

 **ARAVAN** **2013**
SEPTEMBER 2-23

IN **PEACE** AND WITH **COMPASSION** في السلام والرحمة

VISUAL ART
EXHIBITION

ST PAUL'S CATHEDRAL

LONDON

2013 CARAVAN

IN PEACE AND WITH COMPASSION— THE WAY FORWARD, OUT OF EGYPT

Premier Egyptian and Western Artists using the Arts as a bridge across creeds and cultures

In 2011, Egypt's revolution garnered the world's attention, by beautifully embodying the spirit of interfaith solidarity. As a result of what is now termed the "January 25 Revolution," a parallel revolution took place in the minds of many Egyptians about their value to each other...regardless of creed.

During these subsequent two years, an unprecedented coming together of Egyptian Muslims and Christians has been witnessed at the grassroots level as an inter-religious movement of the two faiths work together side by side toward re-shaping their country.

One of the most encouraging symbolic images have been the spontaneous displays of public art among artists around the country, where Christian and Muslim artists painted murals reflecting their sense of oneness as Egyptians. Also, as their "revolution" brought about a new interfaith spirit, thousands of Egyptian Muslims and Christians have painted on public walls the cross and crescent embracing or intertwined, with slogans in Arabic calligraphy such as "The crescent and the cross are one. We are all Egyptians, Muslim and Christian".

Today, while Egypt seeks to find its way into the future, in recognition of the many Muslims and Christians who are peacefully together walking the road toward a new Egypt, this CARAVAN art exhibition has the theme "In Peace and with Compassion...The Way Forward" as a creative demonstration of inter-religious dialogue and intercultural exchange.

Believing that the Arts can be one of the most effective mediums of building bridges of understanding, respect and friendship between East and West, their creed and cultures, the "*In Peace and with Compassion...The Way Forward*" art exhibition seeks to communicate the important message of tolerance between Christians and Muslims, living together in "peace and with compassion"...a message that comes "out of Egypt" for the world.

Over 45 premier Egyptian and Western visual artists were invited to participate in this unique international public art-oriented exhibition, and which has attracted visitors from around the world and generated attention from the international media and art world.

The CARAVAN exhibition follows in the footsteps of an approach to public art that has featured painted animals, yet with an added depth in its symbolism, intention and message. It is with this purpose that the donkey was selected. The donkey symbolizes *peace* in both Christianity and Islam, and is found in both the Bible and in the Qur'an. Examples are numerous, such as both Jesus and Omar Ibn El Khattab each riding 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, and this is especially the case in Egypt. Hence the full theme of the exhibition is "In Peace and with Compassion".

Through this art initiative the artists are making a public statement that the way forward for Egypt and the rest of the world, among all faiths, is a whole new kind of movement, one that looks on the other "in peace and with compassion".

Each participating artist painted/decorated a life-size fiberglass donkey that was sculpted specifically for this exhibition by the noted Egyptian artist Reda Abdel Rahman. All the painted fiberglass donkeys were first exhibited at the Anglican Church of St. John the Baptist in Cairo, a center for interfaith dialogue for over 80 years. Then the life-size painted fiberglass donkeys were placed throughout Cairo at strategic public locations (hotel lobbies, art galleries, cultural centers, universities, schools, community associations, etc.). Following their Cairo public display, 25 of the life-size donkeys were selected to travel to London for a traveling interfaith public-art exhibition at St. Paul's Cathedral, a sacred place known globally for its role in the Arts as well as interfaith relations. Following their exhibition at St. Paul's Cathedral, the donkeys will be auctioned off in London for charities in Egypt that serve the poorest of the poor regardless of creed.



CARAVAN

Rev. Canon Paul-Gordon Chandler
Founder, CARAVAN
www.oncaravan.org



Adel Nassief, Egypt



Adel Tharwat, Egypt



Ahmed El Kut, Egypt



Ahmed Kassim, Egypt



Ashraf Reda, Egypt



Ayman El Semary, Egypt



Carelle Homsy, Egypt



Farid Fadel, Egypt



Gamal Ez, Egypt



George Bahgory, Egypt



Hayam Abdel Baky, Egypt



Hend Adnan Egypt



Ibrahim El Dessouky, Egypt



Karim Abd El Malak, Egypt



Khaled Hafez, Egypt



Marwa Adel, Egypt



Moataz Nasreldin, Egypt



Mohamed Abla, Egypt



Mohamed Talaat, Egypt



Rania Fouad, Egypt



Reda Abd El Rahman, Egypt



Sabah Naim, Egypt



Sameh Ismail, Egypt

WESTERN ARTISTS



Anne-Francoise Giraud, France



Claire Marie Pearman, UK

www.oncaravan.org

Creative design by Claire Marie Pearman