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For Immediate Release

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Tanenbaum Hosts Annual Art Auction, Divinely Inspired: Celebrating Differences Through Art, featuring Iraqi Artists

New York, NY, March 15, 2023: The Tanenbaum | Center for Interreligious Understanding hosts its second annual art auction at the Rubin Museum on the evening of March 15, 2023 from 6:30 – 8:30 PM EST. The evening will feature a unique collection of art, created by sought-after artists from around the globe who are inspired by their diverse faiths. All funds raised will support Tanenbaum’s work to provide training and educational resources for building respect for religious diversity.

Two special pieces will be auctioned live during the evening, thanks to Christie’s Auction House. The remaining 40 works will be offered for purchase through an online silent auction powered by Artsy. Tickets for the exclusive auction reception at the Rubin Museum are available for purchase on Tanenbaum’s [website](#).



Iraqi Woman
by Sura Al Khafaji

Attendees will have the opportunity to meet artists in person, and bid on incredible pieces of art. The online auction launches on March 15th and continues for two-weeks following the launch event, culminating at 12:00 PM EST on March 28th.

This year, Divinely Inspired will feature five Iraqi artists introduced to Tanenbaum through our *Peacemaker in Action*, [Dr. Sarah AK Ahmed](#), an Iraqi national, and Baghdad native who “loves her country and all the people in it.”

The featured Iraqi artists and artworks include:

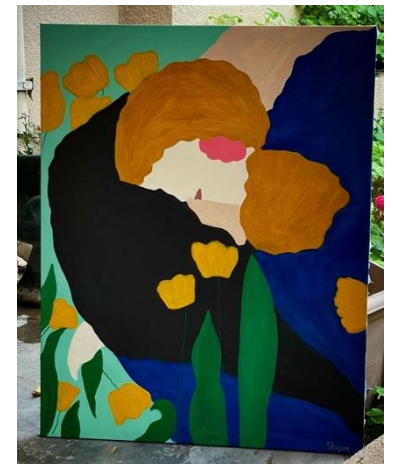
Iraqi Woman, by Sura Alkhafaje, is an Iraqi visual artist and fashion student. Sura’s work highlights Iraqi women in their traditional Iraqi heritage.

The Instrumentalist, by Ahmed AlKhazali who is well known for his use of bold colors and mixing different styles.

Restrictions, by Hasnaa Alaa Al-deen Mohammed, draws inspiration from the constraints faced by Iraqi women, such as social restrictions inherited for generations and passed from mothers to daughters.

Surrender, by Marina Jaber Ridah, a self-taught artist whose work is a direct expression of her demand for human rights as a Middle Eastern woman.

Duny, Yellow Tulip, by Shayan Shahir Nuradeen, a visual artist based in the Erbil, Kurdistan region of Iraq. Shayan’s piece is a tribute to the women victims of honor killings in Kurdish communities and was created to celebrate the beauty of those women, their beautiful dreams, their courage and their rights.



Duny, Yellow Tulip
by Shayan Shahir Nuradeen

Mark Fowler, Tanenbaum's CEO shared, "Art is a medium that has the ability to transcend borders and boundaries; taking time to honor these differences of expression, can help bring new understandings which celebrate other cultures and ways of life."

Tanenbaum thanks our co-hosts, George Negrofonte and Toula Livanos, as well as Shelley & Donald Rubin for providing the Rubin Museum for the event. Additional thanks to our sponsors for the evening, without whom our Divinely Inspired Art Auction would not be possible – Tanenbaum Founder & President, Dr. Georgette F. Bennett and Dr. Leonard S. Polonsky CBE; Foa & Son; The Libra Group; Richard Bram and Monika Machon; TJ Haynes-Morgan and Michael Morgan; Julian and Kim MacQueen; Artsy; Christie's; and Industrious.

Thank you to the all the contributing eminent philanthropist artists: Ahmed AlKhazali, Sura Alkhafaje, Gri-manesa Amoros, Steve Bethel, Walter Bobbie, Richard Bram, Rozeal Brown, Eric Brown, Magda Chaaban, Peter Dayton, John Fotiades, Betti Franceschi, Barbara Friendman, Faten Gaddes, Tria Giovan, Ariane Gulich, Melinda Hackett, Virva Hinnemo, Michelle Hobart, Leelee Hogan, Eric Holzman, Marina Jaber, Shaughnessy Johnson, Zoe Keramea, Laurie Lambrecht, Gideon Lewin, Adrienne Lobel, Aristides Logothetis, Daniel Marin, Joanna Mastroioanni, Laura Merlander, Nabil Nahas, George Negrofonte, Shayan Nuradeen, Jodi Panas, Alexandra Penney, Lisa Puzon, William Quigley, Kazimira Rachfal, Kristy Schopper, Miljan Suknovic, John Torreano, Joni Wehrli and Lucy Winton.

For more information contact Tanenbaum Assistant Director of Communications – Media & PR, Dasha Tanner, at dtanner@tanenbaum.org or (323) 828-0386.

Tanenbaum promotes justice and builds respect for religious difference by transforming individuals and institutions to reduce prejudice, hatred, and violence. More information about Tanenbaum's offerings can be found here: <https://tanenbaum.org/>

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