

المعهد الملكي
للغنون التقليدية
The Royal Institute of
Traditional Arts



منتدى الفنون التقليدية Traditional Arts Forum



When National Capabilities Meet Traditional Arts

We sustain living heritage

📅 25 - 27 January 2026

🕒 09:00 AM - 06:00 PM

📍 King Fahad Cultural Center, Riyadh

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A decorative graphic at the top of the page featuring a stylized leaf or petal shape. Inside the leaf, there are two circular inset images: one showing a close-up of a person's hands working on a craft, and the other showing a person's face, possibly a craftsman or artisan.

About Wrth

The Royal Institute of Traditional Arts (Wrth) is a center of excellence with a vital purpose. As the leading institution for Saudi traditional arts, Wrth's mission is to safeguard time-honored techniques, encourage innovation, and cultivate national and international awareness of the Kingdom's creative expertise. Wrth is a non-profit institution that opened its doors in 2021. It offers educational and applied learning programs that inspire and empower students and artisans, advancing the Saudi crafts and arts sectors for sustainable growth. Through research, education, outreach, and preservation, Wrth encourages new generations to gain and refine essential skills, serving a pivotal role in shaping culture in the Kingdom. Wrth means "heritage." It is the power of legacy; the passing of skills and knowledge from generation to generation.



[Learn more about Wrth and its programs](#)





About the Forum

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Under the Auspices of His Highness Prince

Badr bin Abdullah bin Farhan Al Saud

The Royal Institute of Traditional Arts (Wrth) launches the Traditional Arts Forum as a specialized national knowledge-based and interactive platform held over three days. The forum explores the essence of Saudi traditional arts and their future, recognizing them as a living heritage and a fundamental pillar of national identity.

The forum focuses on integrating scientific research, cultural transfer, and interactive experiences across its core pillars, with a focus on Capacity Building and Knowledge Transfer, International Cultural Exchange, and Future Vision of Traditional Arts.

Forum Main Pillars

Capacity Building and Knowledge Transfer in Safeguarding Traditional Arts

This pillar focuses on developing the skills of practitioners in traditional arts and ensuring the transmission of artisanal knowledge across generations. This is achieved through training programs, hands-on learning, and documenting the living expertise of artisans, thereby enhancing the sustainability of traditional practices and linking them to national pathways for cultural development.

International Cultural Exchange in Traditional Arts

This pillar addresses the role of global cultural collaboration in highlighting traditional arts through comparative approaches that reveal similarities and differences between local and international experiences. It emphasizes leveraging these exchanges to foster cultural dialogue and produce contemporary creative insights and outputs.

Future Vision for the Preservation of Traditional Arts: Opportunities and Sustainability

This pillar sheds light on capacity-building efforts in safeguarding and preserving traditional arts as a core component of national cultural identity. It reconsiders mechanisms for transmitting these arts to future generations within a framework of sustainability, while also addressing contemporary challenges, as well as the roles of documentation, scientific research, innovation, and modern technologies in protecting traditional arts and strengthening their cultural presence.





Forum Objectives

Safeguard and document Saudi traditional arts and ensure their transmission to future generations.



Support academic research and strengthen scholarly efforts in the field of traditional arts.



Empower artisans and enhance their commercial presence in both local and international markets.



Engage the community through panel sessions, interactive experiences, workshops, and innovative initiatives.

Forum in numbers

3

Days of Dialogue
and Cultural
Experiences

80+

Local and
International
Speakers

15+

Participating Entities
from cultural and
academic institutions

30+

Panel Sessions and
Lectures
on Traditional Arts

12+

Research Posters
on Saudi Traditional
Arts

12+

MoUs with Local
and International
Entities



Forum spaces



Scientific
Platform



Traditional Arts
Stories



Wrth
Workshops



Wrth
Publications



King Fahad Cultural center

To ensure your comfort and ease of access, the details of parking areas and entry gate location are provided below.



- Forum Location
- Parking Areas

[For quick access to Parking Area click here](#)



[For quick access to Entrance Gate click here](#)



Shuttle buses will be available to transport you to the forum venue.

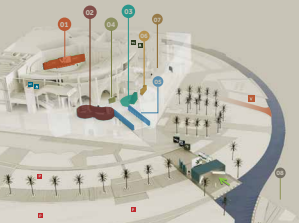
Forum Map

Forum Spaces

- | | | | |
|-----------|---------------------------------|-----------|------------------------|
| 01 | Scientific Platform | 02 | With Workshops |
| 03 | Traditional Arts Stories MoUs | 04 | With Publications |
| <hr/> | | | |
| 05 | Research Posters | 06 | Self Learning Platform |
| 07 | With Store | 08 | F&B |
| <hr/> | | | |

Public Facilities

- | | | |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|  Male Toilet |  Male Prayer Room |  Parking Area |
|  Female Toilet |  Female Prayer Room |  VIP Entrance |



Scientific Platform

A space that provides a dedicated platform for specialized dialogue and knowledge exchange on Saudi traditional arts. The Scientific Platform brings together researchers and experts to present insights based on academic research and practical experience.

🕒 09:00 AM - 06:00 PM




Scientific Platform Agenda

000 Day 1 - 25 January 2026

10:10 - 10:20	Opening Speech Dr. Sami hint Mohammad Al-Yahya, CEO of the Royal Institute of Traditional Arts (Wirth)
10:20 - 11:20	Main Theme: Opening Session Capacity Building Efforts in Safeguarding Traditional Arts and the Importance of Future Generational Transmission
11:20 - 11:40	Keynote Lecture Boundaries of Craft Knowledge between Practice, Text, and Image
12:20 - 12:25	Documentary Short Video
12:25 - 1:25	Panel Session Multidisciplinary Education as a Pathway for Capability Development in Traditional Arts
1:25 - 1:45	Lecture From Weaving to Global Reach as a Carrier of Cultural Identity
1:45 - 2:45	Panel Session The Impact of Digital Technologies on Capacity Development and the Revitalization of Traditional Arts in the Cultural Labor Market
3:15 - 3:40	Lecture Insights into Knowledge Transfer: The Jordan River Foundation Experience
3:40 - 4:40	Panel Session From Documentation to Impact: The Reality of Scientific Publishing in the Fields of Traditional Arts
4:40 - 5:00	Closing Remarks





000 Day 2 - 26 January 2026

10:00 - 10:00	Main Theme: Opening Session International Cultural Cooperation in Traditional Arts
11:00 - 11:20	Keynote Lecture The Pioneering Experience of the Kuwaiti Sadu House in UNESCO's Register of Good Safeguarding Practices
11:20 - 11:40	Lecture The International Experience of Cooperation between Politecnico di Milano and WETH
12:20 - 12:25	Documentary Short Video
12:25 - 1:25	Panel Session <i>Mirrors of Identity: Stylistic Approaches of Similarities and Differences in Global Traditional Arts and Crafts</i>
1:25 - 1:55	Lecture Capacity Building Experiences in Traditional Building: Universitat Politècnica de València, Architecture and Restoration Research Center
1:55 - 2:55	Panel Session <i>From Traditional Practice to Brand Identity: Strengthening the Local and Global Presence of Traditional Arts</i>
3:25 - 3:45	Lecture Traditional Costumes in Performing Arts: A Cultural Carrier of Identity
3:45 - 4:45	Panel Session <i>Traditional Arts in the Context of Contemporary Visual Arts</i>
4:45 - 5:00	Closing Remarks



000 Day 3 - 27 January 2026

10:00 - 11:00	Main Theme: Opening Session Future Vision for Preserving Traditional Arts
11:00 - 11:10	Keynote Lecture Rebuilding Mosul: Traditional Arts Through Construction and Restoration
11:50 - 11:55	Documentary Short Video
11:55 - 12:55	Panel Session From Silent Memory to Image in Motion: How Traditional Arts Inspire Filmmaking and Visual Imagination
12:55 - 01:15	Lecture Capacity Building Experiences in Traditional Building: Universitat Politècnica de València, Architecture and Restoration Research Center
01:15 - 02:15	Panel Session Craft Practices in the Tourism and Heritage Sector
02:50 - 03:50	Panel Session Preserving and Sustaining Traditional Arts: The Role of Local Communities in preserving Cultural Heritage
03:50 - 04:50	Panel Session Craft Collections: Preservation and Sustainability
04:50 - 05:00	Closing Remarks

Traditional Arts Stories



This space highlights Wrth's beneficiaries and provides a platform for them to share their inspiring stories drawn from the world of traditional arts, design, and entrepreneurship. These narratives demonstrate how traditional arts can evolve from manual skills into projects that carry identity, purpose, and cultural and economic values.



02:00 PM - 04:20 PM

Day 1 - 25 January 2026

02:00 - 02:20	A Creative Journey Between Art and Personal Development
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03:00 - 03:20	From Grandmother's House to UNESCO
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04:00 - 04:20	Inspiration from Roots: Saudi Culture as a Source of Contemporary Creativity
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Day 2 - 26 January 2026

02:00 - 02:20	Young Hands Restore the Soul of Vernacular Architecture
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03:00 - 03:20	Authentic Craftsmanship: Patterns Passed from Generation to Generation
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04:00 - 04:20	Crafts that Bring Cultures Together: Taking Saudi Handicrafts to the World
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Day 3 - 27 January 2026

02:00 - 02:20	Crafted with Intelligence: Dialogues on Innovation and Analytical Thinking
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03:00 - 03:20	Traditional Crafts in the Digital Generation
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04:00 - 04:20	Architecture Built by Hand and Preserved by Awareness
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Wrth Workshops

An interactive and engaging space offering hands-on workshops that bring together experts and traditional artisans and traditional artists from within the Kingdom and abroad, fostering knowledge exchange, technical exploration, and collaborative work on traditional arts within a global context.



10: 00 AM - 04: 15 PM





Participating Countries in Wrth Workshops:



South Korea

The creation of an artistic hanging inspired by traditional Saudi attire from the Western Region, blended with the traditional Korean knot technique "Nori-gae."



Italy

The creation of a leather wallet adorned with metal elements engraved with Roshan motifs from the Saudi Western Region, combined with traditional Italian patterns, using natural Italian leather.





Wrth Publications



knowledge space that produces specialized scientific content and research specialized in Saudi traditional arts, directed towards those interested, researchers, and practitioners in the field.

The printed publications of the Royal Institute of Traditional Arts (Wrth) document Saudi traditional arts and present contemporary readings that connect artistic practices with social, cultural, and economic dimensions, in support of their sustainability and development.

Wrth's publications included:

Weaving the Desert into the Traditional Narrative: The Art of Wrth in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia

One of the most prominent outcomes of traditional arts documentation projects. Published in its second edition in both Arabic and English, along with Wrth's updated limited edition.

Wrth Traditional Arts Dictionary

(Soft Launch)

A specialized linguistic reference dedicated to collecting and documenting traditional arts terminology, following a precise scientific methodology.

Entrepreneurship in Traditional Arts

A book produced by the Royal Institute of Traditional Arts (Wrth) that combines a deep appreciation of heritage with practical frameworks for establishing, managing, and developing traditional arts projects.

Research Abstracts

Shedding light on specialized studies and research in traditional arts, presented by researchers and specialists from within the Kingdom and abroad.

General Guidelines

Early arrival is recommended to ensure smooth entry and easy movement within the forum venue.



Public, easily accessible parking is available near the forum venue.



Directional signage within the venue is available to assist with navigation, and the organizers will be pleased to answer any inquiries and provide assistance when needed.



You are kindly requested to wear formal attire suited for the professional nature of the forum.



We would appreciate sharing your experience and feedback through [Wrth](#) social media.





Register Now 

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