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Tehran to New York: L’Dor Vador Exhibition Celebrates Immigrants’ Journey to Long Island

SJCC’s artSPACE to Host Opening Reception on Sunday, January 12

East Hills, N.Y. (Jan. 7, 2025) – Sid Jacobson JCC invites the community to celebrate the opening of its latest artSPACE exhibition, *Tehran to New York: L’Dor Vador*, with a special reception on Sunday, January 12, 1-2:30pm, in East Hills.

The exhibition, which has transformed the gallery’s 90-foot space since its debut last month, features the incredible works of mother-daughter artists **Homa Rafii Rabbani** and **Mina Rabbani Babazadeh**.

Attendees have the unique opportunity to hear from both artists, as they share the compelling story of their journey from then war-torn Tehran, Iran, to their current home on Long Island.

“We aim to highlight artists whose work not only enriches our community culturally, but also tells a story of resilience and connection,” said **Jaime Teich**, Associate Executive Director, Marketing + Communications. “*Tehran to New York: L’Dor Vador* does exactly that. It invites us to experience a personal and universal journey of hardship, hope, and healing through beautiful, breathtaking art.”

Through a vibrant array of paintings—spanning detailed landscapes, florals, expressive figures, and still lifes—the collection reflects the enduring strength that has shaped Homa and Mina’s lives and artistic expressions.

“My mother and I are honored and thrilled to showcase artwork spanning 50 years in this exhibit,” Mina shared. “My mother was my first art teacher and still remains my greatest

inspiration. Throughout life's hardships, art has been a profound form of healing, offering solace and strength in difficult times."

Homa's artistic journey began at Petgar's Art Academy in Tehran, where she first nurtured her love for painting. Despite the challenges of fleeing her homeland, she carried her passion with her, teaching and showcasing her work in exhibitions stateside over the years.

Mina has since embraced and expanded upon her mother's legacy.

Today, Mina not only creates award-winning art featured in private collections and public exhibits but also guides the next generation as a beloved art teacher. Her commitment to teaching ensures that the artistic values and passion instilled by her mother will continue to resonate and evolve through those she mentors.

"It's a blessing to share a passion for art with my daughter. Watching her grow into the remarkable art teacher she is today has been one of the greatest joys of my life," Homa said. "Mina's creativity and dedication have not only inspired her students, but have also reignited my own love for painting."

"This exhibit is a testament to our shared journey, channeling both the challenges and the triumphs into something meaningful and lasting," Mina concluded.

Tehran to New York: L'Dor Vador will remain on display in SJJCC's artSPACE through February.

For more information about this exhibition, please visit SJJCC.org/artspace.

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About Sid Jacobson JCC

Sid Jacobson JCC (sjjcc.org) in East Hills provides a full range of cutting-edge recreational, health, fitness, educational, cultural arts, and social service programs. SJJCC promotes Jewish identity and provides a comprehensive program based on Jewish values, traditions, heritage, and culture, and is committed to enriching the lives of all individuals and families in its community. See community differently, "Like" the JCC on Facebook (facebook.com/sidjacobsonjcc).

Sid Jacobson JCC is a beneficiary agency of the UJA Federation of New York.