



CITY OF SYRACUSE  
PUBLIC ART APPLICATION

Project Title: Middle Eastern Dreams

Installation Type:

- Donation to permanent art collection
- Temporary installation
- Proposed date and duration of installation: \_\_\_\_\_
- Mural on private property

Installation Location

Property Name: Monjed's buildi  
 Street Address: 501-507 Westcott Street, Syracuse, NY 13210  
 Location Description [e.g., 15 ft. from building entrance]:  
The wall facing the parking lot

Artwork Type [e.g., sculpture, mural, video]: Mural

Artwork Description [include fabrication date; medium, dimensions, materials and finishes]:

Middle Eastern dreams, a design to express middle eastern cultures and designs.

Artist

Name: Nada Odeh  
 Address: 23C Queens way, Camillus, NY, 13031  
 Phone: (858) 397-8690  
 Email: nada@nadaodeh.com

Current Owner (if applicable)

Name: Monjed Essi  
 Address: Westcott, Syracuse, New York  
 Phone: 315-243-8479  
 Email: Majen55@gmail.com

Applicant

Name: Nada Odeh  
 Address: 23C Queens way, Camillus, NY, 13031  
 Phone: 858-397-8690  
 Email: nada@nadaodeh.com

Signature: [Signature] Date 3/9/2020



# Westcott Mural

# “Middle Eastern Dreams”

At Munjed restaurant wall  
By Nada Odeh

[nada@nadaodeh.com](mailto:nada@nadaodeh.com)  
[www.nadaodeh.com](http://www.nadaodeh.com)  
858-397-8690



# Nada Odeh

Nada Odeh is a Syrian artist, activist, humanitarian and a modern-day poet. She was both born and raised in Damascus and has lived in countries such as Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates and came to the USA in 2013 due to the conflict and revolution in her country. Nada got her M.A. in Museum Studies from Syracuse University. She lives and works in Syracuse, New York. She had gotten her Bachelor in fine arts from the Damascus University. She has attended many workshops in the field of visual arts, communication arts, and therapeutic arts. Odeh has established a project commonly known as 'Nada's Picassos', which had begun in Damascus but was then later moved to Dubai, Michigan and currently New York State. The medium she works in is Acrylics on Canvases. Arabic miniatures, Middle Eastern colors and small details of the heritage influence her artwork. The key theme in which her artwork is mainly focused on is the Syrian refugees in camps and Syrian people. Recently she is focusing more on displaced Syrian women in exile. She has exhibited her art in Damascus, Dubai, New York City, Detroit, Toledo, Tiffin, Washington D.C. Syracuse, Albany and Auburn, New York.

Nada Odeh is a freelance curator who had the opportunity to curate different projects with the topic of immigration and folklore arts. She worked with the New York Folklore Society on different projects to highlight immigrants and refugees folklore arts.



## The Westcott Nation

The Westcott nation consists of different cultural backgrounds and experiences, different religions and beliefs. Westcott is always and still the home of diversity and cultural experiences, that is why the mural reflects the diversity and beauty the Westcott nation has. Westcott is also the home of the well known restaurant Munjed and other international food restaurants that is the place where many students, professors and residents of Westcott gather.

## The Description of the Westcott Mural

The mural design consists of different elements. The warm colors reflect the Middle Eastern culture and memories from the land of sun. The drawings and the religious symbols reflect the people who live and resides in the Middle East who come from different backgrounds and populations. The scenery of the city roofs and the skies that can be found anywhere in the middle East, the trees and waters that can be found in the cities across the Middle East. Arabic calligraphy verse with the word “ Salam” which means peace.



# Community Involvement

- The community will be invited by the artist to contribute to painting the mural.
- The artist is planning to invite students from high schools and middle schools to paint with her as an educational process. Students might get paid for the time they work at the mural.



# The Wall

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# The Design



# The Design on the wall

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## The Expenses and Cost

- **Size Height:** 18' , **Width:** 74' =1332 Sqft.
- **Expected time frame:** 3-4 weeks, start in end of May and finish around end of June.
- Funding source is WACC.
- Budget including supplies and artists fees is \$7000

## Technical specs

- The wall should be washed and cleaned before the start of the mural outline and painting.
- The paint will be outdoor high quality paint
- Painting will be on steps that will be designed by the artist in collaboration with the experts
- The mural will be sealed after the final steps of painting and making sure the paint is completely dry.
- Annual maintenance might not be needed. However it is recommended that every five years there is checking on the paint and quality of color.

# Nada Odeh

## *Bio*

Nada Odeh is a Syrian artist, activist, humanitarian and a modern-day poet. She was both born and raised in Damascus and has lived in countries such as Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates and has recently come to the USA in 2013 due to the conflict and revolution in her country. Nada is pursuing her MA in Museum Studies in Syracuse University. She lives and studies in Syracuse, New York. She had gotten her Bachelor in Fine Arts from the Damascus University. She has attended many workshops in the field of visual arts, communication arts and therapeutic arts.

Odeh has established a project commonly known as 'Nada's Picassos', which had begun in Damascus but was then later moved to Dubai and now currently Michigan. The medium she works in is Acrylics on Canvases. Arabic miniatures, Middle Eastern colors and small details of the heritage influence her artwork. The key theme in which her artwork is mainly focused on is the Syrian refugees in camps and Syrian people. She has exhibited her art in Damascus, Dubai, New York City, Albany, Detroit, Toledo, Tiffin, Washington D.C. and Syracuse.

## ***Artist's Statement***

I reflect Middle Eastern women in my art. One of my pieces "Peace, Religion" is a reflection of women who are affected by war, escaping to refugee camps. It is not religion that defines their struggle, but the fact that females are not equipped enough to survive conflict, war, and violence. Women in the Middle East are not raised to be strong enough to face violence they encounter in refugee camps. As in any case, women and children remain the most vulnerable in war and turmoil. Many Syrian women I have encountered that were in refugee camps have faced violence in different ways. This includes either by being forced to get married in a young age or being sexually abused. In my paintings, my figures are the loud voice of Syrian women and girls... the ones who remain voiceless. According to UNICEF, intimate partner violence, threat of sexual violence, early marriage and survival sex are identified by adult women and adolescent girls as the main forms of violence currently experienced by women and girls in refugee camps.

In one particular painting, "I Am A Princess", the subject is a princess who puts a tiara on her head and starts to dance, trying to live her childhood and dreaming to become a princess , although she lives in a refugee camp. Another piece,"Bedtime Story" is a visual depiction of a mother who is trying to let her kids create an atmosphere of home in a refugee camp. My paintings are just a window that show the plight of women and children in conflict zones. Widows who lost their husbands in war suffer to live a proper life while raising their kids in a refugee camp. Education and literacy has been stripped from an entire generation. Violence to me might not be physical. It can be verbal ,or even an attitude that reflects how society treats a vulnerable woman in war. Education might be the only solution to strengthen women affected by war.

I was chosen as one of fifteen Syrian women to receive a scholarship from Jusoor Syrian Organization that focuses on educating Syrian students that have proven humble and great attitude and efforts to help their fellow citizens or high academic achievement. I received my Bachelor's Degree in fine arts from the Damascus University. I have attended many workshops in the field of visual arts, communication arts and therapeutic arts.

On a global scale, I established a project commonly known as 'Nada's Picassos', which had begun in Damascus but was then later moved to Dubai, and Michigan. The medium I work in is Acrylics on Canvases. Arabic miniatures, Middle Eastern colors and small details of the vast and eclectic heritage influencing artwork. The key theme in which my artwork is mainly focused on is the Syrian refugees in camps and Syrian people. I have exhibited my art in Damascus, Dubai, New York City, Detroit, Toledo, Tiffin, Washington D.C and Chicago.

**Recent group exhibit:** Finding America, *Detroit Historical Society* 7/19/19-10/19/19

## *Artist info*

Cell: (858)397-8690

E.mail: [nada@nadaodeh.com](mailto:nada@nadaodeh.com)

Website: [www.nadaodeh.com](http://www.nadaodeh.com)

Address: 23C Queens Way, Camillus, NY,13031

# Artwork

I Am A Princess	Acrylics on canvas	W: 24" X H: 24"
Bed Time Story	Acrylics on canvas	W: 24" X H: 24"
Ballet Dancer	Acrylics on canvas	W:36" X H: 36"
Only Mermaids Drink Cappuccino in A Refugee Camp	Acrylics on canvas	W:36" X H: 36"
The Cellist	Acrylics on canvas	W:57" X H: 78"
I Am Syria	Acrylics on canvas	W: 70" X H: 79"
Cat Walk	Acrylics on canvas	W: 140" X H: 68"
In My Mother's Womb	Acrylics on canvas	W: 54" X H: 74"
The Frida in Me	Acrylics on canvas	W: 54" X H: 74"



I am a Princess



Bed Time Story



Ballet Dancer



Only Mermaids Drink Cappuccino in A Refugee Camp



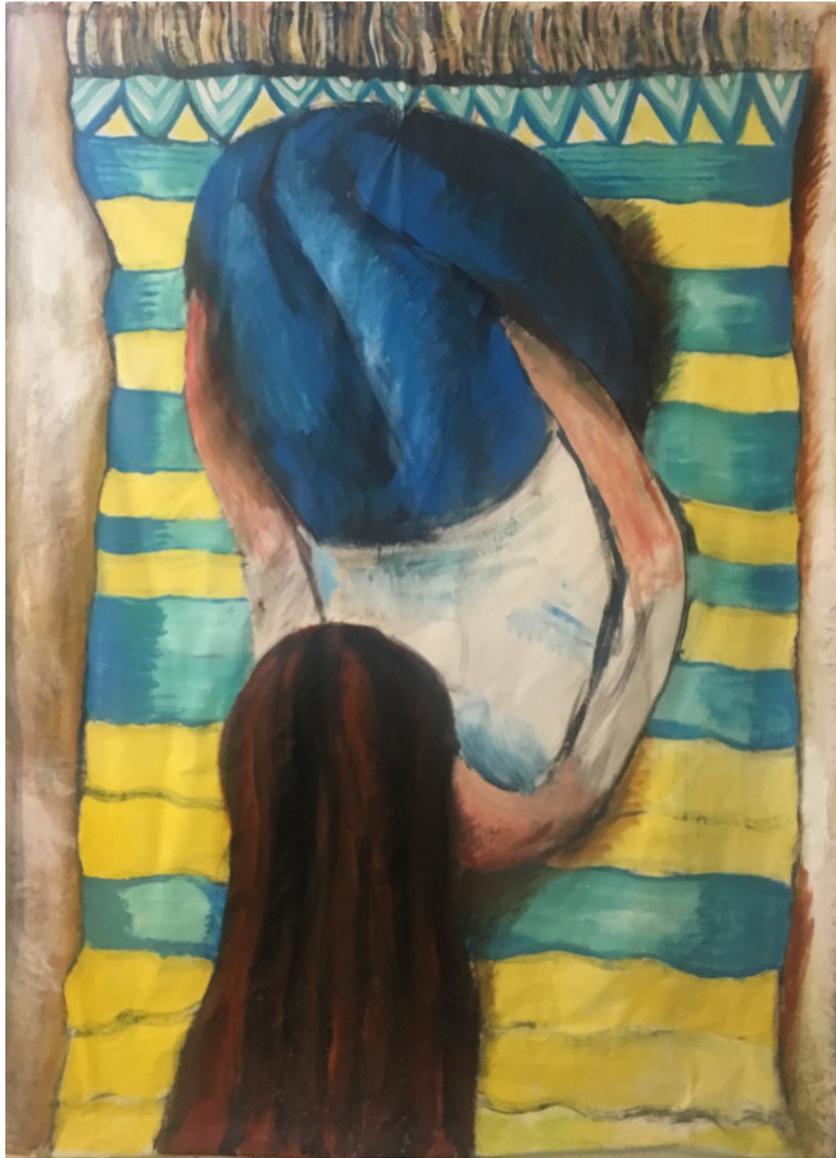
Cellist



I am Syria



Cat Walk



In My Mother's Womb



The Frida in Me



# Nada Odeh

(858)397-8690 [nada@nadaodeh.com](mailto:nada@nadaodeh.com) [www.nadaodeh.com](http://www.nadaodeh.com) 23C Queens Way Camillus, Ny,13031

## PROFESSIONAL SUMMARY

Enthusiastic team player. Successful in conducting tours, workshops, and educational sessions to acquaint individuals with facility highlights and new collections. A composed leader with exemplary skills in curatorial and education work. Offering 8 years of experience and stellar work ethics. Enjoys music and theatrical shows.

## EDUCATION

**MA**, Museum Studies, School of Design-Syracuse University, NY, 5/2018

**MFA Classes**, Collaborative Design, School of Design-Syracuse University, NY, 1/2017-12/2017

**BFA**, Visual Communication, Fine Arts College-University of Damascus, Syria, 1/1997

## AWARDS

**Robert B. Menschel Fellowship**, Syracuse University, Ny, 2018

**Syracuse Poster Project Artist**, Syracuse, NY, 2018

**Syracuse University Scholarship**, Syracuse, NY, 2016-2018

**Jusoor-SyriansForward Scholarship**, 2016-2018

## WORK EXPERIENCE

### Curator

**Museum of Palestinian People**, Research and collect information about new artists and new exhibits. Research new objects and materials. Installing art exhibits. Washington DC. 10/2018-11/2019

**Middle Eastern Waters Event (Part of programs by Water Ways Exhibit)** Erie Canal Museum, Museum Association of New York, New York Folklore Society & Smithsonian Institution. Syracuse, NY 4/2019-8/2019

**Near East Relief Historical Society**, Research new subjects. Update the archives & images. Communicate with Rockefeller Archive Center (Physical collection storage) Manage social media, website update. Syracuse, NY. 5/2018-9/2018

**Curatorial Assistant** *Everson Museum of Art*, Research, new artists, installation of art exhibits and create presentations. Syracuse, NY 9/2016 - 8/2017

### Curated & Installed Exhibitions

**The History of Rowing**, *Boat House*, Syracuse University rowing team, Syracuse, NY 1/2018-6/2018

**Talent Agency, Teen Art Portfolio Development**: Students final show, Syracuse, NY 8/2017

**Middle Eastern Folklore Event**, *Schweinfurth Art Center*, Auburn, NY 10 /2018 & 2019

**Syrian Cultural Day**, *Ann Arbor Public Library*, Ann Arbor, MI 12/2016

**Bethlehem Beyond Walls**, *Manhattan College*, NYC, NY 2/2018

**SARN**: *Syrian American Rescue Network* Fundraising event, Troy, MI, 5/2016

### Board of Directors

- New American Forum, Syracuse, NY 1/2019-Present
- Art Rage Gallery, Syracuse, NY 10/2018-Present
- Syracuse Poster Project, Syracuse, NY 9/2018-Present

### Director

**Summer Intensive, Talent Agency**: Review syllabi, follow up art instructors work, contact artists and organize Fridays workshops. Syracuse, NY 5/2017-8/2017

### Art Educator

**Syracuse School District**, Syracuse, NY 10/2018-Present

**Everson Museum of Art**, Design and instruct the art class, create lesson plans. Syracuse, NY 11/2016-9/2018

**Education Assistant** *Everson Museum of Art*: Create PowerPoint presentations, create educators guide, prepare for family days. Syracuse, NY 9/2016 - 8/2017

**Art Abu Dhabi** Children workshops with Jam Jar Art Center. Abu Dhabi, UAE 11/2012

**Damascus Independent Academy**, Damascus, Syria, 2010-2012

**Dubai International School**, Dubai, UAE, 1/1998-6/1999

### Visitor services representative

**Frida Kahlo & Diego Rivera Exhibit:** Art galleries tours, public speaking, visitor services. *Detroit Institute of Arts*, Detroit, MI 2015-7/2015

### Marketing Coordinator

**Redwood Media** Collect artists sales data, coordinate artist sales and exhibiting process. *Spectrum Miami & Art Expo New York*, USA 2015

### Art Shows Jury

**Onondaga Artists Guild** group show 4/2019

**Cayuga Museum** CNY Emerging Artists show 12/2018

## PROFESSIONAL SKILLS

- Art Handling, Exhibition Design-Collaborative Design, Design thinking
- Adobe Suite, Microsoft Suite, Sketch Up
- English, Arabic, French
- Social Media management

**INDEPENDENT PROJECTS** **Nada's Picassos:** Art education, Healing, Recycling, Active Project, 2011-Present

## EXHIBITIONS

### Solo Exhibitions

**We Are All Immigrants**, Maxwell Memorial library, Camillus, NY 6/2019

**First Friday**, The Seward House Museum, Auburn, NY 10/2018

**I am Syria**, Cayuga Museum, Auburn, NY, 6/2018

**My Voyage, I float** Gallery 914 Works, Syracuse, NY, 4/2018

**Royalty in a Refugee Camp** Diane Kidd Gallery, Tiffin University, OH 9/2015

### Group Art Exhibitions

**Detroit Historical Society**, Detroit, MI 7/2019-10/2019

**Spark Contemporary Art Space**, Syracuse, NY 9/2018

**Article 13, Collar Works**, Troy, NY 4/2018

**UNICEF Next Generation**, "The Collection" Chicago 10/2016

**419 Arto-Matic**, Toledo, OH, 4/2015

**The Heritage of Old Fountains**, Mustafa Ali Gallery, Damascus, Syria. 6/2009

## CONFERENCES

**Rising From Ashes**, Speaker and performer, *Women Forward International*, Washington DC, 9/2019

**MANY** (*Museums Association Of New York*) Annual Conference, (Speaker) Rochester, NY, 4/2018 & Cooperstown, NY, 4/2019

**Concerts of Colors Festival** Artist & panelist, *Arab American National Museum*. Dearborn, USA. 7/2016

## WORKSHOPS

### Art instructor & Speaker:

- *Summer Institute for Human Rights and Genocide Studies*, Buffalo, NY, 7/2017-7/2019
- *Summer Institute for Human Rights and Genocide Studies*, Albany, NY, 7/2018
- *Friends Seminary School*, NYC, 1/2018
- *Rhetoric Writing Department*, Syracuse University, 9/27/2019
- *Middle Eastern Gala*, Arabic Calligraphy presentation and performance, Syracuse University, 4/27/2019
- *RISSE* refugee center, Albany, NY 1/12/2018

**Art as a Therapy for Syrian Refugees:** *ABBAD organization*, Baalbek, Lebanon 4/2013

**Workshop:** Story Writing & Illustration. *Nada's Picassos*, Archive coffee shop. Dubai, UAE. 11/2012

## VOLUNTEERING

**Spark Contemporary Art Space:** Social media manager, Syracuse, NY, 9/2016-2019

**University of Michigan Museum of Art:** *UMMA After Hours*, Visitor services, Ann Arbor, USA, 2014-2016

**Social events coordinator & director:** *Syrian American Rescue Network*, Detroit, USA, 2015-2106

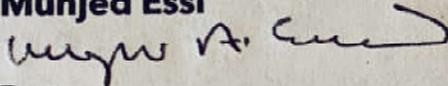
## Approval Letter

For painting a mural on the walls of Westcott' Munjed's building on 507 Westcott St,  
Syracuse, NY 13210

To whom it may concern, I *Munjed Essi* approve that a mural will be painted by <sup>(we)</sup> ~~507~~ <sup>501-50</sup> Nada Odeh on the outside wall of my building facing the parking lot, which is on ~~507~~ Westcott St, Syracuse, NY 13210.

**The Mural-** The proposed mural is a genuinely important addition to the community. Designed, proposed and to be created by Nada Odeh a member of our community, it embraces the diversity and multi-cultural atmosphere that our community members and groups support. It is colorful, reflects Middle Eastern cultures and fits in nicely with other, like, efforts that helped make the Westcott Community become known as the Westcott Nation.

**Munjed Essi**



**Date**

3/6/2020

**T:** (315)243-8479

**E:** Majen55@gmail.com



Westcott Area Cultural Coalition

826 Euclid Avenue, Syracuse, NY 13210

### **WACC Mission**

To promote and develop arts and cultural activities in the Westcott neighborhood, thereby enhancing the desirability to live, work, recreate, and socialize in the area.

March 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2020

To whom it may concern,

This letter is written in strong and enthusiastic support of Ms. Nada Odeh's efforts to create a wall mural at-----, Syracuse, NY 13210

**The Mural-** The proposed mural is a genuinely important addition to the community. Designed, proposed and to be created by Nada Odeh a member of our community, it embraces the diversity and multi-cultural atmosphere that our community members and groups support. It is colorful and fits in nicely with other, like, efforts that helped make the Westcott Community become known as the Westcott Nation. The mural has been approved and will be financially supported by the WACC board. Other groups such as the Morningside Cultural Trails, The Westcott Leadership Roundtable and its member organizations are also supporters.

**The Site:** The mural is to be located at, and involves, a business that many have wanted to embrace in community activities. Ms. Odeh's ability to connect with them is to be applauded.

**The Artist:** Ms. Odeh is rapidly becoming a force in the local arts and immigrant/refugee communities. Active in our community and in other sections of the nation, Ms. Odeh's passion for beauty and creativity as a vehicle for building multicultural community is important, timely and exciting. She is also tenacious, hard working and a lot of fun. We are blessed to have her as part of our local community.

Sincerely,

Paul R. Harvey

President, Westcott Area Cultural Coalition