

**STATEMENT FOLLOWING THE APPOINTMENT OF  
MANUEL RABATÉ AS THE DIRECTOR OF LOUVRE ABU DHABI  
AND HISSA AL DHAHERI AS THE DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF LOUVRE ABU DHABI**

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Abu Dhabi Tourism & Culture Authority (TCA Abu Dhabi) announced today the appointment of Manuel Rabaté, current CEO of AFM, as Director of Louvre Abu Dhabi and Hissa Al Dhaheri as Deputy Director.

On the occasion of this appointment, Audrey Azoulay, French Minister of Culture and Communication, said: *“The appointment of Manuel Rabaté and Hissa Al Dhaheri is a new and important milestone for the future Louvre Abu Dhabi museum. It reflects the excellent cooperation between France and the United Arab Emirates that is dedicated to culture in its universality. Together, these two recognized professionals will apply their experience to implement this ambitious project, in which they have been involved since the beginning.”*

Agence France-Museums (AFM), entrusted with the task of carrying through the commitments of France to the project of the universal museum of the Louvre Abu Dhabi and structuring the expertise of the French cultural institutions involved, welcomes this decision.

According to the framework defined under the intergovernmental agreement, and in agreement with the Minister of Culture and Communication and with the President-Director of the musée du Louvre, it is Marc Ladreit de Lacharrière, President of Agence France-Muséums who, on behalf of the AFM’s Board of Directors, proposed to the Emirati partner to appoint Manuel Rabaté as the Director of Louvre Abu Dhabi.

Following this announcement, Marc Ladreit de Lacharrière declared: *“Manuel Rabaté has been substantially involved in the project since 2008. By appointing him to this position, Abu Dhabi has opted for continuity and efficiency. His managerial qualities and his ability to unite the teams are what led me to appoint him as the Director General of AFM in 2013. In this position, Manuel Rabaté knew how to build a multidisciplinary team of experts in the museum sector in Abu Dhabi, and to accompany the phases of the project implementation in collaboration with the major French museums and its UAE partners. With Hissa Al Dhaheri, of whom I greet the dynamism and her involvement in the project for many years, who has been appointed as Deputy Director of Louvre Abu Dhabi, he will establish a tandem reflective of the Franco-Emirati cooperation at the heart of this project. I welcome this appointment that illustrates the key role of Agence France-Muséums and highlights the recognition of the expertise of the cultural institutions gathered within AFM.”*

Jean-Luc Martinez, President-Director of the musée du Louvre and Chairman of the Scientific Council of AFM, also welcomed the choice of this Franco-Emirati tandem at the head of the future Louvre Abu Dhabi museum: *“These two appointments fully illustrate the spirit of dialogue and openness of the project. Manuel Rabaté and Hissa Al Dhaheri have been involved in the Louvre Abu Dhabi project for a long time: they share its values with conviction and professionalism, and they have a deep and precise understanding of the stakes and objectives at the heart of the creation of the first universal museum in the Arab world. This is also the choice of trust and continuity of the French and Emirati parts to provide the Louvre Abu Dhabi with the work capacity for its future outreach.”*

A graduate of the Institut d'Etudes Politiques de Paris (Sciences Po), and of HEC business school, Manuel Rabaté began his career as Deputy Director at the auditorium of the musée du Louvre (2002-2005) where he participated among others things in the creation of new programs on Islamic Arts. He joined the musée du quai Branly as a Deputy Director of cultural development a year before its opening in 2006. After the opening, he led the launching of the first exhibitions abroad. He joined Agence France-Muséums in 2008, became Secretary General and was then appointed CEO of Agence France-Museums in 2013 under the proposal of the Chairman of the Board of Directors, Marc Ladreit de Lacharrière, to set up in Abu Dhabi a multidisciplinary team of museum professionals. Aside from his duties in the service of museums, Manuel Rabaté has also chaired the reflection group-Culture & Management, in which he had created the museum department. He also taught Arts and Cultural Management at various universities in France and Abu Dhabi (Paris-Dauphine University, Paris-Sorbonne University Abu Dhabi since the establishment of the Master in "History of Art and Museum Studies").

Hissa Al Dhaheri, a UAE national, holds a BA in International Studies from Zayed University and an MA in Gulf Studies from Exeter University, UK. Prior to joining the Louvre Abu Dhabi team, she lectured global studies courses at Zayed University, Abu Dhabi. Her journey at Louvre Abu Dhabi began working on developing the human capital for the Saadiyat Cultural District Museums, introducing the Museum Scholarship Programme for Emiratis. Today, she is managing the relationship with the French partners to oversee and implement the multifaceted museum. She has continuously represented the project and participated at international conferences, including the Thinkers and Doers Conference at the Arab World Institute in Paris and the New York Times Art for Tomorrow Conference in Doha.

Pictures on demand

### **About Agence France-Muséums (AFM)**

Chaired since its creation by Marc Ladreit de Lacharrière, UNESCO Goodwill Ambassador, it brings together the Louvre Abu Dhabi partner institutions: the musée du Louvre, the Centre Pompidou, the musée d'Orsay and musée de l'Orangerie, the Bibliothèque nationale de France, the musée du quai Branly, the Réunion des Musées Nationaux et du Grand Palais (RMNGP), the Château de Versailles, the musée national des arts asiatiques-Guimet, the musée de Cluny, the École du Louvre, the musée Rodin, the Domaine National de Chambord, the musée des Arts Décoratifs de Paris, the Cité de la Céramique – Sèvres & Limoges, the musée d'Archéologie nationale – Saint-Germain en Laye, the Château de Fontainebleau, and OPPIC (Opérateur du patrimoine et des projets immobiliers de la culture). Jean-Luc Martinez chairs the Scientific Council of AFM. Manuel Rabaté has been the CEO of the AFM since 2013.

Agence France-Muséums is committed to accomplishing with success the Louvre Abu Dhabi project, in partnership with the French institutions. AFM has been entrusted with the task of carrying through the commitments of France to the project of the universal museum of the Louvre Abu Dhabi, and of structuring the expertise of the French cultural institutions involved. It provides 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 organization of temporary exhibitions, guidance with the creation of a permanent collection, and support with the museum's policy on visitors.

### **About Louvre Abu Dhabi**

Louvre Abu Dhabi will be a universal museum on Saadiyat Island that translates the exchange of cultures through art works from ancient to contemporary times. Designed by architect Jean Nouvel, the museum represents an Arab madina (city) with its 23 permanent galleries, temporary exhibition space, Children's Museum, auditorium, restaurants, retail and a research centre. Visitors will be able to walk the promenades beneath the museum's iconic dome and overlooking the sea, experiencing the museum's enchanting 'rain of light' inspired by the shadows of overlapping palm trees in the UAE's precious oases where travellers once crossed paths.

Art works displayed originate from civilisations all over the world highlighting universal themes and similar influences (rather than segregated by civilisations like in most Western museums) such as the portrayal of power by rulers, representing the divine, exploring unknown lands and the dawn of globalisation. Louvre Abu Dhabi has acquired more than 600 objects to date including series and collections, some of which will be exhibited with 300 loaned works from 13 leading French institutions.

Born of an intergovernmental agreement between the Government of Abu Dhabi and France in 2007, the name of Louvre is loaned for a period of 30 years, art works from French institutions for 10 years on a decreasing basis as the permanent collection grows and the programming of temporary exhibitions for 15 years. The construction of Louvre Abu Dhabi building is in its final stages. The building will then enter an important preparation phase, essential for a museum of this magnitude that includes testing, art installation and

development of the visitor experience ahead of the official opening. Louvre Abu Dhabi will welcome visitors in 2017 and its opening date will be announced soon.

### **About Abu Dhabi Tourism & Culture Authority**

Abu Dhabi Tourism & Culture Authority (TCA Abu Dhabi) 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 Authority drives 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 programmes relate to the preservation of heritage and culture, including protecting archaeological and historical sites and to developing museums, including the Louvre Abu Dhabi, Zayed National Museum and Guggenheim Abu Dhabi. TCA 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 the Louvre**

The Louvre in Paris opened in 1793, after the French Revolution, and from the very beginning was intended to provide inspiration for contemporary art. Courbet, Picasso, Dali 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. Designed in 1793 as a universal museum, its collections, among the best in the world, span many millennia and miles, from the Americas to Asia. Over 35,000 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 over 8.3 million visitors, the Louvre ranked as the world's most visited museum in 2015.

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