



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Nina J. Berger, nberger@brandeis.edu
617.543.1595

**THE ROSE ART MUSEUM
PRESENTS *HOME WITHIN* CONCERT
&
CULTURE CANNOT WAIT PUBLIC PROGRAM
IN CONJUNCTION WITH KEVORK MOURAD EXHIBITION**

Home Within

Saturday, November 4, 7-9 p.m.

The acclaimed Syrian audio-visual performance on the transformative power of art with clarinet virtuoso Kinan Azmeh and visual artist Kevork Mourad.

(preconcert talk by Boston Globe music critic Jeremy Eichler at 7pm; concert at 8pm)

Slosberg Music Center

Tickets: \$20, discounts for Brandeis affiliations and seniors; <http://www.brandeis.edu/tickets>

Culture Cannot Wait: Strategies for Protecting Heritage in Times of Conflict

Tuesday November 7, 12:00-2:30pm

Public Luncheon Lecture with with Tsoleen Sarian, Ruth Thomasian (Project Save) & Azra Aksamija (MIT Future Heritage Lab)

Faculty Club Lounge, Brandeis University

Free. RSVP: <https://goo.gl/forms/Q8cpruYGCibJr2O83>

(Waltham, Mass.) – Artists and international experts working to preserve culture in times of conflict will come together this November 4-9 at the Rose Art Museum with the aim to answer the questions—why care about the role of cultural heritage in the face of war, and how is it possible to protect cultural identity at risk during crisis. Two public programs—a performance by artist Kevork Mourad and musician Kinan Azmeh of *Home Within* on November 4; and a public luncheon lecture with the directors of Project SAVE & the MIT Future Heritage Lab on November 7—will be presented in conjunction with *Immortal City*, an exhibition of new paintings by acclaimed Syrian-Armenian artist Kevork Mourad currently on view at the Rose.

On Saturday, November 4th at 8pm, artist Kevork Mourad and clarinetist/composer Kinan Azmeh will perform *Home Within*, a powerful reflection on the Syrian revolution and its aftermath. In this audio-visual performance, art and music develop in counterpoint to each other, creating an impressionistic reflection on Syria's recent history. A pre-concert talk by cultural historian and Boston Globe music critic Jeremy Eichler, whose recent work explores

the ways in which the past has been inscribed in sound, will be held at 7pm. A conversation with the performers will follow. Co-sponsored by the Department of Fine Arts, the Department of Music, and CAST (Creativity, the Arts and Social Transformation), the performance will take place in the Slosberg Music Center. Tickets can be purchased through the [Brandeis Box Office](#). General admission is \$20, with discounts for Brandeis affiliations and seniors.

On Tuesday, November 7, 12:00-2:30pm, the Rose will host Culture Cannot Wait: Strategies for Protecting Heritage in Times of Conflict with Tsoleen Sarian, executive director & Ruth Thomasian, founder, from Project SAVE: Armenian Photo Archive; and Azra Aksamija, Associate Professor and Director of MIT's Future Heritage Lab, who will share their mission to restore the past in order to build a new future. The luncheon lecture, held in the Faculty Club Lounge at Brandeis, is free and open to the public.

RSVP: <https://goo.gl/forms/Q8cpruYGCibJr2O83>

This public lecture is a component of a three-day invitational workshop that will be held at Brandeis, November 7-9. Experts from the fields of public policy, cultural preservation, and humanitarian aid will convene at the Rose Art Museum to discuss the shared mission of conflict transformation through the lens of art and culture. The workshop and public program is presented in collaboration with the International Centre for the Study of the Preservation and Restoration of Cultural Property, Rome, and Brandeis's Heller School for Public Policy.

Formed around a series of questions related to the value of preserving cultural heritage, this workshop will gather information and propose ideas with the goal of informing a proposal that may result in a working group that works alongside national and international mechanisms for humanitarian aid, including OCHA's Emergency Cluster System.

Immortal City, an exhibition of paintings created by Kevork Mourad in response to the war in Syria and the destruction of the artist's beloved city of Aleppo, is on view at the Rose Art Museum through January 21, 2018. The installation grew out of a 2015 MusicUnitesUS residency with Mourad and Azmeh at Brandeis. MusicUnitesUS is a program that strives to foster understanding and appreciation of diverse cultures through music, hosting a residency that explores ways to approach difficult situations through an artistic lens. For more info visit, www.brandeis.edu/now/2015/october/azmeh-muus.html

Organized by Kristin Parker, Deputy Director, the exhibition and accompanying programs are funded by a grant from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation.

ABOUT THE ARTISTS

Kevork Mourad (b. Syria 1970) is known for paintings made spontaneously in collaboration with composers, dancers, and musicians. Of Armenian descent, Mourad performs in his art both a vital act of remembering and a poetic gesture of creativity in the face of tragedy, as he

mediates the experience of trauma through finely wrought, abstracted imagery that celebrates his rich cultural heritage even as he mourns its loss. Mourad's paintings ask viewers to stop and bear witness, to see the fragments of a culture destroyed – textiles, ancient walls, Arabic calligraphy, and bodies crushed by war. Using a unique method that incorporates monoprinting and his own technique of applying paint with one finger in a sweeping gesture, Mourad produces paintings that are fantastical, theatrical, and lyrical, the line reflecting the music that is such an integral part of his practice.

Kinan Azmeh (b. Syria 1976), clarinet, has been hailed as a “virtuoso” and “intensely soulful” by the *The New York Times* and “spellbinding” by *The New Yorker*, and “incredibly rich sound” by the *CBC*. His utterly distinctive sound across different musical genres has gained him international recognition as clarinetist and composer. Kinan has appeared as soloist, composer and improviser worldwide including The Library of Congress, The Kennedy Center, Opera Bastille, Berlin's Philharmonie, The Mozarteum, Carnegie Hall, Royal Albert Hall, the UN's general assembly, and the Damascus Opera for its opening concert. A graduate of the Juilliard School in New York, Azmeh is a Grammy award-winning musician and member of Yo-Yo Ma's Silk Road Ensemble.

ABOUT PROJECT SAVE

Tsoleen Sarian, Executive Director & Ruth Thomasian, Founder & President of Project SAVE Armenian Photograph Archives

Founded in 1975, Project SAVE Armenian Photograph Archives promotes Armenian culture and history by making its photographs, now more than 45,000 images, and their stories available for public use. We collect, document, and preserve photographs of all subjects and time periods relating to Armenian people. Documenting the work of Armenian photographers is of special interest.

ABOUT THE FUTURE HERITAGE LAB

Azra Aksamija, Associate Professor & Director of the MIT Future Heritage Lab

Humanity is witnessing a crisis of tragic proportion as war, displacement, and increasing poverty sequester the rise of cultural divisions, spread nationalism, and destroy cultural heritage within conflict zones. Future Heritage Lab (FHL) builds future heritage by creating new cultural forms and civic scale projects that translate traditional crafts into new technologies, foster knowledge transfer across borders.

ABOUT THE ROSE ART MUSEUM AT BRANDEIS UNIVERSITY

Founded in 1961, The Rose Art Museum at Brandeis University is among the nation's premier university museums dedicated to collecting, preserving, exhibiting, and interpreting modern and contemporary art. A center of cultural and intellectual life on campus, the

Museum serves as a catalyst for the exchange of ideas—a place of discovery, intersection, and dialogue at the university and within the Greater Boston community. Through its collection, exhibitions, and programs, the Rose works to affirm and advance the values of social justice, freedom of expression, global diversity, and academic excellence that are hallmarks of Brandeis University. Postwar American and international contemporary art are particularly well represented within the Rose’s renowned permanent collection of more than 9,000 objects.

Located on Brandeis University’s campus at 415 South Street, Waltham, MA, the museum is free and open to the public Wednesday through Sunday, 11 AM – 5 PM.

For more information, visit www.brandeis.edu/rose or call 781-736-3434.

#