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DIWANIYA

**Broad strokes of love and reverence**

By Mohammad Mazhar Siddiqi

Lina Gazzaz a professional advertising creative consultant – turned artist, held her first personal exhibition in Jeddah in Alamia Gallery, which began on Nov. 19 and will continue to Nov. 29.

Gazzaz demonstrated her talent by presenting her new concepts of calligraphy, other abstract art and mosque paintings in the form of a completely new look.

Her exhibition attracted numerous Muslims and non Muslims, who appreciated the meaningful message in her art.

Speaking to Saudi Gazette, Gazzaz disclosed that she has the ability to showcase her individuality in a way that is completely distant from the American environment from which she graduated.

Dressing her expressive works with reality, and making a mixture of personification and expression has helped her create her own distinctive genre of art.

'My background is from the holy city of Makkah, and my work shows loyalty and admiration for our Prophet Muhammad, (peace be upon him) through my painting of the Prophet's Mosque,' Gazzaz said. 'I am happy to hold my exhibition at this time, due to the coming Holy month Dhul Hijja.' Gazzaz has specialized in portraits and drawing cities using different color materials and has carried out three years of personal studies in painting. She has received many medals and prizes including a prize at Dubai's Al-Mahabba (love) Festival. She has also held several personal exhibitions in the United States and participated in a number of group exhibitions inside and outside the Kingdom, although her personal exhibition in the UNESCO in Lebanon was the first by a Saudi contemporary woman artist in the country.

Her exhibition in Jeddah's International Fine Arts Hall titled "The Prophet's Mosque and His Message" sends a clear message to the world that Islam is a religion of tolerance and not one of terrorism, and that Prophet Muhammad, peace be upon him, was a messenger of love and honesty who was sent as a mercy to the world.

Dareer Shakra a PR representative in Focus Advertising says, 'I am happy to see Lina and her work, because it's outstanding to see such paintings? in such form. Her paintings are unique.' 'Since the language of art is shared by all, I utilize it to shed light on the message of Prophet Muhammad, peace be upon him, and his Mosque in Al-Madinah,' said Gazzaz.

'I hope that this exhibition narrates parts of the history and splendor of Prophet Muhammad, peace be upon him, and may Allah bestow on us his love and fellowship in the hereafter.' \_



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