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## Hachem Gallery launches exhibition of artist Alfred Basbous

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Some of the sculptural works of late artist Alfred Basbous at the Mark Hachem Gallery currently. (Source/Hachem Gallery)

BEIRUT: The Mark Hachem gallery is exhibiting a survey of relief and sculpture by Alfred Basbous. Curated by Mark Hachem himself in association with the Alfred Basbous Foundation, the exhibition titled “sensible expression” is showing forty five sculptures, ten drawings, and one major relief piece by master sculptor Alfred Basbous.

The exhibition explores the very first work phase of the artist, which revealed his exceptional style and his later evolution as an artist. His

output ranges from figurative to minimal abstraction to total abstraction. The exhibition shows various phases of the artist's career as well and shows in details Basbous' search for himself as a pioneer bearing the torch of freedom and formation.

His work is not confined within one subject; instead, it expresses a dialogue between drawings, relief and sculpture.

Hachem, a collector of kinetic art, and owner of Mark Hachem gallery Paris, New York, and Beirut, said that Alfred Basbous is one of the most prominent Lebanese sculptors and one of the most important Lebanese artists.

"I felt that Alfred Basbous never got the international recognition that he should have had, and that's why by being an international gallery, I was highly interested in showcasing his work both locally and abroad." said Mark Hachem.

His works express a lifelong exploration of the human form and its abstract properties. Focused on the aesthetic principles of shape, movement, line and material, his sculptures display a deeply ingrained sincerity and a search for the essence of beauty.

Working in the tradition of sculptors, such as Auguste Rodin, Jean Arp and Henry Moore, Basbous explores the potential of noble materials like bronze, wood and marble to express the sensuality and purity of the human form. This aversion towards frivolous and meaningless embellishments echoes his philosophy of simplicity and earnestness.

Basbous was born in Rachana, Lebanon in 1924. His first exhibition in Beirut, at the Alecco Saab gallery in 1958, marked the beginning of a long and successful career as a sculptor. Throughout his life, Basbous won many awards including the "Prix de l'Orient" in Beirut in 1963 and the price of Biennale in Alexandria in 1974. When he died in 2006, former president Emile Lahoud, in order to honor him, awarded him the "Medal of the Lebanese Order of Merit in Gold."

Hachem added, "Alfred was a great artist, and he had some important shows worldwide, private galleries, and institutions, but he did not get the right exposure. It's never too late, the work is amazing; and if you have the talent, it will always surface."

The exhibition started on October 25 and will last until November 20.