

## Harmony: East and West

January 28 – February 3, 2010, Cairo, Egypt

Curator of Visual Art: Roland Prime

Organizer: Rev. Paul-Gordon Chandler



Following on from the success of the 2009 inaugural CARAVAN art exhibition, “On a Caravan: East to West Journeying Together” in Cairo, Egypt, a broader arts initiative was held for 2010 titled the “CARAVAN Festival of the Arts” with the theme “Harmony: East and West.”

The objective of the arts festival was to build bridges of friendship, respect and sharing between the Middle East and West, and their creeds, through visual art, literature, film, and music, showing how the arts can serve as one of the most effective mediums of facilitating intercultural and interreligious dialogue. 46 premier Middle Eastern and Western artists participated, each submitting one piece of work reflecting the theme of the festival and exhibition, “Harmony: East and West”. The participating artists included a diverse range, from one of Egypt’s leading contemporary artists, Mohammed Abla, to renowned ceramicist Mohammed Mandour, to celebrated Norwegian artist Britt Boutros Ghali.

The festival took place within Cairo’s historic St. John’s Church-Maadi. Around the visual art exhibition there were four nights of artistic programs held. Throughout the 2010 CARAVAN Festival of the Arts the visual art exhibition was open to the public with many thousands attending. Ten percent of all sales went to the Spirit of Giving charity that assists local Egyptian charities serving the poor.

Prior to the exhibition Roland Prime, the curator of the visual art exhibition, and Rev. Paul-Gordon Chandler, the organizer of the festival, visited many of the artists in their studios. Additionally all participating artists came together in various forums to interact and build friendships with each other.



## OPENING NIGHT



The opening night program on January 28, 2010 was attended by thousands and included an address by the Rt. Rev. & Rt. Hon. Richard Chartres, Bishop of London, and Opening Remarks by Sheikh Ali Gomaa, the then Grand Mufti of Egypt. A reception followed with all 46 artists present.



## LITERARY PRESENTATION



*New York Times* best-selling Anglo-Afghan author Tahir Shah (the son of the famous Sufi writer, Idries Shah) gave a talk on his books followed by a book-signing. Tahir Shah is a champion of what he calls "the East-West Bridge"

## FILM NIGHT



The legendary late Egyptian actor Omar Sharif gave a talk on the importance of interfaith relations, followed by a screening of his recent film, *Hasan and Morqos* (starring Omar Sharif and Adel Emam), a comedy focused on interfaith relations.



## MUSIC CONCERT



The world renowned Iraqi oud (lute) player Naseer Shamma gave a solo performance as the closing concert.

**Caravan** Festival of the Arts



**HARMONY**  
East & West

*building bridges of understanding and respect between  
East and West*

**Opening Night - 28th January 2010, 7pm**  
Opening Presentation by The Rt Rev & Rt Hon Richard Chartres  
with Opening Remarks by Sheikh Ali Gouma, Grand Mufti  
following by Opening Reception

**Art Exhibition**  
**46 Artists**  
coming together from East and West  
in addition a special photographic exhibition  
entitled: "Allahu Akbar" / "How Great Thou Art"  
by Bishop Mounseer H Anis, Bishop of Egypt

**open 10am-8pm January 30th and February 1st-3rd 2010**

**Literature**  
January 30th, 7pm  
Literary presentation and book-signing by  
Anglo-Afghan best selling author Tahir Shah

<b>Film</b> February 1st, 7pm "Hasan and Morqos" with a talk by Omar Sharif	<b>Music</b> February 3rd, 7.30pm Naseer Shamma Renowned Iraqi Oud (lute) player
--	---

**St. John's Church Maadi Cairo**  
(corner Port Said Rd & Rd 17)  
for more information Telephone 2358 3085  
info@maadichurch.org / www.oncaravan.org