

AMEN-A Prayer for the World

June – November 2014

Cairo, Washington D.C. and New York City

Curators: Rev Paul-Gordon Chandler and Dr. Reda Abdel Rahman

In the midst of the turmoil and tension in the Middle East, an unprecedented number of premier Arab and Western artists came together to use art as a bridge between the creeds and cultures of the Middle East and West for the 2014 CARAVAN Exhibition of Art. As an artistic group from Christian, Muslim and Jewish religious backgrounds, through the exhibition they made a statement that they were together “praying” for peace, justice and the end to sectarian strife, living and working together in harmony.

Through the sponsorship of SODIC, a real estate company in Egypt, and supported by the British Council, the title and theme for the CARAVAN exhibition, “*AMEN-A Prayer for the World,*” was 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 2014 CARAVAN Exhibition of Visual Art opened first in Cairo, Egypt on June 17, 2014 at Egypt’s Museum of Modern Art (running through July 15) and then traveled for exhibition to the United States to Washington D.C.’s world-renowned National Cathedral (August 31-October 6), prior to being showcased at New York City’s celebrated Cathedral of St. John the Divine, the world’s largest Gothic cathedral, in the upper west side of Manhattan (October 12-November 23).

48 premier and emerging artists (30 Egyptian-both Muslim and Christian, and 18 Western--Christian and Jewish) were invited to participate. Each of the artists was 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 was 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 communicated a modern essence of Amun, each depicted with his face. In this exhibition the historic figure of “Amun” was 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-Amen figures painted by Egyptian artists were on display. These 30 painted Amun-Amen figures by Egyptian artists then traveled to the United States to join with 18 Amun figures painted by Western artists for a joint exhibition held first in Washington D.C. followed by in New York City.

With the theme “*AMEN—A Prayer for the World,*” the exhibition sought to express the deep, fundamental human acknowledgement of power and hope in the universe, for all peoples. Commenting on this interfaith arts initiative, Rev.Paul-Gordon Chandler, the Founder and President of CARAVAN, and the co-curator of the exhibition explained, “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 were sculpted for this exhibition by the noted Egyptian artist Dr. 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 included a diverse range of premier Egyptian contemporary artists, from renowned veterans such as Farghaly Abdel Hafiz, Ahmed Shiha, and Mohamed Shaker, to rising younger artists such as Marwa Adel and Karim Abd el Malak.

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



Expressing the Deep, Fundamental Human Acknowledgement of Power & Hope in the Universe for all People

CAIRO
Opening June 17th at 7:00PM
Exhibition dates: 17 June - 1 July
El Bob Gallery, Museum of Modern Art, Cairo Opera House grounds
30 fiberglass sculptures in prayer painted by premier Egyptian artists

WASHINGTON D.C. & NEW YORK CITY
31 August - 16 November
D.C.: National Cathedral - NYC: The Cathedral at St. John the Divine
48 fiberglass sculptures in prayer painted by Egyptian and Western artists

Supported by the British Council
A percentage of the proceeds will go to Egyptian Charity TAWASOL
www.caravan.org caravancart@gmail.com www.sodic.com
Bringing the cultures and creeds of the Middle East & West together for a new world through the Arts



Cairo

ON EXHIBIT AT WASHINGTON NATIONAL CATHEDRAL



AMEN: A Prayer for the World
CARAVAN 2014 Exhibit
FIGURES IN PRAYER BY EGYPTIAN AND WESTERN ARTISTS
AUGUST 30 THROUGH OCTOBER 6, 2014

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Washington D.C.



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New York City

The participating visual artists were the following:

Western Artists

18 prominent Western artists participated from the US, England and France.

United States

Amy Gray
Anne Shams
Arthur Goldberg
Cherie M. Redlinger
Christina Saj
Daniel Bonnell
Deborah Sokolove
Helen Zughaib
Katherine Nelson
Kiki McGrath
Lillianne Milgrom

Lynn Goldstein
Tom Xenakis
Trudy Y. Ludwig
Siona Benjamin

United Kingdom

Roland Prime
Claire Marie Pearman

France

Anne-Francoise Giraud

Egyptian Artists

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

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