SHANGRI LA
MUSEUM OF ISLAMIC ART, CULTURE & DESIGN

News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

October 26, 2022

For media inquiries, contact Communications Specialist, Giovonni Parks gparks@ddcf.org, 808.792.5506

SHANGRI LA OPENS NEW EXHIBITION OF AN ORIGINAL WORK BY VISIONARY ARTIST JORDAN NASSAR

HONOLULU - Shangri La Museum of Islamic Art, Culture & Design announces a new exhibition of an original work by Palestinian American artist Jordan Nassar. Created during his residency at the museum, the work, Lé’ahi, is a 4-by-6-foot tile panel featuring hundreds of 3/8-inch glass mosaic tiles forming the view of Lē’ahi from Shangri La. Lē’ahi is also known as Diamond Head and is one of Hawai’i’s iconic landmarks. The artwork was created during Nassar’s residency at Shangri La and is the artist’s first, large-scale tile mosaic. The bold composition follows Nassar’s stylized use of tatreez – a form of traditional Palestinian embroidery that he uses to express Palestinian visions of memory and homeland. The exhibition is scheduled to run from November 5 to May 27, 2023.

“Seeing my piece at Shangri La has been an amazing experience,” said Nassar, who split his time between his studio in Brooklyn, NY and Shangri La during his 4-month residency.

“This is a groundbreaking work,” stated Konrad Ng, Executive Director of Shangri La. “Exhibitions of original work created by international artists like Nassar during our residency program boosts our standing as a cultural influencer, innovator and source for fresh ways of understanding “Islamic Art” in the Asia-Pacific.”

More information is available on Shangri La’s website at www.shangrilahawaii.org.

# # #

ABOUT JORDAN NASSAR Jordan Nassar’s art practice uses a variety of materials to explore concepts of heritage and homeland. Across multimedia installations that have included hand-embroidery, wood inlay and glass, Nassar celebrates Palestinian identity, diaspora and belonging.

ABOUT SHANGRI LA Constructed from 1935 to 1937 by philanthropist Doris Duke (1912-1993), Shangri La was inspired by her extensive travels throughout North Africa and Western, Central, South and Southeast Asia, and the landscapes of Hawai’i. Over the course of 60 years, Duke
assembled an impressive collection of nearly 4,500 artworks, cultural resources and architectural designs through commissions from artisans, purchases from dealers and bazaars, or received as gifts. The collection is particularly strong in ceramics, wood, glass, and textiles from 1600 to 1940 CE.

As part of her lasting desire to promote the study and understanding of the art and cultures experienced during her travels, Doris Duke directed in her will that Shangri La be "available to scholars, students and others interested in the furtherance and preservation of Islamic art and make the premises open to the public." In 2002, Shangri La opened as the only museum dedicated exclusively to Islamic art in the United States. For more information, please visit www.shangrilahawaii.org.