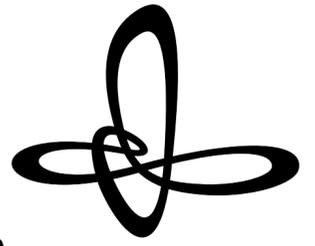


ISSUE NO. ONE



ithra

by saudi
aramco

Isolation

Artist: Tagreed Al Bagshi



ithraeyat magazine

April 2020

Welcome to Ithraeyat, a monthly Cultural Magazine produced by The King Abdulaziz Center for World Culture (Ithra). Created to **inspire minds and enrich hearts**, this Saudi inspired platform with an expansive international outlook will capture the pulse of the cultural scene by bringing together a mosaic of stories collected from across the Kingdom, the region and beyond.

Trivia: Magazine has its origins in the Arabic word makhzan, a storehouse.

And Ithraeyat magazine is a storehouse of unique cultural stories.

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Meet our ‘theme-special’ featured Saudi artist Tagreed Al-Bagshi, a pioneer in modern art.

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“I am a humanist modern art artist...”

[Click here to view her story](#)



Isolation: The First Issue.

Isolated, quarantined, uncertain, stranded: These are just some of the sentiments felt by most today. It is a unique time of 'pause,' unthinkable just a few months ago in the decade of 'too busy.'

In this launch issue, we pay homage to isolation, and the great moments of reflection, reconnection and reinvention that it has inspired so far.

This art piece, titled "That happened in the age of Corona," was completed in over a month, with the final brush strokes dabbled just a few days ago.

Tagreed Al-Bagshi is debuting this powerful piece on Ithraeyat magazine.

[Click here to view the artwork](#)

Home:

The return.



“A time for the self...” By Tagreed Al-Bagshi.

“وَاللَّهُ جَعَلَ لَكُمْ مِّنْ بُيُوتِكُمْ سَكَنًا...”

“And Allah has made for you from your homes a place of rest...”
(Quran 16:80)

In Arabic, where you live is known as ‘sakan.’ This word is derived from ‘alsakinah,’ a term that refers to tranquility and inner peace. That is how a home is described in the Quran.

And in the midst of a coronavirus crisis that has driven us all back home— for those of us fortunate enough to have a home— this essence of what a home really means is finally being revived.

[Click here to read more](#)



“Homage to nature...” By Tagreed Al-Bagshi.

The Environment: The break.

“Trees are poems that the earth writes upon the sky. We cut them down and turn them into paper that we may record our emptiness.”

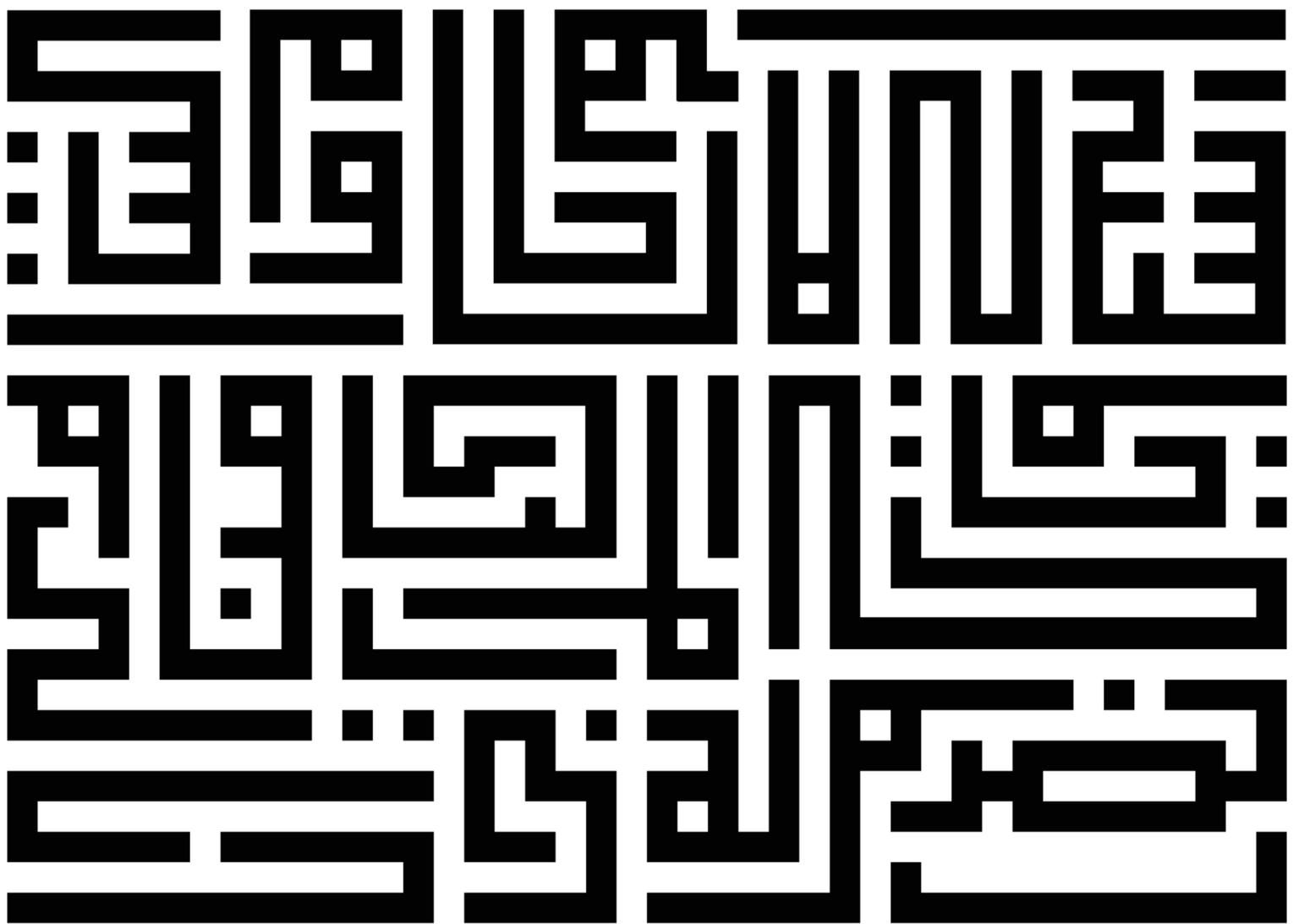
—by the 'Arab Shakespeare'
Kahlil Gibran (1931-1883)

Earth is breathing again, and the animals are back. With less air traffic, less greenhouse gas emissions following the slow-down of economic activity and the

reduction of noise pollution, mother nature is getting a much-needed break from humanity. The positive impact on air pollution across Europe and China from the lockdowns is powerfully illustrated via interactive maps posted by the European Space Agency.

[Click here to read more](#)

Arabic Treasures:



Exclusive calligraphic Kufic reinterpretation of poem. By Saudi artist [Hind Al Ghamdi](#)

“There will come to you news of one you didn't provide for, for whom you never fixed a date for meeting. The days will reveal to you what you didn't know before.”

—6th century Arabian poet Tarafa.

Interpretation: How new ideas and new stories can come to you from the most unexpected or unlikely of places.

Tarafa, (full name Tarafah ibn al-‘Abd ibn Sufyān ibn Sa‘d Abū ‘Amr al-Bakrī al-Wā’ilī), a pleasure-seeking youth, is one of the poets of the famous Al Muallaqat, the golden suspended seven odes (or hanging poems).

[Click here to read more](#)

Ithra: Curiosities.



‘The games we play.’

When in isolation, one of the best ways to pass time is through play. For hundreds of years, board games have brought people together, and continue to do so today, even when in competition against modern digital offerings.

On display in Ithra’s Islamic Arts Gallery from the LACMA's collection is this rare and exquisite 17th century Backgammon Board.

[Click here to read more](#)

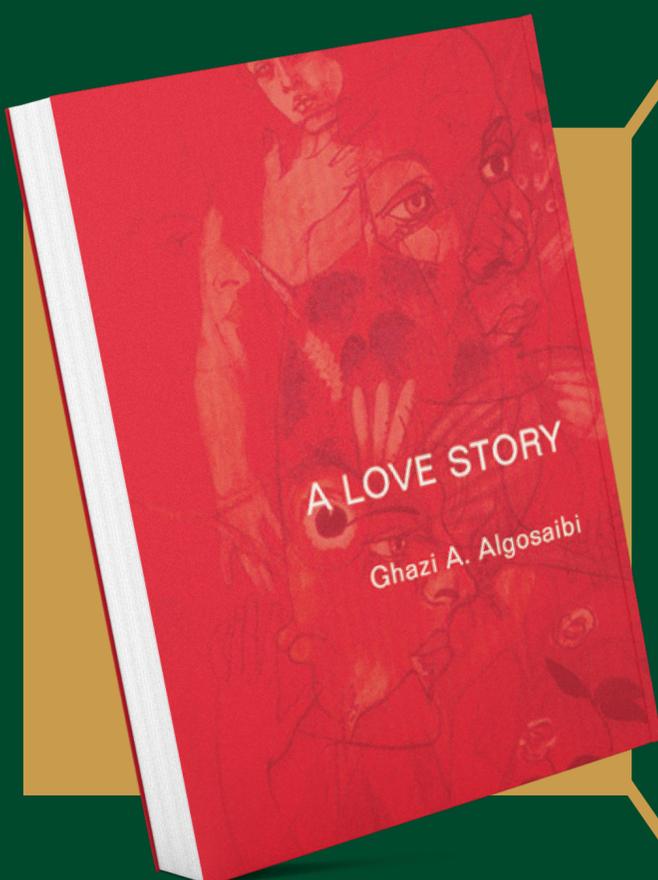
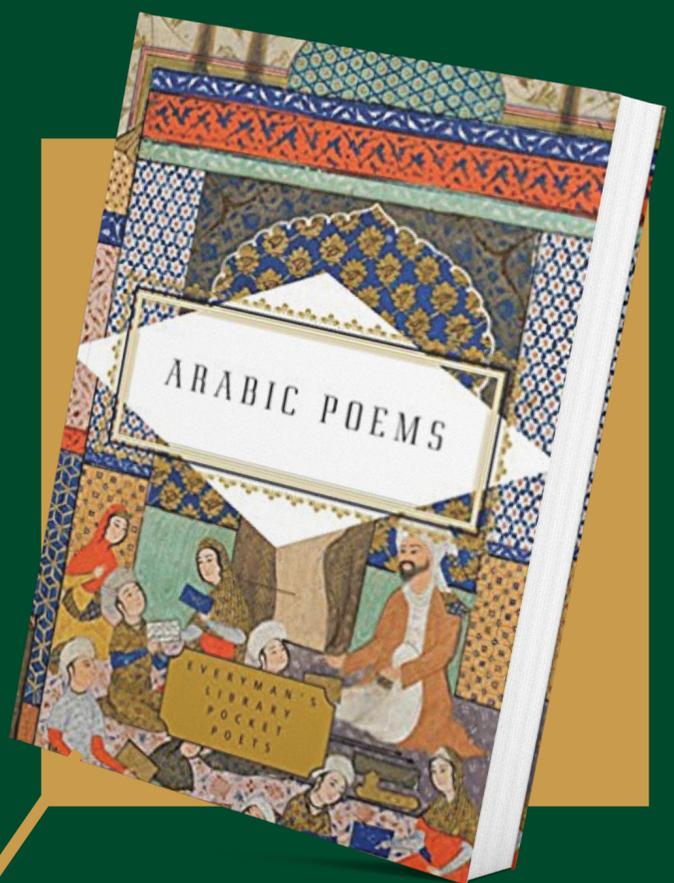
From the Library

Five books from the Arab world's award winners and literary legends to rediscover while in isolation: Nostalgic, dreamy, tragic and intriguing, there is a book here for every mood while at home.

Arabic Poems

By Marle Hammond

This is perhaps the best time to rediscover the vastness of Arabic poetry. A bilingual anthology of poems from the sixth century to the present.



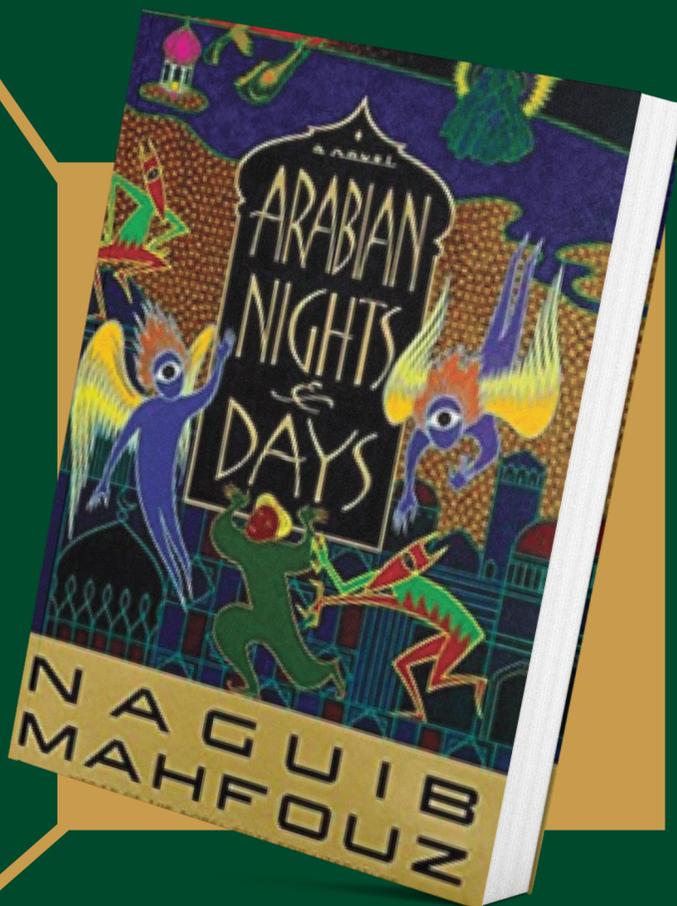
A Love Story

By Ghazi AlGosaibi

Written by one of the giants of the Saudi literary scene, this book, one of the few in English, is a poignant reflection on enduring love.

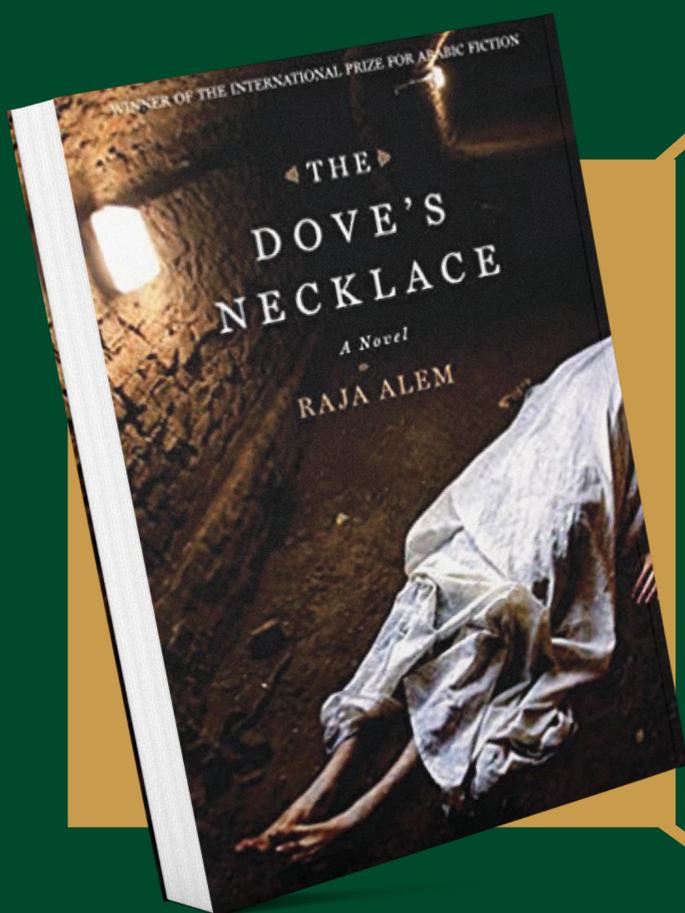
Arabian Nights and Days: A Novel
By Naguib Mahfouz

The Nobel Prize-winning Egyptian writer refashions the beloved classic tales of Scheherazade.



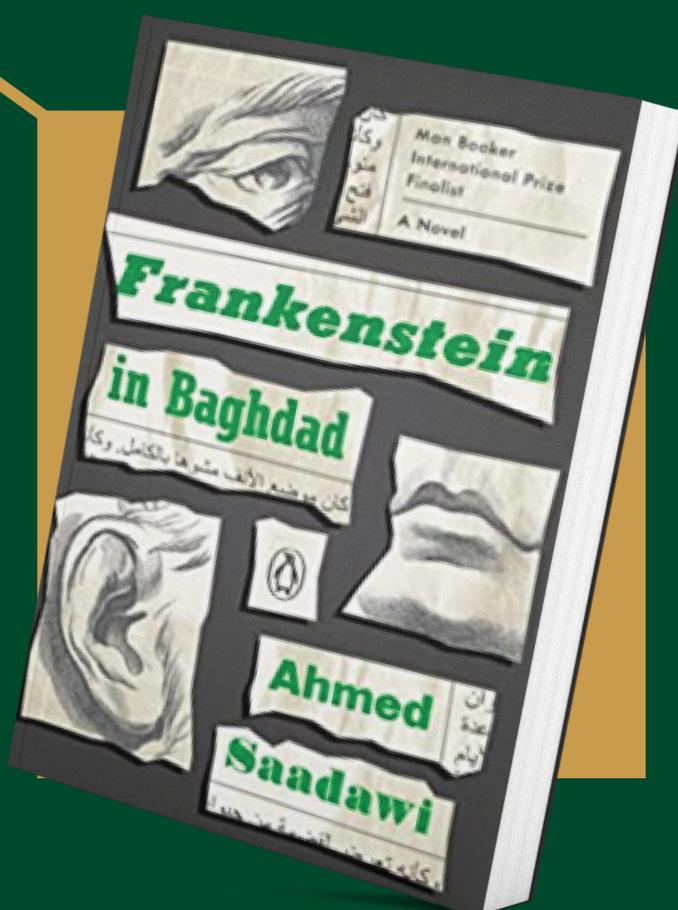
The Dove's Necklace: A Novel
By Raja'a Alem

Written by an award-winning Saudi author, discover a surreal noir-type novel that explores the secret life of Mecca.



Frankenstein in Baghdad
By Ahmed Saadawi

An award winning compelling reinvention of Mary Shelley's Frankenstein with an Iraqi twist.



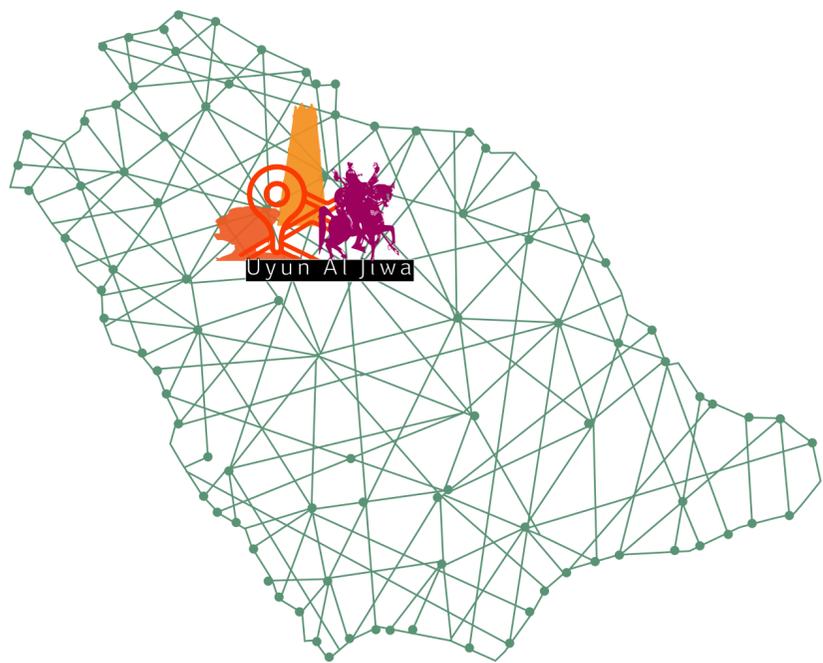
To browse through thousands of e-books and audiobooks in both Arabic and English from the comfort of your home, please visit **Ithra e-Library Membership** and start reading for free at the click of a finger.

Add to your bucket list: “The Love Rock”.



“Will fortune ever, O daughter of Malik, ever bless me with thy embrace, that would cure my heart of the sorrows of love? If my eye could see her baggage camels, and her family, I would rub my cheeks on the hoofs of her camels.....”

In the pre-Islamic love poems of Antarah Ibn Shaddad (525AD to 608AD), known as the Black Knight, one feels the anguish of this brave former slave who loves his cousin Abla, but is not allowed to be with her. He was a warrior, tough and brave, but gentle and heartbroken over his love. A rock is named after Antarah in Uyun Al Jiwa.

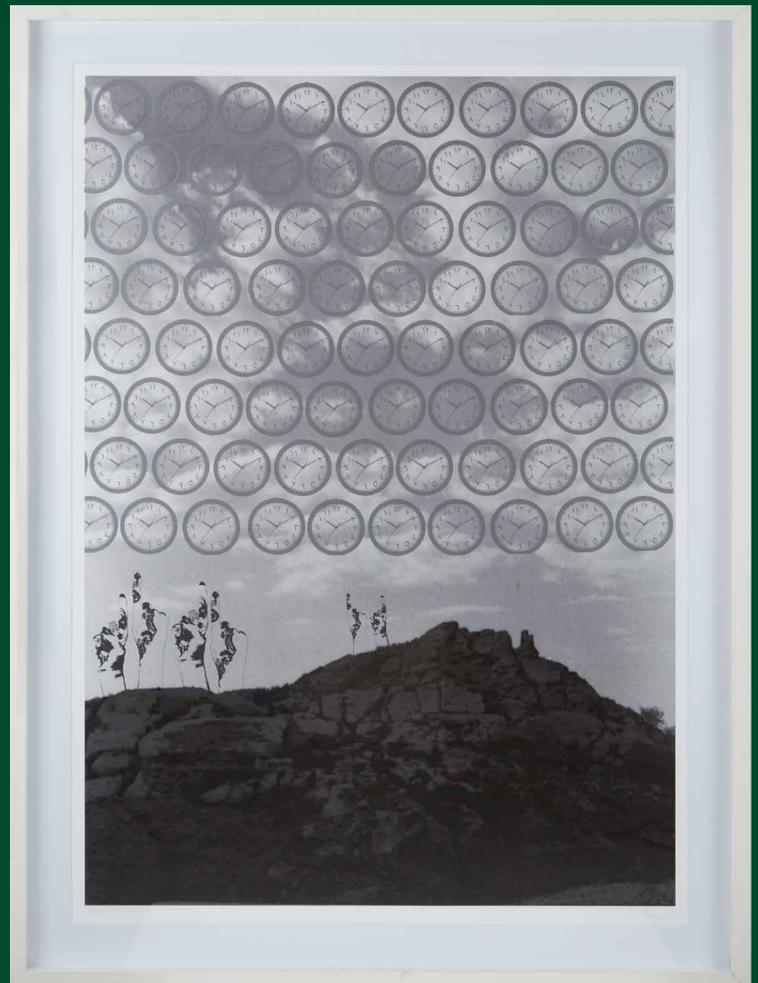


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From the Vault: Creations rediscovered.

In this issue, we take out from The Vault art creations that capture themes of Isolation.

From Saudi Arabia:
Manal Al Dowayan



From the Netherlands:
Vincent Van Gogh



[Click here to read more](#)

From the Archives:



Rarities from the Aramco Archives.

March
1963.

A lesson in cooking and health: Fatimah is reminding women to 'wash their hands' and shares cooking recipes.

From the World Wide Web:

Cultural stories to
browse through

+ Discussions in a virtual
'cultural majlis'

+ 15 Ways Bored People
Around the World Recreate
Famous Art

+ 5 tips for a happier life:
The Finnish Culture example

We look forward to sharing our 'makhzan' of
stories with you every month.

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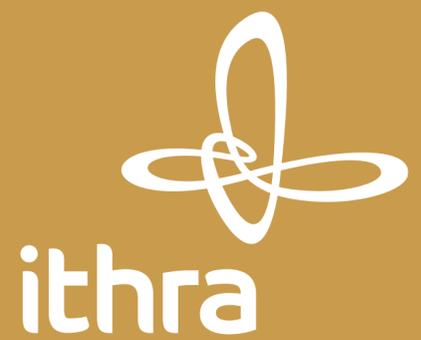
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In partnership with





To engage with Ithra's wide range of virtual programs and activities, please check **Ithra Connect**.

About Ithra

The King Abdulaziz Center for World Culture is one of Saudi Arabia's most influential cultural destination, a destination for the creatives, the curious, and the seekers of knowledge and more.

Through a compelling series of programs, performances, exhibitions, events and initiatives, Ithra creates world-class experiences across its interactive public spaces that bring together culture, innovation and knowledge that are designed to appeal to everyone.

Connecting creatives, challenging perspectives and transforming ideas, Ithra is graduating its own leaders in the cultural field.

Ithra is **Saudi Aramco's** flagship CSR initiative and the largest cultural contribution to the Kingdom.

Ithra's components include the Idea Lab, Library, Cinema, Theater, Museum, Archive, Energy Exhibit, Art Gallery, Children's Museum and Knowledge Tower.

For more information, please visit: www.ithra.com

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