

# THE DOME OF THE ROCK – AN ARCHICULTURAL PORTRAIT

A TRAVELING EXHIBITION OF PHOTOGRAPHS BY SAÏD NUSEIBEH



It has never been easy to see, study or enjoy details of this early Islamic shrine... until now.

The exhibition "Dome of the Rock" consists of a core portfolio of 56 color images, matted and framed to 22x28-inches, and extending 185 linear feet. The photographs explore the colorful octagon in its surrounding urban fabric, the interior spatial dynamics, and decorative arts of multiple ages. The exhibit has previously drawn a diverse audience including architects, art historians, political scientists, and students of Middle Eastern languages and cultures alike. The core exhibition may be enhanced by the addition of images from the artist's deep archive to expand content and dialogue in multiple directions.



## ABOUT THE PROJECT:

For over thirty years, photographer Said Nuseibeh has devoted time to document the architectural and aesthetic legacy of the Umayyad dynasty (665-749 C.E.). The Dome of the Rock is merely the grandest and most well-preserved contribution of this fertile and formative period. The artist perceives architecture as more than form and function: these historic monuments are conundrums, delights, and living evolving testaments of the multi-faceted personalities who make and maintain them.

A 1300-year-old product of the Umayyad dynasty, the Dome of the Rock is an imaginative fusion of classical and oriental cultural traditions. The building stands in the visual center of the Masjid al-Aqsa, the large mosque esplanade at the southeast corner of the old walled city of Jerusalem. It is the first Islamic building designed with floor-to-ceiling ornament. It also possesses one of the earliest specimens of Kufic Arabic and Quranic writing.





Sponsored by the caliph Abdal-Mâlik bin Marwan, the Dome of the Rock became a marker, a buoy laying out a new trajectory in written and visual languages for a nascent Islamic civilization. Today it is simultaneously a quiet place of spiritual activity and a flashpoint of academic debate and geo-political controversy. Through Nuseibeh's lush photographs, we visit the site and the material culture of both the Late Antique period in the Eastern Mediterranean as well as a calm creative corner of contemporary culture in Palestine-Israel.



#### TRAVELING EXHIBITION DETAILS:

Core Exhibit: Up to 56 prints, 29 H / 27 V, 185+ linear feet

Print Size: 16x20 window-matted; framed to 22x28

Frames: Nielsen #12 black (metal) w/ plex

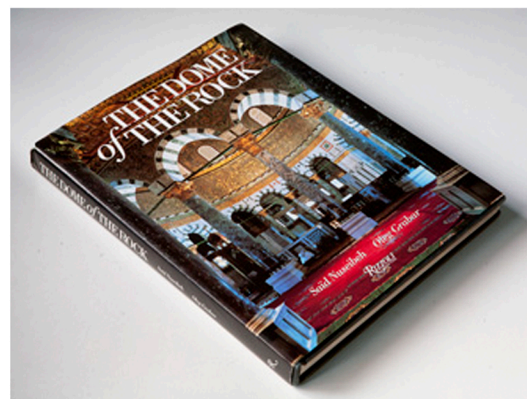
Crates: 8x26x31 (8 crates total)

#### RELATED EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS:

The exhibition can serve as a vehicle for arts-based research; interfaith, multi-cultural, and diversity programming; as well as a platform for discussion of contemporary life in the Middle East. The artist will work with venues to provide text/captions and to help develop educational programming. Limited edition fine prints of photographs featured in the exhibition are available for acquisition.

#### THE PUBLICATION:

The exhibition features an accompanying publication, *The Dome of the Rock* (Rizzoli 1996). Copies signed by the artist can be made available for sale to the public in conjunction with the exhibit.



**BOOKINGS ARE CURRENTLY BEING ACCEPTED THROUGH 2015.**

To learn more about this exhibition or to download a pdf version of this information, visit [www.studiosaid.com/traveling-exhibit-dome.html](http://www.studiosaid.com/traveling-exhibit-dome.html)



Saïd Nuseibeh Photography

email:

vox:

[www.studiosaid.com](http://www.studiosaid.com)

[photo@studiosaid.com](mailto:photo@studiosaid.com)

415.320.9580