

The Eternal Eye

October 20-26, 2011

Curator: Jessica Wright



The Eternal Eye was a contemporary Coptic icon exhibition hosted at the historic St. John's Church-Maadi in Cairo, that reflected a desire to see the establishment of a new Egyptian society in the wake of the January 25, 2011 Revolution that inherently respects and honors religious diversity.

The objective of The Eternal Eye exhibition was to encourage a better understanding of Egypt's indigenous Christian community, the historic Coptic Orthodox Church, which constitutes up to 10% of the population and traces its heritage back to the first century. This significant Christian presence in Egypt plays a critical role in enabling all faiths to coexist in harmony. The Eternal Eye embraced the new spirit of ecumenical solidarity that was so beautifully illustrated during the Egyptian revolution.

The exhibition, curated by Jessica Wright, showcased over fifty commissioned Coptic icons shown for the first time by the renowned Coptic iconographer Magdy William. Mr. William, a student of the late Dr. Isaac Fanous (the founder of the school of modern Coptic icon writing and the initiator of the modern renaissance in Coptic art), has been one of the world's premier Coptic icon artists for several decades. The icons exhibited ranged in theme from the Biblical stories in Egypt to Coptic saints. Twenty percent of all icon sales went to Egyptian charities assisting the poor.

OPENING NIGHT

The exhibition was officially opened on Thursday, October 20 by Bishop Daniel, the Coptic Bishop of Maadi, Southern Cairo and Assistant to His Holiness Pope Shenouda III, the Pope of the Coptic Orthodox Church and the artist Magdy William.

Special presentations during the week of the exhibition included a presentation on “The Making of Coptic Icons” by iconographer Magdy William (Oct 21).



Dr. Michael Jones of the American Research Center in Egypt (ARCE) gave a lecture titled “The Artistic Restoration of the 6th century Red Monastery: A Visual Presentation” (Oct 24)



The Eternal Eye

A Selling Exhibition of contemporary Coptic Icons
by the renowned Egyptian icon artist, Magdy William

October 20 at 7 PM
Opening Reception
(To be officially opened by the
Coptic Bishop of Maadi, Bishop Daniel)

Exhibition will run through October 26
Thursday, 20th – 7 PM-official opening
Friday, 21st – 12 noon-4 pm
Saturday, 22nd – 11 am-4 pm
Sunday, 23rd – Closed all day
Monday, 24th – 11am-7pm
Tuesday, 25th-11am-7pm
Wednesday, 26th – 11am-7pm

Special Presentations:

*Friday, October 21, 11:30am-12:30pm
“The Making of Coptic Icons”
by Magdy William.

*Monday, October 24, 7pm
Visual Presentation of the restoration of
the 6th century Red Monastery in Upper Egypt
by Dr. Michael Jones

St. John’s Church – Maadi, Cairo
(corner of Port Said Rd & Rd 17 in Maadi)
www.maadichurch.org / tel. 2358-3085

A large, stylized Coptic icon of a man's face, likely Jesus, with a beard and long hair, set against a background of a cross.