



Exhibition of Visual Art--2014

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

6th CARAVAN EXHIBITION OF VISUAL ART—2014

(Washington D.C. and New York City)

An Intercultural and Inter-religious Arts Initiative Bringing the Middle East and West Together for a New World comes to National Cathedral, Washington D.C.

Cairo, Egypt / Chicago, USA - 23 July 2014

In the midst of the present turmoil and tension in the Middle East, an unprecedented number of premier Arab and Western Artists are coming together at National Cathedral in Washington D.C. to use Art as a bridge for intercultural and inter-religious dialogue. An artistic group from Christian, Muslim and Jewish backgrounds, the artists are making a statement that they are together “praying” for peace, justice and the end to sectarian strife, living and working together in harmony.

The 6th *interfaith CARAVAN Exhibition of Visual Art* opened first in Cairo on June 17, 2014 at Egypt’s the Museum of Modern Art, and will be coming to the United States in late August for exhibition, first to Washington D.C.’s world-renowned National Cathedral and then to New York City’s Cathedral of St. John the Divine, the world’s largest Gothic cathedral. The 2014 CARAVAN exhibition will bring an unparalleled group of renowned Egyptian and Western artists together to use art as a bridge for inter-religious and Through the sponsorship of SODIC, a real estate company in Egypt, and supported by the British Council, the theme for the CARAVAN exhibition, “*AMEN-A Prayer for the World,*” is an aspirational expression of hope and goodwill coming “out of Egypt” for the peoples of the Middle East and the rest of the world.

The vision for this 2014 CARAVAN exhibition is for the Middle East and the West to embody the spirit of intercultural and inter-religious solidarity that was so beautifully illustrated for the world by Egyptians during the “January 25, 2011 Revolution.”

CARAVAN, an international inter-religious and intercultural arts non-profit, begun in 2009 in Cairo, Egypt, has the objective of building bridges through the arts between the creeds and cultures the Middle East and West. One of the flagship initiatives of CARAVAN is the globally recognized annual *interfaith CARAVAN Exhibition of Visual Art*. This unique exhibition brings together many of the Middle East’s premier and emerging artists to enhance understanding, respect, and deepen friendship between those of different faiths and cultures through the arts.

Each year the CARAVAN *interfaith arts exhibition* has garnered attention from the international press, media and art world, attracting thousands of visitors. In 2013, many thousands of Egyptians and foreigners viewed CARAVAN’s public art exhibition of painted donkeys (symbolizing “Peace and Compassion”) by premier artists from the Middle East and West, first throughout Cairo, followed by an estimated 120,000 people visiting CARAVAN’s exhibition in London, England at the world renowned St. Paul’s Cathedral. The London exhibition was followed by a charity auction of the artwork led by a Sotheby’s auctioneer for funding charities in Egypt assisting the poor irrespective of creed.

Egyptian--both Muslim and Christian, and 18 Western--Christian and Jewish) were invited to participate in this unique visual art exhibition that was opened first in Cairo, Egypt on June 17 at the Museum of Modern Art, and will now be followed by exhibitions in the United States in Washington D.C. at the National Cathedral, and then in New York City at the Cathedral of St. John the Divine, known for the arts.

Each of the 48 participating artists has been given a life-size fiberglass sculpture in one of four poses of prayer to paint or decorate as they wish. The 'model' for the sculptural prayer form is Amun, the deity of ancient Thebes in the 11th dynasty (c. 21st century BC) who is considered the first to develop religion toward monotheism. The four sculptural forms therefore communicate a modern essence of Amun, each depicted with his face. In this exhibition the historic figure of "Amun" is being associated with the word "Amen," an affirmation commonly used to conclude Christian, Muslim and Jewish prayers or blessings.

For the exhibition in Cairo, the 30 Amun figures painted by Egyptian artists were on display. These 30 painted Amun figures by Egyptian artists are traveling to the United States to join with 18 Amun figures painted by Western artists for a joint exhibition held first in Washington D.C. and then in New York City.

With the theme "*AMEN—A Prayer for the World*," the exhibition seeks to express the deep, fundamental human acknowledgement of power and hope in the universe, for all peoples. Commenting on this interfaith arts initiative, Rev. Canon Paul-Gordon Chandler, the President of CARAVAN and the Co-curator of the exhibition explains, "While the peoples of the Middle East and West may express prayer differently, it is a commonality that unites us all, serving as a 'universal bridge'".

To express this commonality of prayer, the four different poses of prayer in a life-size 3D fiberglass human form have been sculpted for this exhibition by the noted Egyptian artist Reda Abdel Rahman (who sculpted the donkey form used for the 2013 CARAVAN exhibition) symbolizing human diversity, community and the many forms that prayer can take.

The participating artists include a diverse range of premier Egyptian contemporary artists, from renowned veterans such as Farghaly Abdel Hafiz, Ahmed Shiha, Mohamed Shaker, to rising younger artists such as Marwa Adel and Karim Abdel Malak. As an artistic group from Egypt and the West, they are making a statement that they are together praying for peace, justice and well-being for all in our world.

The exhibition is co-curated by CARAVAN Founder/President, Rev. Paul-Gordon Chandler and celebrated Egyptian artist Reda Abdel Rahman.

**2014 PROGRAM of the CARAVAN Exhibition of Visual Art
(August 31 to November 16, 2014)**

WASHINGTON D.C. & NEW YORK CITY, USA

Exhibition at National Cathedral in Washington D.C. followed by an exhibition in New York City at the Cathedral of St. John the Divine. **All 48 sculptures by Egyptian and Western artists will be exhibited together.** In New York City, during the

***Washington D.C.: August 31 - October 6, 2014—National Cathedral**

***New York City: October 12 – November 16—The Cathedral of St. John the Divine**

The participating visual artists are the following:

Egyptian Artists

The list of 30 Egyptian artists includes renowned, established and emerging visual artists, as well as men and women, and Muslim and Christian.

Ahmed Shiha	Khaled Sorour
Ahmed Abdel Kareem	Karim Abdel Malak
Amr El Kafrawy	Maha George
Ammar Abou Bakr	Mahmoud Hamdy
Ahmed Talal	Marwa Adel
Dahlia Refaat	Mohamed Abou El Naga
Emad Abdel Wahab	Mohamed Abla
Farghaly Abdel Hafiz	Mohamed El Masry
Farid Fadel	Mohamed Shaker
Gamil Shafik	Neveen Taher
Gamal Lamie	Reda Abdel Rahman
Hamdy Reda	Salah El Meligy
Hossam Sakr	Souad Abdel Rasoul
Hesham Nawwar	Tarek El Sheikh
Hisham El Zeiny	Wael Darwish

Western Artists

18 prominent Western artists (of Christian and Jewish background) are participating from the US, England and France.

United Kingdom

Roland Prime
Claire Marie Pearman

France

Anne-Francoise Giraud

United States

Amy Gray
Anne Shams
Arthur Goldberg
Cherie M. Redlinger
Christina Saj
Daniel Bonnell
Deborah Sokolove
Helen Zughuib

Katherine Neison
Kiki McGrath
Lilianne Milgrom
Lynn Goldstein
Tom Xenakis
Trudy Y. Ludwig
Siona Benjamin

CARAVAN Exhibition of Visual Art

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