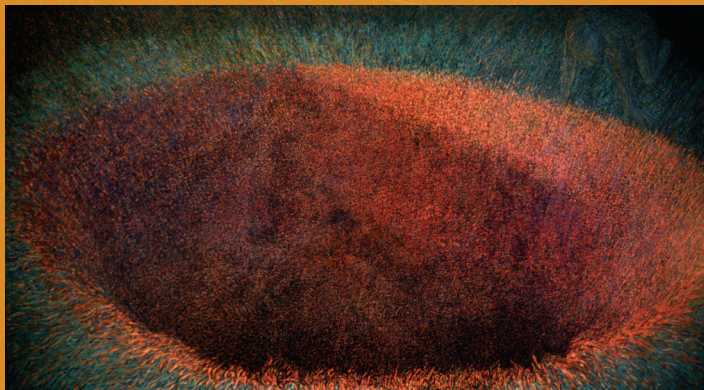


 The Arab American National Museum  
presents



**Exploring New Forms and Meanings:**  
*the Intersection of Audience, Ideas, and Art*

A symposium in conjunction with  
the contemporary art exhibition *In/Visible*

May 19-21, 2005



**Arab American National Museum**

A project of ACCESS  
13624 Michigan Avenue  
Dearborn, MI 48126  
(313) 582-AANM

For further information, please contact:  
Greta Anderson at [ganderson@accesscommunity.org](mailto:ganderson@accesscommunity.org)  
or  
Denita Parrish at [dparrish@accesscommunity.org](mailto:dparrish@accesscommunity.org)  
(313)582-AANM

This Program was funded in part by the National Endowment for the Arts, the Rockefeller Foundation, the Michigan Council for Arts and Cultural Affairs, and the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation.

Cover Art:

John Halaka, *A Path of Least Resistance*, 1999-2000  
oil on canvas, 68" x 124", collection of the artist

This first symposium on the creative expressions of Arab Americans will explore modes of representation and reception of visual and musical art forms within the context of transnationalism and globalization. Scholars, art professors and artists working in diverse media- including painting, video, sculpture, mixed media installations, photography, music, and film- will share their experiences of working between two worlds and how they infuse and synthesize elements of these experiences into their work. The Symposium will open a dialogue on an art that has long been marginalized and is currently moving towards the center; it will further challenge the audience to reassess their notions of art by non-Western artists, and to take a critical look at its interplay with contemporary American art.

This symposium is organized in conjunction with the Arab American National Museum's inaugural art exhibition, *In/Visible*. Symposium content will be centered on dialogue fostered by participating artists of *In/Visible*, in addition to themes presented in the Museum's *Arab World* permanent exhibit. The Program will feature lectures, panel discussions, and general dialogue on Arab and Arab American artistic forms and representation as expressed through both exhibitions. Each session will provide a platform for dialogue between panelists and the audience

## Thursday, May 19, 2005

### Opening Reception for *In/Visible*

We encourage symposium participants to attend the opening of the contemporary art exhibition *In/Visible*, from which a large portion of the symposium dialogue will be generated by the exhibition's contributing artists. The first exhibition of contemporary art by first- and second-generation Americans of Arab heritage, *In/Visible* will open on Thursday, May 19th at 5:00pm. The opening reception is free and open to the public. Immediately following, there will be a free showing and presentation delivered by renowned filmmakers Annemarie Jacir and Jacqueline Salloum from 6:30-8:00pm in the Museum's auditorium.

## Friday, May 20, 2005

4:30pm-5:00pm

### Open Registration and Welcoming Remarks

Dr. Anan Ameri, AANM Director

Salwa Mikdadi, Curator of *In/Visible*

5:00pm-5:45pm

### The Alhambra, By Light of Day

Abstracting from traditional Islamic architectural forms, this lecture will present a fresh aspect to 13th-15th century Nasrid palace architecture in al-Andalus. With fleeting play of light, depth and texture, the speaker creates a visual drama that highlights the exquisite craftsmanship of Islamic interior design and an exemplary feat of cultural preservation.

Saïd Nuseibeh, Architectural Photographer

5:45pm-6:00pm

### Break

6:00pm-7:30pm

### Looking Within

This panel will feature artists who work primarily in the medium of painting and drawing. They will discuss their exploration of painting as a medium for introspection and meditation, and will further reflect on how poetry has inspired their art.

Afaf Zurayk, Washington DC based artist and teacher

John Halaka, San Diego based artist and professor

Sumayyah Samaha, New York based artist

Athir Shayota, New York based artist

Panel Moderator: Salwa Mikdadi, Curator of *In/Visible*

## Saturday, May 21, 2005

9:30am-10:00am

### Coffee and Registration

10:00am-11:45am

### Representation and Reception

This panel's speakers will discuss the recent resurgence of interest in the contemporary culture of the Arab world. They will explore the new forms of art representation and reception, and how current political forces shape audiences' perceptions of art, as well as how those forces influence art presentation.

Abdelali Dahrouch, Los Angeles based artist and professor

Salah Hassan, Chair of the Department of History of Art, Cornell University

Mariam Ghani, New York based video and installation artist

Panel Moderator: Sarah Rogers, PhD Candidate, Department of Architecture, Massachusetts Institute of Technology

11:45am-1:00pm

### Break for Lunch

1:00pm-2:30pm

### History and Contemporary Experiences in Conceptual Art

Employing humor, irony, and metaphor, the artists on this panel will discuss how they examine current events through a wider lens of history. They will present unique ways of broadening the discourse on identity, transnationalism, and globalization.

Yasser Aggour, New York based performance and mixed media artist

Rheim Alkadhi, Los Angeles based installation artist

Joe Namy, Detroit based interdisciplinary artist

Panel Moderator: Youmna Chlala, San Francisco based writer and visual artist

3:00pm-6:00pm

### Break

6:00pm-8:00pm

### Two lectures:

Sufi: Reflections and Origins and

Gospel Music: A Changing Beat, A Constant Theology

These sessions will explore the relationship between Islamic Sufi music and Gospel music. Through presentations and live demonstrations by scholars in the fields of both topics, we will ask how traditional musical forms shape and are shaped by new environments. This section is co-sponsored by the University of Michigan Dearborn.

Dr. Halim El-Dabh, Composer and Professor; Kent State University

Dr. Deborah Smith Pollard, Director of the African and African American Studies Program, University of Michigan Dearborn