

PASSION CREATIVITY INSPIRATION

SONISES
SOUNDSCAPES
CULTURAL

ANNUAL REPORT 2014

**Building a peaceful & healthy world by fostering understanding
about autism and neurodevelopmental disorders**

**SENSES CULTURAL PROMOTES HOLISTIC
PROGRAMS TO RAISE AWARENESS ABOUT
AUTISM AND NEURODEVELOPMENTAL
DISORDERS THROUGH CUTTING EDGE SCIENCE,
RESEARCH AND THE ARTS**



This year was a busy year for us. At Senses Cultural, we launched a series of bilingual and bicultural activities in the US and internationally to raise awareness about autism and neurodevelopmental disorders. We sponsored professionals in the field including from the UN to participate in panel discussions on the impact of war and conflict in the Middle East on women and children dealing with autism and neurodevelopmental disorders. We also held a photography exhibition on the topic, and expanded our board to include world-renowned scientists and academics.



What a truly remarkable year it was! So please take a moment to review our activities. Our Advocacy & Art programs were a big hit, as was our community networks to bring women working in the field of autism and based in the Middle East together, by taking part in joint projects with other local organizations in the region.

SENSES CULTURAL and its cross-disciplinary team is proud to serve as an organization with a track record of good will to promote education on autism, and to support academic institutions that work in the field. Our ability to reach out to communities and experts, nationally and internationally, is an asset that few other organizations working in this field have. So, as we look forward to next year, I will share our work every step of the way toward promoting research projects and producing results that improve the quality of life for individuals with autism and neurodevelopmental disorders.

Tata Monfared

Founder and President, SENSES CULTURAL

Key Milestones in2014



Convened panel on the
impact of war on women and
children coping with autism
and neurodevelopmental
disorders in the Middle East

Research



Welcomed new Board of Directors member, Professor Randi Jenssen Hagerman



Welcomed Professor Franklin D. Lewis as an Honored Board Member



Launched the photography exhibit "Enduring Power: The Middle Eastern and Iranian Woman's Story"

Advocacy and art



**Launched bilingual
and bicultural art
exhibitions**



**Launched Persian
language Facebook Page
to reach a wider audience
in the Middle East**



**Networked with artists
from the Middle East**



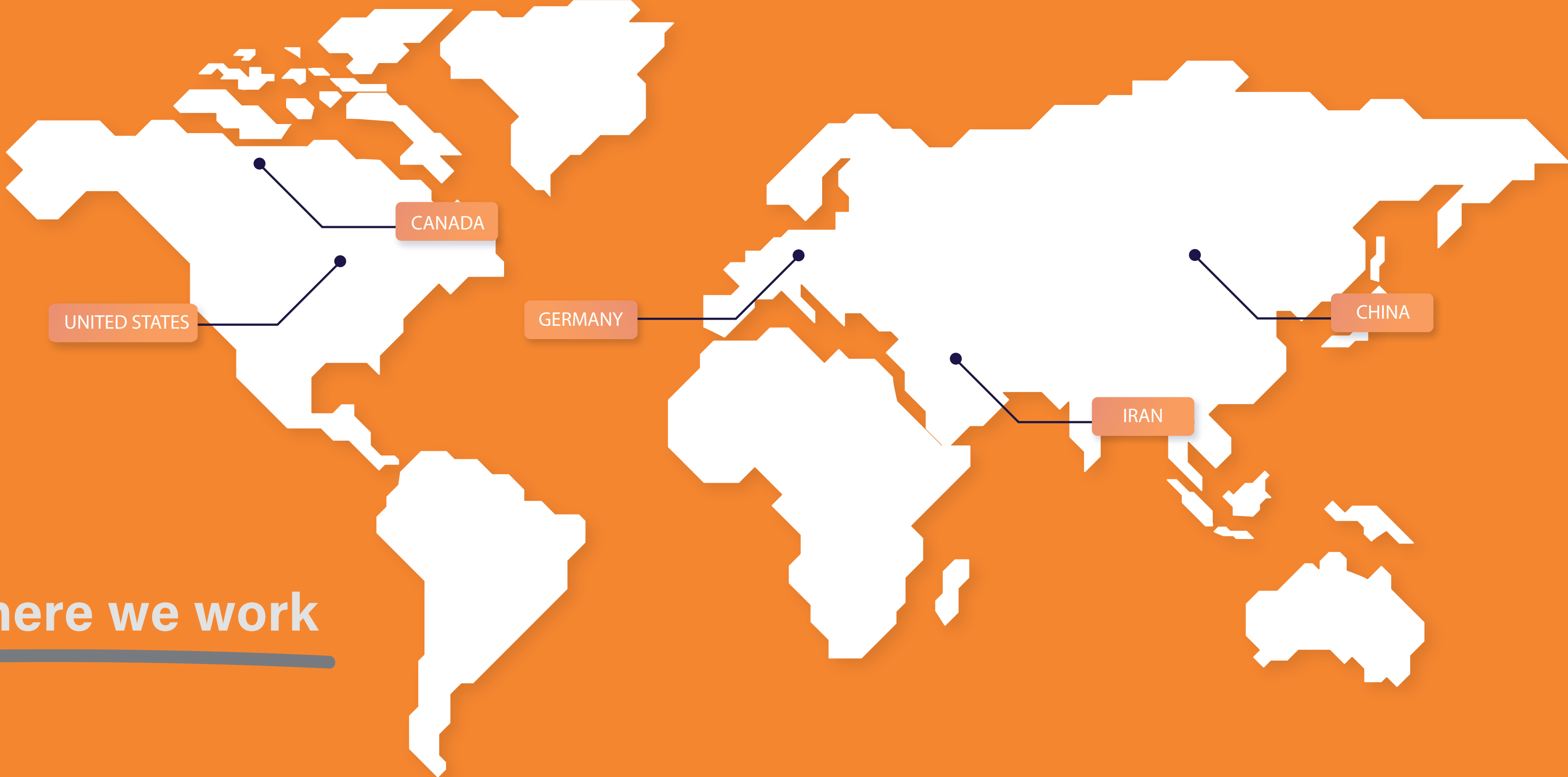
**Joined the Global
Women Leaders
Conference**



Established in 2012 , SENSES CULTURAL is a non-profit organization based in Sacramento, California, dedicated to creating a peaceful and healthy world by fostering understanding about autism and neurodevelopment disorders. We cultivate relations with national and international networks, build partnerships with artists, scientists and cultural advocates, and organize events for health experts and artists beyond their own geographic and social borders. Senses Cultural offers partnership opportunities to interested organizations so that together we can sponsor, host and promote projects that fulfill our common goals of serving people and communities dealing with autism and neurodevelopmental disorders. We especially encourage projects in which we can partner with others to build cross-cultural understanding and tolerance around the theme of autism, and celebrate the diversity of the autistic community.

Mission

Together with communities, scientists, researchers, social workers, teachers, and psychologists, SENSES CULTURAL is slowly but surely making a global impact



Where we work

***Our stories,
Our impact***

Our stories, Our impact

***SPOTLIGHT
ON RESEARCH***



CONVENED PANEL DISCUSSION ON IMPACT OF WAR ON WOMEN AND CHILDREN IN THE MIDDLE EAST

SENSES CULTURAL convened a panel discussion at the Seven Hills Conference Center on the campus of San Francisco State University on the Impact of War on Women and Children in the Middle East, to provide an opportunity to scholars and researchers to fill the existing information gap on the impact of conflict on families coping with autism and neurodevelopmental disorders. Our expert panelists included physicians, journalists, philanthropists, activists, and experts on conflict resolution and peace building. The panel was moderated by Mary Crawly, an environmental scholar and advocate and member of the Founders for Ocean Voyages Institute. Discussions were also led by Karen Koning Abuzayd, a UN expert and current Commissioner on the UN Human Rights Council mandated commission of Inquiry in Syria. Dr. Mozghan Savabieasfahani, and environmental toxicologist contributed to the panel discussions by sharing her research on the impact of pollutants resulting from war on public health.



Our stories, Our impact

***SPOTLIGHT
ON ADVOCACY and ART***



WELCOMED NEW BOARD MEMBER PROFESSOR RANDI HAGERMAN

SENSES CULTURAL was honored to welcome its new Board of Directors member, Dr. Randi Jenssen Hagerman, a world-renowned scientist and researcher on autism and neurodevelopmental disorders. Dr. Hagerman's work includes the field of Fragile X syndrome and autism in children. She joins our organization to collaborate and supervise a series of projects in her field of expertise.

WELCOMED PROFESSOR FRANKLIN D. LEWIS AS HONOREE BOARD MEMBERS

SENSES CULTURAL was proud to welcome Professor Franklin D. Lewis as an Honoree Board Member. Dr. Lewis is an expert in the field of Middle Eastern literature based at the University of Chicago, and founder of Adabivat, an international discussion forum on the literature of the Islamic World, and his area of expertise include Arabic, Persian, Turkish and Urdu literature. His remarkable knowledge will greatly enhance our organization's projects including our educational panel discussions and Art for Autism programs.

LAUNCHED THE PHOTOGRAPHY EXHIBIT ENDURING POWER: THE MIDDLE EASTERN AND IRANIAN WOMAN'S STORY

SENSES CULTURAL launched a photography exhibition from October 15 to November 30, entitled "Enduring Power: The Middle Eastern and Iranian Woman's Story." The exhibit was first staged in Davis, CA, and involved an opening reception held at the University of California at Davis, at the UC Davis Alumni Center. Historically, a wide array of obstacles undermined the lives and health of Middle Eastern and Iranian women, yet these women have continued to be remarkably resilient. This exhibit celebrated the lives of women from the region, to shed light on their role in tackling challenging health issues including autism and neurodevelopmental disorders.





LAUNCHED BILINGUAL AND BUCULTURAL ART EXHIBITIONS

SENSES CULTURAL launched a series of bilingual and bicultural art exhibitions in the US and internationally, to promote our mission to build a more peaceful world by raising awareness about autism and neurodevelopmental disorders. As part of our goal to build cultural understanding between nations, we were pleased to share The Heritage of Iran, a Persian culture and civilization exhibit, in the Persian language. The exhibit attracted local artists from Iran, to help .our mission to build autism awareness in the Middle East

LAUNCHED PERSIAN LANGUAGE FACEBOOK PAGE

To reach a wider audience in the Middle East, SENSES CULTURAL launched a Facebook page in the Persian language designed to raise awareness about autism and neurodevelopmental disorders, and available treatments. Our professional team of contributors worked diligently to connect us with more people around the world, and encourage Persian .speakers from around the world to communicate with us



PARTICIPATED IN GLOBAL WOMEN LEADERS CONFERENCE

SENSES CULTURAL founder, Ms. Tata Monfared, participated in the Global Women Leaders Conference in March, in Dubai, the United Arab Emirates. The WOIBEX conference is the largest gathering for women's empowerment in the 21st century, aiming to close gender gaps and bring women in emerging markets into the global economic mainstream. The conference pays tribute to women who translate leadership into action. Ms. Monfared underlines the obstacles to women's empowerment in the Middle East, especially those dealing with autism and neurodevelopmental disorders. The conference also gave SENSES CULTURAL the opportunity to speak to women art patrons from the Middle East, to explore ways to use the arts to raise awareness about autism.

NETWORKED WITH ARTISTS FROM THE MIDDLE EAST

SENSES CULTURAL networked with artists in the Middle East, to invite them to contribute art to raising awareness about autism and neurodevelopmental disorders. Our active participation in art forums was also enriching in terms of learning about the work of emerging artists from the region, including at Art Dubai international art fair in the MENA region and in South Asia (MENASA), the annual Abraaj Group Art Prize, Sharjah Art Exhibition and Art Foundation, the Global Art Forum, Shirin Gallery and Etemad Gallery in Iran. We also partnered with the International Museum of Women (IMOW) which merged with the Global Fund for Women to raise awareness on vital issues for women globally. To this end, we encouraged our members to submit art to IMOW's joint exhibition with the Global Fund for Women, Imagining Equality: Your Voices on Human Rights, to help the United Nations create a new set of international development goals.





Annual Financials

Senses Cultural receives the bulk of its funds from Ms. Monfared, and a few individuals as well as community donors, and through your financial contributions to the organization