

For Immediate Release



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AUB University for Seniors exhibition supports underprivileged older adults

The University for Seniors (UfS) at the American University of Beirut (AUB); the Gold Clinic at the American University of Beirut Medical Center (AUBMC); and HelpAge international, UK organized the “Voices through Art exhibition,” a unique intergenerational fundraising event, the first of its kind in Lebanon and the region.

The exhibition’s idea came to light given the circumstances that many older people in Lebanon are facing. Lebanon is the fastest ageing country in the Arab region with 11% of its population over the age of 65 in 2020. In a country with a fragmented social protection system where 50% of its older adults have no health coverage and 80% are without any pension schemes, older adults from all socio-economic backgrounds are at higher risks of poverty, exclusion, and lack of healthcare access.

This pushed UfS members who are seniors from all around Lebanon as well as AUB students to join forces and create art both collectively and individually. The sale of artwork is donated in full to support the Gold Clinic, a clinic offering free health services to underprivileged older adults. The event aimed at raising awareness about older people’s capabilities and their right to healthcare in addition to celebrating intergenerational solidarity.

The exhibition was held from June 17 - 18 at AUB, hosting more than 70 artworks donated by 57 artists. The event was attended by many, and almost half of the artwork has already been sold.

“We are in a wedding, an artistic one,” an older adult artist commented.

The artworks sale continues online for anyone who is interested in buying art pieces while donating to this great cause. Older people have suffered greatly with the continuous crises that Lebanon had endured since 2019 - from the collapse of the economy, to the Covid-19 pandemic, and the August 2020 Beirut Port explosion. The donation is aimed to allow the Gold Clinic at AUBMC to alleviate the burden they face.

For a quick view of the artists and their remarkable artwork, visit <https://www.aub.edu.lb/seniors/Pages/Voicesexhibition.aspx>

The artwork as well as their minimum prices are available on this catalogue <https://www.aub.edu.lb/seniors/Documents/VTACatalogue.pdf>

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Note to Editors

About AUB

Founded in 1866, the American University of Beirut bases its educational philosophy, standards, and practices on the American liberal arts model of higher education. A teaching-centered research university, AUB has more than 900 full-time faculty members and a student body of about 9,500 students. AUB currently offers more than 140 programs leading to bachelor's, master's, MD, and PhD degrees. It provides medical education and training to students from throughout the region at its Medical Center that includes a full-service 365-bed hospital.

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