

# Art Exhibition at Kolding Library, Denmark

**Description of Venue:** The Art Exhibition 2024 was held at the Kolding Library (*Kolding Bibliotek*), the main library which also runs 3 local libraries in town. Events happening at the Kolding Library are also posted on its website. This event was featured on the library's website. The library provides the artists the display boards and all the accessories needed for the hanging of the art works. It also provides facilities for the official opening like chairs, tables, sound system, and piano. The Cross-cultural Ministry of Kolding Deanery is thankful for the good working cooperation with Kolding Library in carrying out the Art Exhibition from start to finish. The library is open from Monday and hours during weekends. Everyday the Library receives more than one thousand guests. Kolding is the 10<sup>th</sup> largest city in Denmark with a local population of 58.8 thousand.

**Why Art Exhibition?** Art is work from the heart. Artists have their language also on issues in our time and the image in their art works also reveal their thoughts, feelings, and convictions. Artists were invited to join in the Joint Art Exhibition by presenting their works of art, selecting, and hanging them within the given period: February 15 to February 22, 2024. The invitation also reiterated the historic creation of UN World Interfaith Harmony Week and the principles in this annual observance, a guide for artists on their selection of their art works to exhibit.

## Preparations, Setting up the Scene for the Exhibition

22 artists signed up for the Joint Art Exhibition. Then 4 new artists joined to be added to the list, making the total number of 26 artists from 8 countries: Denmark, Syria, Ghana, Philippines, Lithuania, Poland, Iraq-Kurdistan, and Romania.

We borrowed from the library 27 display boards and accessories for hanging of the art works. A great help indeed! The needed materials for setting up the place for exhibition were all made available for our use upon arrival. Thanks to our contact person and librarian, Anni Schumacher!

As the artists were working and helping each other to have a good formation of the 27 display boards, there were also people- children, youths, and adults- who came, stopped by, and started to see the Art Exhibition on this day of setting up the art exhibition on February 15 from 12 to 6 pm.

The artists were good at helping each other in making use of the display board and for finding a better formation of the over-all exhibition to the public eye. One display board was used for information on UN World Interfaith Harmony Week, some drawings and poems on the title TOLERANCE, the Statement of Support for the event, and some citations and verses or texts from the scriptures of different religions on the Love of God and Love of neighbor and two collage glass frames on the UN WIFHW.

A table at the center place at the back of the exhibition was placed for artists to put their personal info about themselves and how they could be contacted.

A total of 122 art works were exhibited varying genres from acrylic and oil paintings to graphic art and in watercolors and pencils - touching themes on love, friendship and fellowship, something on the religious faith and religious stories and symbols, images on nature and the natural environment we do value and protect. Artists are of Christian, Muslim, and Buddhist religions or of other faith or no-faith.

The Art Exhibition has daily guests from morning to afternoon. In some other days, the opening hour is extended until 9 pm.

### **The Official Opening of the Art Exhibition.**

Information dissemination was through Facebook, Messenger and Placards. The placard on the Official opening or known in Danish language as "*fernisering*" was done by the artist, Marianne Jespersen. As soon as the placard was finished, it went to be distributed to the public places. The billboards of Simon Peters Church, the shop MENY, churches, public profiles on Facebook, Multi-cultural Forum of Kolding Municipality and in personal Facebook profiles of some of our participating artists.

**Planning and Execution:** Elizabeth P. Olesen was asked to help the Art Exhibition. Meetings with Lone Krogh Møller and Michael Markussen were done to plan out and follow up the execution of the Art Exhibition. Other communications were through e-mail, telephone-calls and via Messenger. The height of the meeting was on the Official opening and the invitations issued to others who could also contribute with their own art in music and dance.

Kidd Mkandawari, a professional drummer, the two sisters from Zimbabwe with their unique instrument and two ladies from Lithuania were invited.

The vice-mayor, Birgitte Munck Grunnet, was the speaker. The Haderslev Diocese office for Migrant Cooperation and Church Meeting with other Religions was also represented by Kirsten Munster.

### **The Official opening of the Art Exhibition on February 22 at 3 to 6 pm**

The preparation at the library was done at 1 pm. Chairs, tables, piano and sound system were already present for us to arrange. There were 60 chairs made available, but we had to borrow more chairs we could find from the free rooms.

The coffee table with fruits, sweets, cakes, and peanuts were prepared at 1 pm. People started to come at 2 pm. The coffee table was finally ready for serving at 2:30. We were allowed to borrow the kitchen of the library so we could do preparations from there. We had volunteers to man the kitchen and the coffee table: Csaba Pajzos from Hungary and Lone Smart from Denmark. And volunteers in cleaning up after the arrangement were Margrethe Nielsen from Thailand and Sarah Jean Mudabpil-Bæretsen from the Philippines.

Elizabeth Padillo Olesen welcomed and thanked all who came, reiterating the history behind World InterFaith Harmony Week every first week in February and the activities which could possibly be carried out from the last week in January to first week in March.

Rev. Michael Markussen led the program. He was able to connect the years of our participation through different activities, also giving time to present to the public the Diploma and the Silver Medal as part of the Second Prize Award we received last year at the Jordan Embassy in Norway.

See the program as guide for the team and the chosen songs for community singing: A song of hope, in Danish language accompanied by Ejvind Amorsen in piano. Elizabeth accompanied the song, "If Each little child, Wonderful World" by guitar. Kidd Mkandawire made the people swing and dance to the African music and rhythm. Clara Mauwa sang with a Zimbabwe musical instrument. Her sister Kate was sick and could not join.

Lone Krogh Møller was introduced by Michael Markussen as the new coordinator of the Cross- Cultural Ministry of Kolding Deanery from August 2023 after Elizabeth Padillo Olesen's retirement in June 2023.

Lone Krogh Møller made her response and awarded all the artists and those who contributed to the days' program with symbolic flower of gratitude in a form of packed fresh tulip plant.

There was time set for the public to go around the display boards where the artists were ready to welcome and receive questions... It was nice event which made people happy.

Rev. Michael Markussen rounded up the program with thanks and encouraged the audience to spend time talking with the artists as they stood by the side of display board of their own art works. There was also time for picture taking.

### **Enclosures:**

1. The poster of the event /Plakat om fernisering (lavet af Marianne Jespersen)

<https://www.facebook.com/photo/?fbid=781591560671596&set=a.556304236533664>

2. Updated list of 26 artists on the Art Exhibition 2024

3. Songs for Community Singing on hope, angels and dream for our one world

4. The Declaration of Support 2024

### **Videos**

5. Video of Kidd Mkandawari's musical rendition with drum

<https://www.facebook.com/elizabeth.p.olesen/videos/1189526132020477>

6. Reel Video on the preparations for the Art Exhibition, February 15, 2024

<https://www.facebook.com/reel/2165552380459297>

7. Reel Video on the Official Opening of the Art Exhibition

To be inserted here...

8. Information from the website of Kolding Library on the Event

<https://koldingbib.dk/arrangementer/udstilling/udstilling-fn-world-interfaith-harmony-week>

9. Photos from Kolding International Congregation's Facebook Profile

<https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100064622772162>