



THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO

San Diego Public Library

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SAN DIEGO PUBLIC LIBRARY HOSTS *VEILS* TRAVELING EXHIBIT ON RELIGIOUS COVERING IN ISLAM, JUDAISM AND CHRISTIANITY *Veil Unveiled in Extraordinary Photographic Experience*

San Diego, CA – The City of San Diego Human Relations Commission and the San Diego Public Library are pleased to announce that the Library will host the national traveling exhibition “*Veil(s): Perceptions of the Veil from the 19th Century to the Present Worn by Christian, Muslim, Jewish and Druze Women.*” This extraordinary photographic overview is a project of Lebanese American University’s (LAU) Institute for Women’s Studies in the Arab World (IWSAW). The Exhibition will be on display from June 3 to July 31 in the lobby of the Central Library, located at 820 E Street in downtown San Diego.

Veil(s) provides a window into one of the most misunderstood and mischaracterized faith-based practices in our time. It chronicles veiled women, and perceptions of the veil, since the 19th century. The women are Christian, Jewish and Muslim, challenging the opinion that only Muslims veil themselves. The pictured subjects come from all walks of life; some are veiled for religious reasons, while others consider their veils part of a fashionable identity. Veils are not limited to one class. The exhibit seeks to lead to a better understanding of the universality of the veil and help foster a culture of tolerance and acceptance.

There will be several accompanying programs related to *Veil(s)*, designed to help to bring the practice of ‘covering’, and the voices of the women who choose it, out of the shadows and out of silence. Related programs will include the panel discussion, “*Three Women, Three Faiths, Three Choices to Cover*”, featuring Christian, Jewish and Muslim women who cover, on July 11, and the screening of the award-winning film “*The Light in her Eyes*” on July 16, the first feature film, made in Syria, inside the women's side of a mosque.

About the Institute for Women’s Studies in the Arab World

Since its establishment in 1973, the Institute for Women’s Studies in the Arab World (IWSAW) at Lebanese American University has been a tireless advocate and a beacon of hope for women

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in the Middle East. Through academic research and curricula on campus, as well as educational and outreach projects in the community, IWSAW has made a real and lasting difference in the lives of ordinary women in the region. Under the direction of Dr. Dima Dabbous-Sensenig, and with growing support from foundations and individuals of conscience, IWSAW is now poised to leverage its nearly four decades of knowledge and expertise and further secure its role as a leader in the area of women's rights in the Arab Middle East.

About Lebanese American University

Lebanese American University (LAU) is a leading private higher education institution in Lebanon, operating under a charter from the Board of Regents of the University of the State of New York. The university's roots stretch to 1835 when American Presbyterian missionaries established the American School for Girls in Beirut in response to the lack of available education for girls in the region. In 1924 that school became a women's college. Today LAU is a co-educational, nonsectarian institution guided by a deep-rooted sense of shared ethical values. The university boasts seven schools that offer a dynamic range of academic programs taught by highly skilled faculty on two campuses in Beirut and Byblos, Lebanon. Please visit www.lau.edu.lb for more information.

About the City of San Diego Human Relations Commission

Led by Dr. Danell Scarborough, the Human Relations Commission conducts and promotes activities that foster mutual respect and understanding; protects basic human and civil rights; creates an atmosphere that promotes amicable relations among all members of the San Diego community; and collaborates with community groups to create comprehensive educational programs that address interracial, inter-religious and intercultural understanding.

Learn about other events at the San Diego Public Library's Central Library and 35 branches, find links to numerous additional resources, or search for materials in the Library's catalog online at www.sandiegolibrary.org.

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