

Local

Photo of the Day



KUWAIT: The Central Bank of Kuwait's building decorated with colorful lights forming Kuwait's flag. — Photo by Fahad Al-Otaibi (KUNA)

Spread of social media poses challenges to caricaturists

Art form that delivers a bold and purposeful social, political and economic message

CAIRO: In light of the technological development and the spread of social media, the caricature industry is facing modern challenges shown in popular censorship and audience reactions to published work. However, media decreased its attention to this journalistic art, which sarcastically simplifies stances and views to audience. Caricature is a rendered image, which shows the features of its subject in a simplified or exaggerated way through varied artistic drawings. This art delivers a bold and purposeful social, political and economic message to correct mistakes in the society and shed light on key issues to address them. Before the spread of social media, the art of cartoon was managed by editors-in-chief of newspapers, and they were the only people who decide which caricature is published. However, any cartoonist can nowadays post his works on his official account on social media, and these works are widely attracted by a large number of social media users.

Some Kuwaiti artists took part in the sixth edition of the International Forum of Caricature which took place in Cairo recently in an attempt to maintain cartoon's features in light of difficulties facing this art, amid the reluctance of audience to print newspapers. On the sidelines of the forum, head of Kuwait Cartoon Society Mohammad Thalab said that caricature is not only related to politics, but also to many issues in society. Cartoonists offer a better content in print newspapers due to the official censorship, unlike social media, he noted.

Meanwhile, deputy head of the society Sarah Al-Noumas, said one of the difficulties facing caricature is the



Mohammad Thalab



Sarah Al-Noumas

low turnout of audience to cartoon exhibitions and activities, in addition to the little attention to this art. "Cartoonists are bold and do not complement. This makes some believe that the artists use their brushes as a weapon of direct attack on people," Noumas said. She added that the artist highlights local issues through images, provided that the red lines are not crossed. — KUNA



CAIRO: Some artworks displayed at the sixth edition of the International Forum of Caricature which took place in Cairo recently. — KUNA

Burgan Bank set to sponsor 'D Partners Program' 2019

KUWAIT: Burgan Bank, one of the leading contributors to the welfare of the community, announces it will sponsor the 'D Partners Training Program' for the first time. Organized by the Training Gate International, the training program includes a series of workshops designed to enable and integrate a generation of young people with disabilities into society and to serve as advocates for their cause.

It is targeted at empowering both the disabled and non-disabled nationals with a collective conscience of the community's needs while inspiring more to fulfill their role as responsible members in the society. The innovative platform reinforces the global pledge to accommodate the persons with disability' youth with the necessary skills, professional competency, quality education, real-life career experiences, better healthcare and environmental services, overall accessibility and mobility to support themselves.

In line with the new Kuwait 2035 Vision, 'D Partners' is one of the most important civil society development programs that contribute to improving the lives of persons with disabilities and equip them with the keys to success to practice in both their social as well as professional lives. In addition, to increase a national sense of duty and level of awareness through the aid of the media to better under-

stand their circumstances, enable effective communication and constructive dialogue among members.

Hessa Al-Najadah, External Affairs Manager at Burgan Bank said: "We are proud to partner with Training Gate International as the 'D Partners' objectives are in line with Burgan Bank's Corporate Social Responsibility mission to serve the community. Since the bank's inception, it has been keen on promoting equal rights and social inclusion of individuals with disabilities and continues to partner with entities that develop their skills and help them serve as equal contributors to society. The bank seeks to establish a conscious and educated society that will build the foundation for a better future for the Persons with Disability segment."

Kifayah Al-Alban, Founder and Director General of the Training Gate International said: "We are delighted to partner with Burgan Bank and commend them for their role in driving many initiatives that address the needs of people with disabilities. Through our training methods, our goal is to develop their lives with the help of proper educational, vocational and practical training to actively join their peers and raise opportunities for success in both, their personal and professional lives."

The bank's support of this initiative falls under its dynamic full-fledged community program entitled 'ENGAGE' - Together to be the change. This program sheds light on important aspects affecting every segment of the society by promoting social welfare through educational, cultural and health driven initiatives. Burgan Bank's approach to 'ENGAGE' begins with a vital principle that as a leading Kuwaiti financial institution, its conduct and policies should be aligned with the needs and interests of the community.

