

## The Launching of the Arab Culture and Arts Network (ACAN)



The Arab Culture and Arts Network (ACAN) conducted a conference to officially launch the network and its programs under the slogan “For Cultural Solidarity” on March 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2022 at the Lebanese National Library in Sanayeh (the premises of the former Faculty of Law of the Lebanese University), Beirut, and it was broadcast online through Zoom. The attendees of the conference

included: the delegated directive of the French Institute in the South of Lebanon, Mrs. Sophie Jarja, the Arab Culture and Arts Network (ACAN) cultural advisor, Dr. Jana AlHassan, the executive director of the Development for People and Nature Association (DPNA) in Saida, Mr. Hassan Abed AlJawad, the executive director of the Peace of Art association in Bikaa, Mr. Ibrahim Yahia, the executive director of the Cross-Arts association in Tripoli, Mr. Jean Hajjar, the executive director of the Arab Culture and Arts Network (ACAN), Mr. Kassem Istanbouli, the delegate of the Minister of Culture in Lebanon, Mr. Wissam AlMourtada, the cultural official of the Samir Kassir Foundation, Ms. Sarah Jacquin, the Austrian Ambassador to Lebanon, Mr. Rene Paul Amry, delegate of the Syndicate of Artists in Lebanon, Mr. Saad Hamdan, the musical artist Mr. Andre Hajj, and the actor Mr. Jad Abu Ali. The conference ended with a musical performance by Mr. Hassan Abed AlJawad, Mr. Bassem Abed AlJawad, and Mr. Hadi AlDada, representing the Cultural Committee of the Development for People and Nature Association (DPNA).



On March 24<sup>th</sup> and March 25<sup>th</sup>, the network also conducted webinars, each moderated by the director, Ana Cendrero Alvarez, and Dr. Jana AlHassan, that included discussions on how to develop exchange channels, the impact of the pandemic on the artistic and cultural movement, improving cultural policies in the world, censorship and freedoms in the artistic sector, the reality of artistic festivals, and lastly, coming up with outcomes and recommendations that are: artistic sectors should always seek funds and collaborations while consulting social media platforms; cultural policies should be elaborated, taking into consideration reliable resources; organizations and institutions should shed light on culture and the arts; there should be interpretation and translation for the conferences; there should be documentation for the artistic releases; and there should be a light shed on history to rewrite our future.



The webinars' attendees were: Mohammad Orabi, Eleni Mustakle, Nayef Hashlamoun, Kremena Hristova, Mahmoud Othman, Mary S Sherman, Muhammad (Douzan Art and Culture), Rajib Bhattacharjee, Ivanka Apostolova Baskar, Ali Matrouf, Mahmoud Baraket, Brijesh Arya, Wajdi Abou Diab, Gudrun Wallenbock, Vima Berkachy, Caglasu Cayliyangil,

Brankica Gavrilovic, Amin Khallaf, Zahra Dabous, Sarah Jacquin, Tala Smiley, Lara Chamoun, Muriel Kahwagi, Suha Khuffash, Priyanka Bhattacharjee, Imane Mansour, Anna Akabali, May Nasr, Mostafa Ammar, Najat, Fatima Badra, Lalla Sankhare, Bahadir Yasa, Iman Aoun, Nayef Hashlamoun, Ambra Sorrentino, Renad (Tamer Institute), Kamel Aouij, Maglaha Hamma, Abdifatah (HornDA), Obi (Youths4Peacebuilding - YOUPEDA), Katie Economidou, Imad Atrash, Mohamed Ali Bilal, Ali Othman, Zaher El-Bizri, Mohammad Hammad, and Yildirim/Dogal Yasam Dernegi.