



PASSAGES BETWEEN THE PAST AND FUTURE

Premiere Exhibit in U.S. of Photography by Bedouin Children of Abu Kaf, Israel

August 15, 2006—The Venice Arts Gallery is pleased to present *Passages Between the Past and Future*, an exhibition of original photography from the children of the recently recognized Bedouin village of Abu Kaf. It will be the premiere exhibit in the United States; the work has previously been shown in Israel at the Museum of Bedouin Culture, northern Negev; the Yitzhak Rabin Center, Jerusalem; the Achva College of Education; and the Beit Berl College, Tel Aviv.

From December 2004 through April 2005, ten 13 and 14 year-old youths from Abu Kaf worked with American educator, artist, and Fulbright Fellow, Kim Frumin, to learn the basics of photography. The students met as a class two to three times a week to shoot, examine photographs taken by other children around the world, discuss photographic techniques and critique their own photographs. They also spent a day as guests of the Musrara photography school in Jerusalem, where they learned to develop their own pictures in the darkroom.

This exhibit represents a culmination of their efforts. The results are poetic and vibrant, revealing the potent, intimate connections among tradition, community, and family. Everyday moments such as mothers preparing food, sisters praying, or brothers playing in the fields, are given new importance, as the children capture and describe their unique perspectives.

The project was designed by Frumin to empower Bedouin children to use cameras to create individual self-portraits and portraits of their communities, challenging the children to articulate their hopes and dreams and to reflect upon the strengths of their community. Their photographs are being used educational tools, allowing Bedouin youth to better know themselves and to share their unique perspectives with their counterparts throughout Israel.

Passages was generously funded by the United States–Israel Educational Foundation (Fulbright Foundation in Israel) and the Jewish community of Houston, Texas. It is a collaboration between the Abu Kaf school and the Joe Alon Center.

The Venice Arts Gallery is run by Los Angeles–based Venice Arts and features high caliber art work, primarily documentary photography, created by young people locally, nationally, and internationally. For 13 years, Venice Arts has also run innovative, year-round programs in photography, filmmaking, and digital arts, primarily for children and teens from low income families living in high poverty neighborhoods on Los Angeles' west side.

For more information contact: Jim Hubbard, jim@venice-arts.org or 310-822-8533. To learn more about Venice Arts or the Venice Arts Gallery go to www.venice-arts.org.

##