



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

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CARAVAN, an international peacebuilding arts non-profit/NGO, brings its current peacebuilding exhibition titled “ABRAHAM: Out of One, Many” to Jacksonville, FL hosted by OneJax, an institute of the University of North Florida.

Opening on January 15, 2020 and running through February 21, “ABRAHAM: Out of One, Many” is an artistic response to the recent rise of antisemitism and increasing anti-Muslim sentiment, and to the general climate of growing prejudice and stereotyping, which is resulting in a new type of “tribalism” in the West.

“ABRAHAM: Out of One, Many” (playing off of the popular Latin US motto “E pluribus unum” / “Out of many, one”) focuses 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 highlights 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 attempts to artistically answer the question, “What can Abraham teach us today about freeing our world from sectarian strife?”

The exhibition involves three celebrated Middle Eastern contemporary artists – Qais Al Sindy, Sinan Hussein and Shai Azoulay- from Christian, Muslim and Jewish faith traditions. Each artist has created paintings that focus on specific themes from Abraham's life that can guide our world today in living harmoniously, interpreting these themes for our contemporary context. “ABRAHAM: Out of One, Many” is curated by the Founding President of CARAVAN, Rev. Paul-Gordon Chandler, and the newly appointed Senior Anglican Priest in Qatar, in the Gulf region of the Middle East.

The exhibition is on a 24-month global tour, 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 at the American Cathedral in Paris in June-July 2019. The exhibition then was part of the Edinburgh Festival Fringe in Edinburgh Scotland for the month of August 2019. It is now on tour in the US through mid-2021.

The opening program and reception for the exhibition in Jacksonville is on January 15, 2019 at 5:30pm at Hendricks Avenue Baptist Church. It is open to the public. Special guest speakers include Rev. Paul-Gordon Chandler, Founding President of CARAVAN and exhibition curator, Qais Al Sindy, participating celebrated Iraqi artist, as well as distinguished religious leaders from the Abrahamic faiths.

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

For information about CARAVAN, visit: www.oncaravan.org

For information on OneJax, see: www.unf.edu/onejax/

Peacebuilding through the Arts

www.oncaravan.org