



I AM

October 25 - November 25, 2018

A CARAVAN exhibition in partnership with ArtBAB

©Raeda Saadeh

The Cathedral Church of St. Paul

2 Cherry Street
Burlington, Vermont 05401
T:(802) 864-0471
stpaulscathedralvt.org

Opening Hours: Wednesday and Thursday: 11:30am - 1:30pm
Saturday: noon - 3:00 pm
Sunday, October 28, after 9:30am service until 1:00pm

An East-West contemporary art exhibition featuring 31 premier Middle Eastern women artists from 12 countries visually celebrating the rich, diverse and pivotal contributions that women make to the enduring global quest for harmony and peace. Curated by Janet Rady.

**Opening Program and Reception - October 25, 2018 at 5:00pm
OPEN TO THE PUBLIC**

Organised and curated by

CARAVAN

www.oncaravan.org



PRESS RELEASE – Exhibition of contemporary Middle Eastern women artists coming to Burlington, VT

I AM

Contemporary Middle Eastern Women Artists and the Quest to Build Peace

The *I AM* exhibition, assembled by the non-profit organization CARAVAN, will be showcased at The Cathedral Church of St. Paul in Burlington, VT from October 25- November 25, 2018 as part of its 16-month US tour. *I AM* premiered at the National Gallery of Fine Arts, Amman, Jordan in May 2017 under the patronage of Her Majesty Queen Rania Al Abdullah. The exhibit then traveled to London's historic St. Martin-in-the-Fields. In the US, *I AM* has been shown at the American University Museum in Washington, DC; the Center for the Arts in Jackson, WY; Christ Church Cathedral in Cincinnati, OH; and Vanderbilt University Fine Arts Gallery in Nashville, TN. Burlington, VT is the last stop on its US tour.

I AM is an East-West peace-building art exhibition that highlights the insights and experiences of Middle Eastern women as they confront issues of culture, religion, and social reality in a rapidly-changing world. Designed to address stereotypes and challenge misconceptions of the "other," the *I AM* exhibition is a visual celebration of the crucial role that Middle Eastern women play as guardians of peace by showcasing their rich and diverse contributions to humanity's enduring quest for a more harmonious and peaceful future.

The *I AM* exhibition is guest-curated by Janet Rady, a specialist in Middle Eastern contemporary art, and features 31 acclaimed women artists of Middle Eastern heritage from 12 countries.

An opening reception will be held on Thursday, October 25, 2018 at 5PM at The Cathedral Church of St. Paul, 2 Cherry Street. Participating artist Alia Ali will be in Burlington for the opening reception and will make remarks during a program that will begin at 5:30PM.

Norwich University is sponsoring participating artist Helen Zughuib's visit to Burlington. On Friday, November 2 at 3PM Zughuib will offer a talk for local college students entitled "Arab Spring, Unfinished Journeys."

On Saturday, November 3 from 11AM-noon Zughuib will join local art historian Sarah Rogers, Ph.D. for a lively dialogue entitled "The Power of Art." Zughuib will provide insight into her own creative process and her piece, "The Secrets They Carry."

The Cathedral will be open to the public for viewing every Wednesday and Thursday from 11:30AM-1:30PM and every Saturday from noon-3PM. Metered parking is available in the lower lot and there is a city parking garage (first two hours free) across from the Cathedral.

All events are free and open to the public and are designed to stimulate discussion, dialogue, education, and further understanding. Complete details may be found at www.stpaulscathedralvt.org. CARAVAN's *I AM* tour in the US is in partnership with ArtBAB. The Episcopal Diocese of Vermont is the primary sponsor of the Burlington exhibition.

About the Artists

The 31 women participating in *I AM* are premier artists of Middle Eastern origin and cover a broad geographic area of 12 countries. Some noted emerging artists have also been selected. Each artist was invited to create one original two- or three-dimensional work in any still art medium. Participating artists and their countries are:

1. Marwa Adel (Egypt)
2. Rawan Ai Adwan (Jordan)
3. Afsoon (Iran)
4. Ahaad Alamoudi (Saudi Arabia)
5. Alia Ali (Yemen)
6. Boushra Almutawakel (Yemen)
7. Zena Assi (Lebanon)
8. Shereen Audi (Jordan)
9. Manal Deeb (Palestine)
10. Maitha Demithan (UAE)
11. Lalla Essaydi (Morocco)
12. Mariam Ali Fakhro (Bahrain)
13. Taiba Faraj (Bahrain)
14. Faten Gaddes (Tunisia)
15. Azadeh Ghotbi (Iran)
16. Nermine Hammam (Egypt)
17. Hilda Hiary (Jordan)
18. Carelle Homsy (Egypt)
19. Lulwa Al-Khalifa (Bahrain)
20. Marwa Al Khalifa (Bahrain)
21. Nabeela Al Khayer (Bahrain)
22. Ghada Khunji (Bahrain)
23. Annie Kurkdjian (Lebanon)
24. Hanaa Malallah (Iraq)
25. Rania Matar (Lebanon)
26. Raeda Saadeh (Palestine)
27. Nagla Samir (Egypt)
28. Soheila Sokhanvari (Iran)
29. Mayasa Al Sowaidi (Bahrain)
30. Wijdan (Jordan)
31. Helen Zughaib (Lebanon)

About CARAVAN

CARAVAN, which originated out of Cairo, Egypt, is an international peacebuilding arts non-profit that focuses on building bridges through the arts between the creeds and cultures of the Middle East and the West. CARAVAN's experience has shown that the arts can serve as one of the most effective mediums to enhance understanding, bring about respect, enable sharing, and deepen friendship between those of different cultures and faiths. Past CARAVAN exhibitions have resulted in unprecedented gatherings of renowned Middle Eastern and Western artists who use art for intercultural and interreligious dialogue, and have garnered international attention.

For more information:

I AM

October 25 – November 25, 2018

The Cathedral Church of St. Paul
2 Cherry Street, Burlington, Vermont 05401

Opening program and reception: Thursday, October 25, 2018, 5-7PM

Public viewing: Wednesdays and Thursdays, 11:30AM-1:30PM; Saturdays, noon-3PM; and for groups by appointment.

To read more about the *I AM* exhibition: www.oncaravan.org/i-am-exhibition

To read more about the exhibition organizers: www.oncaravan.org

For photographs or press information, email: oncaravan@gmail.com

To contact The Cathedral Church of St. Paul about the exhibition:

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