

BEYOND BRIDGES

*A pioneering East-West interfaith exhibition of
21 Arab, Persian and Jewish artists focusing on what we hold in common*

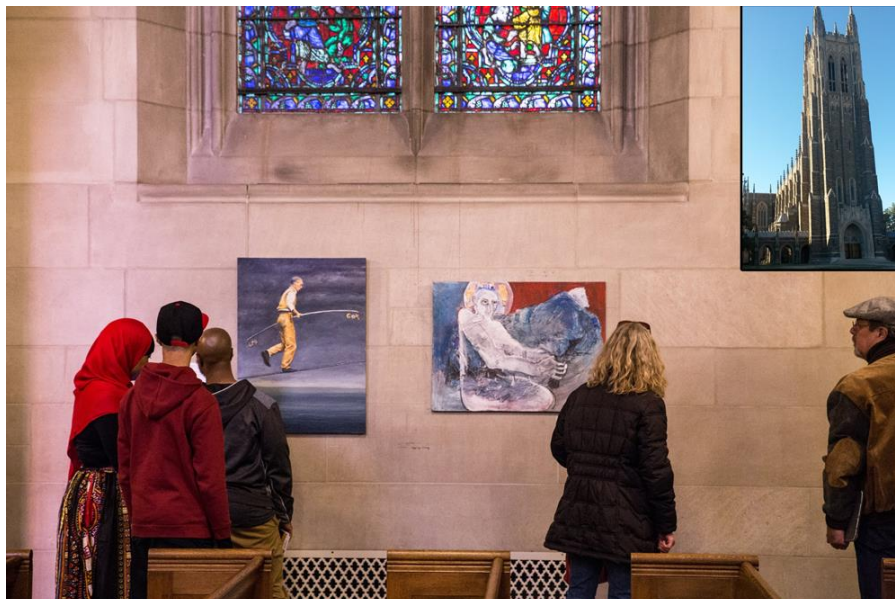
Curated by

CARAVAN at Duke University Chapel,
Durham, North Carolina

Introduction and Background

In the midst of the increasing chasm of discord and misunderstanding that exists in the United States between the Middle East and the West, and between their creeds and cultures, CARAVAN held *Beyond Bridges* at Duke University Chapel in Durham, North Carolina. *Beyond Bridges*, a major interfaith art exhibition, brought together renowned and emerging artists of Muslim, Christian and Jewish backgrounds, using art as a bridge for intercultural and interreligious dialogue.

CARAVAN, an interfaith peacebuilding arts non-profit held *Beyond Bridges* during the month of February 2017, showcasing the artwork of 21 Arab, Persian and Jewish artists from 11 countries and from the three primary monotheistic faith backgrounds.



Beyond Bridges opened on February 5th for the World Interfaith Harmony Week with a panel discussion between special guest artists, religious leaders and art critics on the role of art in uniting diverse faith communities. The exhibition ran through February 26 in the nave of the beautiful historic university chapel.

In the exhibition, *Beyond Bridges*, 21 premier Arab, Persian and Jewish artists of Muslim, Christian and Jewish faith communities focused on what they hold in common through their cultures and creeds.

Strategic Need and Impact

With the widening divide that exists between the faiths and peoples of the Middle East and the West, *Beyond Bridges* called for a whole new kind of movement: one that builds on what we hold in common.

It is more critical now than ever that “creative bridges of dialogue” be built enabling us to walk across to meet our neighbor on “the other side”. On the other side of the bridge, we discover, as the early 20th century Lebanese artist and writer Kahlil Gibran (who profoundly bridged East and West), said, that, “Your neighbor is your other self dwelling behind a wall. In understanding, all walls shall fall down.”



Panel discussion at opening of BEYOND BRIDGES at Duke University Chapel

These 21 participating artists from Muslim, Christian and Jewish faith backgrounds through BEYOND BRIDGES made the case for using that which we have in common as the foundation for the future of our world. The *Beyond Bridges* exhibition served as an “encounter point”, encouraging and enabling new relationships to be made across religions and cultures. The focus of CARAVAN’s *Beyond Bridges* exhibition at Duke University Chapel was to provide a link not only within the community but between faith communities, looking at effective ways that cultural and religious diversity can be respected and honored.

About the BEYOND BRIDGES exhibition

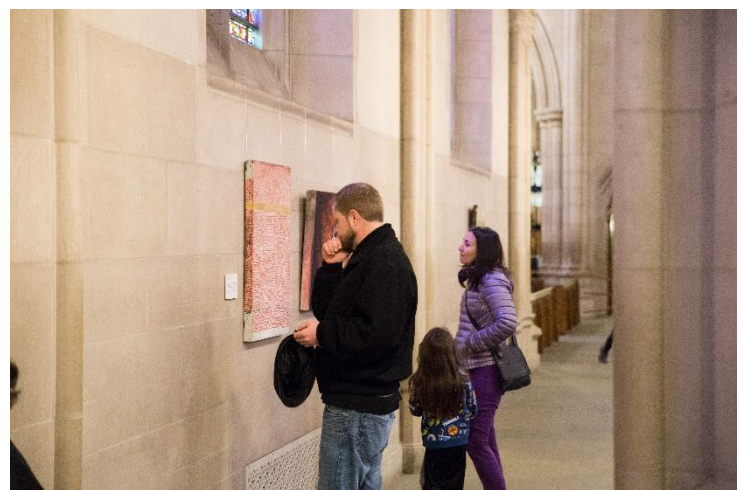
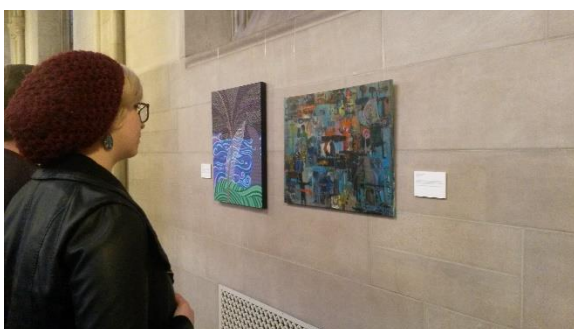
Each of the 21 artists contributed an original work of art created specifically for *Beyond Bridges* on canvas, wood or paper that is approximately 60 x 80 cm in size and hangs either vertically or horizontally. Also, each artwork included a plaque with that respective artist’s statement about their piece. The 21 artists represented in *Beyond Bridges* covered a geographic area of 11 countries, with the majority coming from the Middle East, and all from the three primary monotheistic faith backgrounds (Judaism, Christianity and Islam). Participating artists include women and men, from premier contemporary artists to emerging younger artists, and artists that use a variety of artistic mediums.

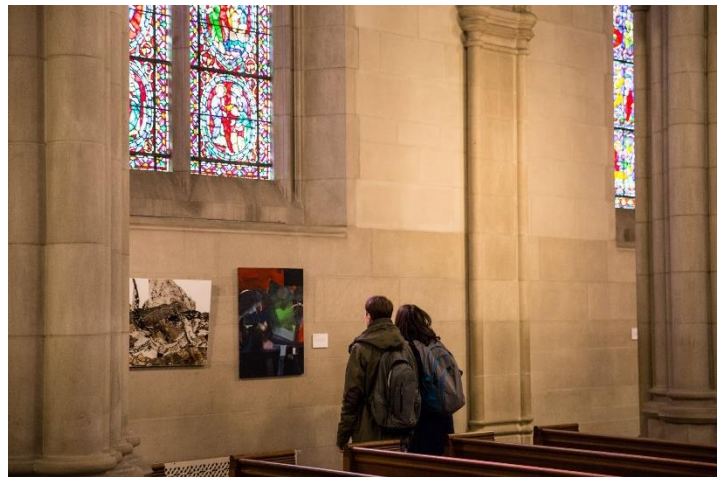
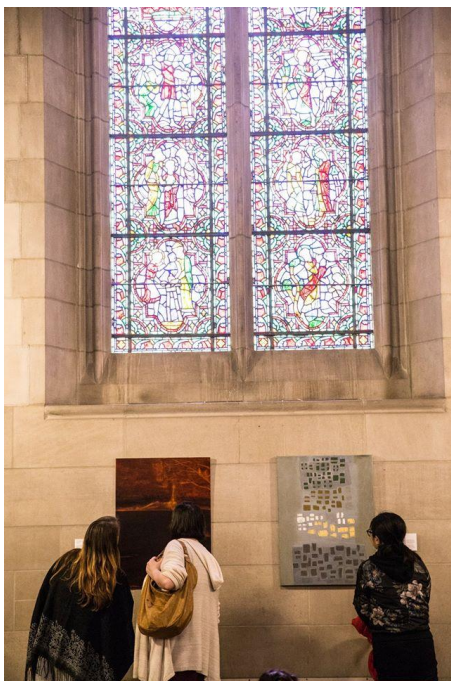
The BEYOND BRIDGES exhibition served as a catalyst for other programs during the course of its running with the objective of changing negative perceptions, alleviating fears and creating lasting change in the quest for harmony, coexistence and peace.

Participating Artists in BEYOND BRIDGES

Azadeh Ghotbi
Galila Nawar
Gamal Ez
Guirguis Lotfi
Hayam Abdel Baky
Helen Zughaib
Hilda Hiary
Hisham Abdallah
Hossam Sakr
Isabelle Bakhoum
Manal Deeb
Mohamed Abouelnaga
Mohamed Monaiseer
Mutaz Elemam
Patrick Altes
Rania El Hakim
Ronen Siman Tov
Sameh Ismael
Siona Benjamin
Yasser Rostom
Valerie Rauchbach

A Photographic Overview





About CARAVAN, the organizing entity of the *Beyond Bridges* exhibition

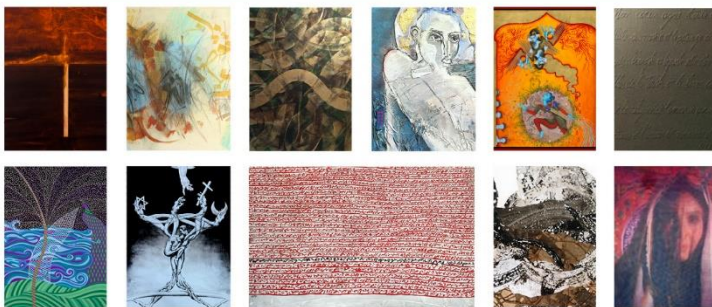
CARAVAN, which originated out of Cairo, Egypt, is an international peacebuilding arts non-profit that focuses on building bridges through the arts between the creeds and cultures of the Middle East and West. CARAVAN's experience has shown that the arts can serve as one of the most effective mediums to enhance understanding, bring about respect, enable sharing, and deepen friendship between those of different faiths and cultures. CARAVAN has held numerous East-West interfaith peacebuilding exhibitions in places such as London's St. Paul's Cathedral, National Cathedral in Washington D.C., at Ground Zero and The Cathedral of St. John the Divine in New York, on both Trafalgar Square and Piccadilly Circus in London, in Cairo's Museum of Modern Art, in Rockefeller Chapel in Chicago, etc. For more information, see: www.oncaravan.org

*Peacebuilding through the Arts
between the creeds and cultures of the Middle East and West*

www.oncaravan.org / email: oncaravan@gmail.com



An interfaith contemporary visual arts exhibition.



BEYOND BRIDGES

Feb. 5 - Feb. 26, 2017
at Duke University Chapel

EXHIBITION HOURS: 8 A.M. - 10 P.M. DAILY

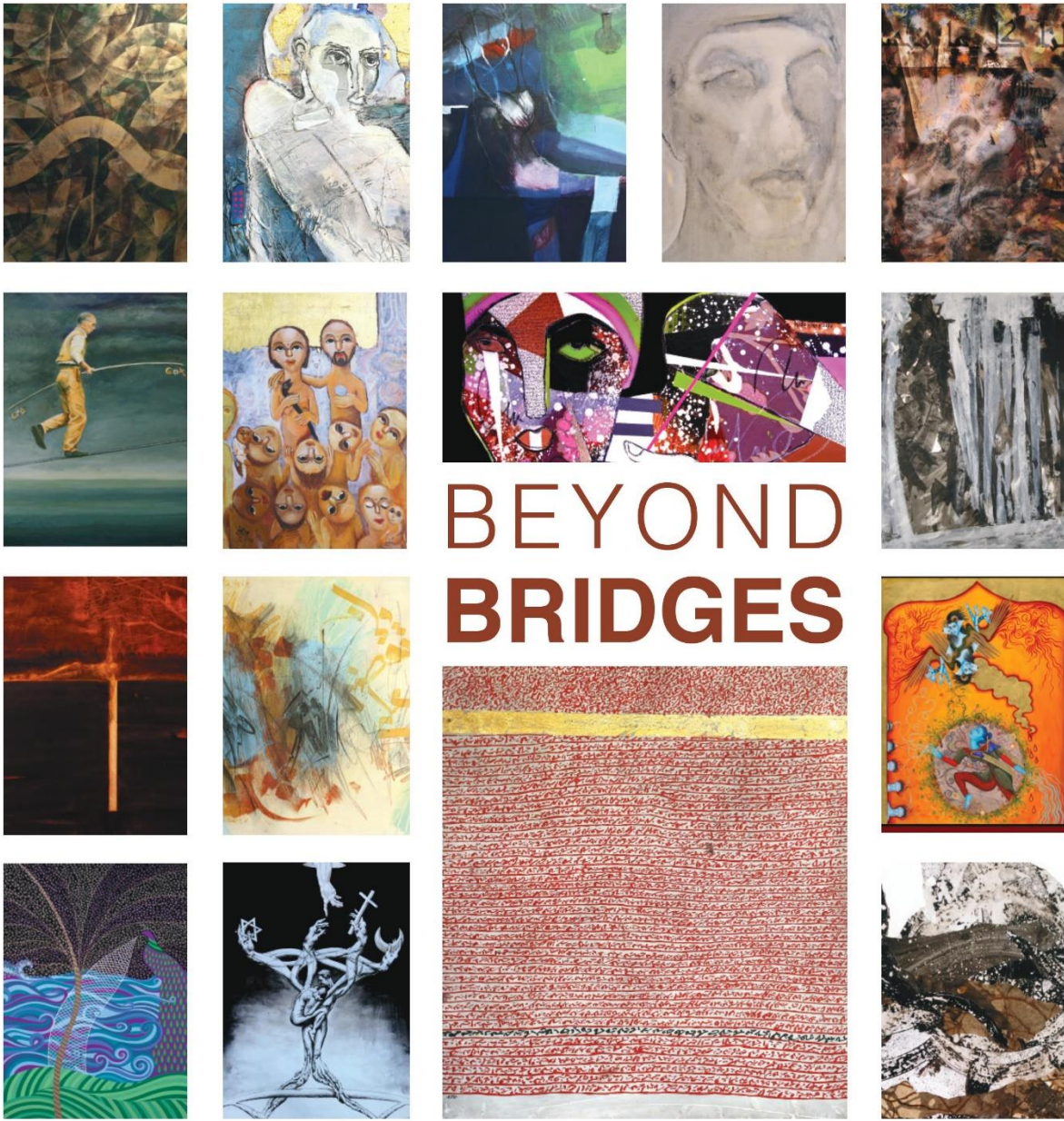
Opening Panel and Reception | Feb. 5, 2:00 p.m.

FREE AND OPEN TO ALL



INTERFAITH
ENGAGEMENT

chapel.duke.edu/art



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Organized and curated by CARAVAN,
 a peace-building arts nonprofit, Beyond
 Bridges features 21 works of premier
 Christian, Muslim and Jewish artists.
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