

# the Other Paper

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## Target Opens with Fanfare in University Mall

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CONTRIBUTOR

The wait is over. Vermont's only Target began welcoming shoppers to its Dorset Street location on Oct. 16. Though Tuesday's event was limited to friends and family of Target employees, the South Burlington store opened its doors to the general public on Wednesday with a soft opening, followed by the grand opening on Sunday.

"Oh my gosh it's amazing," said Hillary Reichert, who works at the neighboring Homewood Suites. "I think it's beautiful, it's super exciting. They have whatever I need and what I don't need. It's just fun to go."

The Dorset Street location is smaller than the average Target — just shy of 40,000 square feet, while most Target stores are around 130,000 square feet — but includes all the facets one would expect from the retailing giant, said District Manager Bill Geary.

South Burlington's scaled down Target is part of the company's assortment of "small format" stores, which are designed to serve communities where a full-sized store might not fit, Geary said.

"It is one of the newest adventures we have," Geary said. "We carry the same assortments just a lot less items... that is where the majority of our growth is."

Though most of the store is devoted to apparel, Geary said, patrons will not have to look elsewhere to complete their shopping lists. There is a market stocked with everything from produce to ice cream, a housewares section, and electronic and beauty sections as well, Geary said.

While Target prides itself on high profile collaborations such as the one it has with model Chrissy Teigen, the company took strides to partner with the local community as well. As part of their partnership with Ben and Jerry's, the ice cream company built a custom freezer for the South Burlington location. Seventh Generation, a national manufacturer of eco-friendly cleaning products based in Burlington, built a special display for their products. Local artist Michael Mullan painted a mural covering an entire wall behind the cash registers.

**TARGET**

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## I AM Middle Eastern Art Exhibit Comes to Burlington

### South Burlington woman helps shepherd work of Middle Eastern women artists to Vermont

MILANDA JONSWOLD  
CORRESPONDENT

The power and potential of art has a ripple effect that spreads across the globe, from as far away as Amman, Jordan to the lively city of Burlington, Vt.

Such is the journey of the I AM exhibition, a contemporary Middle Eastern visual art exhibition showcasing the works of 31 premier Middle Eastern women artists from 12 counties in their quest to build peace. The exhibit will officially open at the Cathedral Church of St. Paul at 2 Cherry St. in Burlington on Thursday, Oct. 25 at 5 p.m. and will run through Nov. 25. Burlington is the only New England stop on I AM's 16-month U.S. tour.

Betsy Beaulieu, a South Burlington resident and a St. Paul parishioner, explained that this was a long-awaited exhibit after bidding on it two years ago. The church's study group hopes this exhibit will help the church extend its reach, assess its place, and offer the community more than just religious opportunity.

"The Cathedral Church of St. Paul was drawn to the I AM exhibition



This mixed media on canvas piece by Zena Assi, "The Force is in the Hands of the Woman", is one of several in the "I AM" exhibit at St. Paul's Cathedral in Burlington.

because the exhibition's themes open up important topics for a 21st century dialogue: the role of art in peace-building, refuting stereotypes, interfaith collaboration and understanding," she said.

"The hope is the works, which will line the walls of the church, will spark shared curiosity and bring

**I AM EXHIBIT**

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368 Dorset Street, Suite #1  
South Burlington

## I AM Exhibit CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

people together to answer critical questions such as, "What is the role of art in creating a world that is more just and more peaceful for everyone?"

She said the goal at St. Paul's is to encourage dialogue and action around these and other topics that are timely and relevant," Beaulieu said. "The exhibition is powerful, and viewers will find it both accessible and challenging."

"As St. Paul's contemplates what it means to be an urban cathedral, we'd like to open up our space to encourage dialogue and action around these and other topics that are timely and relevant," Beaulieu said. "The exhibition is powerful, and viewers will find it both accessible and challenging."



Raeda Saadeh - "Keys" - Photograph-90x60cm



Lalla Essaydi - "Bullets Revisited" - Chromogenic print 101x76cm

Before arriving at Burlington, the exhibit premiered the National Gallery of Fine Arts, Amman, Jordan in May 2017 under the patronage of Her Majesty Queen Rania Al Abdullah. It then graced Trafalgar Square at St. Martin-in-the-Fields in London before traveling to America. In the United States, the I AM exhibit spread its message at the American University Museum in Washington D.C., the Center for the Arts in Jackson, Wyo., Christ Church Cathedral in Cincinnati, Ohio, and Vanderbilt University Fine Arts Gallery in Nashville, Tenn. Burlington is the last stop on its U.S. Tour.

Organized by CARAVAN, an international peacebuilding arts non-profit from Cairo, Egypt, and curated by Janet Rady, a specialist in Middle Eastern contemporary art, those in the greater Burlington area have the unique opportunity to immerse themselves in the realm of artistic expression from participating artists in countries like Egypt, Jordan, Saudi Arabia, Yemen, Lebanon, Palestine, Bahrain, Morocco, Iran, Iraq, Tunisia, and the United Arab Emirates. The Episcopal Diocese of Vermont is the primary sponsor of the exhibition's trip to Burlington.

The opening reception also offers the chance to meet Alia Ali, a Yemen-Bosnian, American participating artist, who will provide the opening remarks at 5:30 p.m. Ali's work, "[Laysa] Ana/

I am [NOT]" casts away labels by displaying her work via a woven newspaper structure mounted on aluminum Dibond with UV protective laminate.

Similar to the artists' diversity in thought, experience, and creed, the range in the type of art medium extends to paintings, drawings, collages, photography, digital art, mixed media, as well as sculpture.



Alia Ali, one of the artists featured in the "I AM" exhibit. PHOTO: NICOLAS SHARER



Alia Ali - [Laysa] Ana- "I am [NOT]" - Pigmen print on cotton rag 100x72

For Rev. Canon Paul-Gordon Chandler, president of CARAVAN, the journey couldn't have come at a better time.

"We have been taken back by the extent to which the message and concepts of the exhibition have captured the imagination of the audiences and how enthusiastic everyone has been to engage with it," Chandler said. "It has been a great privilege to work with such an incredible group of contemporary women artists from the Middle East, particularly during a time of increased stereotypes and misconceptions of the 'other.'"

"More than anything, we are grateful for the universal enthusiasm and interest shown by our audiences through the work of these 31 Arab and Persian women artists," he added. "That at heart, more than ever, this exhibition has reaffirmed our shared hopes for the future and for a more peaceful world."

Can't make the opening ceremony? There are two events to pencil into the calendar. On Nov. 2, Norwich University will sponsor "Arab Spring, Unfinished Journeys," an organized discussion for local college students to have with Helen Zughuib of Lebanon on Nov. 2 at 3 p.m.

"The Power of Art" dialogue — also with Zughuib and local art historian Sarah Rogers, Ph.D — takes a deeper dive into the making of Zughuib's "The Secrets They Carry" on Saturday, Nov. 3 from 11 a.m. to 12 p.m.

Viewing hours are every Wednesday and Thursday, 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., and Saturday from 12 p.m. to 3 p.m., excluding Thanksgiving Day. All events are free and open to the public.

For more information about the exhibit and the artists, visit <http://www.caravanarts.org/i-am-exhibition>.

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