

Local



Virtual verses

374 works of renowned calligraphers exhibited online

By Ben Garcia

The International Virtual Exhibition for the Art of Arabic Calligraphy, under the sponsorship of Nasser Al-Saeed Foundation, is an online art exhibition with the participation of 32 countries and 103 artists from around the world. The exhibition's gallery has more than 374 works of renowned calligraphers worldwide. The exhibition was made possible through the efforts of Farid Al-Ali, President of Kuwait Islamic Arts Center based at the Grand Mosque of Kuwait.



Farid Al-Ali, President of Kuwait Islamic Arts Center at the Grand Mosque of Kuwait. — Photo by Yasser Al-Zayyat

"The idea started when we were all under the lockdown and curfews because of the pandemic. I organized a series of virtual meetings with other artists and art lovers and encouraged them to continue propagating art and culture even if we are all facing difficult situations," he said. "I don't agree to the idea that we should stop advocating and doing something for arts and culture. If we stop, it will substantially affect generations of people to come," Ali told Kuwait Times.

Artists all over the world are inseparable parts of their societies, so it is not surprising to witness their positive contributions to social and human causes. Hence the endeavors of many calligraphers to contribute to humanitarian efforts to mitigate the effects of the pandemic by

spreading beauty and disseminating Quranic verses, prophetic sayings and wisdom that inspire hope, resilience and ability to withstand the current conditions until the crisis is over.

"Calligraphers sought to achieve such a goal through written works inspired by the textual meaning to formulate aesthetic and iconic forms, all to be showcased digitally to allow the message of this exhibition to reach as many people as possible without breaching social distancing precautions. We hope this initiative brings us a step closer to each other despite geographical boundaries, as it features works by calligraphers from all over the world," Ali said.