

ACT TOGETHER

Women against sanctions and war on Iraq



We invite you to participate in an exhibition which will be held at the
DIORAMA GALLERY, London, 8 – 28th of March 2003

OUR LIFE IN PIECES **Objects and Stories from Iraqis in Exile**

What the Exhibition is About

Over the past decades, we Iraqis have been forced to leave our country. Often moving from place to place, we have carried with us a few objects and many memories. Inevitably, we will have attached to some of these objects a significance. They carry a story with them. We will have kept these things for all kinds of reasons; they remind us of, or connect us to a time, a place, a person, a way of life, for example. They may be objects, which have been brought from Iraq and handed onto younger generations born outside the country; they may have a particular meaning to them or they may not – the meaning may be lost between one generation and another. This would also be interesting to know about.

The idea of the exhibition is to collect and display some of these objects. Accompanying each object will be a simple text (translated into English with the original language alongside) – explaining why the object was chosen and the story behind it.

We want this exhibition to reflect the incredible cultural and social diversity of Iraq and hope to include exhibits from as wide a variety of people as possible.

It will give Iraqis a chance to look at themselves, and give British visitors a chance to discover something new about Iraqis, their society, history and experience, something they rarely, if ever, learn about from the media.

Which Object to Choose

Anything you have a feeling for and want to exhibit; an old photo, film, book, dress, an inherited shirt, a piece of jewellery, a work of art, a saucepan, a rug, pillow cover, a stone, a quilt, a pair of shoes, a birth certificate, baptism cloth – anything you carried with you from Iraq or acquired later on because it reminded you of what you left behind or might hope to see again. Cheap, expensive, large, small – it doesn't matter. One friend, when asked what he had brought with him from Iraq, replied 'Nightmares. Is there anything else?' We suggested he write the nightmare down and we'll frame and exhibit it. You could also contribute dreams or hopes.

How The Exhibition Will Work

The objects will be hung on walls and from the ceiling, placed on the floor or in glass cases. Next to each object there will be a brief piece of writing, which you will write, telling us what your object is, why you kept it, the story behind it. Does it remind you of other things you want to tell us about?

The Exhibition

DIORAMA is a well-known exhibition space and gallery in central London. Its management is very enthusiastic about the exhibition and will handle much of the publicity. The exhibition is being funded by grants from British arts and community bodies and the gallery is providing some funding in kind.

Other Activities During the Exhibition Period

We hope to run workshops and lectures on music and song, poetry, theatre, painting and sculpture, calligraphy. We hope also to show some old Iraqi films and display photos. A booklet will also accompany the exhibition.

How to Participate In the Exhibition

Please write to us or contact us by phone as soon as possible. Tell us about the object you want to display, why you have chosen it and the story behind it. Give us your address and phone number.

Please **don't** send us your object now. We will only want it a week before the start of the exhibition. We will contact you to confirm this and to arrange how the object should be delivered. We will insure the object for the duration of the exhibition.

Who Are We?

We are a group of Iraqi and non-Iraqi women who have been working for about 2 years to try to raise the awareness of the British public about the situation of the people of Iraq. Our support is for them and we oppose both the policy of sanctions and war and the Iraqi regime. Many of our social and cultural activities are an attempt to illuminate the lived experience of the people of Iraq and to reach out to ordinary people in this country.

This exhibition is part of that effort and we will work hard to make it a success.

ACT TOGETHER Women Against Sanctions And War On Iraq

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