

*Re-imagining a Future*, the inaugural exhibit for Museum of the Palestinian People, features a diverse display of artwork by Palestinian artists from the United States, Canada, the West Bank, Gaza and Israel. The exhibit, curated by Nada Odeh, includes pieces of music, paintings, collages and gold-leaf etchings surreal work by artists Ahmed Hmeedat, Manal Deeb, Mohammad Mussalam, Dalia Elcharbini, and Haya Zaatry.

The ten works in this exhibit, *Re-imagining a Future*, invite the audience to look into the future. Palestinian art has often been fixed on memorializing the past, depicting Palestinians as victims trapped in an endless interim reality. A sense of hope and possibility for the Palestinian future is largely missing from contemporary Palestinian art. The artworks in this exhibit challenge visitors to dream and visualize a new future for Palestinians, an imagination that must necessarily precede the achievement of that new vision. The thematic elements of the ten pieces of this exhibit cast visions of Palestinians living in a reality of restored innocence, tranquility, thriving, aspiration, empowerment, and liberty.

The permanent historical exhibit of Museum of the Palestinian People features several priceless artifacts, historical documents, textiles and other cultural objects to evidence the beautiful and ancient existence of Palestine prior to 1948. The exhibit is begun with the section called, “A Remarkable People”, ushering guests in to see Palestinians through a historic and contemporary lens. This section display glass and ceramic works, antique photographs from the turn of the 20th century, original maps and print magazines documenting historic Palestine. Featured here are also the works of renown modern day Palestinian artists, Samia Halaby and Sari Khoury, who have exhibited in prominent museums like the MET Museum in New York City and Arab American National Museum are also on display. The next section is called “Nakba and the Diaspora”, displaying original Palestinian passports from the British Mandate of Palestine, original stamps and historic documents. This section documents the first Jewish settlements and the creation of the state of Israel with original photographs documenting the uprisings and displacement of Palestinian refugees throughout Israel and neighboring Arab countries. The next section is called, “Occupation”, documenting the evolution of Palestinian experience under Israeli occupation since 1967, showing photographs, changing maps, and facts to educate guests on the realities of Palestinian life under occupation. Subsequently, guests come to the section, “A Resilient People”, displaying works of fashion, textiles, games, stories and videos of cultural centers and artists in the West Bank and Gaza and featuring innovative Palestinian initiatives for nonviolent resistance of the occupation. Concluding the tour of this historical exhibit is a “Wall of Fame”, a collection of portraits and descriptions of Palestinian scholars, historians, writers, feminists, entrepreneurs, poets, comedians, chefs, etc who have made remarkable contributions through their innovative works.

