

Palestinian Cultural Festival

Uppsala Covenant Church

May 6 – 8

Programme

Music/Film/Poetry/Art/Discussion

Welcome to the Palestinian Cultural Festival!

Beyond the news of violence and abuse Palestinian culture is flourishing. A cultural life that aspires to spread democracy and freedom of expression and build a free Palestinian civil society. A creative foundation that is a wellspring of power for the struggle for international law and human rights that the Palestinian people is fighting for under Israeli occupation, blockade and lack of civil rights.

Today, culture and art are making a contribution to human dignity in situations which are sometimes degrading. Culture also offers a democratic space that may perhaps not be found anywhere else, a place where young people in particular can find sanctuary.

Meet filmmakers, artists, musicians and poets and get a chance to experience Palestinian culture here in Uppsala.

Ahlan wa Sahlan!

Welcome!

Palestinian Cultural Festival

Entry for the whole festival is included in the admission fee of 200 sek (standard) 100 sek (children and young people to 19 yrs)

The art exhibition will continue until the end of May.

Palestinian handicrafts, book tables, Palestinian flavours and scents – and the opportunity to plant an olive tree in Palestine is available throughout the Cultural Festival

Friday May 6 2022

19.00 – 19.15 Inauguration

The Church Hall

The Palestinian Cultural Festival will be inaugurated by Dr Anders Wejryd, European President of the World Council of Churches, Archbishop Emeritus of the Church of Sweden.

19.15 – 20.15 Culture as Resistance

The Church Hall

Lecture in English by Mitri Raheb, priest, author, and leader of the Diyar Consortium and Dar al Kalima University (DAK), Bethlehem, Palestine.

20.30 – 22.00 Dandanat

The Church Hall

Dandanat is organized annually by the Study Association Bilda and Diyar Consortium. It is a festival, a study trip and a meeting place where Swedish and Palestinian groups meet and make music together in The Holy Land.

Dandanat will be presented in words and pictures, and we will hear memories and live music from former festival participants.

Saturday, 7 May 2022

10.00 – 11.15 Short films

Skogstibble

Wisam Al Jafari and Shayma' Awawdeh guides us into current Palestinian short films

The films are:

Ambiance (Director: Wisam Al Jafari),
Area C (Director: Salah Abu Nimeh),
4th Floor (Director: Shayma' Awawdeh),
Living of the Pigeons (Director: Baha Abu Shanab)

Shayma' Awawdeh is a Palestinian filmmaker and cinematographer. She was born in 1994. She has a degree in documentary film and took her bachelor's degree in film production at Dar Al-Kalima University. She first worked as a teaching assistant for a photography course at DAK and now trains children to make films.

Wisam Al Jafari is a Palestinian film maker from Bethlehem. 2019 he obtained his BFA in filmmaking at Dar al Kalima University. Wisam directed several narratives and experimental short films such as the film "AMBIANCE" which won the third prize at cinefoundation at Cannes film festival 2019. He worked as assistance director, location manager, camera assistance and sound engineer in many short and feature films. Wisam is in development of his first feature film.

11.30 – 12.30 Commitment to life! - Presentation by the Organizers

Tovensalen

Palestinian People's Association – Fayek Saleh
The Church of Sweden – Karin Axelsson Zaar, Head of the Middle East Unit
ACT Church of Sweden
Covenant Church Cultural Council – Gerhard Holmgren
Friends of Dar al Kalima – Inger Jonasson
Palestine Group in Uppsala – Gunnar Kraft
The Swedish Association of Students Bilda – Magnus Stenberg
Friends of Sabeel in Sweden – Marie Körner
Kairos Palestine – Sweden – Sune Fahlgren

12.30 – 14.00 Break for lunch in town

14.00 – 15.00 Art lecture with Faten Nastas Mitwasi

Church Hall

Artist Faten Nastas Mitwasi, Bethlehem, will lecture on Palestinian art and present photos from the Karimeh Abbud Award, a photo award ceremony in memory of the first Palestinian female photographer.

15.00 – 16.00 Presentation of the art exhibition and artists

Gathering in the gallery

The artists:

Ahed Izhiman uses various media such as photography, painting, sketches and video art to express his art. He lived through the Second Intifada and tried to understand what it meant to be a "Jerusalemite" with many restrictions and limitations. This duality is reflected in much of his work.

Awni Mohamed is a photographer and visual artist. He was born in Jaramana refugee camp in Syria but now lives in Enköping. In Syria, he worked as a war photographer. In the exhibition, Awni works with acrylic on the theme of captivity. His art is both abstract and expressive.

Faten Nastas Mitwasi is an installation artist and uses both handmade and finished objects in her art, which reflects concern for the social, emotional and psychological aspects of life which arise from the politically troubled environment in Palestine. Her concept is home, identity, location and fragmentation.

Layla Hamdieh is a visual artist and uses mostly acrylic and pastel on canvas or cardboard but is happy to try new techniques. She likes tough structures and often uses glued sand or coffee to start working on, preferably with natural colours such as turmeric, henna and other spices that provide mixed colours. Her paintings have abstract symbolism and each artwork has a unique history.

16.30 – 17.45 Palestinian literature and literature about Palestine

Linnéstugan

Book presentations by Kenneth Kimming.

The authors are:

Susan Abulhawa, Naim Ateek, Sahar Khalifeh, Mitri Raheb, Brian J. Brown, Bernt Jonsson, Mats Svensson, Anne Sörman

16.30 – 17.45 Short films

Skogstibble

Wisam Al Jafari and Shayma' Awawdeh will guide us through contemporary Palestinian short films

The films:

Ambiance (Director: Wisam Al Jafari),
Area C (Director: Salah Abu Nimeh),
4th Floor (Director: Shayma 'Awawdeh),
Living of the Pigeons (Director: Baha Abu Shanab)

18.30 – 20.00 Break for dinner in town

20.00 – 20.30 Poetry reading with Amer Sarsour

The Church Hall

The poet Amer Sarsour will perform his poems. Amer Sarsour, sometimes called "Poet of the Poets", is a Palestinian born in the Yarmouk refugee camp, Damascus.

20.30 – 21.45 Song of Songs – from this earth you have come ...

The Church Hall

In a world that bleeds with conflict, illness and anxiety, music is a rest and a holy place from which to draw strength. The source is the love and the myths that are related in the three Abrahamic religions. We want to restore and heal the world by singing the timeless primordial power of the potential of love.

In this room of art, poetry, sound and reflection, we want to pause, ponder and meditate: One World, One Humanity.

Featuring:

Sanna Källman, soprano, Åsa Johansson, soprano,
Anci Hjulström, contralto, Karin Marmander, contralto,
Gunnar Axelson Fisk, tenor, Robin Johansson, tenor,
Patrick Rydman, bass, Sten Källman, bass

Trio Samara

Sten Källman, soprano saxophone
Ahmad al Khatib, oud
Stefan Bergman, electric bass

Sunday, 8 May 2022

09.30 – 10.45 Film

Skogstibble

"The Stones Cry Out", a film about Palestinian Christians by director Yasmine Perni. Göran Gunner will introduce it.

11.00 - 12.00 Worship service

Church Hall

Service, with Pastor Torbjörn Bådagård, Mission Church. Mitri Raheb of Bethlehem will preach.

Music: Trio Samara, Song of Songs, and others.

13.30 – 14.15 Art lecture by Faten Nastas Mitwasi

Church Hall

The Artist Faten Nastas Mitwasi, Bethlehem, will lecture on Palestinian art and will present photos from the Karimeh Abbud Award, a photo award ceremony in memory of the first Palestinian female photographer.

14.30 – 15.30 Nakba – on the Importance of Memory in the Struggle for Freedom and Peace

Linnéstugan (Linnaeus Cottage)

A conversation in English between Palme Prize winner Mitri Raheb and Palme laureate, Swedish Jewish journalist and author Bernt Hermele, in charge of the Survivors and NakbaPodd. The conversation will be chaired by Anna Karin Hammar, member of Olof Palme Memorial Fund.

15.30 – 16.30 Costume parade

Tovensalen

The festival will end with a Palestinian costume parade and chance to socialize.