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### Art Communicating Conflict Resolution Exhibit Opening and Conference

Thessaloniki, Greece

Day 1 – June 29, 2022, 7:30 PM – Exhibition Opening

Day 2 – June 30, 2022, 10 AM - 4 PM – Conference

Day 3 – July 1, 2022, 10 AM - 1 PM – Historic Tours

July 1 - July 4, 2022 – 3-Day Weekend in Halkidiki

## 2022 #ConflictAndArt Press Kit

For immediate release

**Thessaloniki, Greece, hosts landmark exhibit and conference, “Art Communicating Conflict Resolution,” June 29-30 + July 1, featuring 39 international artists**

**Exhibition dates:** June 29 - July 31, 2022

**Contact:** [conflictandart@gmail.com](mailto:conflictandart@gmail.com)

**Register here:** [bit.ly/2022ConflictArtRegister](http://bit.ly/2022ConflictArtRegister)

**Get the Event Guide here:** <https://bit.ly/2022ConflictArtGuide>

**THESSALONIKI, Greece** – As war ravages in Ukraine and people worldwide battle the challenges of Covid, the historic city of Thessaloniki in northern Greece will host the launch of a landmark art exhibition and conference, “Art Communicating Conflict Resolution,” from June 29 through July 1, featuring the work of 39 internationally-renowned artists.

With the support of Thessaloniki Mayor **Konstantinos Zervas** and Thessaloniki Deputy Mayor of Culture and Tourism **Maria Karagianni**, the art exhibition will open on June 29 at the **Casa Bianca**, home to the Municipal Art Gallery of Thessaloniki and run through July 31, 2022. Its theme is based on the book, [Can Art Aid in Resolving Conflicts?](#) (Frame Publishers, 2018), which features many of the artists in the exhibit. The exhibition is being promoted with a social media campaign, **#ConflictAndArt**.

The three-day schedule includes:

- **Day 1** – Wednesday, June 29, 2022, 7:30 PM – The exhibition opening will take place at the [Casa Bianca](#) Municipal Art Gallery of Thessaloniki, with Mayor Konstantinos Zervas opening the exhibit, followed by a reception in the beautiful garden of the Casa Bianca, Municipal Gallery of Thessaloniki (Δημοτική Πινακοθήκη Θεσσαλονίκης).

- **Day 2** – Thursday, June 30, 2022, 10 AM - 4 PM – We will hold a one-day conference sponsored by the UNESCO Hellenic National Commission, UNESCO Chair of Intercultural Policy for an Active Citizenship and Solidarity, University of Macedonia, Thessaloniki, United Nations Regional Information Center for Western Europe, with the theme, “Art Communicating Conflict Resolution: An Intercultural Dialogue,” with a break for lunch. A garden dinner will follow for conference guests and other invitees at the Hyatt Regency Hotel with live music.

<http://unescochair.uom.gr/?p=1194>  
<http://unescochair.uom.gr/?p=1209&lang=en>

- **Day 3** – Friday, July 1, 2022, 10 AM - 1 PM – We will offer organized visits and tours of the historic Thessaloniki, including museums, Byzantine churches, the Jewish Museum of Thessaloniki, archeological museums and sites. We will finish with lunch at Aristotelous square.
- 3-day weekend – We will explore the neighboring peninsula of Halkidiki, its historic sites and natural beauty.

Casa Bianca was constructed in 1911 by factory owner Dino Fernandez Diaz, a member of the local Jewish community captured and killed in Italy by German forces, and the exhibition – a century after the villa’s construction – will feature the work of three Jewish artists. The conference will also feature a respected Israeli academic, **Noam Latar**, coeditor of the book, [Can Art Aid in Resolving Conflicts?](#) Prof. Latar will participate in the conference, along with art and academic leaders in Thessaloniki.

The 39 artists in the exhibition include: activist and multimedia artist **Adeela Suleman** from Pakistan, renowned journalist, author and activist [Asra Q. Nomani](#), born in India and living in the United States, and media artist **Dor Guez** from Israel. They also include: architect and educator **Theodore Spyropoulos** from the United Kingdom, **Maria Karametou** from the United States, and **Valerio Rocco Orlando** from Italy.

The exhibition also features artists from Greece and Cyprus, including: audiovisual and installation artist [Eleni Fotiadou](#), painter **Yiannis Fokas**, and digital artist **Babis Venetopoulos** from Thessaloniki, and artists [Melina Shukuroglou](#), [Vicky Pericleous](#), and [Efi Savvides](#) from Cyprus. And, in a special feature, the exhibition includes a collection of photographs from eight artists from Oman.

“Exhibitions are a vehicle to foster communication and understanding between people, as well as resolve conflict,” said **Vasia Deliyianni**, curator of the exhibition and an artist and educator, based in Washington, D.C. “Art has always been the common language of all people and all nations, the peaceful way to address concerns and problems, and, therefore, yes, art can be the

key to conflict resolution. It is my deepest wish that art will continue to be one of the paths to peace -- the peace that is much needed right now everywhere: around us, externally, as well as inside us, internally.”

**Sophia Hiniadou Cambanis**, an attorney and cultural policy and management advisor at the Hellenic Parliament and a conference speaker, said: “Conflict prevention and resolution have been part of human experience for centuries. Aeschylus’ tragedy Eumenides, final part of the Oresteia trilogy, is the earliest ancient Greek text to narrate the resolution of a large-scale conflict. The Greek legacy was transmitted to us through the privileged cultural display of ancient Greek drama: the myth and the scenic art. Theatre was a key element for the self-awareness of the community. Democracy and theater – and by extension all creative culture – are totally bound.”

The work of the late South African leader **Nelson Mandela**. In July 2001, Mr. Mandela sketched five powerful images of hands, depicting, he said, how the world “joined hands across social divides and national boundaries, between continents and over oceans,” to resolve conflict. Almost two decades later, Mandela’s [“Struggle Series”](#) lithographs will be showcased for the second time in Greece in this powerful, groundbreaking new exhibition in Thessaloniki. Mr. Mandela’s work was first featured in the first Conflict and Art exhibition in Athens in 2019.

The new exhibition will also feature a painting by South African artist **Esther Mahlangu** and the works of more than 30 additional international artists, exploring the critical role of art as soft power in resolving conflict.

The book, “Can Art Aid in Resolving Conflicts,” is a collaboration between Professor Latar, Founding Dean of the Sammy Ofer School of Communications at IDC Herzliya in Israel, Jerry Wind, Lauder Professor and Professor of Marketing at The Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania and Dr. Ornat Lev-Er, an art historian at IDC Herzliya.

Professor Latar said, “The book, Can Art Aid in Resolving Conflicts, represents a pioneering survey of more than 100 global leading and young artists, curators and museum directors exploring the power of art to play a constructive role in creating bridges among groups in conflict.”

“At a time when humanity has been so challenged with social distancing and fear of an invisible virus, this exhibit empowers all of us to connect through art,” said journalist Ms. Nomani. “The city of Thessaloniki has sat at the crossroads of civilizations and today it graciously opens the doors of the historic Casa Bianca to amplify the voices of courageous artists, thought leaders, activists and humanitarians who are using art to communicate and connect.”

The book was first launched at the Barnes Foundation in Philadelphia in November 2018 and was recently launched in [Rome](#) and Tel Aviv, in London and in Athens in 2019. The book is available

online and in museum bookshops in the U.S. and Europe as well as at the Benaki Museum in Athens..

#### **Contacts:**

- ❖ **Curator:** Vasia Deliyianni, [vasiad@gmail.com](mailto:vasiad@gmail.com), U.S. mobile: 1-202-355-5442, Greek mobile: 30 694 458 2348
- ❖ **Conference Scientific Coordinator:** Dr. Eleni Fotiadou, [elenifoti@mac.com](mailto:elenifoti@mac.com)
- ❖ **Conference Director:** Associate Professor Despoina Anagnostopoulou, UNESCO Chair of Intercultural Policy for an Active Citizenship and Solidarity, University of Macedonia, Thessaloniki.
- ❖ **Communications Coordinator:** Asra Nomani, [asra@asranomani.com](mailto:asra@asranomani.com), 1-304-685-2189  
**Assistant Exhibition Coordinator:** Anastasia Koufa, [anastasiakoufa@gmail.com](mailto:anastasiakoufa@gmail.com)

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#### **Artists in 2022 Exhibition**

\* Artists in the 2019 exhibition in Athens, Greece

#### **International Artists**

1. [Alvaro Almaguer, "ALMER"](#) – An artist born and living in Cuba.
2. [Maureen Burns-Bowie](#) – An artist born and living in the United States.
3. [Marconi Calindas\\*](#) -- An artist and activist, born in the Philippines and living in San Francisco.
4. [David Cavaliero](#) – An mixed media artist born and living in the United States.
5. [Yiannis Fokas](#) – A painter born and living in Greece. Attending opening.
6. [Eleni Fotiadou\\*](#) -- A scientist and installation artist, living in Thessaloniki, Greece. Attending opening.
7. [Dor Guez\\*](#) -- A photographer and professor, born in Baka, Jerusalem and living in Jaffa, Israel.
8. [Artemis Herber](#) – A mixed media artist born in Germany and living in the United States. Attending opening.
9. [Eduardo Guerra-Hernández](#) – A printmaker born and living in Cuba.
10. [Sisavanh Houghton](#) – A mixed media and installation artist born in Laos and immigrated to Thailand, living in the United States.
11. [Mohammed Kacimi](#) – A painter, writer and poet who was born in Morocco and lived there until his death.

12. [Maria Karametou](#)\* -- A professor and mixed media artist, born in Greece and living in the U.S. Facebook: @MariaKarametou. Instagram: @maria\_karametou\_art
13. Evgenia (Jane) Kim – A multidisciplinary artist born to Korean parents in Uzbekistan, living in the United States.
14. [Yuri Krasny](#)\* -- An artist and educator, born in Ukraine and living in Israel.
15. [Dania Latar](#) -- A painter, born in Israel and living in Tel Aviv. Facebook: @danielatarartist. Instagram: @danielatar.
16. [Jacqueline Maggi](#): An artist and art instructor born in Cuba and living in the United States. Instagram: @jacquimaggi.
17. [Esther Mahlangu](#)\* -- A painter born and living in South Africa, from the Ndebele people. Facebook: Esther Mahlangu. Instagram: @esthermahlanguart
18. [Nelson Mandela](#)\* -- The former president of South Africa, born in the village of Mvezo.
19. [Asra Q. Nomani](#) -- A journalist, born in India, living in the United States. Attending opening. Facebook: Asra Q. Nomani. Instagram: @asranomani. Twitter: @AsraNomani.
20. [Valerio Rocco Orlando](#)\* -- An multimedia artist and educator, born in Milan, working in Italy. Facebook: @ValerioRoccoOrlando. Instagram: @valerioroccoorlando. Twitter: @ValerioROrlando
21. [Vicky Pericleous](#)\* – A visual artist and professor born and living in Cyprus. Attending opening. Facebook: @VickyPericleous. Instagram: @vickypericleous.
22. [Eduardo Roca Salazar, “Choco”](#) – An artist born and living in Cuba.
23. [Efi Savvides](#)\* -- An artist and educator, born and living in Cyprus. Attending opening. Instagram: @efisavvides. Twitter: @EfiSavvides.
24. [Weili Shi](#) -- An artist and multimedia designer and developer, born in China and living in New York City. Attending opening. Facebook: @WeiliShi. Instagram: @shiw1. Twitter: @shiweili.
25. [Melina Shukuroglou](#)\* -- An artist born and living in Cyprus. Attending opening. Facebook: @MelinaShukuroglou. Instagram: @melshukuroglou. Twitter: @mshukuroglou.
26. [Stephen Spyropoulos](#)\* --An artist and interactive designer, born and living in the United States. Facebook: @Minimaforms. Instagram: @mfstav.
27. [Theodore Spyropoulos](#)\* – An architect and educator, born in the United States and living in the United Kingdom. Attending opening. Facebook: @Minimaforms. Instagram: @mformslondon
28. [Adeela Suleman](#) – An activist, educator, and visual artist born and living in Pakistan. Attending opening.
29. [Kebedech Tekleab](#)\* – An artist and professor born in Ethiopia and living in the United States.
30. [Ciebele Vieira](#) – An artist and photographer born in Brazil and living in the United States.
31. [Babis Venetopoulos](#)\* – A digital and multimedia artist born and living in Greece.

#### **Artists from Oman – Link to Bios**

32. Ahmed Salem Al Busaidi – A photographer based in Oman.
33. Hood bin Abdullah bin Nasser Al-Abri – A photographer based in Oman.
34. Mohammed Al-Fori – A photographer based in Oman.

35. Hadeel Seif Suleiman Al-Humaidi – A photographer based in Oman.
36. Reem Hamoud Issa Al-Rashidi – A photographer based in Oman.
37. Sheikha bint Saif bin Mansour Al-Silti – A photographer based in Oman.
38. Ruqaiya Mazar – A photographer based in Oman.
39. Hassan Meer – A photographer based in Oman.

## **Partners**

1. Professor Noam Lemelshtrich Latar – Head, Innovation Center Reichman University. Attending opening. Chair, Daniel Pearl International Journalism Institute; Former Dean and Founder of Sammy Ofer School of Communications, Reichman University Herzliya, Israel. Facebook: Noam Lemelshtrich Latar. The book, “Can Art Aid in Resolving Conflicts,” is a collaboration between Professor Noam Lemelshtrich Latar, Founding Dean of the Sammy Ofer School of Communications at IDC Herzliya in Israel, Jerry Wind, Lauder Professor and Professor of Marketing at The Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania and Dr. Ornat Lev-Er, an art historian at IDC Herzliya.
2. Dr. Ornat Lev-Er – Art historian at IDC Herzliya.
3. Sophia Hiniadou Cambanis – Attorney at Law, Cultural Policy and Management Advisor, Hellenic Parliament.
4. Associate Professor Despoina Anagnostopoulou – UNESCO Chair of Intercultural Policy for an Active Citizenship and Solidarity, University of Macedonia, Thessaloniki.
5. Dr. Eleni Fotiadou – Audiovisual Artist, Human Rights Lawyer. Post-doc Researcher, Department of Medicine, Aristotle University of Thessaloniki.
6. The collection of photographs is provided by Bait Muzna Gallery in Muscat. Bait Muzna Gallery, founded by HH Saidiya Susan Al-Said in 2000, is the foremost contemporary art gallery in the Sultanate of Oman.
7. Yeoyeon Kim, University of District of Columbia, Graphic Design Department, Washington, DC
8. Lela Tsevekidou – Head of the Directorate of Culture & Tourism, Municipality of Thessaloniki
9. Margarita Salpiggidou – Head of Casa Bianca, Municipal Art Gallery Department, Thessaloniki.
10. Chara Theocharous – Casa Bianca organizational team.

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## Photos of Artwork



Kebedech Tekleab, born in Ethiopia, lives in the USA



Adeela Suleman, born and lives in Pakistan



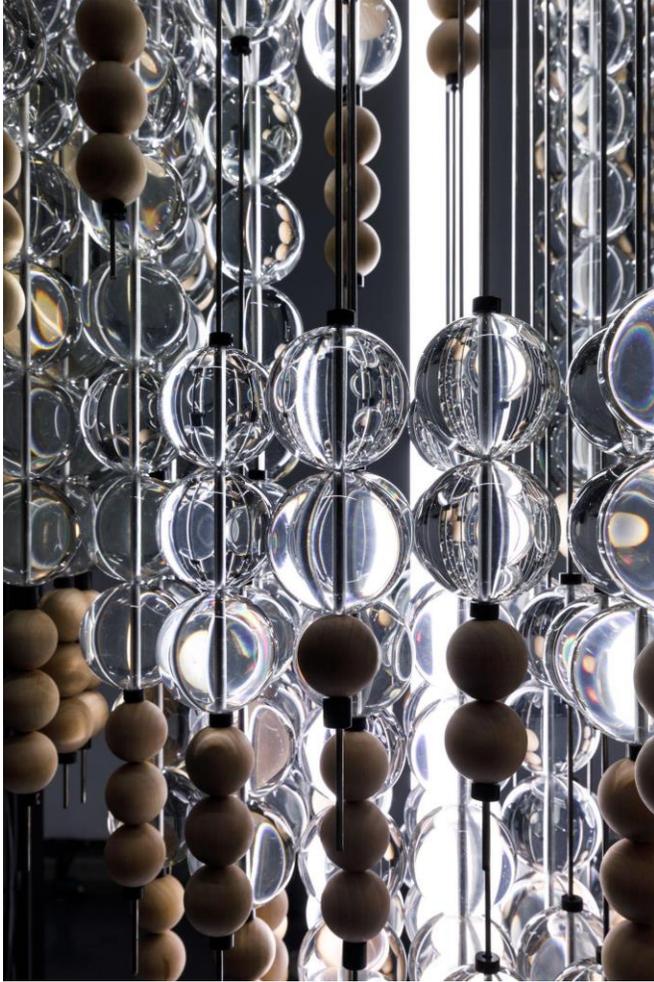
Artemis Herber, born in Germany, lives in the USA



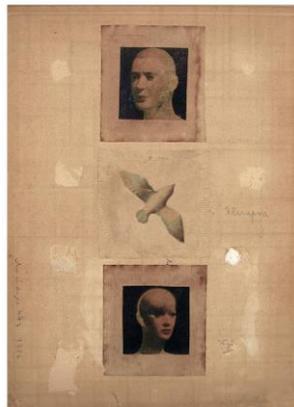
Esther Mahlangu, born and lives in South Africa



Nelson Mandela, born in South Africa



MinimaForms, Theodore Spyropoulos, born in the USA, lives in UK



Maria Karametou, born in Greece, lives in the USA



Jacqueline Maggi, born in Cuba, lives in the USA



Evgenia Kim, born in Uzbekistan, former USSR from Korean parents, lives in the USA



Sisavanh Houghton, born in Laos, immigrated to Thailand, lives in the USA



Efi Savvidis, born and lives in Cyprus



Eleni Fotiadou, born and lives in Greece



Yiannis Fokas, born and lives in Thessaloniki



Melina Shukuroglou, born and lives in Cyprus



Babis Venetopoulos, born and lives in Greece

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