

***Nuit Blanche returns to the Aga Khan Museum, Aga Khan Park, and Ismaili Centre, Toronto for “Collective Effervescence” — a celebration of contemporary art, all night long***

***Celebrate Nuit Blanche Toronto with an immersive installation by Meera Sethi, a striking installation by Zahra Saleki, and captivating dance and music performances by local artists from all over the city***

TORONTO, Canada – October 2022. From sunset on October 1 until sunrise on October 2, 2022, performers from all over Toronto will fill the Museum with music and dance for Nuit Blanche, the City of Toronto’s annual all-night celebration of contemporary art. Meera Sethi’s contemplative installation will be featured in the Aga Khan Park while Zahra Saleki’s impactful piece will take over the Museum’s lower-level entrance tunnel.

Using a series of mesmerizing photographs, Zahra Saleki’s installation, *I will stay there, even if in pieces* will showcase the ways in which the plight of displaced people brings communities together in hopes of providing them with support. The immersive installation places viewers at the centre of poetic imagery inspired by journalistic photographs of asylum seekers from all over the world.

Meera Sethi’s *Colour of the Year* will transform the reflective pools in the Aga Khan Park into a contemplative installation that invites visitors to consider the impact and materiality of colour as it interacts with wind, water, and spirit. The installation addresses the negative effects that industrial fast fashion factories have on the environment and the communities that depend on the nearby lakes and rivers.

Local artists will bring the Museum to life with music and dance throughout the evening, with a roster of special performances in the Auditorium by the Little Pear Garden Dance Company, Indo-Canadian artist, musician, and writer, Bageshree Vaze, and sitar performer, Indrajit Banerjee accompanied by Hindole Majumdar — presented in partnership with Raag Mala Toronto.

At the Ismaili Centre, Toronto, visitors will have the opportunity to enjoy a Kathak dance performance by Rashmi Mishra, a performance of Sufi music by the Moneka Family, and experience a Sufi Sama with Rumi Canada.

“The Museum’s theme, “Collective Effervescence” is focused on bringing people together to share music, dance, and art in the community,” says Amirali Alibhai, the Head of Performing Arts at the Aga Khan Museum. “With the Museum focusing on classical and contemporary art, the Ismaili Centre, Toronto tapping into the spiritual expressions of creativity, and Meera Sethi’s transformation of the Aga Khan Park into a commentary on environmental impact, the evening explores the ties between art, spirituality, and nature to create multiple experiences.”

“We are delighted post-pandemic to once again be hosting Nuit Blanche at the Aga Khan Museum alongside the Aga Khan Park and Ismaili Centre, Toronto. After two years of distance, separation, and isolation, we are particularly excited to partner with the City of Toronto to act as a platform for arts and creativity, human connection, and transformative encounters” says the Museum’s Director and CEO, Dr. Ulrike Al-Khamis. “Nuit Blanche’s timely curatorial theme, “The Space Between Us” chimes well with our mission to bridge cultures through the arts — and the programming and artistic interventions presented throughout the night

will allow us to showcase some of the creative, thought-provoking, and energizing ways in which the Museum fosters coming together beyond differences.”

Between celebrating contemporary art, exploring the Museum’s Collections Gallery, and enjoying a variety of lively performances, visitors will be able to sit down for a quick meal at the Courtyard Café, dinner service at the Museum’s decadent restaurant, Diwan, or pick up a delicious evening snack at their outdoor food pop-up.

### **About the Aga Khan Museum**

The Aga Khan Museum in Toronto, Canada, has been established and developed by the Aga Khan Trust for Culture (AKTC), which is an agency of the Aga Khan Development Network (AKDN). The Museum’s mission is to foster a greater understanding and appreciation of the contribution that Muslim civilizations have made to world heritage while often reflecting, through both its permanent and temporary exhibitions, how cultures connect with one another. Designed by architect Fumihiko Maki, the Museum shares a 6.8-hectare site with Toronto’s Ismaili Centre, which was designed by architect Charles Correa. The surrounding landscaped park was designed by landscape architect Vladimir Djurovic.

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### **FOR PRESS INQUIRIES, PLEASE CONTACT:**

**Olena Gisys, Porter Novelli**  
[olena.gisys@porternovelli.com](mailto:olena.gisys@porternovelli.com)  
416.839.8227

**Kelly Frances, Marketing and Communications**  
Director, Aga Khan Museum  
[press@agakhanmuseum.org](mailto:press@agakhanmuseum.org)  
416.858.8735