

United Nations Development Programme

Programme of Assistance to the Palestinian People

برنامج الأمم المتحدة الإنمائي / برنامج مساعدة الشعب الفلسطيني



PRESS RELEASE

Colours of Hope

UNDP/PAPP's Fourth Annual Art Auction

7pm, November 30, 2005

Jerusalem, November 30, 2005 — UNDP/PAPP's art auction will be held today, Wednesday, November 30, 2005, at 7pm at the Ambassador Hotel, Jerusalem. *Colours of Hope*, is UNDP/PAPP's Fourth Annual Art Auction and features a diverse collection of work by young male and female artists from across the West Bank, East Jerusalem and the Gaza Strip. The exhibition includes the work of many of Palestine's most promising up-and coming artists including Saadeh Radhy, Hani Zo'rob, Basel Magoussi, Nazih Moughrabi and Mohammed Shanti.

Since UNDP/PAPP's art auctions were initiated in 2002, over 120 works of Palestinian art have been sold with the total proceeds of approximately US\$65,000 going directly to the artists. UNDP/PAPP has also provided support to the recently established national art gallery and museum, *Al Hoash* which will provide a permanent venue for Palestinian visual art and create a common space for artists, art collectors and enthusiasts in Jerusalem.

"This auction is certainly an indication of a continuing commitment on the part of UNDP/PAPP to the importance of culture as an essential ingredient in development and to a group of remarkably talented Palestinian artists," said Mr. Timothy Rothermel, UNDP Special Representative. "Some of the artists have already earned significant recognition for their remarkable talents, while others are at the beginning of their professional careers as artists. Wherever they stand in terms of professional recognition, their works all reflect the remarkable vibrancy and creativity of Palestinians and their rich culture."

For over 27 years, support to Palestinian culture has been a central aim of UNDP/PAPP. From support to ensembles and organizations, to over US\$25 million toward the restoration and preservation of Palestinian cultural heritage, UNDP/PAPP has consistently shown its commitment to Palestinian culture. In addition, this year UNDP/PAPP took Palestinian art abroad with a highly successful exhibition and sale of art in Dubai in the United Arab Emirates. A week-long celebration of Palestinian culture is planned for Dubai in early 2006.

For further information, please contact:

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