



UNIVERSITY OF
EXETER

من هنا إلى الأبد
from here to eternity

you are cordially invited to the preview of

from here to eternity

من هنا إلى الأبد

at the **Street Gallery, Institute of Arab and Islamic Studies, University of Exeter, Exeter EX4 4ND**

on Thursday 27 January 2011 at 6pm for 6:30pm
opening address by Professor Robert Gleave and
talk by Dr Elaine M Goodwin

Exhibition open: 9am – 5pm

Monday 31 January – Friday 1 April 2011

(closed at weekends)

Please telephone: **01392 264040** for more details
<http://socialsciences.exeter.ac.uk/iais/all-events.php>

This exhibition by two artists celebrates Life through profound visual enquiry. The English artist, Elaine M Goodwin, and the Moroccan artist, Mohamed Abaoubida, believe in pursuing and seeking explanations for Life through their chosen art forms of mosaic and calligraphy.

Elaine explores the non-religious life, an inner life. Mohamed explores a religious life within a deeply held Islamic conviction. The result is the outcome of four years of collaboration in Marrakech, each producing independent works. One work alone, the title work 'From Here to Eternity', combines the work of both artists in a spirit of contrapuntal harmony.

Occasionally, glimpses of answers are perceived, illuminating for a moment a universal Truth.

There is a strongly held tradition of combining mosaic with calligraphy in Morocco. An outstanding example is that of the 14th century Merenidian Medersa Ben Youssef, situated deep in the heart of the medina of Marrakech where both artists have their studios. Here, embossed suras from the Koran in Kufic and cursive script co-exist with small cut mosaic tiles – the zellijis. The rigorous geometric design of the calligraphy and the colourful tessellated surface-glazed tiles together proclaim abstract beliefs.

This harmonic duality of mosaic with calligraphy is born from an Arab-Andalusian tradition and can be experienced in the 10th century mihrab of the Great Mosque of Cordova in Spain, where shimmering gold and glass mosaic tesserae combine concept and calligraphy.

The opening of this exhibition coincides with the inauguration of the Institute's Centre for the Study of Islam: Lecture by Professor Robert Hoyland, University of Oxford, *The Language of the Qur'an and Ancient Middle Eastern Storytelling*, 5.15pm in Lecture Theatre I.