Ulafa’a
Reconciliation Art Project
About Ulafaa

Ulafaa is an Arabic term (plural) that describes a group of people who are familiar with each other and possibly share common feelings.

Ulafaa is an art project that aims to create opportunities for people to express themselves and to strengthen relationships of respect and understanding among the different communities of Bahrain. The project is based on the belief that people can express themselves through a variety of artistic forms, and that these expressions can facilitate communication and the sharing of stories.

Ulafaa provides opportunities for young creative minds to explore the boundaries of identity and to examine the nature of cultural conflicts — all in an environment that is creative, challenging and supportive.
Project Outcomes

Ulafa’a will host a series of events during which the artists participating in the project can interact with the audience. Our aim is not for artists to create art while they remain isolated in closed studio. Ulafa’a rather creates opportunities for artists to communicate with people directly and develop relationships, so that these artists can create works that speak to the community and even represent them in new images.

The events will vary from screening, artists’ discussions, live performance, all the way to urban art. The artists will interpret their key reflections of the events through a group exhibition. A group of ten artists will be selected to attend an intensive one-week training at the Program in Peacebuilding and the Arts at Brandeis University in Massachusetts, USA. The training will be conducted by Cynthia Cohen, director of the program, and the artists will present their work during the training. Based on feedback on their work, and insights from the training program, the artists will share their experiences and fine-tune their artwork for publication in a book that will reflect the whole process.
How Can You be Involved?

Everyone is welcome to participate! Supporting Ulafa’a can be through different means by either joining the artists’ family, or documenting their events, or managing the social media tools for the group, or simply attend their events to support art that serves a cause. We have our arms wide open for everyone and that is what our concept is all about!

You can also get involved by becoming supporting partners for Ulafa’a through providing venues for screening or workshops, or sponsoring an event, or by any way you think is possible.
Meet the Team

Ulafa’a team was born from a group of individuals; all believe that art has the ability to narrate, to change and to heal. They are coming from different backgrounds with various artistic skills in order to give back to the community.

Ulafa’a does not belong to a specific party or an institute. It is a project that is being prepared, managed and presented to the people by the people.
Program Coordinators

Tamadher Alfahal

Although she is coming from an interior design background, Tamadher contributed in several art workshops, and she was a member of the Bahraini team in Venice Architectural Biennale (2010). In her MA thesis, Tamadher investigated the idea of creating a new image to Islamic art and design based on philosophical references.

Tamadher is currently working as a Teaching & Graduate Assistant in Interior Design Program in University of Bahrain. She has exhibited her work few times in Alriwaq Art Space between 2010 and 2012. Also, she is working on establishing a local brand that would reflect the identity and culture in a modern - and perhaps sometimes ironic- context.

Nada Alaradi

Born in 1988, Bahraini artist, Nada Alaradi had been born into a family of a long line of artisans. Her family taught her from a young age the beauty of colors, shades, and creation. She expresses her visions though painting, sculpture and installation pieces.

Alaradi has exhibited her work in AlRiwaq Art Space, Bahraini art societies, and she was recently one of the main young artists showcasing their work at Bohemia during Alwan 338. In 2011, she was invited as an Art Resident in Jordan, where she was working with art reconciliation for children in refugee camps.
Ali Swar

As a young artist \ photographer in the Bahraini art scene, Ali Swar has tried to capture the essence of human nature through the process of studying the behavior and environment of the subject. This process developed gradually when he went to study abroad in India, which made him more exposed to other cultures, casts and creeds. Thus, it made him more aware of the human nature. His main obsession is BIRDS! The way that they resemble freedom and passion makes them a unique subject to study and be inspired by.

Ali exhibited in Alwan338 Festival in March 2012, Bahrain. He exhibited in few other group exhibitions as well as documenting art festivals and events through capturing special moments with his lens.

Areej Abdulatif

Born in 1988 in Muharraq, Areej developed her art skills through abstract art in the beginning. Reflecting her love for nature, she observes Bahrain’s landscape searching for new scenery that would be transmitted through colors and shadows into large murals.
Aysha Almoayyad “AsiaFuse”

Asia is a young Bahraini artist who explores the world of Sub Human/Animal Species as a subject in her work. She is also a Co-founder of The Dirty Tease T-shirt Co. Throughout her art experience and ever changing interests she has transformed from curious to passionate in exploring an alternative life form. Asia believes that the subject of art can make us reconsider the way we depict ourselves. Asia’s main object of obsession is; Giraffa camelopardalis.

Ebrahim Obaid “Edd”

An illustrator from Bahrain who focuses on the contrast in both void and lines to send a cultural message. Edd started getting into art not long ago but developed a style in which he uses lines and shapes to express things the way he perceives them. Edd grew up in both Isa Town and Manama, graduated from the Religious institute, went on a scholarship to Alazhar University and studied law and religion for a year then transferred to University of Bahrain to study English literature and language. He worked in many part time jobs including: teaching English to kids in Bahrain’s Gifted Students Center and Freelance translator for the ministry of culture.
Hussain Alkumaish

Born in 1992, Hussain Alkumaish is a Bahraini photographer, interested in portrait and street life photography with a style consisting of Light and Shadow and meaningful narrative imagery. Hussain is a member of Bahrain Association of Photography and the Photographic Society of America. He has won several international photography awards such as the UPI Bronze Medal in the 6th international photography competition in Turkey 2012, the Gold Medal in portrait photography in the Arab Union of Photographers 2010 in Hamburg, Germany, FIAP Honorable Mention, 3rd Spanish Andorran Iberoamerican Digital Circuit 2011 and the Honorable Mention, German International DVC-Photocup 2011 Circuit in Germany.

Khalid Aljabri - Photographer & Video Maker
Mahmood Taha “Huvil” - Graffiti Artist
Artists

Wasan Madan

Wasan is a young photographer and videographer from Bahrain. Her passion is storytelling and that reflects strongly in her work which sheds light on people and their everyday life. She enjoys telling people’s stories and considers it a privilege to have a sneak peek into their lives.

Through her various work in local art exhibitions, personal projects and observing her subjects Wasan came to realize that we are all the same looking for the exacts needs just under different covers.

Yasser Alhassan

Yasser al Hassan is experimental artists and a Technical drawing teacher at Sheikh Abdulla bin Isa technical school, Bahrain. He received his bachelor degree of fine arts (Interior Design) from New York Institute of Technology. After that he won Nasser bin Hamad Youth Reward in design category 2011, and participated in the caravan of peace (Qafelat al Khair) which was a part of “Wihda Wa7da” project 2012. He is also member in Bahrain volunteer team (Sawaed).
Artists

The Silver Cord

Maitham and Batool, the 21 years old architecture major couple, and Muhammed the 18 years old film maker are the three behind the silver cord.

Maitham and Batool met in 2007 and since then their lives have been revolving around art and design. Maitham started his journey as a web and graphic designer then he moved to street arts, photography and illustration until he moved to the states to pursue his education majoring in architecture. Batool has always been interested in fashion as she describes it as her daily lifestyle. She had done a number of photography and illustration projects but architecture has always been the one thing she wanted to do for a living. Muhammed, Maitham’s brother, joined the team to establish it with his outstanding talent of filmmaking. He is a self-taught young man who first found his interest in animation. Muhammed sold his animation work online to save money to buy his very first digital camera that turned his filmmaking hobby into another high level, He is now known for his high quality videos.

The three teamed up to create a web page to feature their individual and collaborative work in a way to build a base to their future plans. http://www.thesilvercord.co
Contact Us

Whether you want to get involved or simply stay tuned you can reach us through the following:

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For more information about Brandeis University, please visit:

Program in Peacebuilding and the Arts
http://www.brandeis.edu/ethics/peacebuildingarts/index.html

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