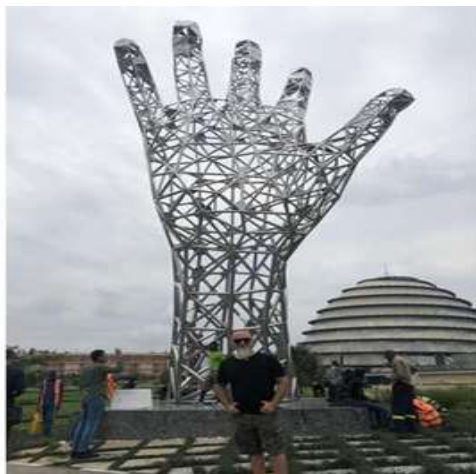


## Sculpture that represents Amir's vision to fight corruption

December 09 2019 01:36 AM



The newly designed artwork for the Sheikh Tamim Bin Hamad Al Thani International Anti-Corruption Excellence Award has been installed in Kigali, Rwanda, where the fourth edition of the award is being held Monday. Doha-based Iraqi contemporary artist and sculptor Ahmed Albahrani is seen in front of his creation.



By Azmat Haroon And Noor Al-Rawi/Doha

The newly-designed artwork for the International Anti-Corruption Excellence Award in Rwanda represents transparency and the vision of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani to fight corruption, according to Doha-based Iraqi contemporary artist and sculptor Ahmed Albahrani.

The mastermind behind the sculpture now on display in Rwanda said each part was engineered in a way to represent every country of the world.

"The sculpture represents transparency via the triangles found in it with the engineering formations. Every part of this hand is a nation of the world, which means that the whole world must fight this disease (corruption) that has destroyed thousands of people and many big countries. In short, the work was a translation of the vision of His Highness the Amir and the directions of HE Dr Ali bin Fetais al-Marri," Albahrani explained while talking about the sculpture and the inspiration behind it.

The fourth edition of the Sheikh Tamim Bin Hamad Al Thani International Anti-Corruption Excellence Award will be held in Kigali, Rwanda, on Monday in partnership with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) and supported by the government of Rwanda. It will celebrate the most effective and courageous members of the anti-corruption community. Born in Babel, Albahrani arrived in Qatar in 1999 and has been involved in many landmark projects in the country. Whether it is abstract, contemporary or conceptual art, he has been able to transform his medium to address the modern-day life and issues in an honest manner.

The popular artist stressed that Qatar has played a significant role in his life in terms of the experience and exposure he has received in the country.

"I have come to be known through Qatar in the Arab world and now all the countries know Ahmed Albahrani as the Iraqi artist residing in Qatar. My name became popular because of my involvement in the Qatari art and cultural scene, and this is the thing that I am proud of the most. I have many creative works on display in the country, be it sport venues, Hamad International Airport, hotels or the National Museum of Qatar," he added.

Albahrani's most recent work includes the design of the 24th Arabian Gulf Cup trophy, which consolidated his popularity in the region.

"For me, in terms of reputation, popularity, and presence, the Arab Gulf Cup trophy is very important but working on this international award is something that any artist in the world can be proud of. However, for me as an artist the most important work has not been done yet."

Albahrani was chosen to be a part of the International Anti-Corruption Excellence Award because of the outstanding body of work he has produced in the region.

"I have been chosen in this project because the State's trust in me. I have implemented many projects in Qatar and I was chosen as an Iraqi artist living in Qatar for more than 21 years. I am truly thankful for this trust given to me and it is a great honour to be part of this award because it is an important experience in my life."

The artist said that one of the things that distinguished Qatar from other countries is the focus on arts and education, and he is thankful for the continuous support he has received from the government and various other arts and cultural organisations.

The annual Sheikh Tamim Bin Hamad Al Thani International Anti-Corruption Excellence Award is being held for the first time on the African continent this year. It will be presented to nominees who have demonstrated a willingness to fight systemic corruption and champion the message of anti-corruption among the people of the regions in which they operate.