



2014 IARS Experience Performers and Art Lectures

Art Lectures

Jamie Labar - Female contemporary artists from South Asia

Jamie Labar, gallery owner of LuminArte. This gallery is a must see destination in Dallas and is where the Islamic Art Revival Series International Juried Art Exhibition took place. The exhibition showcases Islamic Art from around the world, right here in Dallas!

Chris Slaughter - Chris Islamic architecture in Dallas

Chris is the President and CEO of The Thanksgiving Foundation and Thanksgiving square in Dallas. Thanksgiving square provides resource so that citizens from diverse backgrounds can use thanksgiving as a way to heal division and enhance mutual understanding.

Ronald Watson – “Hot Spots”

Ronald Watson, Professor of Art and Past Chair of Texas Christian University's Department of Art and Art History.

Fashion Show

Yasmina Johnston - Fashion Influenced by Islamic Design

As a recent graduate from the Art Institute of Dallas, Yasmina Johnston has already made an emphasis in the local Dallas fashion industry. She first started out as an artist at Brookhaven College School of the Arts. There her talent was able to mature and gain character through studio art and film. Yasmina then later transferred to the Art Institute of Dallas to pursue a career in fashion design.

She is currently working for Neiman Marcus as the Women’s Couture/Sportswear visual stylist at their Willow Bend location. By working as a visual stylist, Yasmina has been able to take her passion and knowledge of fashion to another level. As the result of her dedication in the industry, she has been involved in local fashion productions, which include working with Jan Strimple and other leading design professionals.

Yasmina launched the label inner.orbit.systems in 2011, which specializes in contemporary Abayas and concept ready-to-wear. The I.O.S. design philosophy coincides with the new generation of fashion, where experimental design and function is combined. Creating Abayas with uncommon materials and inventing new silhouettes. The I.O.S. Collection includes leatherwork pieces, Abayas, and one of a kind garments.

Sharmeen Niazi

Jewelry and fashion from Sharmeen Niazi of Heritage S Boutique

Musical Performances

Areeba Amer

Areeba Amer is a solo violinist. Areeba is an honor student and a freshman at Greenhill School. She describes herself as a literature and arts connoisseur with her interests ranging from music to Latin.

Aladeen Alhayek

Palestinian-American singer, song writer, rapper and music producer. Aladeen Alhayek has had the love for music since childhood. He has an ability to sing both Eastern and Western Styles of Music, singing in English and Arabic, to blend and merge these styles together.

The Ismaili Muslim Youth Choir

The Ismaili Muslim Youth Choir in collaboration with the Booker T. Washington High School for the Performing and Visual Arts, will be performing an original piece titled "Profit & Loss". Composed, arranged & written by Fez Meghani, with an intro composition by Sarosh Mawani. The piece, divided into 4 sections, is directed by Keith Ellingson. The performance is inspired by the book, "Two Crafty Jackals, The Animal fable of Kalilah and Dimnah" written by Elizabeth Laird and published by the Aga Khan Museum. The Aga Khan Museum in Toronto is founded by His Highness the Aga Khan to present an overview of the contributions that Muslim civilizations have made to the world's cultural heritage and store of scientific knowledge.

Jamal Mohamed - Drumming Performance

Noted hand drummer and percussionist Jamal Mohamed has been a featured artist in many international music and dance events. He has presented percussion workshops at venues worldwide, including Berklee College of Music in Boston; the National Institute of Fine Arts in Mexico City; the Tokyo School of Music in Tokyo, Japan; the American University in Cairo, Egypt; the Center for World Music in Bali, Indonesia; and the University of Hong Kong, to name a few.

He has performed with Sting, Mark O'Connor, Giovanni Hidalgo and many other well known artists. In addition, his music has been featured in the television documentaries Ramses the Great, National Geographic's Lions of Darkness (with D'Drum), and the film biography of bluesman Robert Johnson, Can't You Hear the Wind Howl? starring Danny Glover and Keb' Mo'.

Jamal also performs with the world music group Brahma and the jazz ensemble Jampact. He serves on the faculty at Southern Methodist University's Meadows School of the Arts, where he teaches percussion and directs the Meadows World Music Ensemble. For more visit www.jamalmohamed.com.

Theatrical Performances

Daniel Abd al-Hayy Moore

Reading of poetry from internationally renowned poet, Daniel Abd al-Hayy Moore.

The Ismaili Muslim Cultural Group

The Ismaili Muslim Cultural Group enacting the story of “Two Crafty Jackals, The Animal Fables of Kalilah and Dimnah” written by Elizabeth Laird and published by the Aga Khan Museum. Kalilah and Dimnah first appeared in the Panchatantra (Sanskrit for Five Principles), composed in India in the third century BC, related a series of nested tales within tales to illustrate examples of right or wrong behavior that lead to good or bad results. These stories were then translated into Arabic and Persian, traveled to many countries before arriving in Europe and translated into many European languages.

Salaam Dabkeh Troupe

Salaam Dabkeh Troupe is a traditional Middle-Eastern folkloric dance troupe. Their message is to spread cultural awareness through dancing 'dabkeh'. Their directive is peace! The stomping represents the passion they have for their country of Palestine. The holding of the hands exemplifies the unity they feel for their country and other countries. Their goal is one of peace through community outreach.

The Zevk Ensemble

The Zevk Ensemble is the combined effort of husband and wife team Benyamin and Rabia van Hattum. They are committed to using their performing talents to express that tolerance and appreciation of cultural and religious differences is the basis of a peaceful world, and that everyone becomes richer by sharing. Zevk is a Turkish word conveying taste and joy coming from an uplifted heart. By expressing what is universal and appreciating what is different in all cultures, the Zevk Ensemble hopes to bring hearts to the recognition that we are all one human family.

Puppeteer

Mustaqiim Sahir

Brother Mustaqiim is a youth activist, author and entertainer. He is currently the Enrichment Coordinator for the YZK Institute in Richardson. This multi-talented brother is committed to using his talents to help educate the youth about Islam in order to build their character.

Brother Mustaqiim converted to Islam in 1989. In 1993 he left a recording contract in Hollywood, moved back to the east coast, started a family, and began recording Islamic songs. He moved his family to Istanbul, Turkey in 1997 and recorded his song and music video entitled This is Islam, which sings that “Islam is all about peace”. A few years later, for this song and video, brother Mustaqiim received a letter of praise from President Clinton.

Now with a Master of Education, he is using his education and entertainment skills to create educational products for teaching the Islam and Good Character.

Sharmina Zaidi (IANT Girl Scouts Brownie Troop 647)

Our Troop is a part of the Girl Scouts of North America Service Unit 164. We are affiliated with IANT. The girls in our Troop are Brownies which is 2nd and 3rd grade and come from various schools in the community. Their Troop Leader is Sharmina Zaidi. For more visit iantgirlscouts.weebly.com/.

Girl Scouts performing a nasheed in four different languages - English, Urdu, Turkish and Arabic.

Spoken Word

Noor Wadi

Noor hails from the bustling village of Cape Girardeau, Missouri, and is currently a senior at UTD on her path to law school. She will perform a spoken word piece with poise and depth on Role of Women in Islam.

Storyteller

Noor Saadeh

Noor formely held a prestigious position as a classical concert and opera singer, performing at the height of the classical music scene in New York and abroad. She is the cofounder and co-creator of Noorart, a source for Islamic multi-media and educational products. Her work has been recorded by other popular Muslim artists, such Yusuf Islam, formerly Cat Stevens.