



anomalous
EXPANSION

Exhibition Featuring Work by Six Somali Minnesotan Visual Artists

August 24, 2016



FOR MEDIA AND GENERAL RELEASE

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Exhibition: Anomalous Expansion
Venue: Darul Uloom Youth, Family & Community Center
977 E. 5th St., St. Paul, MN 55106
Location: 2nd Floor of the School Building
Dates: September 17 through October 8, 2016, 4 - 9pm
Reception: September 24, 2016, 5 - 8pm

(St. Paul – August 23, 2016)—*Anomalous Expansion* is a landmark exhibition that features work by six Somali Minnesotan artists — highlighting their art while asking the following questions: What is their role & responsibility as Somali artists? What does s/he have to say, contribute to and produce on the contemporary local and global artscape? In other words, what is his/her artistic station?

Anomalous Expansion elaborates on the significance of the sacred space, the *Masjid*, as both a public and private sphere — and in this instance serves as an alternative art location that affords these artists the footing to contemplate and address conceptually both the Sublime and the Real through a culturally grounded aesthetic.

Anomalous Expansion features work by Abdi Roble, Aziz Osman, Ifrah Mansour, Kaamil Haider, Mohamed Hersi, and Mohamud Mumin.

ABOUT ANOMALOUS EXPANSION

Since the early 1990s, Minnesota has been home to the Somali community, now one of the largest in North America. In the early years of the community, the focus of artmaking, while paramount to the welfare of any community, has been redirected towards immediate needs such as family reunification, housing, education and employment.

At present, the Somali community in Minnesota has dedicated and accomplished Somali visual artists who want to create and use art to shape and frame critical discourse around vexing local and global issues of our time. Moving forward, we hope the collective action of this group will lead to sustained partnerships with Minnesota institutions, and together inspire more Minnesotans to harness the power of art as a tool for intellectual and civic engagement.

Anomalous Expansion was born out of discussions within the community about the need to address the state of contemporary Somali visual arts in Minnesota. The collective understanding amongst the artists are as follows: 1. Own the creation/presentation of all facets of their art; 2. Normalize the possibility of a career in the visual arts for Somali youth; 3. Advocate for policy work that will foster and advance Somali visual arts; 4. Hold annual art exhibitions; 5. Create opportunities for Somali visual artists to produce and exhibit their work; 6. Offer role models for young Somali artists.

ABOUT THE ARTISTS

1. **Abdi Roble**, documentary photographer and founder of Somali Documentary Project, has been documenting the global Somali (Diaspora) migration for over a decade, with over 100,000 (black and white) photographs to date [10,000 from Minnesota alone]. Roble has been exhibited widely both nationally and internationally. He plans to use his 2016 Bush Foundation Fellowship to train to become an archivist and expand his leadership skills in archival management.

2. **Aziz Osman**, although formally trained in architecture with experience spanning over four decades, now works predominantly in painting, ceramics, and sculpture. Osman is a recipient of a 2009 Minnesota State Arts Board Cultural Community Partnership Grant. In 2014, Osman has been named The Best Professional Artist at the Fourth Annual Somali Entertainment Awards. His work has been exhibited nationally and internationally.

3. **Ifrah Mansour** is a multimedia performance and installation artist, employing digital weaving and movements throughout her sound projects. Mansour has exhibited her work in Minnesota, and is the recipient of a 2015 Minnesota State Arts Board Artist Initiative grant.

4. **Kaamil Haider** is a graphic designer, photographer and the current artist in residence at the Somali Museum of Minnesota. He has done branding for both national and international institutions. He applies a holistic approach to design while exploring the human interaction with designed entities. In his practice, Haider takes into account the cultural implications that give meaning to design.

5. **Mohamed Hersi** is a painter, designer and has curated art and high end garments for Original Royal Refugee, a fashion label he established in 2011. To date, Hersi has shown his work locally and nationally.

6. **Mohamud Mumin** is a photographer and a visual storyteller based in Minneapolis, Minnesota. He is the current American Swedish Institute Malmberg fellow and past recipient of a 2013 McKnight Artist Fellowship for Photographers. Mumin has exhibited his work locally and nationally.

DARUL ULOOM YOUTH, FAMILY & COMMUNITY CENTER

Darul Uloom, meaning “House of Knowledge,” a Minnesota *Masjid*/Mosque was established for the youth on August 16, 2010, in order to promote Islamic principles in the Twin Cities communities while facilitating the development of the next generation of Muslims. On June 20, 2014, Darul Uloom purchased the former St. John’s Church and School property to provide services to the growing East Saint Paul Muslim community. The 93-year old facilities are being updated to meet the needs of the community. Currently, services are held on a daily basis. Please check out their website, www.dmycmn.com, for more information, prayer times, events and updates.

RELATED PROGRAM

Tour of *Masjid* - Visitors to the exhibition will have an opportunity to go on a guided tour of the main prayer hall and the Center (including the high school building)— **5:15 - 5:45pm**.

OPENING REMARKS

Nuruddin Farah, an acclaimed Somali novelist, essayist, playwright, screenwriter and a distinguished professor at Bard College, will be giving opening remarks on the opening day of the exhibition on **September 17, 2016 at 6pm**.

MODERATED PANEL DISCUSSION

Visitors will have an opportunity to see the artwork displayed in various rooms throughout the exhibition space and be able to talk to the artists about their respective work. Afterwards, we will all gather in the main exhibition **Room B (ب)** on the second floor for a panel discussion moderated by Ifrah Magan—**on September 24, 2016 at 6pm - 7:15pm**.

ABOUT THE MODERATOR

Ifrah Magan holds a Master’s degree from the University of Chicago’s School of Social Service Administration where she was a recipient of the prestigious Kathryn Davis Peace Award and the Albert Schweitzer Health Fellowship.

Magan is currently a doctoral candidate at Jane Addams College of Social Work at the University of Illinois at Chicago (UIC). She is a recipient of the 2014-2015 UIC Abraham Lincoln Fellowship and Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Service Award. Magan's research explores migration histories and resettlement experiences of Somali refugees in Chicago and how that impacts ethnic and religious identities. Magan utilizes story-telling qualitative methodology in her research work, and is currently completing her first poetry collection.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

The exhibition and its secondary activities are free for all visitors.

Due to the in-progress renovation of the building, the gallery does not have handicap entrances. However, we are more than happy to help facilitate your visit by figuring out ways we can get you in. Also, we plan on providing American Sign Language (ASL) interpreters for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing community. We will have staff in front of the entrance, so please notify them upon your arrival or contact us beforehand.

STAFF

Zahra Muse // Exhibition Manager

Muse currently works as a Program and Outreach Coordinator for the West Bank Business Association, where she assists small and minority owned businesses access resources. Understanding the agency of art, Muse facilitated pop-art and public art installation to highlight the community's assets and stories. In addition to working with artists, Muse is a visual artist herself and draws inspiration from buildings and physical spaces.

Mohamud Mumin // Exhibition Curator

Mumin is a photographer and a visual storyteller based in Minneapolis, Minnesota. His passion in photography lies in his relentless pursuit to harness its immense capacity to facilitate dialogue across barriers and cultures. Mumin has devoted much of his time to documenting the social life of Somalis in North America. Much of his recent work has been centered around Somali youth engaged in their community as they forge a life in their new homes.

Kaamil Haider // Exhibition Designer

Haider is a Minneapolis based graphic designer and photographer. He is guided by a holistic approach when considering the cultural implications that give meaning to human interaction with designed entities. Currently, Haider is researching the design aesthetics of Somalis, past and present.

FOR MEDIA & ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Mohamud Mumin

Curator of Anomalous Expansion Exhibition

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WWW.ANOMALUS.ORG

Support for the exhibition provided by Somali Museum of Minnesota, Ka Joog, Darul Uloom Islamic Center, Minneapolis College of Art & Design and The McKnight Foundation.

opening // SEP.17.16
4pm - 9pm

977 E. 5th Street
St. Paul, MN 55106

Tel. (612) 703.5329
www.anomalous.org

Gallery Hours
(every weekend through Oct. 8)
Saturday & Sunday 4pm - 9pm

reception // SEP.24.16
5pm - 8pm

Artists //

ABDI ROBLE

AZIZ OSMAN

IFRAH MANSOUR

KAAMIL HAIDER

MOHAMED HERSI

MOHAMUD MUMIN



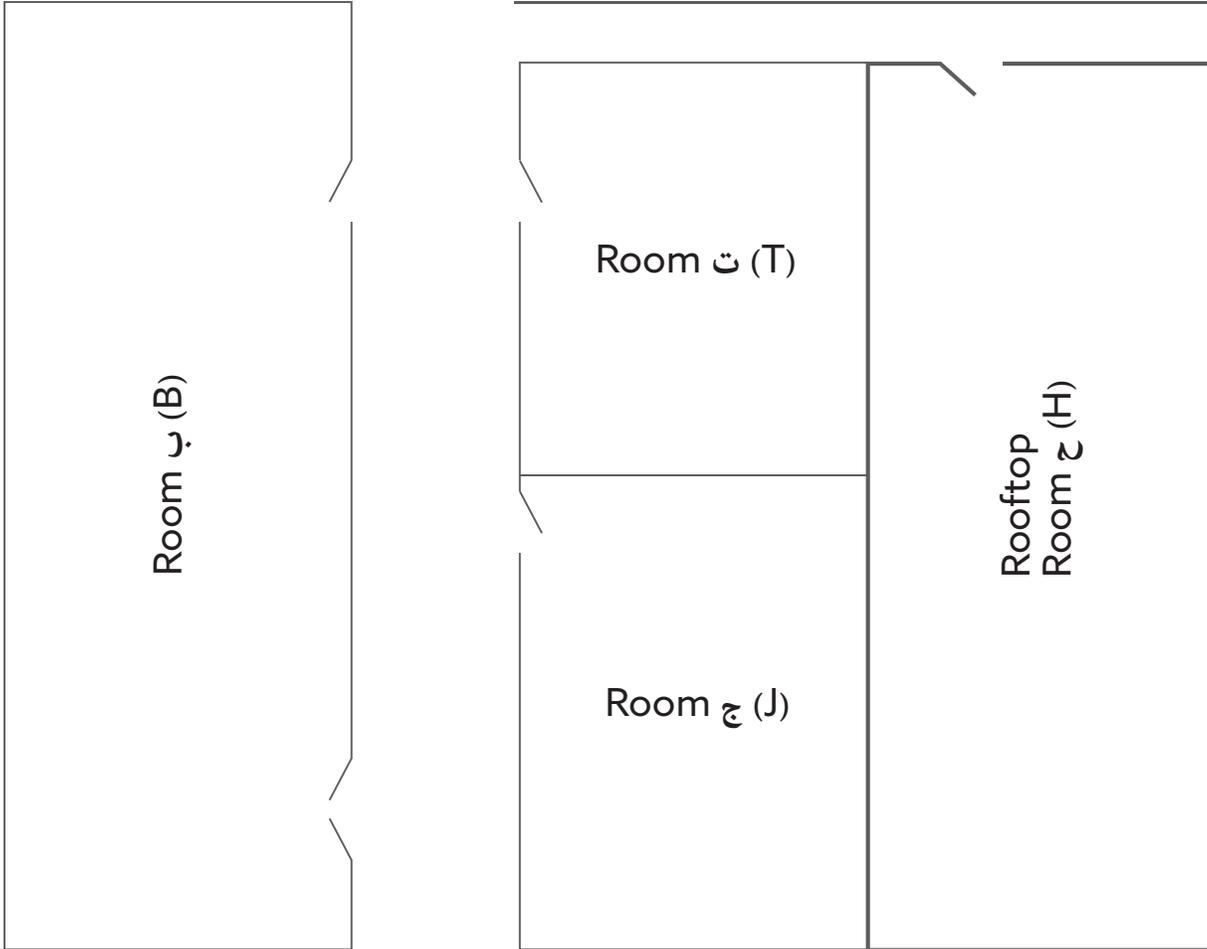
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GALLERY ROOMS
(SCHOOL BUILDING)

1ST FLOOR: ROOM A
2ND FLOOR: ROOMS B, T, J, H



2nd floor
(School Building)



1st floor
(School Building)

