

CARAVAN Festival of the Arts—2012

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Fourth Annual CARAVAN FESTIVAL OF THE ARTS—April 26-May 5, 2012

(An East / West gathering of premier Middle Eastern and Western Artists using the Arts as a bridge for inter-religious and intercultural dialogue)

Cairo, Egypt, April 10, 2012

In the year following Egypt's "January 25th revolution," as the country seeks to find its way into the future, the 4th annual CARAVAN Festival of the Arts (2012) with the theme "*The Road Ahead*" will open in Maadi/Cairo on April 26, 2012. While recognizing it will be a long and at times difficult road for Egypt, the CARAVAN Festival of the Arts focuses on ending sectarian strife and encourages the establishment of a society that inherently respects and honors religious diversity, living and working together in harmony.

The goal of the *CARAVAN Festival of the Arts* is to build bridges between creeds (Islam and Christianity) and cultures (East and West) through the visual arts, literature, film and music. This strategic inter-religious arts initiative over the last three years has generated significant attention from the international media and art world.

The 2012 *CARAVAN Festival of the Arts*, with the theme of "*The Road Ahead*" seeks to build on the new spirit of interfaith solidarity that was so beautifully illustrated, witnessed by the world, during the "January 25 revolution" in 2011.

Hosted at the historic St. John's Church in Maadi/Cairo, the CARAVAN arts initiative comes out of a vision that the Arts can be one of the most effective mediums to enhance understanding and encourage friendship between Muslims and Christians, for as the late Nobel Prize Egyptian novelist Naguib Mahfouz wrote, "Art is language of the entire human personality."

To be officially opened on April 26, 2012 at 7 PM, by **Yousra, the celebrated Egyptian actress**, and by Muslim and Christian religious dignitaries, **45 premier Middle Eastern and Western visual artists** will come together for a selling exhibition which will be held inside the historic St. John's Church, with each submitting one piece of work that reflects the theme, "*The Road Ahead*". The visual art exhibition, curated by participating British artist Roland Prime, includes a diverse range of noted Arab contemporary artists such as Reda Abdel Rahman and Mohamed Abla, to expatriate artists such as the well-known Norwegian artist Britt Boutros Ghali and renowned American sculptor Erik Blome. Thousands are expected to attend and there will be considerable Arab and Western media coverage.

Special participating guests to this year's *CARAVAN Festival of the Arts* are **Ahdaf Soueif**, the Anglo-Egyptian Booker Prize shortlist author in international acclaimed novels *Map of Love* and *In the Eye of the Sun*, **Khalid Abdalla**, British-Egyptian film actor (star of *The Kite Runner* and *Green Zone*), and the **Ana Masry Band** (meaning "I am Egyptian" in Arabic): a musical group that has become very popular since the revolution known for their fusion of Arabic, Muslim, Sufi and Christian music.

"It could not be timelier," says Rev. Canon Paul-Gordon Chandler, author and the American Rector/Minister of St. John's Church and Founder of the *Caravan Festival of the Arts*, "to be

involved in this interfaith aspect of peace-building in this country, toward promoting a sectarian-free Egypt”.

In looking toward this upcoming festival, Roland Prime, curator of the CARAVAN Festival's visual arts exhibition, says, “Our desire through this fourth exhibition is to address the importance of religious harmony and unity for Egypt’s future.”

All attendance is free of charge, but 20% of all art sales go to Middle Eastern charities assisting the poor.

WEEKLY PROGRAM of the CARAVAN Festival of the Arts—April 26-May 5, 2012
(held at St. John’s Church/Maadi...corner of Port Said Rd & Rd 17—www.maadichurch.org)

***Opening Night of the CARAVAN Festival of the Arts—26 April (Thursday) at 7 PM (19h00)**--Opening presentations by **Yousra**, celebrated Egyptian actress, and **Muslim and Christian dignitaries**, with a special performance by singer **Rula Zaki**. All 45 participating premier visual artists will be present.

***Literature Night---2 May (Wednesday) at 7 PM (19h00)—Ahdaf Soueif**, Anglo-Egyptian Booker Prize shortlist author of internationally acclaimed novels *Map of Love* and *In the Eye of the Sun*. Title of her talk is on her new book: *Cairo: My City, Our Revolution*.

***Film Night—DATE TBA—**Talk by and interview with **Khalid Abdalla**, British-Egyptian film actor (star of *The Kite Runner* and *Green Zone*).

***Musical Concert---5 May (Saturday) at 7:00 PM (19h00)** —A closing concert by the **Ana Masry Band** (meaning “I am Egyptian” in Arabic): a musical group that has become very popular since the revolution known for their fusion of Arabic, Muslim, Sufi and Christian music.

The participating visual artists include:

Middle Eastern Artists & Countries

Mohamed Abla, Egypt
Mansour Ahmed, Egypt
Maher Ali, Egypt
Bishop Mouneer H Anis, Egypt
Mutaz Eleman, North Sudan
Farid Fadel, Egypt
Farres Ahmed Farres, Egypt
Omar El Fayoumi, Egypt
Rania El Hakim, Egypt
Khalil El Hakim, Lebanon
Carelle Homsy, Egypt
Hakim Jamain, Jordan
Isolde Kadry, Egypt
Ahmed Magdy, Egypt
Naguib Mahmoud, Egypt
Galila Nawar, Egypt

Wilson Abrama Adiuru Ntana, South Sudan
Reda Abdel Rahman, Egypt
Soha Sabbagh, Lebanon
Ahmed Selim, Egypt
Asmaa Takieddine, Syria
Mohamed Youssef, Egypt
Hisham El Zeiny, Egypt

Western Artists & Countries

Erik Blome, USA
anne du boistesselin, France
Maike Draper-Albers, The Netherlands
Renata Dyk, Poland
Brian Flynn, U.K.
Britt Boutros Ghali, Norway
Dorian Haqmoun, Switzerland
Damon Kaworsky, Australia
Julie Klimentos, U.K.
Renee van Lille-Demetroudes, South Africa
Cosima Lukashevich, USA
Julia Morgan, USA
Sonja Moser, Austria
Kimberly Odekirk, USA
Julie Oxenforth, U.K.
Francois Perez, France
Roland Prime, U.K.
Carolyn Seaton, USA
Cecilia Smith, USA
Marian Villadsen, Denmark
Katrina Vrebalovich, USA
Lucy Westwood, U.K.

CARAVAN Festival of the Arts

Founder/Patron, Rev. Canon Paul-Gordon Chandler

Curator, Roland Prime

www.oncaravan.org

www.maadichurch.org

For more information or to request an interview, please contact Paul-Gordon Chandler at email: info@oncaravan.org or Roland Prime at: Email: primewestwood@yahoo.co.uk / Tel. 0100-588-1793. Photographs available upon request.