu Dhabi
- Future Rehabilitation Center

Volunteers of Determination

This year, Louvre Abu Dhabi's outreach team launched a volunteering base led by people of determination. This initiative is a collaboration with a number of centres and schools. The volunteers are invited to assist during events and activities as well as to support the Visitor Experience team at the museum.

Programmes for Orphans

Louvre Abu Dhabi also offers free tickets and guided tours for orphans (UAE nationals and residents) to visit the museum and experience the galleries and international exhibitions. The initiative, which started in September 2019, promotes community engagement and provides an opportunity for all members of society to visit the museum. In 2019, the museum welcomed 30 orphans and plans to welcome 100 more in 2020.

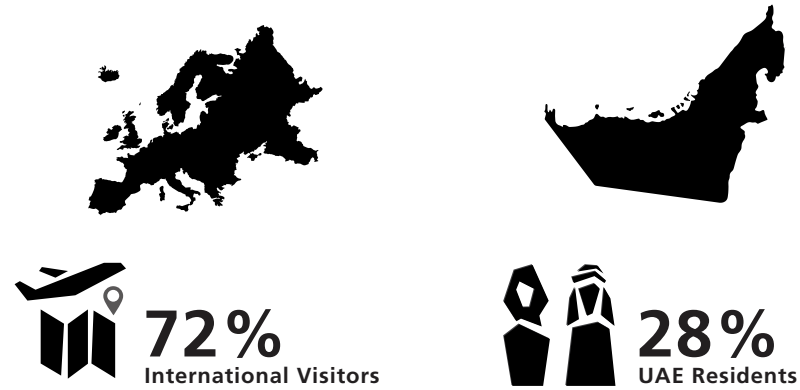
Reaching new audiences

Louvre Abu Dhabi places a strong emphasis on welcoming all members of society to the museum. In 2019, Louvre Abu Dhabi welcomed taxi and bus drivers to the museum for free, as well as 729 labour workers from around the city.

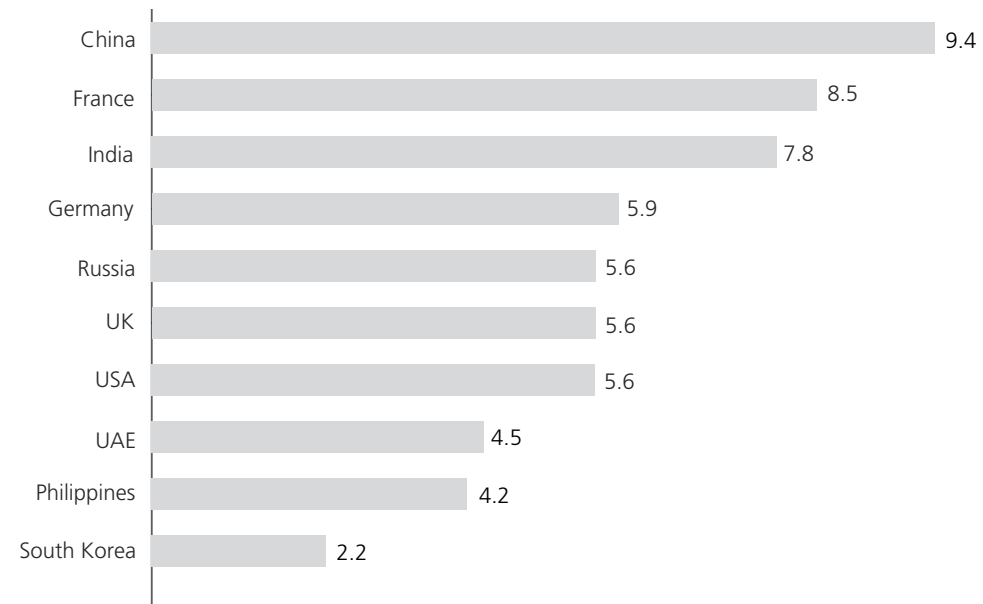


2019 Vistor Demographics

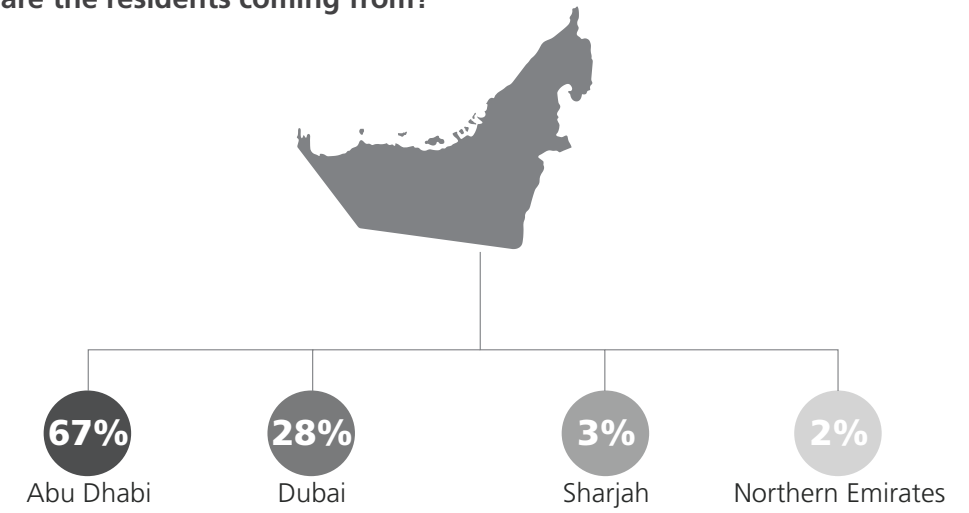
Where are they coming from?



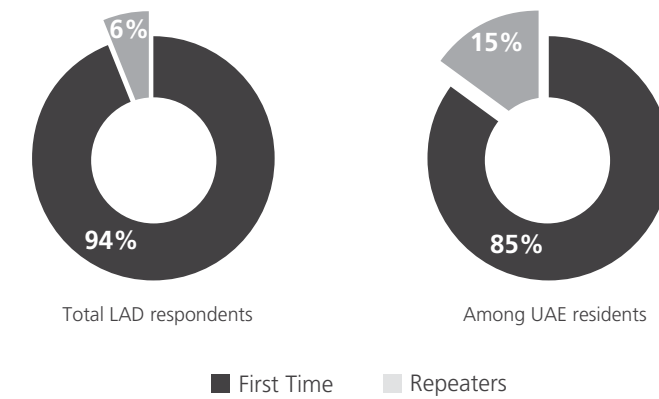
Top Nationalities in 2019 (%)



Where are the residents coming from?



2019 First Time vs Repeater



Overall satisfaction with Aspects of the Collection




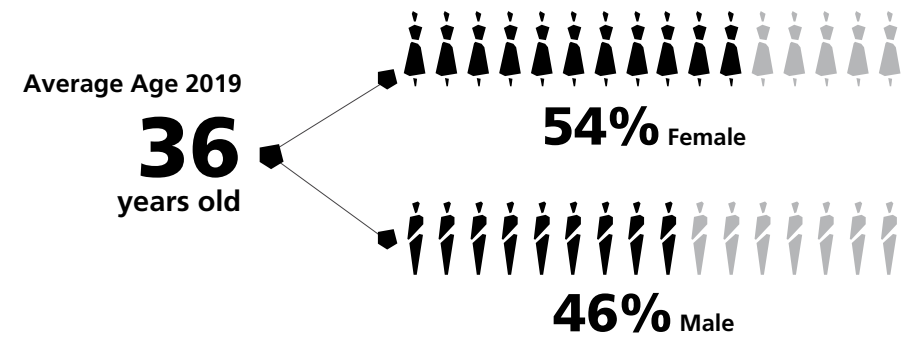
2019 Time Spent
2HR 21MN

Main motivation to visit


41% 
Art content

28% 
Attraction

28% 
Architectural design



Children's museum - Visitor satisfaction

 **8.5/10**
Animals. Between real and imaginary exhibition
(1 Jan - 9 Jun 2019)

 **9.1/10**
A Costume Adventure exhibition
(9 Jul - 31 Dec 2019)

Source: Louvre Abu Dhabi visitor barometer, Neilsen, 2019



Since September 2019, Louvre Abu Dhabi showcased an immersive installation by contemporary artist Susanna Fritscher, entitled *Für die Luft*, on loan from Centre Pompidou and created specifically for Louvre Abu Dhabi's unique architecture and the natural play of light that pervades the room.

A Growing Collection

Louvre Abu Dhabi is a universal museum, in which every visitor can find an artwork that is relevant to them. The collection and permanent display cover art, artefacts and archaeological objects from Neolithic times to the present day, while highlighting milestones of artistic, historical, cultural and socioeconomic trends and developments in human history.

As visitors explore the collection, they encounter artworks from different centuries and civilisations exhibited side-by-side, allowing audiences to discover connections between various cultures. This chrono-thematic showcase has defined the museum's permanent display since its opening and has become a trademark of Louvre Abu Dhabi.

In 2019, the collection contained 685 artworks, from the very early stages of our global history to Modern times and today.

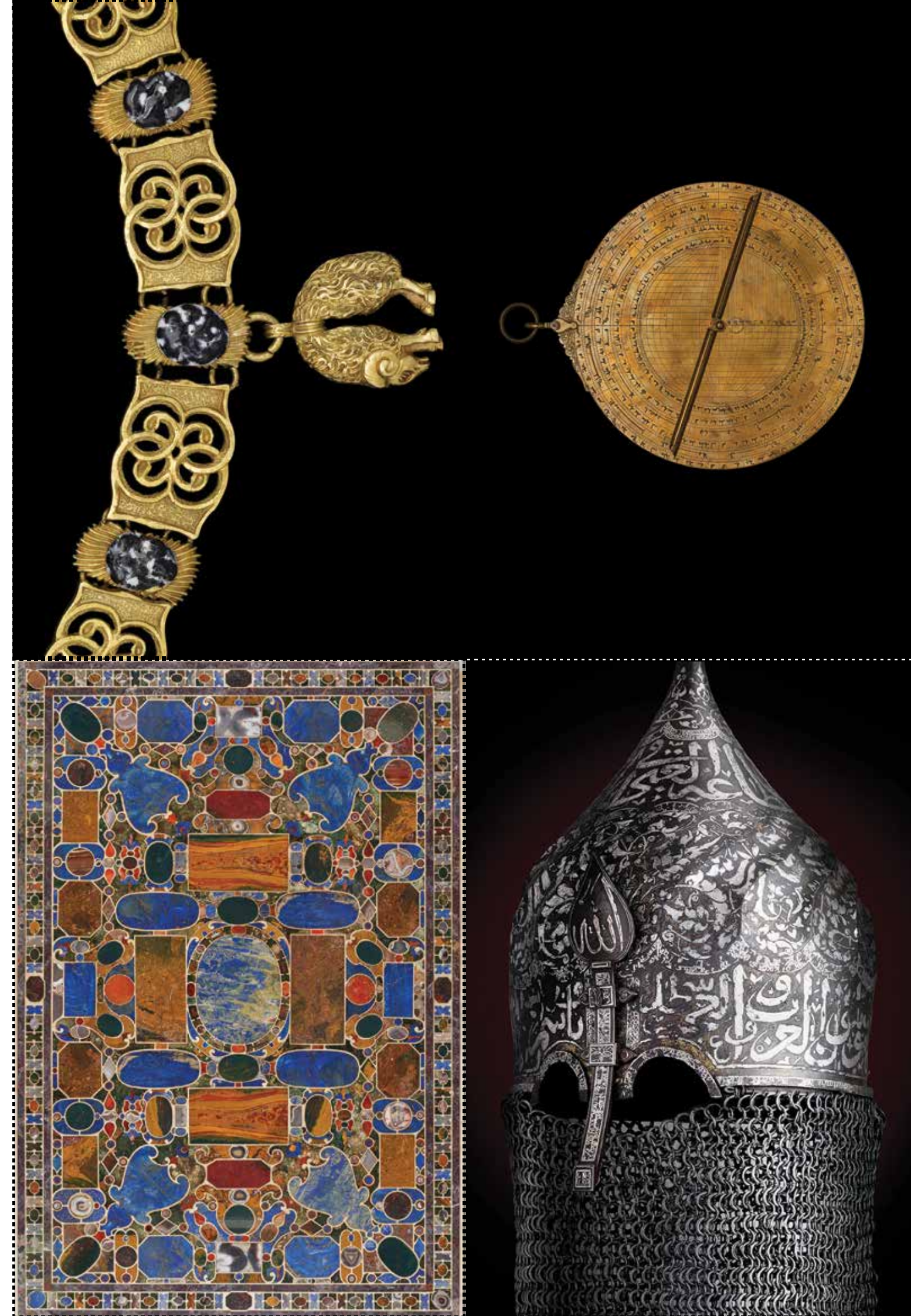
Louvre Abu Dhabi also loaned one of the works in their own collection, *Order of the Golden Fleece*. The piece was exhibited at The Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York, as part of the exhibition *The Last Knight: The Art, Armor, and Ambition of Maximilian I*.

Restoration at Louvre Abu Dhabi

Louvre Abu Dhabi undertook its first on-site artwork restoration in collaboration with Montaine Bongrand, an experienced art restorer. The conservation team carefully restored several large-scale tapestries, including *The Hunts of Maximilian*, a 17th century tapestry, portraying scenes from the hunting parties of Maximilian I, a member of the imperial Habsburg family. Following this initial project, another of the museum's tapestries, *The Month of January* was restored by an in-house restoration team. Around 500 hours were required to complete the restoration of each tapestry, beginning in February 2019 and is expected to be completed in May 2020.



A new acquisition, *Portrait of a Queen* (51-30 BCE), displayed in the museum galleries



New Works to Discover

In 2019, Louvre Abu Dhabi's collection continued to develop through 37 new acquisitions, bringing the total number of artworks owned by the museum to 685.

Highlights of the museum's new acquisitions include:

- 1. Saphea of Azarchelis**, dating from the 13th century CE, this astrolabe is the product of the ideas of Abu Ishaq Ibrahim Al-Zarquali, a Spanish-Arab astronomer who advanced the idea of projecting a celestial sphere on a plane.
- 2. Islamic Celestial Globe**, casted in the 17th century and representing 48 constellations and 1018 inlaid silver stars
- 3. Nasrid Dagger**, with its distinctive shape and engraved blade and ivory hilt, this weapon is an exquisite example of an 'ear' dagger.
- 4. An exceptional 16th-century Medici Table-Top**, made from coloured marble using the pietre dure technique of stone inlay, this rare table top was designed by the Florentine artist and historian Giorgio Vasari for Francesco I de' Medici, the Grand Duke of Tuscany.
- 5. The Painting Lesson**, considered a long-lost masterpiece by the fashionable 17th century European artist Johann Schönfeld
- 6. Portrait of an African Lady**, a rare and early representation of a probable servant wearing rich accessories as a family member
- 7. La route de Verrières**, a painting exploring the motif of a road leading into the distance in a small town located southwest of Paris, executed by Alfred Sisley in 1872
- 8. Book-cover: Christ in Majesty**, featuring a seated portrait of Jesus Christ this gilded book cover is made from enamelled copper on a wooden plaque.
- 9. Romance of Troy**, this manuscript recounts the legend of Troy, one of the world's most enduring and influential epics which has inspired European culture for three millennia.
- 10. Book of Hours known as "The Hours of Marie"**, the manuscript was produced for a woman named Marie, to whom the texts refer by its name at the top of the folio 180v: "*famula tua maria*" ("your servant Marie"). The book contains several prayers in female forms, and prayers to Saint Nicholas, patron saint of young women (f. 205-207)
- 11. Quran commissioned by Sultan 'Abdullah II Al Sa'adi**, dating to the 17th century in Fez, Morocco. The main text is in elegant Maghribi script, characterized by its rounded and deep curves, darker ink writing, and polychrome and gold vocalization marks
- 12. Gospel in Old Slavonic**, dating from the end of the 16th century, testifying to the tradition of transmission in the Christian orthodox sacred texts
- 13. Astronomicum Caesareum**, a scientific print and research work by Petrus Apianus in 1540, dedicated to Holy Roman Emperor Charles V (1519-1556) and King Ferdinand I (1556-1564). It provides useful tools to calculate hours and geography, including the hours for both days and nights - a new element at the time
- 14. Reysen und Wanderschaften durch das Gelobte Land**, one of the earliest illustrated editions of Mandeville's "Travels". Purportedly an account by an English knight of his journey to the Holy Land, Mandeville's adventures around the Arabian Peninsula, Palestine, Egypt, India and China were accepted as fact throughout the Middle Ages

15. Sammelband, including an Al-Qabisi introduction to the Practice of Astrology and texts related to astronomy, medicine and logic

16. Pierre Barbatre, Account of a Pilgrimage to Jerusalem, a manuscript relating to the priest's journey from Venice to Jerusalem in 1480. Traversing Ramla, Jerusalem, Bethlehem and Jericho as well as the Dead Sea, his story provides information about the relic cult, local customs and the political situation after the recent Turkish offensive

17. The Astrolabe of Berselius, unique amongst surviving medieval instruments, it's the only astrolabe from Picardy from the 14th century currently known and is also the only astrolabe with ciphers (medieval monastic number notations) inscribed on it

18. Sumerian statue of a female worshipper, this exceptional statue of a female worshiper is evidence of Sumerian religiosity, beliefs, practices and rituals that flourished in the third millennium BCE. It was dedicated to a temple, probably on display over a podium or a bench in the immediate proximity of the divinity's statue

19. Statue of a Sumerian worshipper, this remarkable statue of a standing worshipper provides insight into the Sumerians' religious beliefs and rituals, which extended across a large region from southern Mesopotamia to the steppe plains of northern Syria during the third millennium BCE

20. Egyptian statue of a worshipper, this statue of a kneeling worshipper is one of the most brilliant achievements of Egyptian religious and artistic creations during the first millennium BCE. It dates back to the 26th dynasty of Egypt (664 BCE-332 BCE), the last native dynasty to rule Egypt before the Macedonian conquest

21. Standing Jain, a statue that gives distinctive evidence of the high development of Chola art in the 11th century. Jainism is one of the lesser known of India's traditional religions, yet its origins can be traced back before Buddhism and Hinduism, which confirms it to be India's oldest continuously practiced faith

22. A Pair of Timurid Calligraphic Panels, which were originally part of a composition that is commonly seen on mosaic faience tiles and typical of Timurid design of a mihrab or prayer niche. Famous for its use of colors and mosaic techniques, the white calligraphic inscriptions in thuluth script are taken from the Quranic Surat al-Isra' verses 80 and 82

23. Calligrapher's Desk, part of the court furniture for the highly praised art of Calligraphy and due to its dating of 16th century, symbolizes several characteristics of the Ottoman way of life during Suleyman's reign. With its rectangular shape, on four feet, strikes by its elegant decor made by the contrast of the white ivory inlaid in rosewood and inserted in the red-black cedarwood.

24. Selection of 2954 Individual Coins, produced in the Mediterranean region, Europe and Asia, the coins in this hoard date from the 4th century to the 16th century CE and shed new light on global networks of exchange throughout the period



اللوfer أبو ظبي
LOUVRE ABU DHABI

Collar of the Order of the Golden Fleece
Flanders (today northern France, Belgium and the Netherlands),
1500–1600; gold and enamel
Louvre Abu Dhabi



اللوfer أبو ظبي
LOUVRE ABU DHABI

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Table top known as Tavolino di Gioie
Italy, Florence, 1568; Bernardino di Porfirio da Leccio (active 1557 – 1588)
after a drawing by Girogio Vasari Marble encrusted with semi-precious stones
Louvre Abu Dhabi

اللوfer أبو ظبي
LOUVRE ABU DHABI

Turban helmet
Turkey, 1450–1500; steel with silver inlays,
traces of gold
Louvre Abu Dhabi

اللوfer أبو ظبي
LOUVRE ABU DHABI

Saphea, an astronomical instrument
Spain, Andalusia About 1224; Brass
Louvre Abu Dhabi, Abu Dhabi

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Printed in the UAE

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A new acquisition, *Dragon-Handled Cup* (1279 - 1368), from the Yuan Dynasty, China.

Acquisitions through Auction:

Louvre Abu Dhabi acquired new artworks in public auctions throughout 2019. These included the first auction of the year, eleven pieces of gold and silverware were acquired. They were produced from the earliest antiquity and until the Tang dynasty, dating from antiquity to the Tang dynasty. Their design, which displays Byzantine, Sasanian, Central Asian and south Asian influences, testifies to the cultural exchanges that resulted from long-distance trading networks such as the Silk Road.

During the second auction sale the museum also acquired Rapanui artworks produced by the Rapanui people, the aboriginal Polynesian inhabitants of Easter Island in the Pacific Ocean. Foreign collectors started to collect Rapanui from 1774, while from 1868, the inhabitants of Easter Island started to carve them commercially.

A medieval astrolabe quadrant was also acquired in the third at the auction in which the museum participated. One of the only eight recorded examples, the object, was invented by Jacob ben Machir ibn Tibbon, who studied medicine at Montpellier and translated many scientific texts from Arabic into Hebrew. The mathematical technique of folding the astrolabe projection is known from an earlier Islamic instrument, which was designed to calculate the longitude, latitude, and time of day.

Rotations and International and Regional Art

This year saw a large-scale rotation of art in the permanent galleries, with many loaned works returning to their home institutions and new acquisitions joining Louvre Abu Dhabi's display. These rotations allowed the museum to explore new universal topics and narratives and offer a refreshed collection to repeat visitors.

Throughout 2019, several exceptional masterpieces were exhibited in Louvre Abu Dhabi's permanent display, many of them loans from the museum's local, regional and international partners.

Highlights of archaeological artefacts included the depiction of the *People's subject to the King of Egypt* on the base of a statue of Nectanebo II (358-341BCE), the Head of a chevalier in armour (ca. 1300 CE) from France as well as an Emesus vase from the end of the 6th century to the beginning of the 7th century CE Syria, all on loan from the Musée du Louvre. Masterpieces from the early Modern period included a *Portrait of Francis the First*, King of France (1539 CE) by Tiziano Vecellio (Titian), on loan from the Musée du Louvre, and an imperial armour from 18th century China, on loan from Musée des Arts Décoratifs. New to the modern and contemporary galleries were works such as Édouard Manet's well-known portrait of *Berthe Morisot with a Bouquet of Violets* (1872) from the Musée d'Orsay and a dance mask from Central Africa (c. 1970), from Musée du quai Branly – Jacques Chirac.



Rembrandt van Rijn, *Self-Portrait with Shaded Eyes* (1634), loaned by The Leiden Collection during the *Rembrandt, Vermeer and the Dutch Golden Age* exhibition

French partners who loaned works to the museum include Musée du Louvre, Musée Delacroix, the Musée d'Orsay et de l'Orangerie, Centre Pompidou, Bibliothèque nationale de France, Musée national des arts Asiatiques-Guimet, Musée du Quai Branly – Jacques Chirac, Musée Rodin, Chateau de Versailles, Chateau de Fontainebleau, Musée de Cluny – Musée national du Moyen-Age, Musée des Arts Décoratifs, Cité de la ceramique-Sèvres et Limoges, Musée d'archéologie Nationale – Saint Germain en Lay.

The sculptor Auguste Rodin's seminal work, *The Thinker*, also joined the permanent galleries in 2019, on loan for a year from the Musée Rodin in Paris.



The re-installation of *Abyssinian Chief* by Adele D'Affry (1879-1836) during the 2019 rotation



The Thinker, by Augustin Rodin (1882-1881) on loan from Musée Rodin

Regional loans

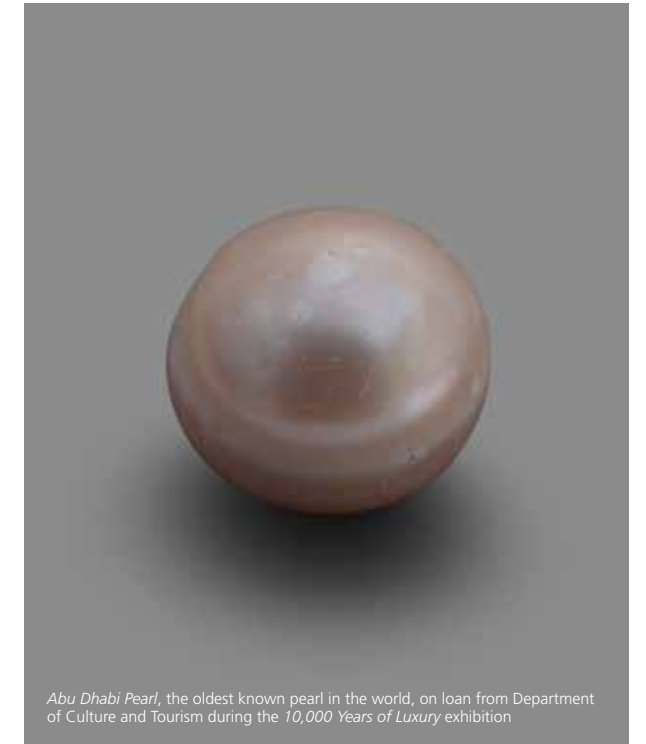
Alongside its many international partnerships, Louvre Abu Dhabi worked with a number of local and regional partners, namely the Department of Culture & Tourism - Abu Dhabi, the National Museum of Ras Al Khaimah, Dubai Municipality, the Saudi Commission for Tourism and National Heritage, the National Museum – Sultanate of Oman and the Department of Antiquities of Jordan.

A significant regional loan from 2019 was a bronze dagger dating back to 1,000 BCE. On loan from Dubai Municipality, the artefact was discovered at the archaeological site of Sarug Al Hadid in Dubai and is a key example of the rise in the military practices and weaponry during the Iron Age.

The Abu Dhabi Pearl

In 2017, a small pearl – believed to be the world's oldest – was discovered during excavations on Marawah Island, Abu Dhabi. The small object, today known as the 'Abu Dhabi Pearl' is 8,000 years old and is a testament to the pearl trade that has existed in the region since Neolithic times. At the time, pearls were likely worn as jewellery and used for trade with Mesopotamia.

The pearl, now part of the Zayed National Museum collection, was displayed for the first time as part of Louvre Abu Dhabi's exhibition *10,000 Years of Luxury*.




Abu Dhabi Pearl, the oldest known pearl in the world, on loan from Department of Culture and Tourism during the *10,000 Years of Luxury* exhibition



Bronze dagger, dating back to 1000BC, on loan from Dubai Municipality

621 
works on display in the permanent galleries

4 
Temporary exhibitions with a total of 745 loans

32 
lenders contributed loans for the 4 temporary exhibitions

1 
artwork was loaned from Louvre Abu Dhabi to The Metropolitan Museum of Art

70 
Performances by artists from 15 nationalities

7 
Lectures organised



USO - The Perfumed Cloud by Cartier
Architect: Jean Nouvel

Exhibitions

Each year, from September to the following July, Louvre Abu Dhabi introduces a new cultural season. These comprise four international exhibitions, alongside related cultural programming.

2019/20 Cultural Season

In collaboration with our French and regional partners and as part of our 2019/20 cultural season, *Changing Societies*, Louvre Abu Dhabi presented four international exhibitions that explored key turning points in history and how these influenced the ideas and creative arts of their time.



Rembrandt, Vermeer & the Dutch Golden Age: Masterpieces from The Leiden Collection and the Musée du Louvre, 14 February – 18 May 2019

Curated by Blaise Ducos, Chief Curator of Dutch and Flemish paintings at the Musée du Louvre, and Lara Yeager-Crasselt, Curator of The Leiden Collection and a specialist in 17th-century Dutch and Flemish art.

For the first time in the Middle East, 16 remarkable paintings by Rembrandt van Rijn, as well as rare pieces by Johannes Vermeer, Jan Lievens and Carel Fabritius, were on show side-by-side in one exhibition.

In this context, the exhibition explored the evolution of Rembrandt's career starting in his native Leiden where he created his early famed series of allegorical paintings of the senses. These works demonstrate the artist's youthful ingenuity and experimentation with expression, composition and colour. Paintings created later in Amsterdam were also on display, including sensitively rendered portraits, the renowned *Self-Portrait with Shaded Eyes*, and *Minerva in Her Study*, his monumental history painting of the goddess (both from The Leiden Collection). These works were displayed alongside paintings by other masters from Rembrandt's artistic circle, illustrating the influence that this remarkable group of artists had on each other's work.

The exhibition was drawn primarily from The Leiden Collection, one of the largest and most significant private collections of artworks from the Dutch Golden Age, interspersed with masterpieces from the Musée du Louvre's exceptional Dutch collection. Loans from the Rijksmuseum and the Bibliothèque Nationale de France completed the presentation.



His Highness Sheikh Abdallah bin Zayed Al Nahyan visits *Rembrandt, Vermeer and the Dutch Golden Age* exhibition



Photographs 1842 - 1896: An Early Album of the World, 25 April – 13 July 2019

Curated by Christine Barthe, Head of Photographic Collections Heritage Unit at the Musée du quai Branly - Jacques Chirac and sponsored by Bank of Sharjah.

This exhibition displayed more than 220 of the earliest photographs ever seen of the Middle East, Africa, Asia and the American continents. It showcased how nationality, geography, culture, regional politics and the continual improvement of photography techniques influenced both the photographers as well as these early images.

Photography was invented in 1839, at a time when several European nations expanded their colonial empires to territories in Africa, Asia, America and the Middle East, driven by an insatiable quest of discovery. Subsequently, photography crossed the borders of Europe and the seas, accompanying religious missions, scientific, diplomatic and military expeditions and even individual travelers. At this time, photography was seen as an alternative to experiencing the world from afar and these images, then considered as 'real' reflections of the world, now offer a panorama of historic, and at times, outdated ways of looking at foreign lands and other people from a distinctly European, often Eurocentric, perspective.

The exhibition also had a special connection to the Arabian Gulf and featured some of the first photographs taken in the Middle East. Highlights included the earliest photographic images of Saudi Arabia and Yemen by Auguste Bartholdi, and the first photographic picture of Mecca by Egyptian photographer Sadiq Bey.



Official opening of *Photographs 1842-1896: An Early Album of the World* exhibition in presence of His Excellency Mohammed Al Mubarak, alongside Christine Barthe, Curator of the exhibition, Jean Luc Martinez, President of Musée du Louvre and Manuel Rabate, President of Louvre Abu Dhabi.



Rendezvous in Paris: Picasso, Chagall, Modigliani & Co (1900 - 1939), 18 September – 7 December 2019

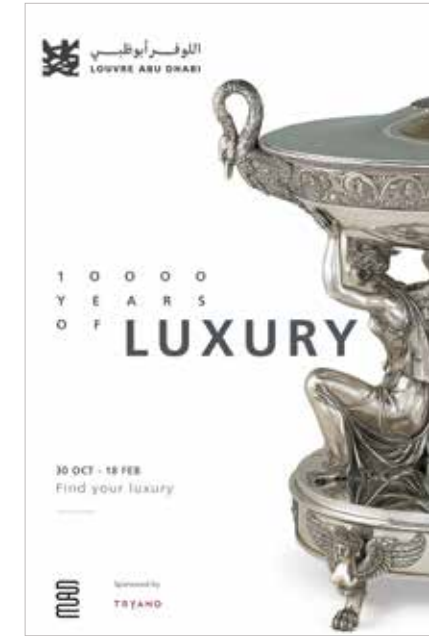
Curated by Christian Briend, Chief Curator and Head of modern collections at Musée national d'art moderne, Centre Pompidou, assisted by Anna Hiddleston-Galloni, Assistant Curator, Modern collections at Musée national d'art moderne, Centre Pompidou.

For the first time in the Middle East, the exhibition presented more than 80 works, including paintings, sculptures and photographs from 40 of the most significant artists of this period referred to as the 'School of Paris', including Pablo Picasso, Marc Chagall, Amedeo Modigliani and others.

The exhibition introduced Paris at the beginning of the 20th century, a time in which the city saw an extraordinary artistic renaissance due to the influx of painters, sculptors and photographers – many of them women – from across Europe, Asia and the Americas. Driven out of their home countries by political and religious prosecution, as well as economic hardships, they sought artistic freedom and the creative exchange of ideas. France's liberal regime during the Third Republic, which promoted intellectual openness and tolerance, paved the way for many of these foreign artists.



Official opening of *Rendezvous in Paris: Picasso, Chagall, Modigliani & Co (1900-1939)* exhibition in presence of His Excellency Mohammed Al Mubarak and His Excellency Dr Mugheer Al Khaili, Chairman of the Department of Community Development, alongside Jean-Luc Martinez, President of Musée du Louvre, Serge Lasuigne, President of Centre Pompidou.



10,000 Years of Luxury, 30 October 2019 – 18 February 2020

Curated by Olivier Gabet, Director of Musée des Arts Décoratifs and sponsored by Tryano.

Spanning 10,000 years, the exhibition showcased the many ways in which luxury has been interpreted by diverse cultures: from extravagant offerings to the divine, to golden furniture fit for royalty and the iconic couture fashion houses, such as Christian Dior, Chanel and Elie Saab.

The exhibition highlighted concepts of luxury from ancient civilisations and their worship of the gods, to the exquisite finery of the 18th century, to the Industrial Revolution and its impact on the mass consumption of luxury goods. Each piece offered a different viewpoint on what defines luxury – be it time, craftsmanship or rarity. Works ranged from a Mamluk carpet from Egypt dating back to the 15th century to an hourglass by Australian designer Marc Newson. The luxury of fashion was highlighted with both vintage and contemporary creations by iconic fashion designers: Balenciaga, CHANEL, Dior, Louis Vuitton, Karl Lagerfeld, Azzedine Alaïa, Maison Schiaparelli, Yves Saint Laurent, Hermès and more.



Official opening of *10,000 Years of Luxury* exhibition

The Children's Museum

Where Artworks Come to Life

A special exhibition space dedicated to the presentation of artworks and exhibitions to families, our Children's Museum aims to introduce Louvre Abu Dhabi to visitors aged 4 - 10, encouraging them to learn and engage with our collections through experiential play.

Featuring displays that are refreshed on an annual basis, the Children's Museum presents artworks from our permanent collection alongside loans from our French and regional partner institutions.

Displayed on a yearly basis, the Children's Museum exhibitions explore topics suitable and interesting for younger visitors, with artworks from Louvre Abu Dhabi's collection alongside loans from French and Emirati museums.



An Adventure Game Concept

The 2019 exhibition, A Costume Adventure, explored costume representations throughout history and different cultures. Since its opening on 9 July 2019, the show has received more than 80,000 visitors. The exhibition took place in an immersive setting with activities that stimulated children's thinking and observation, and created an overall "edu-taining" experience. In order to amplify the playful aspect of the experience and to actively engage young visitors, the exhibition was conceived as an overall adventure game.

Additional Features

Alongside the exhibition, Louvre Abu Dhabi's Children's Museum opened a space for toddlers, conceived as a sensorial playground for children under 4 and their parents. This includes a reading space with more than 600 children's books and a chill-out area where visitors can experience a calm moment after the thrill of the adventure.

A visitor booklet extended the fun by allowing children to explore other artworks linked to the exhibition topic in the permanent galleries.



Publications

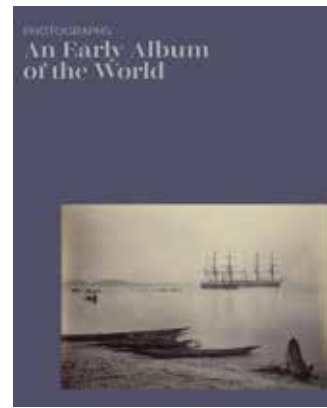
From exhibition catalogues and guides on the permanent collection, to richly illustrated art and architectural works, children's books and scholarly monographs, Louvre Abu Dhabi's publications reinforce the museum's unique universal narrative while making art and culture accessible to all.

Produced in-house or in partnership with major international publishers, all of the museum's books are published in Arabic, English and French. In 2019 we were delighted to add several titles in Mandarin.

Exhibition Catalogues:

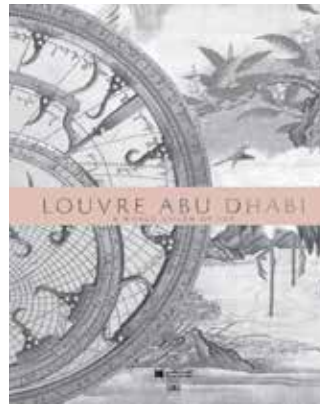
Presenting a comprehensive overview of the temporary exhibitions, Louvre Abu Dhabi's exhibition catalogues are full of images of the artworks on view and scholarly essays. Timelines and bibliographies further enhance the historical and cultural context of the show, allowing visitors to take home an exceptional souvenir of the exhibition.

Additionally, the museum produced its first limited-edition volume in a hand-made slipcase to accompany the blockbuster exhibition *10,000 Years of Luxury*.



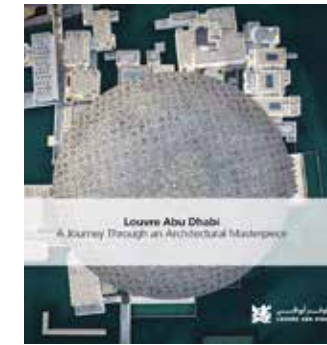
Books on the Collection:

The museum published several books to coincide with its second anniversary in 2019 that provided new insights into the collection. *Louvre Abu Dhabi: A World Vision of Art*, a large reference work, explores Louvre Abu Dhabi's unique curatorial vision and universal narrative while *Louvre Abu Dhabi: Highlights of the Collection*, focuses on key artworks and recent acquisitions and their role in enhancing the museum's mission.



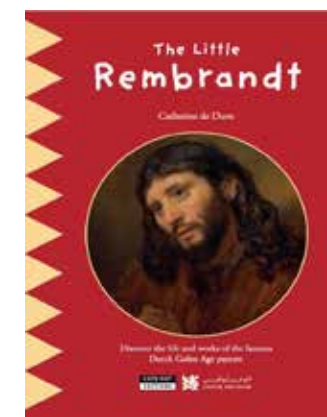
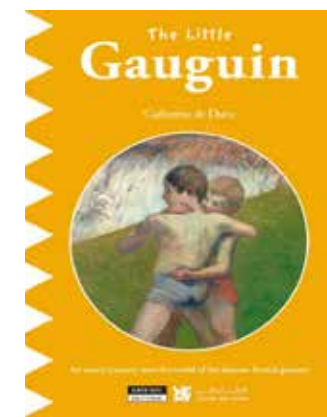
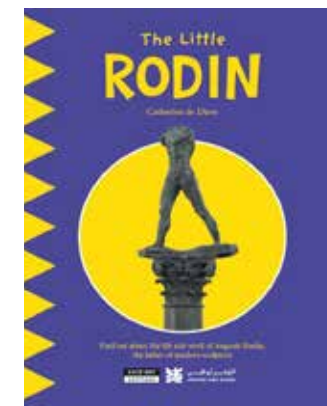
Books on the Building:

Louvre Abu Dhabi's extraordinary architecture can be considered as the museum's first masterpiece. This year the museum published its first books on the building's architecture. One detailed album highlights the creative process and conception of the unprecedented structure, while the second is a photographic celebration of the stunning spaces to explore onsite.



Children's Books:

For the museum's first series of children's books in 2019, Louvre Abu Dhabi collaborated with specialist publisher Kate Art, with the aim of connecting young audiences with artworks in the museum's permanent collection. These playful yet informative books introduce children to the lives of world-renowned artists and their many styles and techniques.



Cultural and Educational Programmes

Educational outreach and community engagement are part of Louvre Abu Dhabi's key missions.

Public Programmes:

Throughout 2019, Louvre Abu Dhabi presented a variety of public programmes, from musical performances under the dome to creative and educational workshops to film screenings, curatorial talks and panel discussions. All programming aims to complement the works on show in the permanent display and temporary exhibitions and serves to entertain and educate the museum's visitors as well as the wider Abu Dhabi community.

Key highlights of Louvre Abu Dhabi's 2019 public programming include:

Performance: Living Art: *The Banquet of Anthony and Cleopatra* (16-14 March)

In parallel with the Dutch Golden Age exhibition, the museum hosted the unique performance *The Banquet of Anthony and Cleopatra*. The show saw characters from Jan Steen's iconic painting come to life as actors roamed the museum galleries in magnificent costumes.



Once in A lifetime (6 - 9 November)

The Once in a Lifetime programme consisted of a variety of pop-up performances and recitals inside the galleries, under the dome and on the Ottoman Pavement. Visitors were able to walk into priceless, intimate performances with world-class musicians and artists inside the museum's permanent galleries and outdoor spaces.



Kayaking at the Museum (2019)

For the first time in 2019, Louvre Abu Dhabi offered kayaking tours, enabling visitors to enjoy the architecture of the museum from a unique perspective.



Electro Night (22 November)

A hugely successful event, Electro Night saw electronic music legends inspired by concrete music and cubism perform live sets. A collaboration with Boogie Box Records - Production, the line-up included Amon Tobin (US – Ninja Tune), Hassan Alwan (UAE – Abu Dhabi / Boogie Box), Tristan Girault (UAE – Dubai / Boogie Box) and Molecule (FR – Miala Records). In collaboration with the Institut Français in the UAE and Cultural Department of the French Embassy.



STREB Extreme Action – Revolution and Rock (16 - 21 September)

Elizabeth Streb and her STREB Extreme Action Troupe presented two performances – *Revolution* and *Rock*. *Revolution* was a moving sculpture of brushed steel powered by eight performers, while *Rock* was a classic machine that existed as a half circle with its rounded bottom on the ground. Programme curated by Ruth Mackenzie.

Sadu Pop-up Performances (29 November – 2 December)

These contemporary pop-up performance pieces, inspired by the traditional art of Bedouin Sadu weaving, were created by Al Ghadeer UAE Crafts x Loreta Bilinskaite-Monie. Visitors were able to meet local artists, who keep this cherished Emirati craft alive.

Talk: The Abu Dhabi Pearl (26 November)

Dr Mark Jonathan Beech, Head of Archaeology for Al Dhafra and Abu Dhabi, spoke about the discovery of a nearly 8,000-year-old pearl on the island of Marawah in the emirate's Western Region, believed to be the earliest known evidence of pearling ever discovered.

Symphony of the Elements Performance and Conference (6 February)

A world-premiere when it was staged at Louvre Abu Dhabi, the musical creation 'Symphony of the Elements' used Artificial Intelligence and was conducted by Pierre Barreau and Artificial Intelligence Visual Artist (AIVA).

Lecture: Artistic Exchange in the Dutch Golden Age (14 February)

As part of the cultural programming around the exhibition *Rembrandt, Vermeer & the Dutch Golden Age: Masterpieces from the Leiden Collection and the Musée du Louvre* exhibition, curators Blaise Ducos and Lara Yaeger-Crasselt discussed the masterpieces in the exhibition and the artistic exchange between Rembrandt and his students.

Film Screenings around Rembrandt, Vermeer & the Dutch Golden Age (9 - 30 March)

The exhibition was also accompanied by a number of film screenings related to the Dutch Golden Age and the art of 17th century Holland, including *Rembrandt* (dir. Alexander Korda, 1936), *Tim's Vermeer* (dir. Teller, 2013), *Still Life* (dir. Harun Farocki, 1997) and *Dutch Light* (dir. Pieter-Rim de Kroon, 2003). Programme curated by Hind Mezaina.



Parade: Picasso and Cocteau Machines (16 - 28 September)

As part of the public programme for *Rendezvous in Paris*, cubism was brought to life through extraordinary 'living puppet machines' that roamed around the museum, interacting with visitors and evoking the spirit of Picasso and his collaborator Jean Cocteau. The 'machines' were directly inspired by *Parade*, one of Picasso's works with the Ballet Russes from 1917. This was the first collaboration between Picasso, who designed the cubist costumes and sets, and poet and playwright Jean Cocteau, who wrote the one-act scenario.

Education at Louvre Abu Dhabi

Louvre Abu Dhabi's Education Programme is based on research and knowledge sharing. It focuses on both the history behind the collection and creative ways of learning about how artworks are preserved and interpreted. Through a series of personalised experiences and reflections, Louvre Abu Dhabi aims to deliver the best international museum education practices of today. Throughout each academic year, the museum continues to provide engaging programmes to a diverse range of visitors from schools and universities, people of determination and the creative community of the UAE.

In 2019, the museum welcomed over 44,000 students across the UAE. Several initiatives invited school groups to discover and engage with the works on show. More than 3,000 students attended the 'Take Over the Museum' initiative and another 2,000 students took part in the museum's free and guided visits for school students.

In addition to the museum's work with schools, Louvre Abu Dhabi offered educational programmes dedicated to university students, which in 2019 saw a total of 478 students and 135 academics take part in the museum's free university visits.

Alongside Louvre Abu Dhabi's work with educational institutions, the museum also offers classes, tours and workshops for children, adults and families. A highlight of these are the Family Weekends, which in 2019 saw nearly 4,000 participants. Another highlight for children and teenagers was Louvre Abu Dhabi's Summer Camp, which saw a total of 274 participants in 2019.

Louvre Abu Dhabi also undertook five Government School Roadshows, reaching a total of one thousand students from private and government schools, with 537 students across five government schools; a University Roadshow, reaching 130 students in total from government and private universities as well as two Government Community Roadshows, reaching a total of 45 students.



Community Engagement

The Education Department works with the Senior Emirati Centres in the UAE to increase awareness of the museum among this community and invites them to visit. In 2019, the museum welcomed 90 senior citizens as part of this programme.

During Ramadan 2019, Louvre Abu Dhabi worked with the Abu Dhabi Police in line with its mission to reach Emirati audiences.

The museum is also working with the Juvenile Delinquents Rehabilitation Center, Abu Dhabi to introduce the museum to these harder to reach communities.

2019 also saw the launch of Louvre Abu Dhabi's Young Guides: Museum Voices programme, allowing children from different schools across the UAE to learn how to present and educate a museum-going audience about the artworks on display.

Research and Development

One of Louvre Abu Dhabi's key missions is the academic documentation and analysis of its collection. In line with this goal, the museum continues to carve out its place as a scientific hub for the region. In 2019, Louvre Abu Dhabi established the Research and Development Department within the Scientific Curatorial and Collection Management Directorate. The department aims to foster academic research in four main fields which are crucial to the museum, Collections (connected and global art history), Preventative Conservation, Museum Studies (impact and reception of the museum) and Translation Studies.

There are two main pillars to support this department: a laboratory for the analysis of artworks and the Research Centre comprising a library, digital resources and artwork files.

Several research programmes have been launched throughout 2019 in partnerships with Louvre Abu Dhabi's local and international academic network:

- To better understand the creation of the museum's *Roman Egyptian Portrait*, Louvre Abu Dhabi has partnered with the Getty Museum and New York University Abu Dhabi, to join the Getty Museum's APPEAR project. This project included led pigment analysis of the portrait.
- In addition, XR Fluorescence analysis of the illuminations of a 13th century Bible, also in partnership with New York University Abu Dhabi, has provided fascinating data on the composition and practices of medieval workshops.
- The components and technology of gold threads on Louvre Abu Dhabi's *Maximilian Tapestry* have opened new fields of research, planned to be investigated in 2020, and aiming to better understand the chain of production at the *Manufacture des Gobelins*.
- Louvre Abu Dhabi was also able to tackle research in the social sciences, related to the reception of interpretation tools in the permanent galleries of the museum. The team will pursue its investigations in 2020, developing transversal programmes and partnerships, thus participating in the development and management of a world class collection and cultivating research and knowledge, as per the main objectives of the institution.

Research Library

The Research Centre's library, which will open to the public in 2020, currently contains around 4,000 books in 15 languages, including Arabic, English and French. In addition, the library also serves as a digital resource as well as a museum archive.

Alongside the museum staff and employees of the Department of Culture and Tourism - Abu Dhabi, the target audiences for the Research Centre are the UAE academic community, students, museums, as well as culture and heritage professionals.

Louvre Abu Dhabi plans to develop a number of programmes to activate the centre in the future, including the discussion and talks forum, *Qahwa & Croissants*, academic writing and reading clubs and contests aimed at university students studying for their Bachelor's or Master's degree.



Interpretation

Louvre Abu Dhabi invites visitors to experience and engage with the art on show from multiple angles. A variety of free learning resources, including art kits, online resources and activity booklets inside the galleries aim to enrich the visitors' experience.

The museum's in-house guide as well as its smartphone app are currently available in seven languages including Arabic, English, French, German, Russian, Mandarin and Hindi. As part of the museum's inclusive mission, much of the content is also available in sign language and in an audio-descriptive format.

In 2019, more than 50 new audio-commentaries were added to the in-house guide and the public app, and four new audio guided tours were created for Louvre Abu Dhabi's international temporary exhibitions. More than 73,765 visitors purchased the in-house guide, approximately 8% of total visitors. In addition, there were 21,334 downloads of the app, as well as 16,690 updates and downloads since the launch of the new app on 22 December 2019.



8.52/10
 Visitor Satisfaction with
 Multimedia guide / app

An Architectural Marvel

"Welcome to one of the most beautiful museums on the planet"

- Yasmine Youssi, Télérama

Jean Nouvel's extraordinary design for Louvre Abu Dhabi is an artwork in itself and has quickly become one of the most famous museum buildings in the world. Made up of a total of 55 individual but connected buildings, Nouvel was inspired by the traditional Arab architecture of a medina. The museum dome, which gives the impression that it is floating above the water, is made up of a complex geometric structure. As the sun travels through the sky and as its light filters through the perforations in the dome, they create an extraordinary visual effect, the so-called 'rain of light'.

Key facts about the museum's architecture:

- Built-up area: 97,000m²
- Total gallery spaces: 8,600m²
- Auditorium: 420m²/270 seats
- The floating dome has 7,850 unique stars
- The dome is 180m in diameter and rises up to 40m above sea level, and 36m above ground floor level
- The dome alone weighs 7,500t., almost as much as the Eiffel tower



Operational Excellence

Emiratisation

As part of the museum's mission to build a cultural ecosystem in the UAE, Emiratisation is one of its key missions. The museum's overall Emiratisation rate is 52%, the department with the highest number of Emirati staff being Support Services at over 75% and the Director's office at over 65%.



4,768

Total number of training hours in 2019



1,200

Total number of museum-specific training hours in 2019



3,568

Total number of non-museum-specific training hours in 2019



Louvre Abu Dhabi staff during team building activities in collaboration with GoTeam Architect. Jean Nouvel



His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan welcomes Louvre Abu Dhabi team in presence of His Excellency Mohammed Al Mubarak and His Excellency Saif Ghobash

Promotion and Awards

Marketing

This year saw Louvre Abu Dhabi grow its visibility globally and strengthen its position as one of the leading cultural institutions in the region and beyond. The museum's exhibitions and programming were lauded by a number of peers and media. Driven by press trips and reviews, media coverage mainly centred on the museum's international exhibitions, its new acquisitions and on the Children's Museum and its programming.

With nearly 25,000 press articles in 2019, Louvre Abu Dhabi has seen significant positive coverage in leading media outlets globally, including BBC World, The New York Times, CNN, AFP, AP, The Washington Post, The Art Newspaper, Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung, Le Monde, Les Echos, Financial Times China, The National, Gulf News, Asharq Al Awsat, Al Ittihad and Emarat Al Youm.

Digital & Social Media

Alongside Louvre Abu Dhabi's traditional media outreach efforts, its website and social media platforms play a key role in disseminating its message to the widest possible audience. In 2019 alone, Louvre Abu Dhabi's website has seen more than 2.3 million visitors and its Instagram followers rose by nearly 105%.

Awards

Louvre Abu Dhabi received several prestigious awards in 2019. The museum was presented with the Best Cultural Opening Award by Condé Nast Traveller Middle East, the museum's Universal Religions gallery received the UAE Pioneers Award. The museum was also the winner of the Community, Culture & Tourism Project Award awarded by Cityscape Awards Emerging Markets. The marketing effort for the exhibition *Rembrandt, Vermeer and the Dutch Golden Age: Masterpieces from the Leiden collection and the musée du Louvre* scored the museum a bronze at the Middle East PR Association awards. Louvre Abu Dhabi's Highway Gallery 2.0 won 28 awards internationally including WARC, the Loeries, CLIO awards, Webby's, New York Festivals and PR Week Global Awards.

National and International Outreach

Trade Shows

Louvre Abu Dhabi attended seven trade shows in 2019; including SATTE (New Delhi, India), ITB (Berlin, Germany), ATM (Dubai, UAE), ITB (Shanghai, China), ITB (Singapore), WTM (London, UK) and Meet China (Abu Dhabi, UAE).

VIP and Protocol Visits

In 2019, the museum hosted 60 private events for corporate and government partners at the museum, including conferences and evening receptions. In total, the museum saw 507 diplomatic and VIP visits.

Government Roadshows

For the first time, Louvre Abu Dhabi launched a roadshow programme in 2019 as part of its efforts to reach new audiences and increase awareness of the museum. Partners for the roadshows included:

- Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation UAE (MOFAIC)
- Department of Transport
- Department of Health
- Abu Dhabi National Oil Company (ADNOC)
- Abu Dhabi Judicial Department (ADJD)
- The Crown Prince's Court Abu Dhabi
- Al Ain Municipality
- National Service
- Ramadan Barza - ADNEC
- Abu Dhabi Police



Official visit of Sheikh Nasser AlSabah AlAhmed AlSabah in presence of His Excellency Saif Ghobash

A Global Network

Louvre Abu Dhabi prides itself in being an international museum, connected to major cities through the lending of artworks and cultural dialogue.



Manuel Rabate representing Louvre Abu Dhabi at the Global Art Forum in Shanghai, China

Conferences

Participating in international conferences is a key element of Louvre Abu Dhabi's international promotional drive. In 2019, the museum's staff participated in 19 conferences.

Local conferences:

- Abu Dhabi Music & Arts Foundation, Abu Dhabi, UAE, 27 February
- Conference Francophonie MOFAIC, Abu Dhabi, UAE, March
- Panel discussion moderated by Peter Zemsky at INSEAD, Abu Dhabi, UAE, 12 September
- Panel session moderated by Urs Peyer - INSEAD, Abu Dhabi, UAE, 23 October
- Digital archiving in the Arab World, Abu Dhabi, UAE, 26 - 27 October
- Emirates Diplomatic Academy, Abu Dhabi, UAE, 15 November
- Lecture about architecture, Engineering department at the University of Sharjah, Sharjah, UAE, 21 November

Regional conferences:

- King Abdullah University of Science and Technology, Thuwal, Saudi Arabia, 13 - 24 January
- Bahrain Authority for Culture & Antiquities, Manama, Bahrain, 20 February

International conferences:

- ITB Berlin, Berlin, Germany, 6 - 10 March
- ASEMUS, Singapore, 25 - 27 March
- Spring Campus Deauville, Deauville, France, 11 - 13 April
- Manege | New Now Public Programme, St-Petersburg, Russia, 11 June
- Sky Design Award Ceremony, Tokyo, Japan, 31 August
- Art Talking Business, Berlin, Germany, September
- NYC Exhibition and Washington Talk organized by the UAE Embassy, New York & Washington DC, USA, 2 - 3 October
- 2019 International Symposium "World of cultures in Korea", South Korea, 5 November
- Global art leaders forum, Shanghai, China, 6 November
- International Museum Summit - Museum in Transition talk, Hong Kong, 28 - 29 November

Our Corporate Partners

Louvre Abu Dhabi would like to thank its corporate partners for their ongoing support, which is crucial in helping the museum achieve its goals.

In working with our partners, we are able to strengthen and expand our impact on the wider community. Their support also helps us organise exhibitions, develop educational and cultural activities and growing our permanent collection.

Museum Partners:



Sponsors:



Corporate Members:



Thank you

Permanent Galleries

Louvre Abu Dhabi is grateful to Agence France-Muséums for their work coordinating loans and support of the museum's activities and to our French partner institutions:

Musée du Louvre, Centre Pompidou, Musées d'Orsay et de l'Orangerie, Bibliothèque nationale de France, Musée du quai Branly-Jacques Chirac, Réunion des Musées Nationaux et du Grand Palais (RMN-GP), Château de Versailles, Musée national des arts asiatiques-Guimet, Musée de Cluny – Musée national du Moyen-Âge, École du Louvre, Musée Rodin, Domaine National de Chambord, Musée des Arts Décoratifs (MAD), Cité de la Céramique – Sèvres & Limoges, Musée d'Archéologie nationale – Saint-Germain en Laye, Château de Fontainebleau, and OPPIC (Opérateur du patrimoine et des projets immobiliers de la culture).

Louvre Abu Dhabi thanks its UAE and regional partners who lent major artworks displayed in the museum galleries: Department of Culture and Tourism - Abu Dhabi, Al Ain National Museum, Zayed National Museum, Guggenheim Abu Dhabi, Dubai Municipality, National Museum of Ras Al Khaimah, Saudi Commission for Tourism & National Heritage (Kingdom of Saudi Arabia), National Museum (Oman), and Ministry of Tourism & Antiquities - Department of Antiquities (Jordan).

Special Exhibitions

Louvre Abu Dhabi also wishes to express its warmest thanks to the museums and institutions that have offered their support by lending important works from their collections for the temporary exhibitions in 2019:

Rembrandt, Vermeer and the Dutch Golden Age: Masterpieces from The Leiden Collection and the Musée du Louvre 14 February 2019 - 18 May 2019

The Leiden Collection
Musée du Louvre

A World of Exchanges, Photographs 1842 – 1896: An Early Album of the World - Musée du Quai Branly 25 April 2019 - 13 July 2019

Bibliothèque Nationale de France
L'Établissement public des Musées d'Orsay et de l'Orangerie
L'Établissement public du Musée National des Arts Asiatiques - Guimet
La Société de Géographie
La Cité de la Céramique - Sèvres et Limoges

Rendezvous in Paris: Picasso, Chagall, Modigliani & Co. (1900-1939)

18 September 2019 - 7 December 2019
Musée national de l'Orangerie
Musée des années 30, Boulogne-Billancourt
Musée des Beaux-arts, Chartres
Musée des Beaux-arts, Dijon
Musée d'art moderne Richard Anacréon, Granville

Musée de Grenoble, Grenoble
Musée Fabre, Montpellier
Musée national Picasso, Paris
Musée d'art et d'histoire du Judaïsme, Paris
Musée d'art moderne, Troyes

10,000 Years of Luxury 30 October 2019 - 18 February 2020

Musée du Louvre
Musée du quai Branly - Jacques Chirac
Musée Yves Saint Laurent Paris
Département de la Culture et du Tourisme – Abu Dhabi
Zayed National Museum
La Fondation des Artistes
Baccarat
Collection Cartier
Direction du patrimoine Chanel
Collection Chaumet, Paris
Patrimoine Chloé, Paris
Maison Christian Louboutin
Christian Dior Couture
Elie Saab
Givenchy
Maison Guerlain
Maison Hermès
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HG Timepiece – Switzerland
Mellerio
Collection Pierre Hardy
Maison Rabih Kayrouz
Maison Schiaparelli
Maison Van Cleef & Arpels
Victoire de Castellane, collection Fleurs d'excès
Studio Ymer & Malta

About

About Louvre Abu Dhabi

Created by an exceptional agreement between the governments of Abu Dhabi and France, Louvre Abu Dhabi was designed by Jean Nouvel and opened on Saadiyat Island in November 2017. The museum is inspired by traditional Islamic architecture and its monumental dome creates a rain of light effect and a unique social space that brings people together.

Louvre Abu Dhabi celebrates the universal creativity of mankind and invites audiences to see humanity in a new light. Through its innovative curatorial approach, the museum focuses on building understanding across cultures: through stories of human creativity that transcend civilisations, geographies and times.

The museum's growing collection is unparalleled in the region and spans thousands of years of human history, including prehistoric tools, artefacts, religious texts, iconic paintings and contemporary artworks. The permanent collection is supplemented by rotating loans from 13 French partner institutions, regional and international museums.

Louvre Abu Dhabi is a testing ground for new ideas in a globalised world and champions new generations of cultural leaders. Its international exhibitions, programming and Children's Museum are inclusive platforms that connect communities and offer enjoyment for all.

About the Department of Culture and Tourism – Abu Dhabi

The Department of Culture and Tourism conserves and promotes the heritage and culture of Abu Dhabi emirate and leverages them in the development of a world-class, sustainable destination of distinction, which enriches the lives of visitors and residents alike. The organization manages the emirate's tourism sector and markets the destination internationally through a wide range of activities aimed at attracting visitors and investment. Its policies, plans and programs relate to the preservation of heritage and culture, including protecting archaeological and historical sites and to developing museums, including Zayed National Museum, Guggenheim

Abu Dhabi, and Louvre Abu Dhabi. DCT - Abu Dhabi supports intellectual and artistic activities and cultural events to nurture a rich cultural environment and honour the emirate's heritage. A key role is to create synergy in the destination's development through close co-ordination with its wide-ranging stakeholder base.

About Saadiyat Cultural District

Saadiyat Cultural District on Saadiyat Island, Abu Dhabi, is devoted to culture and the arts. An ambitious cultural undertaking for the 21st century, it will be a nucleus for global culture, attracting local, regional and international guests with unique exhibitions, permanent collections, productions and performances. Its groundbreaking buildings will form a historical statement of the finest 21st century architecture; Zayed National Museum, Louvre Abu Dhabi and Guggenheim Abu Dhabi. These museums will complement and collaborate with local and regional arts and cultural institutions including universities and research centres.

About Agence France-Muséums

Created in 2007 following the intergovernmental agreement between Abu Dhabi and France, Agence France-Muséums has been, for 12 years, a key link between France and the UAE in the accomplishment of the Louvre Abu Dhabi.

By gathering for the first time the collections and the expertise of the French cultural institutions involved, AFM has provided since its creation assistance and expertise to the authorities of the United Arab Emirates in the following areas: definition of the scientific and cultural programme, assistance in project management for architecture including museography, signage and multimedia projects, coordination of the loans from French collections and organisation of temporary exhibitions, guidance with the creation of a permanent collection, and support with the museum's policy on visitors.

AFM now continues its missions for Louvre Abu Dhabi after its opening in four main fields of activity: the organisation of temporary exhibitions designed with French partner museums for 15 years, the management of loans from French museums for 10 years, consulting missions in the fields of museum management and the training of the museum's professionals

Agence France-Muséums brings together the Louvre Abu Dhabi partner institutions: Musée du Louvre, Centre Pompidou, Musées d'Orsay et de l'Orangerie, Bibliothèque nationale de France, Musée du quai Branly-Jacques Chirac, Réunion des Musées Nationaux et du Grand Palais (RMN-GP), Château de Versailles, Musée national des arts asiatiques-Guimet, Musée de Cluny – musée national du Moyen-Âge, École du Louvre, Musée Rodin, Domaine National de Chambord, Musée des Arts Décoratifs (MAD), Cité de la Céramique – Sèvres & Limoges, Musée d'Archéologie nationale – Saint-Germain en Laye, Château de Fontainebleau, and OPPIC (Opérateur du patrimoine et des projets immobiliers de la culture).

About Musée du Louvre

The Louvre in Paris opened in 1793, during the French Revolution, and from the very beginning was intended to provide inspiration for contemporary art. Courbet, Picasso, Dalí and so many others came to its hallowed halls to admire the old masters, copy them, immerse themselves in masterpieces and improve and fuel their own art. As an ancient royal residence, the Louvre is inextricably linked to eight centuries of French history. As a universal museum, its collections, among the best in the world, span many millennia and miles, from the Americas to Asia. Over 38,000 artworks are grouped into eight curatorial departments, including universally admired works such as the *Mona Lisa*, the *Winged Victory of Samothrace* and the *Venus de Milo*. With 9.6 million guests in 2019, the Louvre is the most visited museum in the world.

Open since 2012, the Islamic Art Department of the Louvre presents more than 3,000 objects, spanning 1,300 years of history and three continents, from Spain to Southeast Asia.

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