

PRESS RELEASE

TA.DH.AM: A PHOTOGRAPHIC EXHIBITION FROM YEMEN IN BERLIN

"ta.dh.am" is an initiative of the Goethe-Institut to showcase art production of Yemeni artists. Through the cultural development work of the Goethe-Institut in Yemen, the Yemeni art scene is made accessible to audiences in Germany through a group photography exhibition opening on December 3, 2022 at 6 pm until December 12, 2022 at Soma Art Space Berlin. In addition to the vernissage, a public program will take place throughout the duration of the exhibition.

The exhibition takes ta.dh.am (تَضَام), an Arabic word that poetically stands for holding on to each other, coming together - the embrace as its point of departure. A term that for its people ushers towards the feelings of longing in a country currently shattered by war and humanitarian crises, where the very word "peace" has become highly sensitive. Beyond the everyday community gestures and expressions of cohesion-what stories can be narrated?

Through a joint call launched by the Goethe-Institut in Amman and Bonn, an independent jury consisting of Thana Farooq, Nadia Bseiso and Hussam Hasan selected the works of the five Yemeni artists to participate in a photo exhibition in Berlin. The jury of photographers hailing from both Yemen and Jordan commented on their captivation at the applications received. Stating that the selected photography projects from Yemeni artists Abeer Aref, Somaya Samawi, Mohammed Abdulkhaleq, Sadiq Al-Harasi and Al-Baraa Al-Sameai showcased "a photo series that innovatively interpreted the meaning of "tadham" and visualized it in an intimate and personal way."

Abeer and Somaya's take a personal and poetic perspective as they expand on the family as an expression of cohesion, gestures of collective care as an expression of community connectedness. Each photo series showcases the beauty of Yemeni society and its people in various situations of the everyday and the extraordinary. Mohammed offers a unique insight into cultural heritage through his photography of Yemeni traditional architecture. While both Sadiq and Al-Baraa emphasize our relationship with particular landscapes through photography, and the feelings these environments hold for us.

AN INSIGHT INTO THE ART AND CULTURE SCENE IN YEMEN

For visitors in Berlin, the exhibition offers the opportunity to gain unique insights into the cultural scene in Yemen. Laura Hartz, director of the Goethe-Institut Jordan, which only resumed its work in Yemen in 2020 as a result of the seven year war in Yemen, states that "the creativity and resilience of cultural practitioners in Yemen are admirable. The resumption of intercultural exchange is a valuable opportunity. I am therefore very pleased that the works of Yemeni photographers are being exhibited in Berlin". Najla Alshami, a Yemeni artist and cultural practitioner who supported the project as a consultant, explains: "Art continues to be an important part of everyday life in Yemen and also a means of expression, a means of resistance. It is therefore significant for the artists to also show their work internationally and thus stimulate a discourse on the cultural scene in Yemen."

The exhibition, curated by Larissa-Diana Fuhrmann in collaboration with Najla Alshami, opens on December 3 6pm until December 12, 2022 alongside a public program at the Soma Art Space Berlin. Most notably, a panel discussion with the participation of the artists will take place on December 10, 2022 at 7pm.



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DATUM

24th November 2022

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More Information:

www.goethe.de/tadham



Goethe-Institut Jordan

The Goethe-Institut is the globally active cultural institution of the Federal Republic of Germany. With 158 Institutes in 98 nations it contributes to establish the German language in the educational systems of the guest countries, promotes international cultural cooperation and provides information about the cultural and societal diversity of Germany and Europe. Through cooperation with global partner institutions the Goethe-Institut provides a network of over 1.000 locations worldwide.

For two years now the Goethe-Institut Jordan has worked to resume its work in Yemen. By now, a team of five has been re-established which is working there with a large number of Yemeni partners in various programs to promote art, culture and international exchange.

Goethe-Institut Bonn

The Centres for international Cultural Education at the Goethe-Institutes in Germany create a bridge spanning the entire world.

They make the international perspectives found in cultural education accessible nationwide while at the same time promoting societal cohesion in a multifaceted Germany. Thus it is planned to set up a platform on which a strategic exchange of experiences between institutes promoting cultural education can evolve. This is to be a long term project aiming to combat right-wing extremism, racism and anti-Semitism.