

MEDIA RELEASE
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THE KAY MEEK ARTS CENTRE UNVEILS PLANS FOR THE FARIS FAMILY COURTYARD

MARIE KHOURI WINS JURIED COMPETITION FOR FIRST COMMISSIONED ARTWORK AT THE KAY MEEK ARTS CENTRE

West Vancouver, B.C. – The Kay Meek Arts Centre is pleased to announce the creation of the Faris Family Courtyard as a result of Reema Faris’s donation to the Centre’s Capital Campaign. In addition to creating the Faris Family Courtyard, Ms. Faris’s donation will fund a commissioned sculpture in honour of her mother Yulanda Faris as well as the re-landscaping of the area outside the main lobby. Internationally renowned sculptor Marie Khouri has won the juried competition for the development, production, and installation of the Centre’s first commissioned public artwork.

Faris had been seeking a location for a commemorative artwork in honour of her mother, who worked on behalf of the Vancouver arts community for more than 40 years. Yulanda and her husband Moh liberally donated their time and support to opera, dance, the visual arts and literature, with a particular focus on young people, arts education, and professional training opportunities for artists. In 2010, Moh and Yulanda Faris were the recipients of a Governor General’s Performing Arts Award, The Ramon John Hnatyshyn (RJH) Award for Voluntarism in the Performing Arts.

Original plans for the Kay Meek Arts Centre had included a sculpture courtyard. The launch of the Centre’s capital campaign for accessibility upgrades presented a perfect opportunity to reimagine the space and garden outside the main lobby. The outstanding gift from Ms. Faris will help to realize this vision and to facilitate the improvement of exterior spaces, pathways, lighting, and landscaping as part of the comprehensive project to upgrade the Centre’s amenities and physical accessibility.

“I’m so pleased to be working with the Kay Meek Centre on this project. It honours the memory of my mother, who passionately believed in the power of the arts to make meaning and change, and it ensures the viability and vitality of the arts for all North Shore residents and their guests. My thanks to Marie Khouri for her visionary design and for capturing my mother’s spirit in her inspired sculptural creation.” *Reema Faris, Donor*

“We are extremely grateful to Reema Faris for her extraordinary gift. Her generosity not only allows us to create a more accessible and welcoming entrance to our building, but will further enhance the overall Kay Meek experience with the addition of this beautiful artwork by Marie Khouri.” *Betsy Gibbons, Chair, Board of Directors, Kay Meek Arts Centre*

“This work, comprised of two sculptural benches, spell the Arabic script ‘Y’ for Yulanda. 'Sit with me, Share with me' is in the reflection of Yulanda's passion for creating spaces and places for people from diverse backgrounds to share, celebrate and create together.”
Marie Khouri, Artist

About the Kay Meek Arts Centre

The Kay Meek Arts Centre is a professional arts venue offering world-class arts experiences and opportunities for the communities of the North Shore and is central to its vibrant cultural fabric. Presenting more than 300 performances to over 60,000 people every year, the venue provides a space for artistic excellence for professional artists, youth and community groups.

About Marie Khouri

Vancouver-based sculptor, Marie Khouri, represents the broad multi-cultural and diverse demographic of Western Canada. Born in Egypt and raised in Lebanon, Khouri has developed a vast range of cultural and historical influences within her practice. With a childhood interrupted during the Lebanese Civil War, Khouri was relocated to Spain, Italy and Canada, finally settling in Paris where she was classically trained in sculpture at l’Ecole du Louvre. On her return to Vancouver, a retrospective of her life took form in her sculpture, reflecting a passion for innovation and spontaneity.