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### **Gaylord-Pickens Museum opens *The Passionate Lenses of Yousef Khanfar***

OKLAHOMA CITY – On April 2, the Gaylord-Pickens Oklahoma Heritage Museum will open *The Passionate Lenses of Yousef Khanfar* in its Tulsa World Gallery. In keeping with the gallery’s mission to showcase local artists, the exhibit will be a retrospective of the internationally-recognized photographer’s 30 years of work.

Born in Kuwait, Khanfar grew up exposed to images of war and violence. Photography gave him the opportunity to express himself and challenge those images: "I have chosen to carry my camera instead of a gun to promote peace around the world; I believe peace is a finer horse to ride than violence."

Khanfar moved to New York to study English when he was 18. While visiting cousins at the University of Oklahoma, he fell in love with the friendly people and pace of life of Oklahoma.

“How fortunate we are as Oklahomans to call such a talented artist one of our own,” said Shannon L. Rich, president of the Oklahoma Heritage Association and Gaylord-Pickens Museum. “Yousef could have chosen to make his home anywhere, but, like many of the Oklahomans featured in the Gaylord-Pickens Museum, he chooses to share his gift and his mission of peace from right here in Oklahoma.”

Khanfar’s work includes a mix of portrait, landscape and still life photography, and his images have appeared in publications like *Oprah*, *International Photo Art*, *Amateur Photographer*, *Persimmon Hill*, *Photo Life*, *Outdoor Photographer* and *Nature's Best*. His art has been collected and exhibited in galleries, cultural centers and museums worldwide, and his work is included in the permanent collection of the International Photography Hall of Fame.

The exhibit will debut Khanfar’s portrait of Justice Sandra Day O’Connor and images from his newest series, the Jerusalem Collection.

*The Passionate Lenses of Yousef Khanfar* will be on display April 2 through July 31. An opening reception will be held on April 2 from 5 to 8 p.m. at the Gaylord-Pickens Museum at NW 13<sup>th</sup> Street & Shartel Avenue. The reception is free and open to the public. Khanfar will be selling and autographing copies of his most recent book, *In Search of Peace*. RSVP to Karlee Chill at 405.523.3206 or [kc@oklahomaheritage.com](mailto:kc@oklahomaheritage.com).

Through high-tech, interactive exhibits, the Gaylord-Pickens Museum allows visitors to experience Oklahoma’s story through its people. Video-driven displays and computer touch screen provide guests a unique look into the lives of famous and everyday Oklahomans who have impacted our state, country and world.

For more information about the Museum, the Tulsa World Gallery or The Passionate Lenses of Yousef Khanfar, visit [www.oklahomaheritage.com](http://www.oklahomaheritage.com) or call 405.235.4458.

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