

CARAVAN 2013

FESTIVAL OF THE ARTS MAY 9-16

BUILDING BRIDGES OF FRIENDSHIP BETWEEN EAST & WEST THROUGH THE ARTS



IN PEACE AND WITH COMPASSION

في السلام والرحمة

80 FIBERGLASS SCULPTED DONKEYS PAINTED BY RENOWNED EGYPTIAN & WESTERN ARTISTS

OPENING NIGHT

THURSDAY MAY 9 7PM

OPENING REMARKS BY CHRISTIAN & MUSLIM DIGNITARIES

ALL 80 DONKEY ARTWORKS (LIFE SIZE AND 1/4 LIFESIZE) WILL BE ON DISPLAY & FOR SALE

FILM

SATURDAY MAY 11 7PM

TALK BY RENOWNED EGYPTIAN ACTOR, **AMR WAKED** (*Syriana*, *Salmon Fishing in the Yemen*) AND A SCREENING OF HIS LATEST FILM TITLED *WINTER OF DISCONTENT*.

LITERATURE

MONDAY MAY 13 7PM

DR ALAA EL ASWANY, BEST SELLING NOVELIST (*THE YACOUBIAN BUILDING*) AND WRITER WILL GIVE A TALK AND SIGN HIS NEWLY RELEASED BOOK, *AUTOMOBILE CLUB*.

MUSIC

THURSDAY MAY 16 7PM

CLOSING CONCERT BY NOTED OUD (LUTE) PLAYER AND COMPOSER, **GEORGES KAZAZIAN**, WHOSE WIDE RANGE OF MUSIC COVERS CLASSICAL EGYPTIAN AND CONTEMPORARY.

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ST JOHN'S CHURCH, MAADI (CORNER OF PORT SAID ROAD AND ROAD 17)
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AN INTRODUCTION

CARAVAN FESTIVAL OF THE ARTS

The CARAVAN Festival of the Arts was founded five years ago with the objective of building bridges between East and West, and for the more religiously oriented, between Muslims and Christians, through visual art, as well as literature, film and music. This unique art festival seeks to use the Arts as a bridge for intercultural and inter-religious interchange, toward enhancing understanding, respect, and deepening friendship, between the cultures and creeds of the East and West.

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."

Each year this strategic inter-religious arts initiative has generated significant attention from the international media and art world. The annual week-long festival attracts thousands of visitors from around Egypt and the world. One of its unique aspects is that, to date, the festival has taken place at the historic St. John's Church in Maadi which has been a center of Christian/Muslim and East/West relations for over 80 years.

Previous participants have included a diverse range of visual artists from the Middle East, including some of the Arab world's leading contemporary artists, to renowned foreign artists residing in Egypt. The festivals' past special guests for film, literature and music have included the legendary actor Omar Sharif, the world renowned oud player Naseer Shamma, and the *New York Times* best-selling Anglo-Afghan author, Tahir Shah. Distinguished religious leaders also participate each year such as the Grand Mufti of Egypt, Sheikh Dr Ali Gomaa, and the Anglican Bishop of London, The Rt Revd and Rt Hon Dr. Richard Chartres.



2013 CARAVAN Festival of the Arts

As Egypt seeks to find its way into the future, the 5th annual CARAVAN Festival of the Arts has the theme “In Peace and with Compassion...The Way Forward”. This year’s festival 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 festival will be held from 9-16 May and will focus on visual art, literature, film and music. In hosting the 5th *CARAVAN Festival of Arts*, the desire is to highlight the importance of religious and cultural harmony and unity for Egypt’s future.

VISUAL ART EXHIBITION

Over 40 premier Egyptian and foreign visual artists have been invited to participate in what will be a truly unique public art-oriented exhibition for Cairo.

Each participating artist will be given two fiberglass donkeys (one that is life-size and one that is 1/4 life-size) to paint as they wish according to the theme: “*In Peace and with Compassion—the Way Forward*”.



The donkey symbolizes *peace* in both Islam and Christianity, found in both the Bible (Injil) and in the Holy Qur’an. For example, both the great Muslim leader Saladin and Jesus (Isa) rode donkeys when they entered Jerusalem. This is why the theme is “In Peace....”. The donkey also represents the poor, as it is an animal of burden. This is especially the case in Egypt. Hence the full theme is “In Peace and with Compassion.” As an artistic group we are making a statement that the way forward in Egypt and in its relationship with the rest of the world is “in peace and with compassion”.

On the opening night, May 9, all 80 painted fiberglass donkeys will be on display at St. John’s Church in Maadi. The 40 smaller donkeys will be for sale on the opening night, with 80% of the profits going to the artists and 20% to Egyptian charities assisting the poor under the *Spirit of Giving* charity program. However, on May 10, the 40 life-size painted fiberglass donkeys will be placed throughout Cairo at strategic public locations for three weeks (hotel lobbies, art galleries, cultural centers, universities, schools, community associations, etc.). They will also be sold after this 3-week public display, with 80% of the sales going to the artists.

20 life-size donkeys will be selected for a traveling exhibition to venues in both Europe and the United States.

2013 CARAVAN Festival of the Arts

PARTICIPATING VISUAL ARTISTS

Egyptian Artists

Adel Nassief
Adel Tharwat
Ahmed Kassim
Ahmed Sabry
Alaa Awad
Ashraf Reda
Ayman El Smary
Ayman Lotfy
Emad Ibrahim
Farid Fadel
Gamal Ez
George Bahgory
Hakim Jamain
Hayam Abdel Baki
Hend Adnan
Hisham El Zeiny
Ibrahim El Dessouky
Karim Abd El Malak
Keizer (Revolution graffiti artist)
Khaled Hafiz
Maged Mikhael
Marwa Adel
Moataz Nasreldin
Mohamed Abla
Mohamed Talaat
Omar El Fayoumi
Rania Fouad
Reda Abd El Rahman
Sabah Naim
Salah El Meligy
Sameh Ismail
Shayma Aziz

Western Artists

Anne-Francoise Giraud, France
Barbara El Nimra (Gerber), Switzerland
Britt Boutros Ghali, Norway
Claire Marie Pearman, UK
Cosima Lukashevich, USA
Isolde Kadry, German/Egyptian
Julie Oxenforth, U.K.
Katrina Vrebalovich, USA
Kimberly Odekirk, USA
Mariann Villadsen, Denmark
MARS, Switzerland
Renata Dyk, Poland
Renee van Lille-Demetroudes, South Africa
Sonja Moser, Austria

2013 CARAVAN Festival of the Arts

FILM



Egyptian actor, **Amr Waked**, has starred in movies such as *Contagion*, *Syriana* and *Salmon Fishing in the Yemen*. He will be giving a talk and there will be a screening of his latest film, *Winter of Discontent*.

LITERATURE



Dr Alaa El Aswany, best selling novelist (*The Yacoubian Building*) and writer, will give a talk and sign his newly released book, *The Automobile Club*.

MUSIC



Concert featuring the renowned oud (lute) composer and player **Georges Kazazian**.

Kazazian has published a dozen albums of his music which 'capture a translucent way of playing the oud'.

2013 PUBLIC VENUES

TYPE OF VENUE		NUMBER OF DONKEYS
Hotel lobbies	Four Seasons Giza	3
	Four Seasons Garden City	3
	Kempinski	1
	Conrad	1
	Hilton Zamalek	1
	Marriott Zamalek	1
	Sofitel Gezira	1
	Fairmont	1
	JW Marriott (Katamaya)	1
Galleries	Townhouse	1
	Picasso	1
	Mashrabeyya	2
	Safar Khan	2
	Gallery Misr	2
	Zamalek Art Gallery	3
	Art Talks	2
	Al Masar	2
	Darb 17/18	3
Schools/Universities	CAC (Cairo American College)	3
	AUC (American University of Cairo)	3
Cultural Centres	British Council	1
	Goethe Institute	1
	French Cultural Center	1
Maadi	CSA (Community Services Assoc)	2
	St John's Church	2
	Café Greco Rd 9	1

2013 CARAVAN Festival of the Arts

WHAT OTHER CITIES HAVE DONE

COW PARADE

Since 1986 painted cows have been raising money for charity in major cities around the world. It began in Zurich and since has been done in Chicago, New York, London, Tokyo, Brussels, Dublin, Prague, Stockholm, Mexico City, Sao Paulo and many other cities.



LONDON ELEPHANT PARADE 2010

