



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

THE BRIDGE

2015 CARAVAN EXHIBITION OF VISUAL ART

An unparalleled gathering of premier and emerging artists focusing on what they hold in common through their cultures and creeds

3 August 2015 (Cairo, Egypt / Chicago, USA)

In the midst of the increasing chasm of discord and misunderstanding that exists between the creeds and cultures of the Middle East and the West, the 7th CARAVAN Exhibition of Visual Art titled *The Bridge* opened during the first week of February 2015 during the United Nations World Interfaith Harmony Week, just following the “Charlie Hebdo” tragedy, at the historic Church of Saint Germain des Prés in the Latin Quarter, the oldest church in Paris. Over the course of 18 months *The Bridge* exhibition will travel throughout Europe, in Egypt and around the United States being exhibited in a variety of venues (cathedrals, museums, galleries, interfaith centers, etc) before closing in autumn 2016.

Through the founding sponsorship of SODIC from Egypt, and with CARAVAN’s longstanding partner the British Council, *The Bridge* is an East-West traveling art exhibition organized and curated by CARAVAN, an interreligious and intercultural peacebuilding NGO (non-profit), *The Bridge* showcases the work of 47 premier and emerging contemporary visual artists from Arab, Persian and Jewish backgrounds. As a multi-religious group, the artists are making the case for using that which we have in common as the foundation for the future of our world.

As the exhibition travels, it takes with it a fundamental message of intercultural and inter-religious harmony and provides a link not only within communities but also between communities. *The Bridge* serves as a common starting point on which to build, toward seeing the development of a world that inherently respects and honors cultural and religious diversity, living and working together in harmony.

The Bridge exhibition involves a diverse range of visual artists. Participating artists include women and men, from premier contemporary artists to emerging younger artists, from the three primary monotheistic faith backgrounds and 15 countries. Each artist has submitted one original work (done specifically for the exhibition) addressing the theme “The Bridge,” focusing on what they hold in common through their cultures and creeds, illustrating their ideas of how to build bridges between us all.

The Bridge is curated by CARAVAN Founder/President, Rev. Paul-Gordon Chandler, and noted artists Lillian Milgrom and Dr. Reda Abdel Rahman, with Randa Fahmy of Syra Arts as special advisor.

About CARAVAN

CARAVAN, which originated out of Cairo, Egypt, is an international peacebuilding arts NGO that focuses on building bridges through the arts between the creeds and cultures of the Middle East and West. CARAVAN’s experience has shown that the arts can serve as one of the most effective mediums to enhance understanding, bring about respect, enable sharing, and deepen friendship between those of different faiths and cultures. One of the flagship initiatives of CARAVAN is the globally recognized interfaith CARAVAN Exhibition of Visual Art, a unique arts initiative that brings together many of the Middle East’s and West’s premier and emerging artists.

The 2014 CARAVAN Exhibition of Visual Art was held first in Cairo at the Museum of Modern Art, then in Washington D.C. at the renowned National Cathedral, following by in New York City at the historic Cathedral of St. John the Divine, the largest Gothic cathedral in the world. The exhibition involved 48 premier Egyptian and Western artists from Christian, Muslim and Jewish traditions.. Titled “AMEN: A Prayer for the World,” the art exhibition sought to express the deep, fundamental acknowledgment of power and hope for all people. Over 200,000 people viewed the exhibition in these three venues. The 2013 CARAVAN exhibition was held first in Cairo and then at the world renowned St. Paul's Cathedral in London, attracting over 120,000 people during the five-week exhibition.

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For more information, interviews or photos, please email: oncaravan@gmail.com

Founding Sponsor:



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Participating Artists

ALI ABDEL MOHSEN	ISABELLE BAKHOUM	NAGLA SAMIR
ASMAA TAKKIEDDINE	KARIM ABD EL MALAK	PATRICK ALTES
AZADEH GHOTBI	LILIANNE MILGROM	QAIS AL SINDY
BRITT BOUTROS GHALI	LINA MOWAFY	RANA CHALABI
CARELLE HOMSY	MAI REFKY	RANIA EL HAKIM
EL ZAEEM	MALAK EL SHAZLY	REDA ABDEL RAHMAN
GALILA NAWAR	MANAL DEEB	REEM HASSAN
GAMAL EZ	MARC GOLDSTAIN	RONEN SIMAN TOV
GUIRGUIS LOTFI	MARIE BORALEVI	SACHA SCHWARTZ
HAYAM ABDEL BAKY	MARWA ADEL	SAMEH ISMAEL
HELEN ZUGHAIB	MOHAMED ABOUENAGA	SAMIA ZOGLAMI
HILDA HIARY	MOHAMED ARDASH	SHAI AZOULAY
HISHAM ABDALLAH	MOHAMED MONAISEER	SIONA BENJAMIN
HISHAM EL ZEINY	MONA EL BAYOUMI	VALERIE RAUCHBACH
HOSSAM SAKR	MOTAAZ EL EMAM	YASSER ROSTOM
HOURIA NIATI	MYRIAM BOCCARA	