



e-Newsletter

HONORARY CONSULATE GENERAL OF SYRIA

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"Syria, the cradle of civilization and the gateway to history."

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Syrian Modern Art



Many of you reading this newsletter know already that Damascus is the world oldest continuously inhabited capital in the world. Its old neighborhoods, houses, and places of worship are witnesses of its great history and rich culture. However not many are aware that Damascus is becoming home to a very high caliber expressionist artists who are producing fine art admired and sought after in the entire Arab world.



[Art House](#) is a small hotel I visited when I was in Damascus last month. It is part of a new trend in Damascus called boutique hotel (I think theme hotel would be a better terminology). The hotel holds on permanent basis exhibitions for prominent Syrian artists. Every room in the hotel is designed differently in a very stylish and elegant style and designated to an Arab intellectual. Some of the hotel residents can be in Damascus for the sole reason of attending an opening of an exhibition and being the first in acquiring the best pieces. The price tag on some of the paintings can easily exceed million Syrian pounds (~\$20,000)!



Currently the *Institute du Monde Arab* (Institute of the Arab World) in Paris is holding a rare exhibition entitled **Paris, Damascus: Crossed Glances** for 58 artists (44 Parisians and 14 Damascenes). The exhibition has over hundred artworks (paintings, sculptures, and photographs) all inspired from the artist experience with his respective city. Some of the outstanding paintings in that exhibition can be seen at this [link](#). In addition to the artwork, a catalogue of over 80 literary works for intellectuals from Damascus and Paris is also on display. The exhibition is scheduled to move to Damascus in spring of 2009.



Finally, to have some fun and to forget for a minute the bad economic news that keep hitting Michigan and the automotive industry, you can click [here](#) and download for free a software that will take you in a unique 3D tour in a virtual gallery designated for photos of Damascene dervish dancing. (Use arrows keys to move around, and hold press right click to rotate). Enjoy!



Happy Holiday Season, Eid Mubarak, and Merry Christmas to all of you...

Dr. Naji Arwashan
Honorary Consul General

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