

# مهرجان رام الله للفنون المعاصرة

Ramallah Contemporary Arts Festival

05 -16 JULY 2026



## Press Release

### Sareyyet Ramallah Launches the Ramallah Contemporary Arts Festival 2026 Under the Theme "We Carry On" - (Mkamleen)

5-16 July

Ramallah – Palestine

Sareyyet Ramallah is pleased to announce the launch of the Ramallah Contemporary Arts Festival 2026, held under the theme "We Carry On" (Mkamleen), marking a long-awaited return after a two-year forced interruption caused by the genocide against our people in Gaza and its profound impact on Palestinian cultural and artistic life.

This year's edition represents a pivotal milestone in the festival's journey since 2006. It returns with a renewed identity and a broader vision through its transformation from the Ramallah Contemporary Dance Festival into the Ramallah Contemporary Arts Festival. This shift reflects the evolution and expansion of the festival while remaining rooted in the values and foundations upon which it was established twenty years ago.

Over the course of seventeen consecutive editions, the festival has established itself as one of the leading platforms for contemporary arts in Palestine and the region. It has welcomed hundreds of artists and performing companies from Palestine and around the world, contributing to the development of a vibrant cultural landscape based on creativity, dialogue, and cultural exchange.

The theme of this edition, "We Carry On, (Mkamleen)" affirms the organizers' belief in the continuity of Palestinian cultural action despite immense challenges, and in the power of art to create hope and rebuild shared spaces for dialogue, expression, and human connection. For Palestinians, culture is not a luxury but a social and national necessity; art is not a marginal aspect of life but one of the ways through which life endures and resists.

In this spirit, the festival opens its doors this year to a broader spectrum of contemporary artistic practices, bringing together dance, theatre, circus, video art, and installation art, alongside specialized workshops and the Palestine Arts Forum, creating a comprehensive platform for artists, audiences, and cultural professionals alike.

This edition takes place amid the exceptional circumstances experienced by the Palestinian people in recent years and the direct consequences these have had on the cultural sector and artistic institutions. Despite these challenges, Sareyyet Ramallah has continued to fulfill its social, cultural, and national role by implementing a range of humanitarian and community-based initiatives in support of the resilience of our people, while also maintaining its commitment to artistic production and providing creative spaces for artists.

Preparations for this edition began in October 2025 through an open call for artists and artistic companies from Palestine and around the world, resulting in 135 applications. Despite the political and logistical challenges that accompanied the organization

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مئويتنا حكاية بلد  
Our 100 Year; Our Nation's Story

مكملهين

process, efforts continued until a comprehensive artistic program was assembled, bringing together 48 artists, artistic companies, theatre and festival directors, and cultural programmers from Palestine and across the globe.

The festival program features 10 dance performances, 9 theatre performances, 2 circus performances, 7 video art works, one installation artwork, a photography exhibition, and three specialized workshops focusing on Screen Dance production, Internationalisation of Palestinian Performing Artists, and a contemporary dance workshop.

The festival also organizes the Palestine Arts Forum, hosting a distinguished group of festival directors, theatre managers, and cultural programmers from different countries. The forum aims to introduce Palestinian artists and artistic companies and their creative projects, while exploring future opportunities for collaboration, co-production, and cultural exchange.

This year's festival gains additional significance as Sareyyet Ramallah approaches its centennial celebration in 2027 under the slogan "Our 100 Year; Our Nation's Story". Over the course of a century, Sareyyet Ramallah has become one of Palestine's leading national and cultural institutions, nurturing generations of artists, cultural practitioners, athletes, and scouts, and establishing itself as a vital space for creativity and community engagement.

Through this festival, Sareyyet Ramallah continues its commitment to supporting Palestinian artists and empowering them to develop their work and reach wider audiences locally and internationally, thereby strengthening Palestine's cultural presence on the global stage and contributing to the development of the Palestinian cultural sector.

Sareyyet Ramallah extends its sincere gratitude to all partners and supporters who contributed to making this edition possible, particularly Ramallah Municipality, Arab Fund for Arts and Culture (AFAC), European Union, British Council, Consulate General of France in Jerusalem, Consulate General of Belgium in Jerusalem, A. M. Qattan Foundation, Muna and Basem Hishmeh Foundation, Ramallah Federation, National Beverage Company, Spanish Agency For Cooperation and Development (AECID), The French National Office for Contemporary Performing Arts Dissemination (ONDA), Downtown Contemporary Arts Festival (D-CAF) – Egypt, Belfast International Arts Festival – Northern Ireland, and all media partners who continue to support the Palestinian cultural scene.

**We Carry On (Mkamleen) ... Because What We Have Built Deserves to Continue.**

**We Carry On (Mkamleen) ... Because Palestinian Art Deserves Greater Space to be Seen, Heard, and Flourish.**

