

CARMENCITTA

Saliba Douaihy; a Renowned Lebanese Artist

July 9, 2016



Carmencitta-Saliba Douaihy

Saliba Douaihy was born in the town of Ehden in 1915. The young boy displayed a talent for drawing, and copying illustrations from magazines and books at his school. His teachers reproached him repeatedly for drawing in class and not reading. But Douaihy's apparent skills and thirst for art forced his teachers to urge his father to send him to Beirut in order to study art.

The elder Douaihy had further hopes for his son, but begrudgingly agreed. At the age of 14, Saliba Douaihy went to Beirut where his father had arranged for him to apprentice with the well-established painter Habib Srour.





الغنان صليبا الدويهي وقبلان المكاري عام ١٩٥٦

Carmencitta-Saliba Douaihy

For 2 years, the young Douaihy worked under the master's guidance, gaining the knowledge of the basic techniques of drawing and painting. Moreover, he assisted Srour in his large church murals, and once in a while posed for him as a young Saint or the youthful Christ.

After 2 years with Srour, the elder Douaihy was convinced that his little son had the potential to become a serious artist. With aid from the local community, he raised the assets to send the 17-year old Saliba to Paris in the fall of 1932 in order to study at the prestigious Ecole Nationale Supérieure des Beaux-Arts de Paris. Saliba had gotten an A on the entrance exam, ranking second on a test given to several thousand students.

At the Ecole, Douaihy studied fresco painting under Duco de la Haille, and oil painting under the directorship of Louis Roger and Paul Albert Laurence. Two years later, Saliba won the school's top award and exhibited at the Salon des Artistes Français.

In 1936, Douaihy graduated and went to Rome. He then returned back to Lebanon, where he opened his own studio and soon became a prolific and established painter. He spent 4 years garnishing the ceilings and walls of the church of Diman. In 1950, he traveled to the United States and he remained there until 1975.





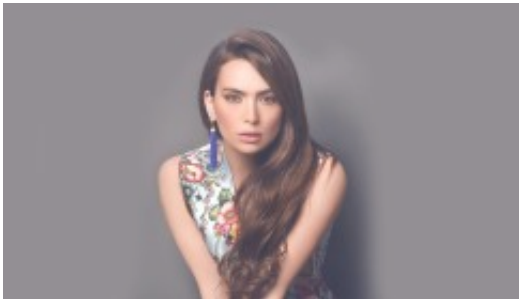
Carmencitta-Saliba Douaihy

Saliba participated in many group exhibitions including the New York World Fair; the Salon des Artistes Français, Paris; the Salons des Réalités Nouvelles, Paris; the Guggenheim Museum; the Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Arts and University Art Gallery, New York.

Saliba Douaihy won numerous awards and prizes which include the Lebanese National Order of the Cedar in 1956, the Philadelphia Academy of Fine Arts Award in 1968, and the Medaglia d'Oro of the Accademia d'Italia dello Arte e del Lavoro in 1980.

The renowned Lebanese artist passed away in 1994 in New York.

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