



Exhibition from 10-23 September 2009
UNESCO Headquarters, Paris



PROGRAMME



The exhibition "Iraq: UNESCO post-conflict response" is organized by UNESCO Office of Baghdad in Amman in close cooperation with the Permanent Delegation of Iraq to UNESCO. This event is also supported by the exceptional generosity of the Iraqi National Museum, providing visitors with the replicas of some objects at their disposal. Special recognition is also given to the exceptional participation of the Kurdish Textile Museum for reconstructing traditional carpet corners and to the support of Mr. Hasan Nassar, collector of traditional Iraqi crafts and director of the gallery "Madarrat."

This exhibition is financially supported by the Japanese fund-in-trust for international cooperation and mutual understanding, UNDP, the Trade Bank of Iraq, High Commission for Erbil Citadel Revitalization (HCECR), and ITECO.

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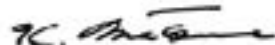


Foreword

The challenges posed to the global community by conflict require a coordinated, international response, and thus the demands on the United Nations and Specialized Agencies such as UNESCO continue to grow. From the 1990s, UNESCO has responded in increasing measure to requests from Member States to assist in Post-Conflict /Post-Disaster (PCPD) situations and the transition toward sustainable reconstruction and peace.

As a result, UNESCO has accumulated rich technical and specialized expertise in responding to certain post-disaster and post-conflict situations. I therefore welcomed the proposal of the Permanent Delegate of Iraq to UNESCO, to showcase the Organization's PCPD work in Iraq as an excellent means of highlighting UNESCO's added value and range of unique mandates in PCPD situations, and as a tangible example of a timely and well-designed assistance in support of a Member State and our UN and international partners.

More than five years have passed since February 2004, when I decided to establish a UNESCO Office for Iraq, following the positive response of the Executive Board at its 167th session. On 7 May 2009, I made my first official visit to Baghdad to discuss the Organization's support to national reconstruction efforts with the Iraqi Prime Minister and other senior government officials. Despite many significant challenges posed by the situation in the country over that time, I was able to confirm that UNESCO had made a valuable contribution to the reconstruction of Iraq and to announce new initiatives. It is my sincere hope that visitors to the exhibition will appreciate both the diversity of UNESCO programmes and activities in post-crisis settings, and their direct relevance to successful transition toward peaceful, democratic and sustainable development for the people of Iraq.



Koichiro Matsuura

Exhibition overview

The aims of this exhibition are to demonstrate UNESCO's contribution in Post-Conflict & Post-Disaster (PCPD) settings through the example of the Organizations' operational activities in Iraq since 2003.

By presenting the scope of UNESCO's work in Iraq - with more than 80 million USD for projects funded since 2004 among all UNESCO's fields of competence - the exhibition will emphasize UNESCO's mandate and strategic approach in PCPD situations: bridging the gap between emergency and early recovery by focusing on the rehabilitation of national and local capacity in the areas of its mandate.

The exhibition will present diverse information on UNESCO projects in Iraq in the fields of education, science, culture and communication. The exhibition will feature (but not be limited to) the following: the establishment of the Iraqi educational television channel; the rehabilitation of the Al-Askari Shrine in Samara; the provision of textbooks and the "textbooks online" website; the fellowships programme for Iraqi scholars; the launch of Professional Safety and Professional Codes of Conduct for Iraqi Journalists, and the rehabilitation of the Kahrez watering system in Kurdistan. The information is presented with the support of some 50 panels.

Official Inauguration - Monday, 14th September 2009, 6:30-7:00 p.m., Hall Ségur



Dear visitor ...

You are invited to visit Iraq through time and space, to appreciate its beauty and diversity, to feel its fragrance, to touch its objects...

You certainly just crossed the gate of the exhibition, the Ishtar Gate which was the eighth gate of the inner city of Babylon. It was constructed in about 575 BC by order of King Nebuchadnezzar II. Dedicated to the goddess Ishtar, the Gate was constructed of blue glazed tiles with alternating rows of bas-reliefs dragon and bulls. According to the dedication plaque, the roof and doors of the gate were of cedar. Through the gate ran the Processional Way, which was lined on walls covered with lions on glazed bricks (about 120 of them). Statues of gods were paraded through the Processional Way each year during the New Year's celebration.

... and now, dear Visitor, you are at the heart of Baghdad, the mythic Al Mutanabi Street. There is an old saying that goes «books are written in Cairo, printed in Beirut and read in Baghdad». Iraqis were branded as the Arab world's foremost readers and Baghdad has been a center of learning scholarship and culture since the 10th century. Baghdad's Mutanabi Street with its Friday Book Market reflects the Iraqi's love for books. Following the Abbasid era, Mutanabi Street developed into a book market and flourished as the official bookselling district of downtown Baghdad...



© Pergamon Museum



© UNESCO / Voices of Iraq

Exhibition hours - 10:00 a.m. -7:00 p.m.

Replicas of the Iraqi National Museum

The Iraqi National Museum was established in 1923 when it occupied a small space in Al-Qushla building (Al-Sarai Al-Qadeem). The new building in accordance with international museum standards was inaugurated in 1966. The area of the museum is 45,000 square meters, and the total area of the different buildings is 11,500 square meters, including the gardens and open areas that surround the main structure. The Iraq museum became the central site for presenting the artifacts of the ancient civilizations of Iraq to the specialists and researchers of our day, as well as to the general public. No one thought that this wonderful museum will be a scene of the most astonishing modern vandalism and looting.

On 23 February 2009, the Museum was reopened for a day by Iraqi Prime Minister Noori Al Maliki. The museum premises and exhibition halls have been renewed by several countries and UNESCO. Only around 5,000 objects out of 15,000 stolen artifacts have been recovered. The museum also has a laboratory to maintain and repair damaged artifacts which is supported by UNESCO, Japan, Italy and USA.

Thanks to the exceptional courtesy of the Iraqi State Board of Antiquities and Heritage and the Iraqi National Museum, our dear visitors have the privilege to see some 15 replicas representing the original articles of the Museum. Iraqi museum professionals hope and wish that these replicas will inspire some of you to plan, in the near peaceful future, to visit the Iraqi National Museum in Baghdad.



Iraqi Modern Art exhibition

«Art in the Mesopotamia has always been like its people, who have been the product of the land and climate. They have never reached decadence and never achieved perfection: for them perfection of craftsmanship has been a limitation on their self-expression. Their work has been crudely inventive, with a vigor and boldness that would not have been possible with a more refined technique. The artist has always been free to express himself, even amid the state of Assyrian, where the true artist speaks through the drama of the wounded beast».

Jawad Salim (1919 - 1961) Founder of the Baghdad Modern Art Group, 1951

Jawad Salim is one of the pioneers of Iraqi modern art. In 1951, he founded, with Shaker Hassan al Said, another pillar of Iraqi modern art: the Baghdad Group for Modern Art. This artistic movement, which is unique in the Arab World, provided the impetus for a new theoretical and aesthetic debate, one that spread throughout the region. Two years ago, UNESCO paid vibrant homage to Ismail Al-Sheikhli (1924-2004) to Shaker Hassan al Said (1925-2004), as well as showcased Iraqi artists creating art in Iraq and all over the world. Visitors of the September 2009 exhibition can witness the impressive power of young Iraqi artists expressing themselves in Iraq and for Iraq. 18 young artists accepted an UNESCO invitation to be displayed in Paris. Thanks to the kind cooperation of Baghdadi Art Gallery «Madarrat,» owned by **Mr. Hasan Nassar**, and of art collector **Mr. Yaqthan Chadirji**, the visitors of the exhibitions can appreciate paintings arriving from Baghdad exclusively for this very occasion.



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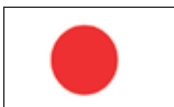
Kurdish Textile Museum: carpet corner

The Kurdish Textile Museum offers a unique insight into Kurdish textiles and culture. In addition, the museum is a beacon attracting tourists to the Citadel of Erbil, Kurdistan. The latter is important especially given the current transitional stage in the revitalization of the Citadel assisted by UNESCO. The museum is a private not-for-profit initiative financed by its founder, Mr. Lolan Sipan, with additional funding from government and private sources. Carpets, textile baby cradles, traditional Kurdish hats, wall hangings, clothing, and antique weaving equipment compose the colorful collection of the museum. Over the last two years, the museum has engaged traditional weavers who are training a new generation in traditional Kurdish textile production. The weaving production is carried out in the main gallery of the museum in full view of the public.

Mr. Lolan Sipan brought some samples of his collection to Paris and you, dear Visitor, have this rare opportunity to enjoy the old weaving tradition of Kurdistan.



© UNESCO / Stuart Guibson



Traditional costume and objects

Dear Visitor, you continue to discover Iraq. It is impossible to imagine Iraqi sandy landscapes or northern mountains without the colorful national costumes covered by embroidery with special symbolical meaning and decorated with traditional jewelry and accessories.

Also, dear Visitor, you will see the variety of copper and silver objects that accompany the life of Iraqi family and make Iraqi silversmiths well known in the Arab World. In addition to some replicas of the Iraqi National Museum, you, dear Visitor, can witness the transformation and development of ancient Iraqi heritage into the motives decorating daily objects and crafts.

Mr. Hasan Nassar brought this touch of Iraq to Paris to enrich and color your experience of the discovery.



© UNESCO / Hasan Nassar

Iraqi tea

In the evening, most Iraqi families gather together for «evening tea.» No matter how busy the day, everyone sits in the living room waiting for tea. Iraqi tea isn't simply a matter of teacups and teabags.

The exact process differs from family to family, but in general, it is a three-stage process. First, a kettle of water is put on the burner to boil. Next, the boiling water and a certain amount of tealeaves are combined in a separate teapot and put on a low burner just until the tealeaves rise to the top and threaten to 'boil over'. Finally, the teapot is set on top of the tea kettle on a low burner and allowed to 'yihder' or settle.

Iraqi tea is special because it is flavored with cardamom and served in «Istikans» - little glasses shaped like the number '8' but open at the top and flat on the bottom. The color of the tea has to be just right - clear, yet strong - preferably a deep reddish-brown color. Dear visitor, don't miss an opportunity to have Iraqi tea while you will be contemplating Kurdish carpet and rugs.



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Exhibition hours - 10:00 a.m. -7:00 p.m.



Round Table: «UNESCO & PCPD»

UNESCO has a long history of developing special responses for those countries facing PCPD (post conflict, post disaster) situations. The peace agreement of 1991 in Cambodia, after the civil war, was an important trigger for UNESCO's current engagement in PCPD countries; UNESCO was invited to help safeguard the cultural heritage in Angkor. During the 1990s, UNESCO's work in PCPD situations mainly occurred in Cambodia, the Balkans, Lebanon, and Haiti and, through the regional Programme of Education for Emergency and Reconstruction (PEER), the Great Lakes Region and Horn of Africa. Since 2002, UNESCO has established several task forces and working groups to address the specific needs of countries facing PCPD situations and to support the respective field offices in an intersectoral manner. These include: Afghanistan in 2002; Democratic Republic of Congo in 2003; Iraq in 2004; Sudan in 2005 and Ivory Coast in 2008. After the Indian Ocean Tsunami of December 2004, UNESCO Office Jakarta, with the International Oceanographic Commission (IOC), developed actions around tsunami early warning systems.

Although the Organization is clearly not oriented as a “humanitarian agency”, it is clear that UNESCO has moved past the debate as to whether it should or should not be involved in PCPD operations. But what do our partners think? What is the experience of other agencies working with UNESCO in PCPD countries? Where do they see our added value? What do they think UNESCO could do better? All these questions will be discussed during the roundtable chaired by the chair of the PCPD Task Force.

**Wednesday, 16th September 2009, 9:30 a.m. -1:30 p.m., Room XVI
UNESCO Miollis Annex, 1 rue Miollis, Paris 15e.
Participation by invitation only.**

Round Table «Iraqi National Report on the Status of Human Development»

The first Iraqi Human Development Report (HDR) after the 2003 invasion was published in May this year with the title National Report on the Status of Human Development. It provides an analysis of the living conditions and human development status in the country based on data collected since the fall of the previous regime.

The report addresses the many factors having a bearing on the daily lives of Iraqis, such as the country's current transition, the legacy of decades of mismanagement, and not the least the human consequences of the difficult security situation.

Among the panelists are several of the report's authors, including Dr. Mehdi Al-Hafedh, former Iraqi Minister of Planning and Development Cooperation, Mr. Erfan Rashid, a senior and well-respected Iraqi journalist, Dr. Shahrbanou Tadjbakhsh, the report's main consultant, and Mr. Adib Nehmeh, a senior expert on Iraq with the UN's Economic and Social Commission for West Asia (ESCWA). In addition, they will be joined by several distinguished individuals well familiar with the situation of Iraq.

Their interventions are set to focus on current political, social, and economic issues and trends, with active participation from the floor. Topics such as the upcoming elections in Iraq, decentralization and the dual governance structure of Baghdad and Kurdistan, displacement of Iraqis, as well as many other issues will be explored.

**Thursday, 17th September 2009, 9:30 a.m. -1:45 p.m., Room XVI
UNESCO Miollis Annex, 1 rue Miollis, Paris 15e.
Participation by invitation only.**



المصرف العراقي للتجارة
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Fashion Theatre of Hana Sadiq

«Contemporary Iraq fashion designers such as Feryal al-Kilidar, Niran Kanan Mahir, Bassam Al Sheikh Jawad, and **Hana Sadiq**, all attempt in their own way to reflect Iraq's rich cultural heritage and history in their creations. Moreover, they have been instrumental in advancing Iraqi haute couture in the international world of fashion» - wrote Ibtisam Sharbaji in November 2004.

Hana Sadiq, who has a degree in French Literature from the University of Baghdad, is now primarily a fashion designer, specializing in the integration of Arabic art with the best of contemporary haut couture. On her extensive travels throughout the Arab world, she has collected around 5,000 pieces of old silver Arabic jewelry and over 300 traditional Arab costumes. She has so far had two books published, one on the symbolism of Jordanian women's tattoos, and the other on the natural cosmetics used by Arab women until the recent past. She has lectured on Arabic silver and costume both in the Arab world and in Europe and has written articles on these subjects for several Arabic magazines and newspapers.

Everybody commented that her collections are always a cultural phenomenon with eastern charm. The fabrics used are made of Damascus Broquars, Muslin from "Mosul" (Iraq) cotton from Egypt and linen from Sudan. These fabrics are an array of warm colors abstracted from the Sun. The fashion Show for Hana Sadiq creation was organized by the Agency «Les 2 Rives Rayonnant,» Director Ms. Flora Boumia.



© Hana Sadiq



© Hana Sadiq

Thursday, 17th September 2009, 9:30 p.m. -10 p.m., Room I

Iraqi Film Evening

Film is a powerful cultural artifact. It reflects culture, affects it, and plays a pivotal role as a harbinger of change. With regard to its importance, it is natural that UNESCO Iraq decided to use this art form in parallel of the exhibition, to mirror the lives of Iraqis, hoping to raise awareness on the challenges, pain, loss and hope they face everyday while rebuilding their country. You have the privilege of a film evening with 4 films.

Under the ashes

Documentary by Ziyad Turkey, produced by MICT International with the contribution of UNESCO Iraq , Iraq, 2007, 26'.

In April 2006, the renowned cultural institution al-Mada held a three-day conference in Erbil, northern Iraq, for Iraqi intellectuals from within and outside the country. It was held under the auspices of the Ministry of Culture and UNESCO. The Iraqi novelist Ali Bader, who has been living in exile for many years, returned to Iraq on this occasion to ask himself and those present a crucial question about the role of Iraqi intellectuals in society and their views on sectarianism. In more than 20 interviews with Iraqi poets, novelists, artists and intellectuals he is trying to find answers.

A stranger in his own country

Film by Hassanain al-Hani, Iraq, 2007, 10'.

A Stranger in His Own Country tells the story of Abu Ali, one of the two million Iraqis who have been displaced within the country by sectarian violence. Thousands of displaced Iraqis had to seek refuge in other parts of the country. This is a portrait of Abu Ali, a refugee from Kirkuk living in a displaced persons' camp on the outskirts of Kerbala. He is a peace-loving man with a keen sense of justice who is trying to find a way to survive and protect his family in the difficult circumstances within which they now find themselves.



A candle for the Shahbandar café

Documentary by Kasim Abid, Iraq, 2007, 23', Independent Film and Television College - Prizes won: San Diego International Film Festival, 2004 / Hopkins Center Film, New Hampshire, 2004 / Montreal World Film Festival, 2004 / Cinemayaat: San Francisco Arab Film Festival, 2004 / Docudays, Beirut, 2004.

Founded in 1917, the Shahbandar Café in Al Mutanabi Street is in the heart of the old centre of Baghdad. It was a cultural landmark where generations of Iraqis came to discuss and debate literature and politics - a living repository of Iraqi intellectual history and one of the last places where people could gather to exchange ideas. Emad had shot most of his film by the end of 2006, but in March 2007, a massive car bomb destroyed the Shahbandar Café and all the bookshops on Al Mutanabi Street, and killed and wounded scores of people. Days later, Baghdad's poets and artists held a wake in the ruins of the street they loved so much and Emad took a small camera and went back to film. Upon leaving, he was attacked, his camera stolen, and his legs and chest shot. His own story is an epilogue to his film about the Shahbandar Café and Mutanabi Street - before and after they were destroyed.

The Shahbandar Café reopened in spring this year.

Film about Cilema

Documentary by Uday Salah, Iraq 2005, 30'.

About Iraqi Cinema after the war, "Film about Cilema" simultaneously tells the story of Iraqi cinema (pronounced by Iraqis as "cilema") and of the country's first film festival, as seen through the eyes of two young Iraqi filmmakers.

Special Thanks to MICT, the Independent Film & Television College (Baghdad), the Contemporary Visual Art Society (CVAS, Baghdad), the Goethe Institute Iraq (Amman), the filmmakers and all the other film or Iraqi lovers for their

precious help in gathering and providing us with those films, and many more..

Tuesday, 15th September 2009, 6:00 p.m. -7:30 p.m., Room II

For more information, please contact Mr. Jonathan Mourton. tel: 01 45 68 17 55 - j.mourton@unesco.org

Iraqi Maqam concert

Widely recognized as Iraq's predominant classical music tradition, the Maqam encompasses a vast repertoire of songs, accompanied by traditional instruments. The Iraqi Maqam embraces numerous genres and primarily melodic modes. It features improvisational vocal segments that sometimes use metric accompaniment and often lead to a medley of strophic songs. The skilful improvisation of the lead vocalist (qari') creates an intricate interplay with the orchestra (tshalghi) that provides accompaniment throughout the performance. While many Arab musical styles in the region have either disappeared or become westernized, the Iraqi Maqam has remained largely intact, in particular by retaining its ornate vocal technique and improvisational character. **Mohammad H. Gomar** founded the Iraq Maqam Group, performing during the Iraqi night of the exhibition, in 1989 in Baghdad. The group was formed to continue the Iraqi Musical Heritage Group, which was initiated in 1973 by the prominent Lute professor Munir Bashir. Today the Group, registered as Irai Maqam Foundation in the Netherlands, has met its objective to revive the Iraqi Maqam and other kinds of Iraqi musical heritage. The group has spread at regional Arab and international festivals voiced by their Lady of Iraqi Maqam, **Farida Mohammad Ali**.



Thursday, 17th September 2009, 10:00 p.m. -11:30 p.m., Room I

For more information, please contact Mr. Jonathan Mourton. tel: 01 45 68 17 55 - j.mourton@unesco.org