

Inaugurating the Lebanese Aboard the Titanic Art Pieces into the LERC's LMM at NDU

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The Lebanese Emigration Research Center (LERC) at the Faculty of Law and Political Science (FLPS), Notre Dame University-Louaize (NDU), in collaboration with the International Lebanese Titanic Committee (ILTC), Vestiges d'Orient, the World Lebanese Cultural Union-British Columbia (WLCU-BC), and the Irish-Lebanese Cultural Association (ILCA), recently organized an event to inaugurate 27 newly-bequeathed pieces of art on the Lebanese Aboard the Titanic into the Lebanon and Migration Museum (LMM) at NDU.



The Contributing Artists and Organizers at the FAAD, NDU (May 2, 2017)

This collection, which is dedicated to the memory of the Lebanese who perished aboard — or survived — the Titanic's ill-fated voyage, was unveiled at the Ramez G. Chagoury Faculty of Architecture, Art and Design (FAAD) exhibit hall in the presence of the artists, guests, and representatives of the participating organizations.

Two families, Abi Saab from Thoum and Azzam from Kfar-Katra, whose ancestors were among those who died 105 years ago when the ship sank, gave touching testimonies.

First Vice-Governor at Banque du Liban (BDL) Raed Charafeddine delivered an exceptional presentation. He recounted his observations during a voyage he took during the official centennial celebration, which retraced the Titanic's route. Charafeddine discussed the lessons he learned during the journey particularly regarding leadership lessons from this historical incident.



Mr. Raed Charafeddine during his intervention at the FAAD, NDU (May 2, 2017)

For her part, LERC Director Dr. Guita Hourani recognized members of the ILTC who sponsored the inaugural event, Charafeddine, Dr. Nickolas (Nick) Kahwaji, and Dr. Josyann Abisaab as well as Joe Abi Saab whose grandfather perished on the Titanic.

Dr. Hourani also recognized the participating artists as well as Founder and Owner of Vestiges d'Orient artist Bernard Renno for his efforts in realizing the call for paintings and Founder of the ILTC and Chairman of the ILCF Engr. Guy (Jones) Younes for his tireless efforts to keep alive the memory of the Lebanese aboard the Titanic.



(from left) Ms. Haddad, Dr. Kahwaji, Mr. Renno, Mr. Younes, and Dr. Hourani during the award ceremony at the FAAD, NDU (May 2, 2017)

At the end of the event, Dr. Kahwaji presented to NDU, in the person of NDU President Rev. Fr. Walid Moussa, an award for exceptional leadership in establishing and sustaining the first international research center on Lebanese migration, the LERC. He also awarded Dr. Hourani a plaque in recognition of her scholarly work in the field of Lebanese migration studies and her creativity in leading the LERC.

A catalog accompanied the exhibition and included several articles on the importance of art in migration, the ILTC, the LLM, the Abi Saab testimony, and Charafeddine's leadership lessons. This catalog is available at the LERC.