

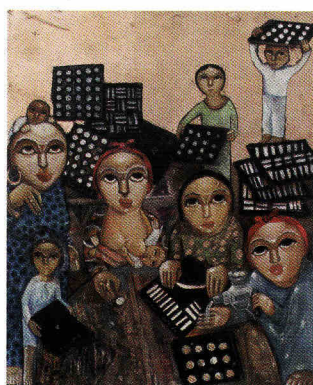
Who is My Neighbour?

CARAVAN Festival
of the Arts

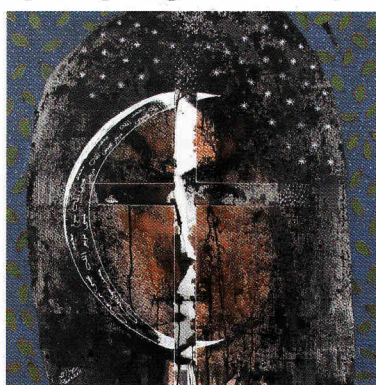
Feb 3-12, 2011. Maadi, Cairo

by Roland Prime

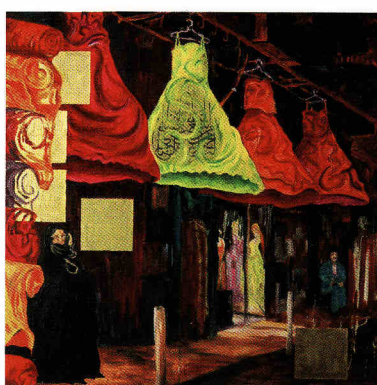
(Exhibition curator and participating British artist)



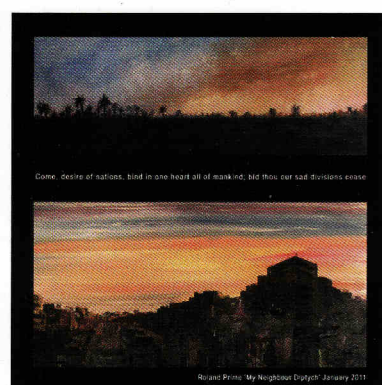
**Guirguis Lotfi (Egypt-Coptic)-
Title: Neighbourly Oneness**



Reda Abdel Rahman (Egypt-Muslim)-Title: My Neighbour



**Cath Barnes (Western)-
Title: Boula Market**



**Roland Prime (Western)-
Title: My Neighbour**

In the wake of the recent events, Muslims and Christian artists will join in solidarity at the Caravan Festival of the Arts at the historic St. John's Church in Maadi bringing Muslims and Christians together from February 3-12.

Building on its success over the last two years, a more comprehensive artistic festival with the theme of 'My Neighbour' is planned. The goal is to build bridges between East and West, Muslim and Christian, through the visual arts as well as literature, film and music.

The Festival is under the patronage of the St. John's, Cairo, which was founded in 1931, to serve English-speaking expatriates in Egypt. What makes this exhibition so unusual is that the exhibition actually takes place within the church, a first for Egypt.

The words of Anish Kappour, the contemporary Indian sculptor illustrate our objective: "We live in a fractured world. I've always seen it as my role as an artist to attempt to make wholeness."

Rev. Canon Paul-Gordon Chandler, author and the American priest of St. John's Church and founder of the Festival, said: "Our experience has shown that art is a universal language that has the ability to dissolve the petty differences that divide us. We believe the Arts can help lead the way."

The initiative over the last two years has generated significant attention from

the international media and surpassed all expectations. The last Caravan Festival of the Arts in January 2010 was opened by the Bishop of London, Richard Chartres, and the Grand Mufti of Egypt, Sheikh Ali Gouma. Sheikh Ali Gouma concluded his address with these words: "Both religion and art elevate the sense of humanity. Thus we aspire for art to be used as a tool to enhance our religiosity and our humanity."

As the popularity of the Caravan exhibition has grown so has the response from the global artists' community. While the majority of the visual art will be painting, the exhibition will also be including printmaking, photography and sculpture.

The exhibition will have a diverse range of artists ranging from one of Egypt's leading contemporary artists, Mohammed Abla, to rising star Reda Abdel Rahman, to expatriate artists Britt Boutros Ghali and Roland Prime

to name but a few. Many thousands are expected to attend and there will be considerable Arab and Western media coverage.

On February 3 at 7pm, the Grand Imam of Al Azhar in Cairo, Sheikh Ahmed el Tayeb, will officially open the festival. Also, the New York Times bestselling Iranian-American author, Reza Aslan, will deliver an opening address.

Attendance is free and 20% of all art sales go to Middle Eastern charities assisting the poor.

Programme of events:

• Opening Night: February 3 at 7pm.

Presentation on the theme of 'My Neighbour East & West', with all 45 artists present.

• **Literature Night: February 5 at 7pm.** Talk and book signing by Reza Aslan. Title of Lecture: 'Beyond Fundamentalism: Confronting Religious Extremism in the Age of Globalization'.

• **Film Night: February 7 at 7 pm.** Talk by Khalid Abdalla, British-Egyptian film actor (star of The Kite Runner, United 93, and Green Zone), followed by film screening.

• **Musical Concert: February 9 at 7:00pm.** A performance by Mohammed Antar, world-renowned Ney (Middle Eastern Flute) player.

Caravan Festival of the Arts: My Neighbour

February 3-12, 2011

www.oncaravan.org

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