

ABRAHAM: Out of One, Many

A timely artistic exploration on living harmoniously, inspired by Abraham, the common ancestor of three celebrated contemporary Middle Eastern artists from Muslim, Christian, and Jewish traditions

“ABRAHAM: Out of One, Many,” a celebrated peacebuilding exhibition that premiered in Rome, Italy in 2019, and then toured the US, was an artistic response to today’s climate of increasing prejudice, stereotyping and discrimination, whether related to color, faith or ethnicity, including a rise of antisemitism and increasing anti-Muslim sentiment. The exhibition, organized by CARAVAN, an international arts non-profit/NGO, was curated by Paul-Gordon Chandler, the Founding President of CARAVAN.

“ABRAHAM: Out of One, Many” (playing off of the popular Latin US motto “E pluribus unum” / “Out of many, one”) focused on what Jews, Christians and Muslims have in common because of their shared ancestor Abraham, a spiritual figure of distinct significance within the three primary monotheistic faith traditions, Judaism, Christianity and Islam. The exhibition highlighted what we can all learn from Abraham’s example about living together more harmoniously. In these three faith traditions, whose followers are referred to a “children of Abraham,” Abraham is seen as a model of hospitality – of welcoming the “stranger” and embracing the “other.” The exhibition attempted to artistically answer the question, “What can Abraham can teach us today about freeing our world from sectarian strife?”

The exhibition involved three celebrated Middle Eastern contemporary artists – Qais Al Sindy, Sinan Hussein and Shai Azoulay - from Christian, Muslim and Jewish faith traditions. Each artist created paintings that focused on specific themes from Abraham's life that can guide our world today in living harmoniously, interpreting these themes for our contemporary context.

The exhibition tour for 24 months, primarily to heavily trafficked sacred spaces. It premiered in May 2019 in Rome, Italy at the historic church of St Paul’s Within the Walls, and was then showcased in Paris and Edinburgh, before beginning an extensive US tour through the fall of 2021.

For information on “ABRAHAM: Out of One, Many,” see: www.oncaravan.org/abraham

About CARAVAN: CARAVAN, an international arts NGO/non-profit, is recognized as a global leader in using the arts to further our global quest for a more harmonious future, both with each other and with the earth. CARAVAN's mission is based on the belief that the arts can be one of the most effective mediums to heal our world and to creatively foster peace, harmony, wholeness and health in all its forms. For more information about CARAVAN, visit: www.oncaravan.org