

ART AT LAGUNA BEACH

In association with Endangered Planet Gallery and Foundation, the Iraqi Children's Art Exchange and the Art Miles Mural Project, Iraqi artist Qais Al-Sindy participated as cultural ambassador in the making of a unique mural from 4 July - 3 September at Laguna Beach with the help of US children and youths. One of dozens created in the US and Middle East as part of the 'Iraq Art Mile', this particular mural will be taken by Al-Sindy to Amman, Jordan, where Iraqi refugee children will complete the work under the direction of Al-Sindy. The mural will then be presented to HH Queen Rania of Jordan in recognition and appreciation of her support for multicultural programmes and activities for children and youth. A total of 5000 murals will be displayed as a digitised 'skin' of images on a modular framed pyramid of peace in Egypt in September 2010 in support of 'UNESCO Decade for Peace and Non-violence Among the Children of the World: 2000-2010'.



“CULTURAL
EXCHANGE AND
SUPPORT BETWEEN
EAST AND WEST.”



JORDAN FESTIVAL HEATS UP SUMMER

The newly titled 'Jordan Festival' (more familiar to those who knew it as the 'Jerash Festival') took place in Amman, Petra, Jerash and the Dead Sea, bringing the desert alive with its music from 8 July - 9 August. Held under the auspices of His Majesty King Abdullah II, King of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, this year's festival brought together some 20 international artists of outstanding calibre. While the music component of the festival featured big names such as Diana Krall, Mika, Placido Domingo, Amr Diab, Mohammed Abdu, Julia Migenes, Elissa, Georges Wassouf and Tamer Hosni to name but a few, Contemporary art was also given its due. Works by David Lynch, Steve McCurry, Nadim Asfar and Youssef Nabil were joined by a 500-metre-art installation by Swiss photographer Beat Streuli at the entrance to the ancient site of Petra.



“INTERNATIONAL
TALENT ON A
JORDANIAN STAGE.”



QATARI DIAR ART SYMPOSIUM

From 20 - 31 July, Qatar's Waqif Art Centre hosted the Qatari Diar Art Symposium. Sponsored by Qatari Diar Real Estate Investment Company and Qatar Tourism Authority, the event drew together artists from as far and wide as Bahrain, Saudi Arabia, Oman, Egypt, Iraq, Palestine, Qatar and Syria. It featured a programme that included visits to cultural centres and institutions, including the Museum of Orientalism, the Qatar Fine Arts Society, Qatar Photographic Society, Visual Arts Centre and other local youth and talent societies. Including a round-table discussion on current cultural trends and the challenges of the future of the arts scene in Qatar and the region, the symposium culminated in an awards ceremony. Each artist produced two works during the symposium, and works were judged by Qatari Salman Al-Malik, Mahmoud Obaidi from Iraq and Lebanese Salim Karam, with the first prize being shared by Qatari Wadha Al-Sulaiti and Bahraini Jaafar Al-Oraibi.



“ MIDDLE EASTERN
TALENT, DISCUSSION
AND CREATIVITY
COME TOGETHER. ”



PULLING FOCUS IN DUBAI

Featuring 20 thought-provoking documentaries dealing with various themes including music, politics, war, peace and faith, 'Documentary Voices: Pulling Focus' ran from 5 - 8 July at Knowledge Village in Dubai, UAE. Held under the patronage of His Highness Sheikh Majid Bin Mohammed Bin Rashid Al-Maktoum, Chairman of the Dubai Culture and Arts Authority (DCAA), the unique international festival contained works by Lebanese, Emirati, American, Palestinian, Iranian and Kuwaiti filmmakers. It included screenings, discussions and workshops.

