

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE—Cairo, Egypt

(October 12, 2011)

THE ETERNAL EYE: An exhibition of contemporary Coptic Icons by renowned Egyptian iconographer Magdy William. October 20-26, 2011 (Cairo, Egypt)

In the wake of the recent tragic sectarian conflicts, *THE ETERNAL EYE* is an exhibition that reflects the desire to see the establishment of a new Egyptian society, that inherently respects and honors religious diversity. This contemporary Coptic icon exhibition will be hosted by St. John's Church-Maadi, the international Episcopal Church in southern Cairo founded in 1931.

The objective of the exhibition is to encourage a better understanding of Egypt's indigenous Christian community, the historic Coptic Orthodox Church, which constitutes up to 10 % of the population and traces its heritage back to the first century. This significant indigenous Christian presence in Egypt plays a critical role in enabling all faiths to coexist in harmony. *THE ETERNAL EYE* embraces the new spirit of ecumenical solidarity that was so beautifully illustrated during the Egyptian revolution.

THE ETERNAL EYE, curated by Jessica Wright, will exhibit over fifty commissioned Coptic icons by the renowned Coptic iconographer Magdy William. Mr. William, a student of the late Dr. Isaac Fanous, the founder of the school of modern Coptic painting and the initiator of the modern renaissance in Coptic art, has been one of the world's premier Coptic icon artists for several decades. The icons to be exhibited range in theme from the Biblical stories in Egypt to Coptic saints, and the exhibition will take place inside St. John's Church. Attendance is free, and 20% of all icon sales go to Egyptian charities.

The exhibition will be officially opened on Thursday, October 20 at 7 PM by Bishop Daniel, the Bishop of Maadi and Assistant to His Holiness Shenouda III, the Pope of the Coptic Orthodox Church, with the artist Magdy William present. The exhibition will run through Wednesday, October 26. Special presentations during the week of the exhibition include a presentation on October 21 on "The Making of Coptic Icons" by artist Magdy William, and on October 24 "The Artistic Restoration of the 6th century Red Monastery: A Visual Presentation" by Dr. Michael Jones of the American Research Center in Egypt (ARCE), funded by USAID.

The artistic interfaith initiatives of St. John's Church-Maadi, Cairo, such as the annual [*Caravan Festival of the Arts*](#), generate attention from the global media and art world.

PROGRAM

THE ETERNAL EYE

Contemporary Coptic Icon Exhibition...by artist Magdy William

(held at St. John's Church/Maadi, Cairo...corner of Port Said Rd & Rd 17)

20 October 2011, 7 PM (19h00) -- Opening Night of *THE ETERNAL EYE

To be officially opened by Bishop Daniel, the Bishop of Maadi and Assistant to His Holiness Shenouda III, the Pope of the Coptic Orthodox Church, with the artist Magdy William present.

***21 October 2011, 11:30 AM--12:30 PM --"The Making of Coptic Icons"** by artist Magdy William.

***24 October 2011, 7 PM (19h00) -- "The Artistic Restoration of the 6th century Red Monastery: A Visual Presentation"** by Dr. Michael Jones of the American Research Center in Egypt (ARCE).

THE ETERNAL EYE

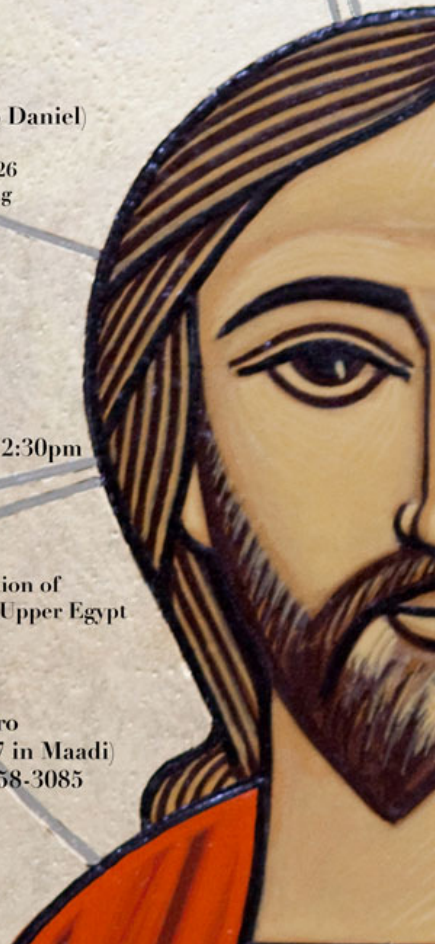
For more information, see www.oncaravan.org/exhibitions. To request an interview, please contact the patron, Paul-Gordon Chandler, at email: info@oncaravan.org. Photographs available upon request.

About the Artist: Magdy William

Magdy William, a student under the late renowned Dr. Isaac Fanous, the founder of the school of modern Coptic painting and the initiator of the modern renaissance in Coptic art, has been one of the world's premier Coptic icon artists for several decades. In addition to his work beautifying countless churches throughout Egypt and around the world, he has held solo exhibitions in Europe and Australia. His next major European exhibition will be in Norway in 2012 where over three hundred of his icons will be exhibited in three cities simultaneously. His studio is located along the Nile in Maadi at the Coptic Orthodox Church of St. George.

About the Curator: Jessica Wright

Jessica Wright majored in Art History and Near Eastern Studies at Princeton University where she focused her independent research on contemporary Middle Eastern art. She managed a gallery and cultural program in Washington, DC that showcased modern visual, literary and performing arts by Arab and Arab-American artists. Born and raised in Jordan to American parents, she is a native Arabic speaker with a broad understanding of regional issues and extensive experience in promoting cross-cultural understanding.



The Eternal Eye

A Selling Exhibition of contemporary Coptic Icons
by the renowned Egyptian icon artist, Magdy William

October 20 at 7 PM
Opening Reception
(To be officially opened by the
Coptic Bishop of Maadi, Bishop Daniel)

Exhibition will run through October 26
Thursday, 20th – 7 PM-official opening
Friday, 21st – 12 noon-4 pm
Saturday, 22nd – 11 am-4 pm
Sunday, 23rd – Closed all day
Monday, 24th – 11am-7pm
Tuesday, 25th-11am-7pm
Wednesday, 26th – 11am-7pm

Special Presentations:

*Friday, October 21, 11:30am-12:30pm
“The Making of Coptic Icons”
by Magdy William.

*Monday, October 24, 7pm
Visual Presentation of the restoration of
the 6th century Red Monastery in Upper Egypt
by Dr. Michael Jones

St. John's Church – Maadi, Cairo
(corner of Port Said Rd & Rd 17 in Maadi)
www.maadichurch.org / tel. 2358-3085