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LIFESTYLE

THE BRONZE COLLECTION

April 19, 2015 - 0

The works of Alfred Basbous were showcased in the Middle East at Artspace Gallery.

15 years after the first show of the Bronze Collection in Abu Dhabi, curator Fadi Alfred Basbous in hands with Artspace in DIFC, draws yet another overwhelming crowd to celebrate the artists' exceptional talent. Born in Rachana, Lebanon, in 1924, Alfred worked with stone early on, and began carving works in wood and metal too, primarily to represent animals and female nudes. In 1960, he received a scholarship from the French government and became a pupil of the sculptor René Collamarini at L'Ecole Nationale Supérieure des Beaux-Arts in Paris. In 1961, his works were included in the International Sculpture Exhibition at the Musée Rodin, Paris. Returning home, Alfred drew inspiration from the Modernism of Auguste Rodin, Henry Moore and Jean Arp, as well as the nature of Lebanon, reflected in his work on the human body and feminine curves.

Is this his whole collection?

No this is part of the collection, this is a parallel exhibition for the Beirut exhibition we're doing with Mark Hachem and we wanted to launch our cooperation with Maliha Al Tabari, the owner of ARTSPACE in Dubai. She will represent Alfred Basbous officially in the Gulf and Mark Hachem would be representing Alfred Basbous in Paris and New York and we are just enjoying the collaboration to work on one of the greatest modernist artist in the Middle East.

Why have you chosen this collection?

This is the Bronze Collection of Alfred Basbous, most of them are inspired by women and where you have very modern and organic sculptures, a really beautiful collection. We also printed some of the text of art critics and poets who wrote about Alfred Basbous, a small biography and some of his quotes on the walls of the gallery, so that the spectator can come, enjoy and intellect himself and gain knowledge on the philosophy of Alfred Basbous and his inspiration.

Did his main inspiration come from women?

Not all of it, most of his inspiration he did on the woman and the human body. He had some abstract work also but he started in a classic work, but the sentence of his work was to represent the value and inspiration of the woman, the mother, the lover, the daughter in all its beautiful form.

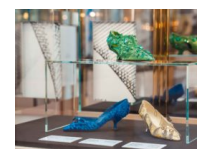
How do you think he portrayed these values using the sculptures?

When you see an abstract work from Alfred Basbous, it's not an abstract from nowhere; it's an abstract that has organic forms and it's a long period of research during his time. So when you see an abstract work, it's not an abstract, it's inspired by an idea in his mind, but it looks abstract.

SOCIETY



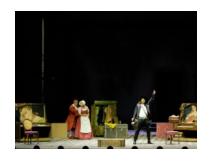
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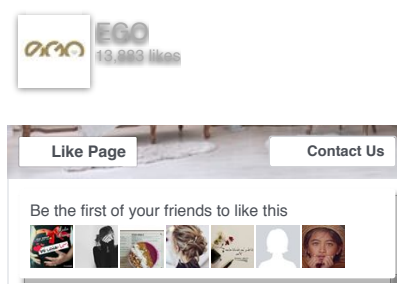


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Women are a figure of elegance, how does this contrast with the rock solid sculptures?

When you see the sculpture, you can touch it, it's like skin, and it's very smooth, very light, very organic, and very circular. Some of the parts ended sharp because he represented the upper body of the woman in the shape of a book, but the sentence of the work is very soft and organic.

Are the sculptures portraying women in their downfall or their glory?

I don't see sadness, nor suffering, on the contrary Alfred Basbous was very joyful and brought harmony to the conscience of a human and it's very aesthetically beautiful, very aesthetically profound feeling and very sensual. When you see the exhibition of Alfred Basbous you cannot leave without being happy or excited about the sculptures, it brings happiness to yourselves.

What is the main reason for introducing the works of Alfred Basbous to the world?

Alfred Basbous is a pioneer modernist in the Middle East and when you do an exhibition, it's firstly educative, second it is to expand Alfred Basbous' work worldwide and every exhibition we do, we discover more and more about this fabulous artist and all his collection, and every time we are surprised to find and discover something new when we select a certain work to exhibit. This could be very educative for students and for art lovers and collectors worldwide. We're not targeting to anything else but the museum, we already have his works in the Rodin Museum, Oxford and Ashmolean Museum and this is a tour we are doing to connect with the society and the collector's society also, and from here we are going to the museum.

So we will be seeing more of his work?

Yes, I believe we have a big plan with Maliha, the owner of ARTSPACE and Mark Hachem to do a different show of Alfred Basbous' marble work and bronze work together; we'll also be mixing it with some of his drawings. We always want to bring new elements to the gallery and hopefully be on the right level of the expectation.

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