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The exhibition features works by 53 artists from four continents (Photo courtesy of The Cervantes Institute)

By Rahaf Abu Khadijeh | 19:01 November 11, 2025 |  Share Story

AMMAN — The Cervantes Institute in Amman is currently hosting “Engravers for Peace,” an international exhibition featuring works by 53 artists from four continents, brought together by a shared message of peace and the power of art to challenge the devastation of war.

The initiative was first conceived a year ago by Spanish-Jordanian artist Fatima Suleiman, in collaboration with the Cervantes Institute, and has since evolved into a vibrant multicultural showcase. Nineteen Jordanian artists joined counterparts from Spain, Cuba, Argentina, Austria, Russia, Tunisia, Egypt and Palestine.

“The exhibition seeks to make visible the power of art against war,” said Suleiman, who curated the exhibition. “It is about imprinting a message of peace and humanity on the collective conscience.”

Drawing inspiration from artistic icons such as Francisco de Goya, whose early 19th-century series “The Disasters of War” depicted the brutality of conflict, and Picasso’s dove, a universal symbol of peace, the exhibition reflects on the enduring dialogue between art and resistance.

The opening ceremony brought together a number of Jordanian artists alongside Nemat Nasser, a Damascus-trained educator and supervisor at the Graphic Studio of the Jordan National Gallery of Fine Arts.

Nasser, described as a “master among master engravers”, trained many of the participating artists, including Suleiman herself, and has long promoted artistic collaboration between Jordan and Spain.

Among the guests was Jesus Ateca, painter and professor of Fine Arts from Gran Canaria, who travelled to Amman for the occasion.

In her welcoming remarks, Yolanda Soler Onís, director of the Cervantes Institute, expressed her gratitude to the Councillor for Culture of the Gran Canaria Island Council, Guacimara Medina, for her support, saying: “We have felt everyone’s presence here in our hearts.”

One of the exhibition’s most poignant inclusions is the work of Palestinian artist Mohammed Haj, whose ink drawing, created amid the ongoing Israeli siege of Gaza, reached Amman through Suleiman’s suitcase, printed from a photograph sent from Gaza.

Also featured is an engraving by the late Egyptian artist Waheed Belqassi, known as the “Sheikh of Engravers”, whose distinctive black-and-white compositions draw inspiration from ancient Egyptian hieroglyphs.

Suleiman, who divides her time between Amman and Gran Canaria, holds degrees in Fine Arts and Interior Design. Her artistic journey, bridging the Middle East and Europe, reflects a lifelong commitment to fostering cultural dialogue between East and West.

The exhibition forms part of the Cervantes Institute’s November programme, which celebrates the culture of the Canary Islands through a series of concerts, poetry readings and film screenings.

Highlights include “Verses of East and West” by Luis Fajardo Lopez-Cuervo on 23 November, featuring poetry by both Spanish and Arab authors.

“Engravers for Peace” runs until December 18 at the Cervantes Institute Exhibition Hall in Amman.

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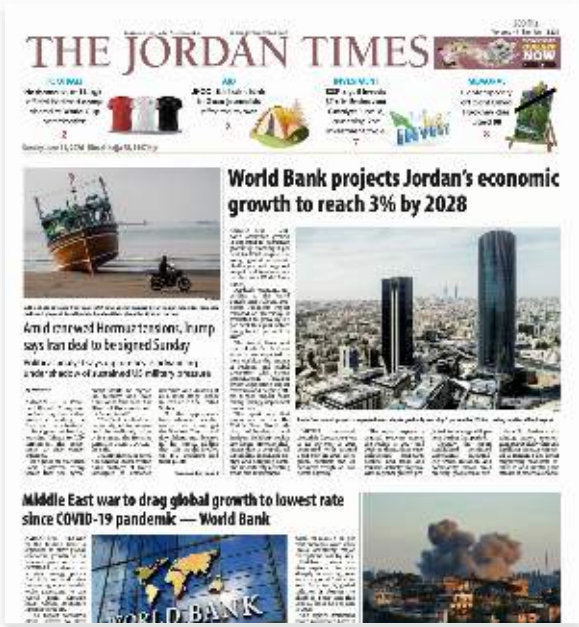


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