



Peter Lawrence



Amman's Roman theatre sits beneath its Citadel as one of the city's most impressive monuments... to enjoy a friend's company on the terraces by day and imagine the many centuries that this theatre has entertained the city is a relaxing experience. To enjoy a modern performance in these majestic surroundings is awe-inspiring.

يقع المدرج الروماني في أسفل جبل القلعة كواحد من أكثر المعالم الأثرية في المدينة إثارة للإعجاب... الجلوس بصحبة صديق على الدرجات في النهار وتخيل القرون العديدة التي أمتع فيها هذا المسرح المدينة يُعد تجربة تدعوك للاسترخاء. كما أنّ الاستمتاع بعروض حديثة في هذه الأجواء المهيبة أمر مذهل.

كلمة أمانة عمّان الكبرى

Greater Amman Municipality

Greater Amman Municipality is pleased to support the launch of this new book by the British artist, Peter Lawrence, which is dedicated to the city of Amman in picture and in word. This is the second book that Lawrence has published during his stay in Jordan; his first book, *Colours of Jordan*, was distinguished, beautiful, and successful.

Impressions of Amman contains amazing pieces of art that reflect the charm of this city which has both tradition and modernity in its neighborhoods, in its buildings and in its variety of social lifestyles. Lawrence has indeed succeeded with distinction in producing artistic works that reflect the beauty of the city not only in its appearance, but also through recognising the spirit of the city, things that can only be comprehended by those who have lived in Amman and loved her from their hearts, as has the artist of this book.

The juxtaposition of the artist's paintings and the creative writing by a number of Amman's residents about its neighborhoods presents the reader with a rich collection of material about Amman from the 1930s until today, written in an attractive, enjoyable style to the reader. This quality makes the book a distinguished addition to the publications about Amman.

Jabal Amman Publishers, which conceived and designed this book, has excelled in producing an aesthetic compilation of paintings and text, which complement each other. This book is a new concept in form and content for presenting the city of Amman.

We thank all those who have contributed to making this book a reality. We also hope that our precious city will remain a source of inspiration to artists, authors, and lovers of beauty.

يَسْرُرُ أمانة عمّان الكبرى أن تُساهم في إصدار هذا الكتاب الجديد للفنان البريطاني السيد بيتر لورنس، المخصّص لمدينة عمّان رسمًا وكلمة. وهذا هو الكتاب الثاني الذي يُصدّره لورنس في أثناء إقامته في الأردن، حيث كان كتابه الأوّل "ألوان الأردن" مميّزًا وجميلًا وناجحًا.

يضمّ كتاب عمّانيّات رسوماتٍ فنيّةٍ مُدهشةٍ تعكسُ سحرَ هذه المدينة التي تجمع في أحيائها ما بين الأصالة والمعاصرة، في البناء وأنماط الحياة الاجتماعيّة المتنوّعة. لقد نجح لورنس بامتياز في تقديم أعمالٍ فنيّةٍ تعكسُ جماليّات المدينة، ليس من ناحية الشكل وحسب، بل من جهة ما هو مُكرّس في روح المدينة، من أمورٍ لا يُدرِكها إلاّ من عاش في عمّان، وأحبّها من قلبه، حاله حال رسّام هذا الكتاب.

إنّ اجتماع لوحاتِ الفنّان مع النصوص الإبداعية التي كتبها عددٌ من أهل عمّان عن أحياء المدينة ومناطقها، يقدّم إلى القارئ مادّةً ثريّةً عن عمّان تعكسُ الفترة الممتدّة من ثلاثينيّات القرن العشرين حتّى اليوم، بأسلوبٍ ممتعٍ ويجذبُ القارئ إليه، ما يجعلُ هذا الكتاب إضافةً مميّزةً إلى المؤلّفات الخاصّة بمدينة عمّان.

أمّا دارُ نشر "جبل عمّان ناشرون" فقد أحسنّت صنْعًا في طريقة إعدادها هذا الكتاب وإخراجه، بشكل يتوافق مع ما فيه من جماليّات الرسم والكلمة. إنّه كتابٌ جديدٌ عن عمّان يحوي الجديد شكلاً وفكرةً ومضمونًا.

نشكّر كلّ من ساهم في أن يبصرَ هذا الكتابُ التور، ونتمنى أن تظلّ مدينتنا الغالية مصدرًا إلهامًا للفنّانين والكتّاب ومحبيّ الجمال.

Amman, Capital of Love and Beauty

A bride enthroned on its mountains...

its bright garment flowing down its slopes...

boasting of its pearl-studded crown, its white gown embroidered with precious stones, its aroma of anemone and henna, with its long-lasting history...

a bride boasting of the generosity and magnanimity of its people.

This is Amman, which nurses beauty, literature and art. Amman is a beautiful mosaic painting with both original authenticity and modernity. Its cultural diversity embraced in a wonderful humanitarian painting, replete with warmth, good-heartedness, love, and tolerance.

Amman is a capital full of action and cultural activity. It has historical sites that include theaters, castles and palaces, all witness to the greatness of its humanity and the diversity of civilizations which have passed through it, given to it and taken from it. It also has cultural centers abounding in a variety of activities year-round; festivals, evening activities and fairs. Wonderful, elite scholars, intellectuals, authors, performers, innovators and academics interact in it through a variety of organizations, societies, cultural associations and performing arts groups.

Since the Ministry of Culture has been a sponsor and supporter of cultural activities, it spares no effort in providing what it can to support all of these activities and others in order for the light of knowledge to shine brightly all over the nation's culture. It believes that the strength of culture is represented in the mentality of its people, their intellectual abilities, as well as in the citizens' culture, which is embodied in their creative social innovation and their struggle to achieve common goals. It is like the spiritual energy of society, a precise indicator and control mechanism of the social climate.

The Ministry of Culture sponsors and supports initiatives which add cultural value including publishing series of books such as *The Jordanian Family Library*, *The Book of the Month*, *The Children's Book*, and publications, conferences, meetings and seminars and a variety of books and periodicals.

In this context, the Ministry of Culture gives its wholehearted support to this book called *Impressions of Amman* in which a number of prominent residents from Amman give their impressions of this beautiful city, its people, customs, traditions, character, and of the city itself, its mountains, neighborhoods, streets, alleys, staircases, buildings, climate, and its different edifices. This book documents Amman in all its wonder, beauty, love and goodness.

Salah Jarrar
Minister of Culture

