



Pleasure assets Art Events Artists

## Noor Riyadh Festival, the light of art illuminates the nights of Arabia

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*The Noor Riyadh Festival lights up the capital of Saudi Arabia. An exhibition that involved over 100 artists with 120 works of art characterized by light, among the Italians the artist Marinella Senatore*



The third edition of the Noor Riyadh Festival has just ended , **the largest festival in the world dedicated exclusively to "luminous" contemporary art** which took place in the Saudi capital transforming several public areas into spectacular open-air galleries.

**An ode to light, a fundamental element and protagonist of the festival around which many researches and works have developed over time in different fields** , starting from the artistic field (in which **Lucio Fontana** was a precursor in the use of neon followed by **Mario Merz** and **Bruce Nauman** to name a few), later contaminating the world of **design** as for example with the use of neon in the iconic *Ultrafragola* mirror by **Ettore Sottsass** or the use of this medium in the more contemporary works of designer **Sabine Marcelis** .

### The Noor Riyadh Festival

The festival lasted 17 days and offered the public wide-ranging works of art, such as ephemeral sculptures, urban projections and site-specific immersive installations, in five key points of the city , the King Abdullah Financial District (KAFD) , the JAX District, Wadi Hanifa, Salam Park and Wadi Namar.

The exhibition presented more than 120 works by over 100 local and international artists, including Italian artists such as **Marinella Senatore**, a renowned multidisciplinary artist who combines aesthetic research with the transformative power of social commitment who presented the work *We Rise by Lifting here Others* , an immense, colorful light structure incorporating Arabic script and southern Italian designs; the work therefore adapts to the surrounding environment to encourage contact with the public.

*Solenoglyphous CC* is the title of the work presented by **Dana-Fiona Armour** , an artist who blends medicine, science and art in her works, often collaborating with researchers and doctors. On this occasion, Dana-Fiona Armour brings an installation that creates a dystopian landscape where glass sculptures emerge from the sand inspired by the fangs of *Cerastes Cerastes*, a species of snake native to the deserts of Saudi Arabia. Like a mirage, these strange half-reptile, half-vegetable sculptures attract visitors thanks to the light that reflects on their surface during the day and emerges from inside at night. Invoking the figure of the serpent, Dana-Fiona Armour echoes the numerous cosmogonies in which the creature steals the sun or moon.



Dana-Fiona Armour, *Solenoglyphous CC*, 2023, courtesy the artist and havas