

# ARTTABLE



## **Modern Mirage**

### **Women & Contemporary Art in Marrakech, Morocco**

A Journey Through the Canvas of Innovation and Tradition

with Jessica L. Porter, Lila Harnett Executive Director of ArtTable

**October 19 – 26, 2024**



## TRIP HIGHLIGHTS

**INSPIRE** yourself on a six-night, behind-the-scenes ArtTable experience in Marrakech, where we will exclusively meet some of Morocco's leading female artists, chefs, artisans, and entrepreneurs

**TRAVEL** with exclusively female and/or non-binary tour directors and guides for a unique perspective on Moroccan art, culture, history, and cuisine

**ENJOY** behind-the-scenes access to the Majorelle Garden and Yves Saint Laurent Museum, exploring the enduring legacy of YSL in his adopted city

**SAVOR** by-invitation-only access to the hidden treasures of a privately curated art collection nestled in the heart of Marrakech

**DIVE** into Marrakech's evolving art scene guided by a local art connoisseur, exploring prestigious art museums and contemporary galleries with opportunities to acquire artworks and designs

**SHARE** an intimate private lunch with a Berber family in the Atlas Mountains, immersing yourself in the warmth of Moroccan traditions and hospitality

**DISCOVER** the historic Marrakech *souks* with an expert guide, where an array of traditional crafts offers a unique shopping and cultural experience in the heart of the Medina

**DINE** in exquisite settings, including a private farewell dinner under the stars at an oasis in the Agafay Desert, accompanied by an unforgettable performance of traditional dance

## TRAVELING WITH YOU



**Jessica L. Porter** is the Lila Harnett Executive Director of ArtTable, a leading organization supporting women and non-binary professionals in the visual arts. Previously, she was the Executive Director of the New York Artists Equity Association and Equity Gallery and owned Porter Contemporary and Porter Advisory in Chelsea, New York. With a background in law and art dealing, Porter has been a voice in discussions on topics like

gender parity, pay equity, and diversity in the art world, and she played a key role in ArtTable's Pay Equity Project and expanding its Fellowship program. She is also a board member of the Women's Forum of New York and an advisory board member for the Girl Scouts of Greater New York. Porter holds a B.A. in Art History and French Language and Literature from the University of Delaware and a J.D. from the University of Maryland.



# ARTTABLE

Dear ArtTable Members and Friends,

In October 2024, let's set forth on a once-in-a-lifetime adventure to Marrakech, Morocco's legendary "Red City." Here, trailblazing female artists, from potters to abstract painters, have married millennia of tradition with contemporary innovation. On this exclusive six-night journey guided exclusively by women and non-binary experts, we'll go behind the scenes in Marrakech's renowned art galleries. We'll encounter talented female artisans who will inspire us with their unforgettable stories, with opportunities to purchase and support these women's creative work.

We'll begin with a behind-the-scenes look at the legacy of Yves Saint Laurent and his partner Pierre Bergé, who adopted Marrakech as their home. Embark on a privately guided tour of the Majorelle Garden, a botanical sanctuary lovingly restored by the couple, featuring a behind-the-scenes look at its striking cobalt-blue villa. Additionally, we'll chart Yves Saint Laurent's significant impact on women's style during an expert-guided tour of his adjacent museum.

Over the following days, we'll experience an exclusive immersion in Marrakech's art and cultural scenes through the eyes of women. From exploring the UNESCO-recognized Jemaa el-Fnaa Square to private tours of cutting-edge galleries and Artisan's Quarter in Marrakech's historic Medina, our private guides will unveil the city's dynamic fusion of tradition and artistry. Most importantly, we'll witness firsthand how gifted female artisans are preserving the city's living heritage. The itinerary also includes a special excursion to the snow-capped Atlas Mountains, where you'll engage with local artisans and share an intimate meal with a Berber family amid the region's natural beauty.

The trip culminates in a series of uniquely curated experiences, including a Moroccan cooking class focusing on the traditional use of spices and a rejuvenating *hammam* spa treatment. On the final evening, we'll venture to the Agafay Desert and an oasis under the stars for a festive private farewell dinner accompanied by a traditional dance performance. An optional postlude featuring an exclusive, three-night luxury glamping experience in the Agafay Desert is offered.

Relax with exquisite six-night accommodations at the Mövenpick Hotel Mansour Eddahbi. Please join me as we take inspiration from Marrakech's vibrant community of female creators on this unforgettable, behind-the-scenes exploration in Morocco.

Sincerely,



Jessica L. Porter (she/her)  
Lila Harnett Executive Director, ArtTable



# Modern Mirage

## Women & Contemporary Art in Marrakech, Morocco

### A Journey Through the Canvas of Innovation and Tradition

October 19 – 26, 2024



Majorelle Gardens, Marrakech

Discover the creative legacy of Yves Saint Laurent at his adjacent museum, which displays over four decades of his contributions to women's fashion. With rotating themed exhibits, the museum features a terracotta brick façade and interiors that highlight Saint Laurent's designs.

After lunch, delve into the city's *souks* (bazaars) for a guided tour of the traditional markets. Here, you'll find everything from food to handcrafted jewelry and goods like spices or brassware, all within the historical Medina—a UNESCO-listed marketplace founded in the 11th century.

The day continues with a private tour of Jemaa el-Fnaa Square, a UNESCO-recognized cultural hub brimming with storytellers, snake-charmers, entertainers, and hawkers serving sumptuous dishes at food stalls. Conclude your evening with dinner under the sparkling chandeliers of Dar Moha (*or similar*), a restaurant set in a 19th-century *riad*, which is a traditional Moroccan house built around an interior garden.

B,L,D

#### SATURDAY, OCTOBER 19: DEPARTURE

Depart for Marrakech on an overnight flight.

#### SUNDAY, OCTOBER 20: MARRAKECH, MOROCCO

Upon arriving in Marrakech, enjoy the convenience of a VIP fast-track service for a swift, easy entry into the city. For those considering art purchases, dedicated VAT refund assistance will be available to ensure a smooth transaction. Your journey continues with a transfer to your carefully chosen hotel, a haven of tranquility amid the bustling city. After checking in, you can settle into your comfortable accommodations, ready to embark on an exploration of Morocco's diverse artistic scene. As the sun sets, gather for a warm welcome reception featuring an array of delicious *canapés* and thoughtfully prepared cocktails.

R

#### MONDAY, OCTOBER 21: MARRAKECH

Follow in the footsteps of fashion designer Yves Saint Laurent and his partner Pierre Bergé, who adopted Marrakech as their home, enamored by its beauty, vivid colors, cultural richness, and artistic legacy. Begin your day with a private tour of the Majorelle Garden and the Yves Saint Laurent Museum, a captivating blend of nature and artistry. Saint Laurent and Pierre Bergé acquired the Majorelle Garden, created by Jacques Majorelle in the 1920s, as a labor of love, rescuing it from demolition. Admire its collection of 300 plant species around a cobalt-blue, Moorish-style villa.

Yves Saint Laurent Museum, Marrakech, photo by Brynn Hyland







Marrakech Medina

### **TUESDAY, OCTOBER 22: MARRAKECH**

Today will be devoted to exploring the Artisan's Quarter in Marrakech's Medina. This area celebrates Morocco's rich heritage of craftsmanship, featuring skilled artisans such as leatherworkers, metalsmiths, and potters. The Ensemble Artisanal, a government-supported showcase, allows visitors to admire and purchase authentic Moroccan crafts. After exploring these traditional arts, enjoy a lunch that blends classic and modern flavors in the heart of the Medina. Your afternoon will be filled with shopping as you explore the Medina's winding alleys lined with textiles, ceramics, and metalwork. The day concludes with a rooftop dinner in the Medina, offering a panoramic view of Marrakech at sunset.

B,L,D

### **WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 23: MARRAKECH / ATLAS MOUNTAINS**

Your day begins with a journey to the Atlas Mountains, where you'll meet local artisans in pottery and carpet collectives. These women are known for their beautiful rug weaving and pottery, traditions handed down through generations and essential to the cultural fabric of Morocco.

Then gather for lunch with a Berber family, experiencing the genuine warmth of Moroccan hospitality. An afternoon at leisure is yours to enjoy back in Marrakech, where you can either meander through the Medina or relax at your hotel. The day concludes with dinner at a modern Moroccan restaurant, perfectly rounding off a day filled with new experiences and scenic beauty.

B,L,D

### **THURSDAY, OCTOBER 24: MARRAKECH**

Accompanied by an expert local art guide, visit renowned art museums and cutting-edge galleries, gaining profound insights into Morocco's ongoing artistic evolution. For lunch, head to the New Quarter, where a group meal reflecting Marrakech's fusion of traditional and contemporary flavors awaits you. This afternoon, go behind the scenes in prominent art galleries and the city's emerging design district, where you'll have a chance to discover innovative artworks and designs. As evening approaches, enjoy dinner at leisure with some time to relax or continue your exploration of the city.

B,L



Atlas Mountains

### **FRIDAY, OCTOBER 25: MARRAKECH / AGAFAY DESERT**

Start your day with a hands-on Moroccan cooking class, where you'll master the use of spices central to the country's flavorful dishes. Learn about the importance and benefits of spices like cumin, black pepper, ginger, turmeric, saffron, paprika, and cinnamon. Afterwards, unwind with a rejuvenating traditional *hammam* spa treatment.

Enjoy lunch at a picturesque *riad* before your evening excursion to the rugged yet serene Agafay Desert about 18 miles south of Marrakech. In a private oasis, you'll savor a special farewell dinner complemented by a traditional dance performance under the stars. End the day with a return to Marrakech and your hotel.

B,L,D

### **SUNDAY, OCTOBER 26: MARRAKECH / RETURN**

Depart the hotel early this morning and transfer to the airport for the flight home.

B

**An optional postlude is offered to Morocco's Agafay Desert from October 26–29, 2024.**

*This itinerary is subject to change at the discretion of ArtTable and Arrangements Abroad. For complete details, please carefully read the terms and conditions at [www.arrangementsabroad.com/terms](http://www.arrangementsabroad.com/terms).*

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## ACCOMMODATIONS



Mövenpick Hotel Mansour Eddahabi Marrakech

### MÖVENPICK HOTEL MANSOUR EDDAHBI MARRAKECH

Discover this inviting sanctuary, which combines timeless Moroccan architecture with sophisticated modern comforts. Each room and suite is a masterpiece of design, offering comfort with breathtaking views of either Marrakech's colorful cityscape or the hotel's serene gardens. Dive into a world of culinary delights at the hotel's various eateries, where the flavors of Morocco meet the finest international cuisine. Step outside to luxuriate in lush gardens, an inviting pool, and a spa that promises ultimate relaxation.

### PROGRAM RATE

**\$8,999 per person, double rate**

**\$9,999 single rate**

### RATE INCLUDES

- Six nights hotel accommodations as per itinerary
- Meals as indicated in the itinerary (B=Breakfast, L=Lunch, R=Reception, D=Dinner). Bottled water, soft drinks, juices, and coffee/tea with all meals
- Enrichment program of lectures and talks
- Airport/hotel/airport transfers for all participants on suggested flights
- Escorted sightseeing, transportation, and entrance fees for all included visits
- Taxes, service, and portage charges; gratuities to local guides and drivers

**NOT INCLUDED IN RATE** International airfare; passport/visa fees; meals not specified; alcoholic beverages; personal items and expenses; airport transfers other than for those on suggested flights; excess baggage; trip insurance; optional Agafay Desert postlude; any other items not specifically mentioned as included.

