

Syria: the National Museum reopens, a piece of Ossola is present



DOMODOSSOLA - 11-8-2018 - A piece of Valdossola landed in Damascus a few days ago. In the monumental entrance of the Syrian National Museum, which reopened at the end of October after seven years of forced closure due to the risk of bombing, the Arabic version of the exhibition "[Millennia for today. Archeology against war: yesterday's Urkesh in today's Syria](#)". Presented last August at the "Meeting" in Rimini, the exhibition is curated by **Giorgio Buccellati** together with his wife, **Marilyn Kelly-Buccellati**, **Stefania Ermidoro** and **Yasmine Mahmoud**, a young Syrian, currently PhD student at the University of Pavia. One of the exhibition panels tells about the link created, thanks to the Buccellati spouses, **between the "ex-Giovanni XXIII" middle school in Domodossola and other middle schools in Qamishli, Syria**. A distant link, realized via Skype, but intense to the point of generating artistic productions: the students from Ossola

composed four songs dedicated to Syria and their Syrian peers responded with a video that portrays them while they play in the midst of the archaeological excavations of Urkesh. Everything is documented by video contributions that are an integral part of the exhibition, chosen by the Director General of Antiquities and Museums of Syria, **Dr. Mahmud Hamud**, to enrich the event of the reopening of the Museum. The reasons for this choice lie in the richness of contents of the exhibition path, but also in its particularity: the exhibition explains how the archaeological excavations have become a point of attraction and pride for the local population, fully involved in the work of rediscovering their roots. In its story emerges the great synergy born between the archaeologists and the communities that live around the site, but also the synergy between Syria and Italy to put an end to the war as a state of mind, that is, to overcome the hatred and divisions it creates. The exhibition is itinerant; it will soon be set up in various Italian cities and could also arrive in Domodossola in the coming months. During the “Meeting” in Rimini we realized [a video-interview with the archaeologist Giorgio Buccellati](#).

Mauro Zuccari

