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## Sound artist from Qatar says it's time to slow down and listen



Emma Poole • 2 weeks ago 🔥 17 ━ 2 minutes read



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**Birdsong, insects chirping, wind noise over sand dunes – all this is part of what the Qatar-based Frenchman Guillaume Rousere calls his “sound art”.**

Karim JAAFAR

text size

In a noisy, chaotic and fast-paced world, Qatar-based sound artist Guillaume Rousere has a mission: to get people to slow down and listen again.

The chirping of birds, the chirping of insects, the sound of wind sweeping through tall grass or over sand dunes – all of this is part of what the 44-year-old Frenchman calls his “sound art”.



لإعلان

تسري العروض حتى ٤ أكتوبر ٢٠٢٣

World Cup.

For a recent audio project, he set up a microphone on an organic farm in Qatar, where he also recorded artificial sounds such as those from cars, airplanes and agricultural machinery.

"I walk around the site I want to explore and let my ears guide me when I hear something that draws me in," he said, adding that it's often "a matter of luck."

**Rousere says his art should not be confused with music, which consists of "organized sounds". For a current audio project, he set up his microphone on an organic farm**

Anne LEVASSEUR

"I'll put the mic up and go," Rousere told AFP. "I won't listen to it until I'm back in my studio."

His sound artwork is "not to be confused with music" made up of "organized sounds," stressed Rousere, who explained that his passion began in his childhood when he popped balloons to study the sounds they made in different environments made.

His new water-themed installation, The World As We Know It Is Changing, aims to "take audiences on a journey to listen and disconnect from the world," Rousere told AFP.

"This has become even more important to me because ... we live in fast-paced societies that have stopped listening."

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At Mathaf, a modern art museum in Doha's Education City campus, visitors sit in a darkened room surrounded by four speakers for their "deep listening" experience.

You soon find yourself immersed in an ever-changing soundscape featuring flowing river water and the noise of human activity, but also narrated memories linked to water in different languages when related images are projected onto the wall.

A previous installation, Fragile Resilience, inspired by the sails of dhows cruising the Arabian Seas, was shown at UNESCO's Paris headquarters at an event organized by a Qatari foundation.

**Rousere says the upcoming World Cup has given an extra boost to the art scene in Qatar, where he has lived for the past nine years**

Karim JAAFAR

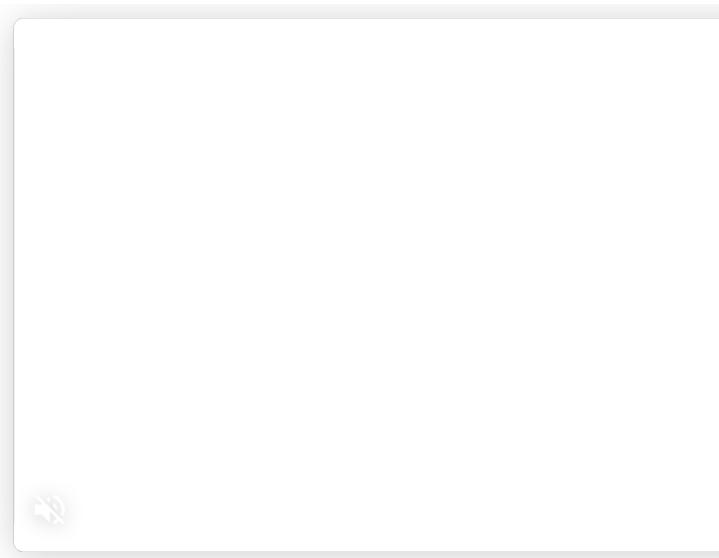
Rousere, who has directed musicians in the UK and studied sound art in Belgium, has lived in Qatar for the past nine years and has been a resident artist at contemporary art space Fire Station.

His sculpture "Allow Me" – this one made of stone – is on display at the Msheireb subway station in downtown Doha.

The World Cup, which begins on November 20, has given the local arts scene an extra boost, he told AFP news agency.

"I think there was already a lot of momentum, but everyone recognized that there was an international opportunity for visibility."

Source : [www.barrons.com](http://www.barrons.com)



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