

On A Caravan

East & West Journeying Together through the Arts

January 29 –February 5, 2009

Curator: Rev Paul-Gordon Chandler

Artistic Facilitators: Roland Prime, Mohamed Abla

Under the banner *On A Caravan: East and West Journeying Together* through the Arts, 18 highly respected and recognized Egyptian and Western artists participated in an artistic initiative with the goal of building bridges of understanding and respect between East and West, Muslims and Christians. The aim of *On A Caravan* was to explore the relationships between the East and West through the medium of the visual arts, with an emphasis on painting.

On A Caravan was an unprecedented gathering of renowned Arab and Western artists who came together to use art as a bridge for intercultural and inter-religious dialogue. The goal of the exhibition was to highlight how the visual arts serve as one of the most effective mediums of building bridges of friendship, respect and sharing between the Middle East and the West.



VENUE

The venue for the exhibition was the historic Byzantine-style St John's Church, Maadi. Founded in 1931, it was the last church designed by the eminent British architect, Sir Herbert Baker who built churches from Cape Town to Cairo. St John's has a long history with the arts and has served as a unique catalyst for Christian/Muslim relations since it was founded. Today St. John's Church / Maadi, (Episcopal) serves the expatriate diplomatic, business, educational and NGO communities in Cairo.



EXHIBITION & OPENING NIGHT

These 18 artists from both Egypt and the West each produced two pieces of work for the exhibition.

The first piece was based on ideas that reflect the collective theme: East and West Journeying Together. Focusing on that which the Middle East and West, Muslims and Christians, hold in common, the artists drew inspiration from ideas such as: peace, harmony, compassion, goodwill, forgiveness, love, understanding, reaching across and exploring the relationship(s) between East and West. Secondly, the physical building of the historic St. Johns' Church served to inspire their artistic expressions.

At the end of January 2009 all 36 works of art were exhibited within St. John's Church at a much-publicized selling exhibition. The initiative generated significant interest from the international media. The vision and hope for the exhibition was that this would be the beginning of new artistic initiatives to expand intercultural and inter-religious dialogue between the Middle East and West.

The exhibition was opened by the then US Ambassador to Egypt, The Honorable Margaret Scobey, who shared words of support from US President Barack Obama. Many hundreds attended the opening program and reception, including the Egyptian Arabic and English-language press and media.



US Ambassador Margaret Scobey opening the exhibition



Artist Mohamed Abla speaking at the opening program



Television media



Noted artist Hisham El Zeiny



ARTISTS

Participants included a diverse range of artists ranging from internationally renowned Mohamed Abla, one of Egypt's leading contemporary artists, to rising star Dr. Reda Abdel Rahman from the Egyptian Ministry of Culture, to noted local artists, both Egyptian and expatriate.



ARTISTIC ENCOUNTERS

Various activities were organized for the Egyptian and Western artists to interact, from an opening dinner program where they each shared their work with the others, to an interactive symposium using the Abla Interactive Method.



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*East and West journeying together
through the arts*

ART EXHIBITION



Bringing together premier Arab and Western Artists in Egypt

Mohamed Abla	Roland Prime
Dr. Reda Abdel Rahman	Isolde Kadry
Omar El Fayoumi	Lucy Westwood
Dr. Farid Fadel	Maria Maher
Hany Rasheed	Julie Oxenforth
Hisham El Zeiny	Anne du Boistesselin
Maher Ali	Dorian Haqmoun
Mansour Ahmed	Kimberley Odekirk
Randa Fakes - LoGerfo	Connie Fiorelli

January 29th at 8.00pm

Opening night and Reception

January 30th & 31st

Open all day

Closed 1st February, Open February 2nd - 5th 10.00am - 5.00pm

Held in and sponsored by St John's Church, Maadi

(located at the corner of Port Said Rd & Rd 17)

Telephone 23 58 30 85 email: info@maadichurchstjohn.org

www.oncaravan.org