

The Visual Arts Forum

Fourth Quarter Newsletter 2022



The Digital Arts Exhibition

In September 2022, VAF launched its 2nd Digital Art Exhibition, presenting the art work of 150 students who've enrolled in more than 10 digital art courses throughout the past 2 years. The trainings included specializations in 2D and 3D animation, virtual and augmented reality (VR/AR), illustration, and graphic design. Courses' ranged from 120 to 250 training hours per course.



To enhance participant's entrepreneurial capabilities, courses in freelancing, small projects initiation, and attachment opportunities with local companies were provided. Also, 6 small business initiatives were supported with small grants through the "Economic empowerment through arts" program. This resulted, in providing a source of income for 40% of the participating students on the field of digital arts. These outcomes could not have come to light without the support of VAF's strategic Partner "Drosos Foundation".



The School of Visual Arts

More than 110 students enrolled in the 1st semester of the new academic year 2022/2023 at the School of Visual Arts. This semester marked high interest by the community to know more, visit, and register at the school. Students ranged from children to youth and adults, indicating higher awareness by the local community in Visual Arts.

Art Boot Camps



During the last Quarter of 2022, VAF launched two art boot camps - Autumn and Winter - for children aged 5 to 11 years old, in which around 60 children joined. The camps' programs were based on the use of arts as a tool of expression and imagination. Children worked individually and in groups using different mediums of colors, clay, mosaics, as well as techniques in drawing, painting, and handicrafts.



Fantomas Exhibition in Cairo for Arab science fiction films in the virtual world

In partnership with the Medrar for Contemporary Art in Egypt and Flyer in Italy, VAF was able to send two Palestinians to join the "Fantomas Laboratory" Residency for a period of 2 months in Cairo. The residency included lectures, discussions, and practical work exploring the potential of VR audiovisual tools in relation to artistic practices inspired by Egyptian science fiction literature, using cutting-edge technologies to reinterpret Arab science fiction through virtual reality experiences.



The residency concluded with the "Fantomas" Exhibition exhibited at Medrar Contemporary Art in Cairo for around 3 weeks. VAF team attended the exhibition, carrying out a lecture about digital art in Palestine alongside other Palestinian experts in the scene. While in Egypt, conducted a number of meetings with cultural institutions in Cairo and Alexandria, exploring opportunities of collaboration. These activities come under the framework of the Thoulathy project "Collaboration Across Borders", supported by La Rue and MitOst.

Participation in the Palestine International Book Fair

In cooperation with the Ministry of Culture, VAF participated in the Palestine International Book Fair. In which it exhibited the work of 14 students who've joined VAF's 5 months illustration Program, presenting digital and manual illustrations and drawings for 25 children books.



At the Fair, in collaboration with Bank of Palestine, VAF carried out workshops in Arabic calligraphy with the artist Mohammad Shalaby, advocating Arabic Calligraphy art.

Ramallah City Municipal Council at VAF

Aiming to enhancing the strategic relation between Ramallah Municipality and VAF, members of the Ramallah City Municipal Council visited the Forum in the presence of the municipality's Mayor, Mr. Issa Qassis, and General Manager, Mr. Ahmed Abu Laban, and VAF's Director, Mrs. Deema Ershaid, VAF's team and board members.

The meeting included discussions on ways to support and empower cultural institutions in Ramallah, and ways to contribute in enabling VAF to achieve its vision and provide its services, stressing the importance of the culture sector in general and visual arts in particular in the development and progress of societies.



Stained glass workshop

with the artist Muna Hishmeh

A workshop in "Stained Glass" with the Palestinian artist Mona Hishmeh from the USA took place at VAF's Stained Glass studio in Baitounia. The studio is equipped with the latest devices and materials required to produce installations and art works. This could not have come to light without the support of Muna ... we thank you so much.



Visual Art Workshops

with the local community

An art workshop with members of the "Forum of Expertise" took place at VAF's Studios in Ramallah. More than 30 retired women and men participated, in which a range of paintings were produced indicating high talent amongst the members.



This workshop was also carried out with "Jawwal" employees at its HQ in Ramallah, where more than 20 employees drew their paintings on canvas using acrylic colors with guidance from VAF's artist. It aimed towards relieving pressure through art, and discovering hidden talents.

