



ART AS A VOICE: HOW DO YOU USE IT?

Day Three: Finding Your Voice Monday, February 9, 2026, 9AM-2PM

Featuring more than 30 entities and booths manned by leading arts organisations and universities* Creative Careers Days UAE gives creatively-minded youth, students (and teachers) a unique opportunity to meet and discuss ideas with key artists, designers and industry specialists.

Inspirational talks, informational workshops – including how to create and pitch your portfolio – and behind-the-scenes-at-the-museum tours run throughout the day.

Programmes highlight a diverse range of creative career pathways and opportunities to network within the speed interviews activation; options in tertiary education, locally and internationally; student and postgraduate open calls, residencies, internships and volunteering opportunities and more.

The event features the participation of*:

Abu Dhabi Art, Abu Dhabi Music and Arts Foundation, American University of Dubai, American University of Sharjah, Art Dubai Group, Art Jameel, Bayt Al Mamzar, Centre for Musical Arts, Department of Culture and Tourism, Dirwaza Curatorial Lab, Dubai Culture & Arts Authority, Dubai Institute of Design and Innovation, Emirates Literature Foundation, Global Studies University, Gulf Photo Plus, Guggenheim Abu Dhabi, Higher Colleges of Technology, Istituto Marangoni, Maraya Art Centre, Middlesex University Dubai, National Pavilion UAE – La Biennale Di Venezia, New York University Abu Dhabi, Sharjah Performing Arts Academy, Tashkeel, The Arts Centre at NYU Abu Dhabi, University of Wollongong, Vinyl Souk, Zayed University and 421 Arts Campus.

With appearances by:

AlMultaqa Chamber Orchestra, Arab Child Summit, Come to HIVE, Karama Arts Club, Manic Mundane, point a.academy, The Tasty Biscuits, +63Kolektib and many more!



ART AS A VOICE: HOW DO YOU USE IT?

ACTIVATIONS

Lobby
All Day

Career Surgery

Led by Jolaine Frizzell (Founder, Ivy Advisory)

Visit the station for personalised career consultations and receive a tailored guide to your journey through the booths, matching you with industry experts and providing opportunities to check out both at Creative Careers Days and beyond!

Open to all: First-come-first-serve

**One-to-One
Sessions**

Lobby
All Day

Instagram Surgery

Led by Morvarid Tayyeb (Researcher, The Institute for Emerging Art) and Salma Shaheem (Founder, The Institute for Emerging Art)

Gain a personalised review of your Instagram profile! Receive expert guidance on how you can maximise your artistic presence on socials!

Open to all: First-come-first-serve

**One-to-One
Sessions**

Lobby
All Day

Application Surgery

Led by Tina Sherwell (Co-Director of The MFA in Art and Media, New York University Abu Dhabi) and Dina Faour (Professor of Advertising, American University in Dubai)

Access a tailored mentorship session with university experts! This station is designed to offer personalised guidance on preparing university or master's applications, course selection, feedback on personal statements and support in finding the right direction for your degree.

Open to all: First-come-first-serve

**One-to-One
Sessions**



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ACTIVATIONS

**Jameel
Library**

Portfolio Reviews

Receive invaluable critique and feedback from industry experts from leading arts organisations to help develop your portfolio for residencies, university programmes and professional opportunities. Be sure to bring along your portfolio!

- 9:30-10:30am **Gulf Photo Plus (Photography and Media)**
- 11:00-12:00pm **Tashkeel (Fine Art)**
- 12:30-1:30pm **Global Studies University (MA and Ph.D. Programmes)**

Open to all: First-come-first-serve

**One-to-One
Sessions**

Lobby

Speedy Mock Interviews

Practice your interviewing abilities and skills in front of hiring experts, giving you the chance to build connections within the creative sector!

- 9:00-10:00am **Art Jameel**
- 10:00-11:00am **American University of Sharjah**
- 11:00-12:00pm **Dirwaza Curatorial Lab**
- 12:00-1:00pm **Higher Colleges of Technology**

Open to all: First-come-first-serve

**One-to-One
Sessions**

**Lobby
All Day**

1-to-1 University Q&A with University of the Arts London (UAL) Led by Miranda Higgins (International Student Recruitment Manager)

Curious about studying a creative subject at university? Drop by the UAL stand to explore Pre-Degree, Bachelor's or Master's study options from one of the world's top art and design universities. Ask questions one-to-one about which courses are right for you, learn how to build a strong creative portfolio, or get guidance on strengthening your university application for a future in the creative industries.

Open to all: First-come-first-serve

**One-to-One
Sessions**



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DROP-IN MAKING STATIONS

Project Space All Day	Finding Your Voice Through Materiality Hosted by Art Jameel, led by Sana Waqar (Artist and Educator) <i>Spend the day exploring your creativity across a series of curated stations. Engage in playful collaborative drawing, translate sound into visuals and share your ideas, whether personal or social. Each activity invites participants to experiment, reflect and discover new ways of expressing themselves.</i> Open to all: First-come-first-serve	Drop-in Making Stations
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TOURS

Welcome Desk 10:30-11:15am	From Matchboxes to Seashells: Contemporary Art Narratives Educator and Student Tours Led by EY Lucy Jung (Art Educator and Curriculum Designer) <i>Experience Jameel Arts Centre through our comprehensive tours, designed for students and teachers. Explore the latest exhibitions and gain insights into contemporary art and artists' diverse methods of addressing various issues, themes and mediums.</i> Open to all: First-come-first-serve	Tour
Welcome Desk 11:30-12:15pm	Exhibition Tour in Arabic Hosted by Art Jameel, led by Majd Ismail (Visitor Experience Assistant, Art Jameel) <i>Join our tour of the current exhibitions, conducted in Arabic! Explore the current exhibitions, 'The Obedient Tide' by Jumana Emil Abboud and Bady Dalloul's 'Self-portrait with a cat I don't have'.</i> Open to all: First-come-first-serve	Tour
Welcome Desk 12:30-1:15pm	Behind the Scenes: What is a Curator? Hosted by Art Jameel, led by Lucas Morin (Senior Curator, Art Jameel) <i>Join a behind-the-scenes walking tour of the museum with Art Jameel's Senior Curator. Discover how artworks and artists are chosen and how exhibitions are planned and brought to life from start to finish.</i> Open to all: First-come-first-serve	Tour



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WORKSHOPS

Sahaab
9:30-
10:30am

Hyphenating the Hyphens

Hosted by point a.cademy, led by Desirée Barreto (Creative Strategy & Ops Lead, point a.cademy)

A creative lab built for exploration, this session helps young multi-hyphenates carve out their personal style and find unique creative direction through hands-on design sprints and guided reflection. Participants uncover the stories driving their work, experiment with visual and verbal identity and leave with a clearer path in expressing themselves through creative positioning and communication.

Open to all: First-come-first-serve

Workshop

Sahaab
11:00-
12:00pm

Finding your voice: Originality in a sea of ChatGPT!

Hosted by American University of Sharjah, led by Dr. Zinka Bejtic (Professor of Design, Head of Department of Art and Design)

This session explores how to use ChatGPT as a creative partner to stimulate creative thinking, deepen curiosity and develop individual voices. Through live exercises, unconventional prompts and creative experiments, participants learn how to push AI beyond the obvious, avoid generic outputs and turn it into a tool for research, reflection, concept development and personal expression.

Open to all: First-come-first-serve

Workshop

Sahaab
12:30-
1:30pm

Finding your Voice: A vocal workshop

Hosted by Centre for Musical Arts, led by Brian Cunningham (Director of Teaching and Learning)

Find the power of your voice through this interactive vocal workshop. Participants are invited to make music together by using their voices to create sounds and develop rich harmonies, through breathing and vocal techniques. No previous singing experience or musical knowledge is required.

Open to all: First-come-first-serve

Workshop



ART AS A VOICE: HOW DO YOU USE IT?

FOR EDUCATORS

**Socotra
Garden**
9:30 -
10:30am

What could you become? Exploring Creative Futures
Led by Alanood Bukhamees (Design Educator, Zayed University)

This roundtable session invites students and educators to unpack the question: what could you become? For those who are curious about creative fields and their possibilities, but are unsure what comes next.

Open to Teachers, University Faculty and Students: First-come-first-serve

Talk

**Jameel
Library**
11:00-
11:45am

Educators' Networking Stations
Led by Dina Faour (Professor of Advertising at American University in Dubai) and Gareth Pyper (Head of Creative Arts, Repton Dubai)

Join this interactive session bringing together educators and university representatives to connect, share insights and learn from each other. Educators explore ways to bridge gaps between schools and higher education learning, gain a deeper understanding of art and design programmes and discover opportunities for collaboration.

Open to Teachers and University Faculty: First-come-first-serve

**Networking
Stations**

Colonnade
12:00 -
1:00pm

Teaching Creative Futures: Education and the Evolving Arts Landscape
Led by EY Lucy Jung (Art Educator and Curriculum Designer)

This reflective workshop for educators explores hands-on strategies to engage students with contemporary art and foster curiosity, self-awareness, adaptability, and critical thinking. Participants will also learn to design lessons and activities that build students' creative skills, confidence, and readiness for future careers through connections with contemporary art.

Open to Teachers: First-come-first-serve

Workshop



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GET TO KNOW THE ORGANISATIONS

ABU DHABI MUSIC AND ART FOUNDATION

Abu Dhabi Music and Arts Foundation (ADMAF) was established in 1996 as one of the earliest cultural foundations in the Gulf region and Arab World. ADMAF supports the sustainability and creativity of the cultural industry and contributes to enriching Abu Dhabi as a cultural beacon.

AMERICAN UNIVERSITY IN DUBAI

Meet the Faculty and Students from the School of Architecture Art and Design at AUD, where we will guide you on our programs and how to successfully navigate creative career choices. In Architecture, Interior Design and Visual Communication, AUD offers innovative curriculums, state-of-the-art facilities, and mentorship from industry professionals. While fostering a collaborative learning environment that encourages experimentation, critical thinking, and the exploration of emerging trends and technologies. Our graduates are versatile professionals who make meaningful contributions. Discover more at the booth!

AMERICAN UNIVERSITY OF SHARJAH

As a leading Art and Design programme in the region, we proudly showcase our three dynamic majors: Visual Communication, Multimedia Design and Design Management. Engage with our faculty and students to gain insights into innovative, creative processes and receive personalised portfolio reviews and advice on professionally presenting your creative work. Experience fun drawing and illustration activities and see your work showcased in our virtual gallery. Explore immersive VR technology and interactive filmmaking.

ART DUBAI GROUP

Art Dubai Group is a leading cultural organisation based in the UAE, producing major platforms across art, design and creative research. Founded in 2007, the group develops and delivers internationally recognised fairs, festivals and public programmes, including Art Dubai, Dubai Design Week, Downtown Design, Editions and Prototypes for Humanity. Through year-round initiatives, partnerships, and education programmes, Art Dubai Group supports the creative economy, fosters cultural exchange and connects regional and global creative communities.



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GET TO KNOW THE ORGANISATIONS

ART JAMEEL

Get a chance to learn more about the organisation's global youth-focussed initiatives including our volunteering and internship programmes; The Assembly, a yearly talent development programme designed to support young artistic leadership; Hayy Learning - a community educational platform; school visits and offerings for teachers and educators via workshops and community-focused programmes.

BAYT AL MAMZAR

Bayt AlMamzar (Dubai, UAE) is an independent art space founded as a response to the needs of the local contemporary creative community, welcoming innovative, experimental and collaborative approaches. Motivated by the belief in constructive critical dialogue and the free exchange of opinions, Bayt AlMamzar currently houses artist studios, residency programs, exhibitions, public programs, a growing library collection and more.

CENTRE FOR MUSICAL ARTS

Centre for Musical Arts (CMA) is Dubai's leading community music school, offering high-quality music education for all ages and abilities. From individual lessons to ensembles, choirs and orchestras, CMA provides opportunities for everyone to learn, perform and connect through and work in music. With an inclusive, welcoming environment and a team of specialist tutors, CMA nurtures creativity, confidence and collaboration — truly bringing music to everyone. Visit us to discover how music can become part of your journey.

DEPARTMENT OF CULTURE & TOURISM ABU DHABI

WHAT WE DO through our three key sectors: Tourism, Culture and National Library, we work extensively to regulate, support, develop and market Abu Dhabi's tourism industry through a range of activities aimed at promoting and preserving the emirate's distinctive heritage and culture.

DIRWAZA CURATORIAL LAB

Dirwaza Curatorial Lab is a creative space that considers narrative reclamation through exhibition making practices. The lab creates spaces for conversation and questioning through three key practices: exhibition making, publication and public programming. These practices focus and specialize in cultural projects relevant to the Arabian Gulf, always aiming to ground projects in regional voices, nurturing dialogue and highlighting creative practices.



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DUBAI CULTURE AND ARTS AUTHORITY

Visit Dubai Culture's interactive booth with representatives from the Authority's sectors (Arts and Literature + Culture and Heritage) to meet with the students and answer all possible inquiries on career prospects within the cultural sector of Dubai.

DUBAI INSTITUTE OF DESIGN AND INNOVATION

DIDI's Bachelor of Design (BDes) is the first multidisciplinary curriculum in the region offering four disciplines: Product Design, Multimedia Design, Fashion Design and Strategic Design Management. The 4-year programme begins with an immersive year exposing students to basic visual, digital and entrepreneurship skills. Then, from their second year onwards, students combine two disciplines to create their own educational journey. The cross-disciplinary degree ensures graduates have adaptable and flexible skills for a rapidly changing design and digital job landscape. The BDes programme combines visual literacy, technological fluency and strategic proficiency. This means that DIDI students combine design expertise, engineering know-how and business management skills throughout their educational journey.

EMIRATES LITERATURE FOUNDATION

The Emirates Literature Foundation is a non-governmental, not-for-profit organisation dedicated to building and nurturing the vibrant literary culture in the UAE and the wider region. Through a wide range of initiatives, we support readers of all ages, champion local and international writers and bring communities together through the shared love of books and reading.

GLOBAL STUDIES UNIVERSITY (GSU)

Global Studies University (GSU), is set to play a vital role in training a new generation of critical thinkers in the UAE and globally. Students will be educated to focus on local and regional issues while understanding and framing them within a global context. GSU's postgraduate curriculum, at both the master's and doctoral levels, is designed to promote interdisciplinarity and interconnectedness, encouraging a deeper, more comprehensive understanding of global issues. For more information on how GSU aims to fulfill this vision, please visit our Vision and Mission pages.



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GULF PHOTO PLUS

WE ARE THE REGION'S LEADING CENTER FOR PHOTOGRAPHY!

Based out of Alserkal Avenue in Dubai since 2010, we are a community organisation that hosts internationally renowned GPP Photo Week, cultivates visual practices through year-round workshops, art programs, exhibitions, community events, state-of-the-art printing services and specialized resources.

GUGGENHEIM ABU DHABI

At the Guggenheim Abu Dhabi booth, visitors will meet members of the museum who will be present to answer any questions students may have and share insights into the diverse roles that bring the cultural institution to life. Students will learn about upcoming exhibitions, public programmes and the museum's role in shaping Abu Dhabi as a hub for creativity and dialogue. The space offers a unique opportunity to hear directly from the core team, how Guggenheim Abu Dhabi connects local and international audiences and explore how to start a career in the museum world.

HIGHER COLLEGES OF TECHNOLOGY

The Higher Colleges of Technology (HCT) is the UAE's largest applied higher education institution, empowering students with practical, industry-relevant skills across creative, technological and business disciplines. With state-of-the-art studios, real-world projects and strong industry partnerships, HCT prepares graduates to excel in the nation's creative economy. It is ranked among the top 10 in the UAE for graduate employability. Our programs in Applied Media inspire innovation, entrepreneurship and cultural expression, equipping students to become the next generation of UAE creative leaders.

ISTITUTO MARANGONI

Istituto Marangoni, the luxury school of Fashion, Design and Art in Milan, Florence, Paris, London & Dubai is ranked among the top 100 universities globally for "Art & Design" by the QS World University Rankings and holds the top position for Italian fashion schools. Istituto Marangoni offers Undergraduate, Postgraduate and Training programmes in Fashion Design, Fashion Styling, Fashion Business, Interior Design, Visual Design, Fragrances & Cosmetics and Product Design.



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GET TO KNOW THE ORGANISATIONS

MARAYA ART CENTRE

Maraya Art Centre is a non-profit art space founded in 2010 by the Sharjah Investment and Development Authority (Shurooq). Located at Al Qasba in Sharjah, it provides a platform for contemporary visual arts from the UAE, the wider MENA region and international contexts. The Centre supports artistic practice through exhibitions, commissions and publications. It also houses a resource library offering access to books on art, design and culture and delivers a year-round programme of talks, workshops and community-based activities. Maraya Art Centre also leads the Jedariya Street Art Initiative that enlivens Sharjah's public spaces while engaging youth in creative expression and community awareness. On Sharjah's Flag Island, Maraya Art Centre's sister institution, 1971 – Design Space, extends its commitment to the field of contemporary design. Since its establishment in 2015, the venue has presented exhibitions that explore diverse and innovative approaches to contemporary design in all its forms.

MIDDLESEX UNIVERSITY DUBAI

The Middlesex University Dubai booth will exhibit a selection of our students' best work and provide a glimpse into what we do. We encourage our students to approach the design process through wide research, exploration, reflection and investigation of diverse subjects through their projects. Eddie Ryan, our senior faculty member, will give a wide ranging presentation on the diversity of the student experience through completed project work, highlighting how design career paths can sometimes be non-linear and being a curious cross-disciplinary designer can help you carve your own unique creative career.

NATIONAL PAVILION UAE – LA BIENNALE DI VENEZIA

The National Pavilion UAE – La Biennale di Venezia curates untold stories about the UAE's arts and architecture and provides a platform for curatorial concepts that address critical international conversations from a distinctive local perspective. Alongside its exhibitions in Venice, the National Pavilion UAE engages with the community through initiatives like the Venice Internship program. Pass by our booth to learn more about the Venice Internship, meet some of our Alumni, pick up a tote bag and learn how you can apply to the Venice Internship program.



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GET TO KNOW THE ORGANISATIONS

NEW YORK UNIVERSITY ABU DHABI

The Master of Fine Arts (MFA) in Art and Media is a terminal degree in the visual arts, designed as a full-time, interdisciplinary studio art programme that sits at the crossroads of practice, theory, tradition and change in the arts. The programme immerses students in contemporary research and art practices while training them to become deep thinkers and artistic innovators. Courses emphasise artistic experimentation within theoretical, cultural and historical study contexts. Its multidisciplinary coursework bridges disciplinary skills and diverse bodies of knowledge. The programme leverages Abu Dhabi's location as a transnational and transcultural hub for the exchange. At Creative Careers Days, visitors learn how the MFA programme at NYU Abu Dhabi equips artists with the skills for successful careers and the scholarships available to all applicants.

NYU ABU DHABI ART GALLERY

The NYUAD Art Gallery is an intimate museum space in a university setting. Modeled on the academic museums of the US, the curatorial programme explores locally relevant and internationally significant subjects. In addition, its auxiliary venue, the Project Space is an exhibition laboratory for UAE-based artists and curators. Situated within NYU Abu Dhabi, the community of which hails from over 125 countries, the Art Gallery, the Project Space and the Art Gallery's Reading Room collectively open up artistic opportunities and initiate regional and global dialogue.

SHARJAH PERFORMING ARTS ACADEMY

Do you want to be an Actor, Singer, Dancer, Musician or Production Artist? At Sharjah Performing Arts Academy (SPAA), you will see your future on stage, screen, or behind the scenes as a creative bringing imagination to life. SPAA offers undergraduate programmes in Acting, Musical Theatre, Production Arts, Professional Dance and Music (Western and Arabic). We transform talented individuals into professional performers, designers, musicians, technicians, and stage managers—delivering world-class training in a diverse, inclusive centre of artistic excellence.



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GET TO KNOW THE ORGANISATIONS

TASHKEEL

One of the UAE's leading art and design organisations, Tashkeel returns to Creative Careers Days, ready to share its info and know-how with young creatives. Visit the stand to find out about year-round workshops, talks, membership and training, printing services and the Tashkeel Makerspace at Alserkal Avenue.

THE ARTS CENTRE AT NYU ABU DHABI

NYU Abu Dhabi's Arts Center is a vibrant performing arts hub in the heart of Abu Dhabi, fostering knowledge and inspiration in the arts. Meet the team and NYU students at the booth to learn about the performing arts, whether as an audience member, student, educator, or to explore your artistic skills. There's something for all.

THE UNIVERSITY OF WOLLONGONG

The University of Wollongong in Dubai Art Club is hosting a mini-exhibition showcasing members' works and written reflections on how art serves as their voice. An accompanying video will feature students using diverse art mediums for self-expression. Participants can engage in our string telephone game, which invites visitors to share how art is their voice through one end of the string, while another person writes or draws their response and sticks it on the word cloud wall.

ZAYED UNIVERSITY

Explore an array of dynamic courses at Zayed University College of Arts and Creative Enterprises booth: BFA Animation, BFA Graphic Design, BFA Interior Design, BFA Visual Arts and BSc Multimedia Design. Engage with our esteemed faculty, explore the curriculum, state-of-the-art facilities and discover diverse creative career opportunities in the creative economy. Gain insights into our industry partnerships, ensuring a seamless transition from education to the professional world. Uncover your passion and potential with CACE and Zayed University.



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VINYL SOUK

Vinyl Souk is the UAE's first vinyl-focused music platform and independent label, dedicated to celebrating alternative, independent and original music from the region and beyond. We create spaces where artists, collectors, and music lovers connect through records, live events and curated experiences. From vinyl releases to workshops and community initiatives, Vinyl Souk nurtures creativity, supports emerging talent and builds vibrant subcultures. Our mission is to inspire, educate and empower music enthusiasts while fostering a thriving local music ecosystem.

421 ARTS CAMPUS

421 Arts Campus is a supportive space for emerging artists based in the UAE and across the Middle East, North Africa and South Asia region. Located in Abu Dhabi's Mina Zayed, 421 presents a year-round program of exhibitions, talks, workshops, special events and educational initiatives that offer accessible learning opportunities to the wider community and the general public. Many of the 421 programs are organised in collaboration with local, regional and international partners, engaging children, students, educators, and creative professionals in a participatory approach to artistic and creative practice. These programs are designed to develop artistic and creative skills, supporting the growth of the UAE's creative ecosystem. Stop by the 421 Arts Campus booth at Jameel Arts Centre during Creative Career Days to meet the 421 team and learn more about future opportunities in the arts!