

Qatar Narratives: A Country Expressed by Its Own Voices

Introduction

Art is a universal language which creates more cross cultural understanding and can touch the deepest depths of any human soul. For this reason, the Deborah Colton Gallery would like to welcome you to "Qatar Narratives: A Country Expressed by its Own Voices," which includes artists from the State of Qatar, Ali Hassan, Anthony Terrot, Hessa Al Obaid, Khalifa Al Obaidly, Manar Al Muffah, Roqaya Hamad Al Thani, Salman Almalik, Souad Al Salem, Wadha Al Sulaiti and "Echoing" by United States artist Angelbert Metoyer.

This exhibition could not have been created without the efforts of many throughout the world. I would like to deeply thank the Consular Forum Corps of Houston for their continued long term dedication to their noble mission. Although this organization includes the dedication of many, a special thank you to Sherman Yeager and Janice Harrison for their continued dedication to this project. I would also like to thank Acting Head of Post in Houston, Abdulla Al-Maadadi and the entire staff at the Consulate Office of Qatar in Houston for their support. I would also like to thank Ambassador Chase and Diana Untermeyer for sharing their love and rich experiences with the artists and the people of State of Qatar and for their commitment to the arts and the city of Houston. I would also like to thank Craig and Tatiana Massey and Carlos Medina for their local support of this exhibition.

A special thank you to the Virginia Commonwealth University School of Design in Qatar and the Qatar Foundation. For without the unconditional support of Margarita Zuniga Dean's Office Administrator and Dean Allyson Vanstone, we would have never been able to have this exhibition. I would also like to thank Fernanda Londres and Maya Saikali at the Waqif Art Center and RasGas Public Affairs Department. We are so appreciative of all of our new friends in Qatar including the artists who believed in the mission of this exhibition and especially to the editors of the book, "Qatar Narratives," Mohanalakshmi Phongsavan and Carol Henderson, who gave us the foundation of this exhibition.

Last but not least, I would like to thank our staff, James W. Craig and Selene Arrazolo and the curator, Mafalda Budib, for her vision, strength and perseverance to successfully create and implement this fine exhibition. A very special thank you also to my husband, Bill Colton, for his long term dedication and support to all of our projects.

With love and peace always,

Deborah M. Colton
Director