

Chicago Gallery Shows Iraqi Art

**By Terry Armour**

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Filmmaker Harold Ramis is part of a host committee, including U.S. Reps. Jan Schakowsky and Jesse Jackson Jr. of Illinois, that has supported bringing the works of Iraqi artists to Chicago for a special viewing through the month of December.

"Whispers from Baghdad: An Exhibition of Contemporary Iraqi Art" will be on display beginning Thursday at the newly opened Iraqi Art Gallery, 7013 N. Sheridan Rd. Proceeds from the sale of the paintings will benefit the artists and their families.

"This is completely apolitical," said gallery director Chuck Trimbach, who heard about the artists through a friend traveling in Baghdad. "It isn't a protest against anything. This is purely in the spirit of cultural exchange. We want people to see that people from Baghdad and Iraq are much more complex than they might think."