



Connecting communities, building peace



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Minnesota events to bring Iraqis and Americans together in dialogue on the effects of the Iraq War

Minneapolis, MN (May 2, 2011) - "Iraq: Understanding Through Art" will show at the Maple Grove Arts Center, 7916 Main Street in Maple Grove. The show runs from May 20 – July 8 with an Opening Reception on Friday, May 20th at 7pm.

Building on the transformative power of art, this show helps to personalize relationships between Iraqis and Americans and seeks to build bridges between artists and communities in both countries. The paintings, done in a variety of media, reflect the work of artists living and working in Iraq. All proceeds from the show will directly benefit the artists, who have chosen to contribute 50% of their proceeds to the Muslim Peacemaker Teams, working for peace and human rights in Iraq.

The Maple Grove Arts Center is partnering with the Iraqi American Reconciliation Project (IARP) a nonprofit organization located in the Twin Cities. The artwork is offered by this organization to foster peace and greater understanding between the two countries. This is the first time IARP has shown the artwork in Maple Grove.

For further information, please visit www.maplegroveartscenter.org or call (763) 494-3948. Contact: Lorrie Link. For further information on IARP, please contact IARP or visit our website (<http://reconciliationproject.org>).

Kathy McKay, Executive Director
kathy@reconciliationproject.org
952-545-9981

Tricia Khutoretsky
tricia@reconciliationproject.org
612-978-5566

The [Iraqi and American Reconciliation Project](http://reconciliationproject.org) (IARP) connects Iraqis and Americans in innovative art, education, health, and cultural exchange programs that promote peace and reconciliation. Working with our partner in Iraq the Muslim Peacemaker Teams, we empower Americans to see beyond stereotypes and support the rebuilding of Iraqi society.

The [Muslim Peacemaker Teams](http://muslimpeacemakerteams.org) (MPT) bring all Iraqi groups together in peace to work for the good of the country by getting in the way of violence and encouraging the people to be self sufficient. MPT's immediate goals are to teach peace and human rights so the Iraqi people can once again live in a civil society, to help the people to maintain their physical health, and to lift their spirits by providing encouragement and support.