PRESS RELEASE

Ras Al Khaimah Art 2027 Festival returns for its 15th edition under the theme “Lost in Translation”, presented by Rakbank

- *175 artists from more than 60 nationalities bring over 200 artworks to Al Jazeera Al Hamra Heritage Village from 22 January to 14 February 2027*
- *Embassies and leading cultural institutions extend the Festival’s global reach through cultural diplomacy, artistic collaboration and cross-cultural exchange*
- *A curated line-up of artworks awaits art enthusiasts, alongside live performances, workshops, masterclasses, and culinary and social experiences for the whole family, including a Michelin-starred pop-up from the UK*
- *Outdoor exhibition remains open until 31 March 2027, giving art lovers more time to explore the blend of art, heritage and stunning views of Ras Al Khaimah’s shoreline*

Ras Al Khaimah, UAE, 24 November 2026: The Sheikh Saud bin Saqr Al Qasimi Foundation for Policy Research today announced the return of the Ras Al Khaimah Art 2027 Festival, one of the most anticipated dates on the UAE’s cultural calendar, for its landmark 15th edition, presented by Rakbank. Taking place from 22 January to 14 February 2027 at Al Jazeera Al Hamra Heritage Village. This year’s edition explores the theme “Lost in Translation”, bringing together artists, cultures and perspectives from around the world.

The 2027 edition brings together 175 artists from more than 60 nationalities and over 200 artworks. The Festival will showcase a diverse range of artistic expressions, including photography, painting, drawing, sculpture, installation, video art and digital art, set against the backdrop of the restored houses, courtyards and lanes of the UAE’s last remaining intact pearling village. Established in the late 16th century by the Za’ab tribe, Al Jazeera Al Hamra is included on the UAE’s UNESCO World Heritage Tentative List. Entry is free, and the outdoor exhibition will stay open until 31 March 2027.

Curated by international curator Sharon Toval, “Lost in Translation” treats translation as a condition of contemporary life that reaches beyond language into emotion, culture, identity, memory and technology. The exhibition asks one question: if we understand the world differently, can we still meet?

The theme unfolds across the village in three chapters. “Dislocated Identities” looks at rupture, estrangement and displacement. “Inventing Home” considers belonging as something people build through memory, relationships and ritual. “The Space Between” treats the state of being in between as creative ground.

Reflecting on the Festival’s evolution, Dr. Natasha Ridge, Executive Director of the Sheikh Saud bin Saqr Al Qasimi Foundation for Policy Research, said: “As we prepare to celebrate the Festival’s 15th edition,

we reflect on how it has grown alongside our community, becoming a platform that brings together artists and audiences from across the UAE and around the world. At its heart is our commitment to creating a safe, inclusive, and welcoming space for artists of all backgrounds and nationalities, where every individual is valued and their creativity, talent, and unique experiences are recognized and celebrated."

"'Lost in Translation' reflects the diversity of the UAE, where different cultures, languages and perspectives coexist and enrich our everyday lives. Through art, we hope to encourage dialogue, foster understanding and remind us all that even when we see the world differently, there is always an opportunity to connect."

The Festival is proudly presented by Rakbank, a homegrown financial institution with deep roots in Ras Al Khaimah, reflecting a shared commitment to supporting the emirate's cultural development and creative community.

Commenting on the partnership, Raheel Ahmed, Group Chief Executive Officer of Rakbank, said:

"Ras Al Khaimah is where Rakbank's story began 50 years ago, and it will always be a special part of who we are. As we celebrate this milestone in our own journey, we are proud to support the 15th edition of the Ras Al Khaimah Art Festival. Art has a unique ability to bring people together, connect cultures and inspire new perspectives. Through this partnership, we want to celebrate the creativity and diversity of our communities while continuing to support the place we have called home since the very beginning."

The 2027 edition further strengthens the Festival's international outlook through collaborations with diplomatic missions and cultural institutions from around the world. Complementing the artists selected through the Festival's international open call, these partnerships bring diverse cultural perspectives, encourage artistic exchange and create opportunities for dialogue between artists, institutions and audiences. They also reinforce Ras Al Khaimah's growing role as a destination for international cultural collaboration, while celebrating the diversity and creativity that define the UAE.

The Festival's commitment to celebrating artistic individuality and creative excellence is also reflected in its awards program. Winners are selected by an independent international jury on artistic merit, originality and creative expression, so that recognition is guided by the quality of the work and the perspectives artists bring to the Festival.

Beyond the exhibitions, visitors can look forward to a vibrant program of live performances, interactive workshops, masterclasses, guided tours and exclusive culinary experiences, including a Michelin-starred pop-up from the UK, bringing together art, heritage and community. Further details of the diplomatic and institutional collaborations, participating artists and public program will be announced in the coming weeks.

Founded in 2013 and organised by the Sheikh Saud bin Saqr Al Qasimi Foundation for Policy Research, the Festival is a non-profit initiative. All sponsorship support goes back into the Festival, which does not sell artworks. The 2026 edition welcomed more than 38,000 visitors.

Free tickets can be booked at rakart.ae. Bookings for workshops, masterclasses and other activities open in December.

END

Notes to editors

Festival at a glance

Item	Detail
Name	Ras Al Khaimah Art 2027 Festival
Edition	15th
Theme	Lost in Translation
Dates	22 January to 14 February 2027; outdoor exhibition until 31 March 2027
Venue	Al Jazeera Al Hamra Heritage Village, Ras Al Khaimah
Scale	175 artists, 200+ artworks, 60+ nationalities
Curator	Sharon Toval
Organiser	Sheikh Saud bin Saqr Al Qasimi Foundation for Policy Research
Presenting Partner	Rakbank
Entry	Free; tickets at rakart.ae

About Ras Al Khaimah Art

Ras Al Khaimah Art is a year-round platform for art and culture, organized by the Sheikh Saud bin Saqr Al Qasimi Foundation for Policy Research under the patronage of His Highness Sheikh Saud bin Saqr Al Qasimi, UAE Supreme Council Member and Ruler of Ras Al Khaimah.

Established in 2013 as an exhibition featuring 30 local artists, the initiative has grown into a vibrant platform for artistic expression, cultural exchange, and community engagement. Its annual Festival, now entering its 15th edition, takes place at Al Jazeera Al Hamra Heritage Village, bringing together artists and audiences from the UAE and around the world. Beyond the Festival, Ras Al Khaimah Art supports creative talent through year-round exhibitions, artist residencies, grants, and cultural programming.

Ras Al Khaimah Art is a non-profit initiative. For more information, visit **rakart.ae**.

About the Al Qasimi Foundation

Established in 2009 by Emiri Decree of His Highness Sheikh Saud bin Saqr Al Qasimi, UAE Supreme Council Member and Ruler of Ras Al Khaimah, the Sheikh Saud bin Saqr Al Qasimi Foundation is a non-profit, quasi-governmental organization dedicated to supporting the social, cultural, and economic development of Ras Al Khaimah and the UAE.

The Foundation advances knowledge, develops capabilities, and strengthens communities through research and policy, education and scholarships, community development, arts and culture, and the preservation of Emirati heritage. One of its key initiatives is Ras Al Khaimah Art, which presents the annual Ras Al Khaimah Art Festival at Al Jazeera Al Hamra Heritage Village. Through its programs and partnerships, the Foundation serves as a catalyst for positive change and contributes to the long-term development and quality of life of communities across Ras Al Khaimah.

About Rakbank

Since 1976, Rakbank has been helping people and businesses across the UAE grow with confidence. From our beginnings as a community bank, we've grown into one of the country's most dynamic financial institutions, combining smart digital innovation with genuine human connection. Today, we serve customers through Personal, Business and Wholesale Banking and are proud to be the UAE's go-to bank for SMEs. Our group also includes Skiply, Protego and RAK Insurance, creating an ecosystem of solutions that makes life simpler for our customers. As we continue to shape the future of banking, one thing remains unchanged: our belief that banking should work for people, not the other way around. **Rakbank. Digital with a human touch.**

Photo Captions:

His Highness Sheikh Saud bin Saqr Al Qasimi, UAE Supreme Council Member and Ruler of Ras Al Khaimah, tours the Ras Al Khaimah Art 2026 Festival at Al Jazeera Al Hamra Heritage Village.

A visitor passes one of the works on show at the Ras Al Khaimah Art 2026 Festival. The Ras Al Khaimah Art 2027 Festival returns from 22 January to 14 February 2027 with artworks, live performances, and Michelin-starred culinary experiences.

Media contact

Araxi H. Keoshgerian, Head of PR, HOC, araxi@hoc.ae, +971504957461

Inana Shakour, Account Director, HOC, inana@hoc.ae, +971524341024

Afsaneh Baher, PR & Events Director, Sheikh Saud bin Saqr Al Qasimi Foundation for Policy Research

afsaneh@alqasimifoundation.rak.ae, +971564146655