

Lebanese Migration Center
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Since 2007

مركز الانتشار اللبناني
جمعية لا تبغي الربح

منذ سنة ٢٠٠٧

ولأول مرة منذ ١٧ عاماً في بطولة كأس العالم - اللبنا



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ALFRED BASBOUS LEGACY ADMIRER IN THE UK



Alfred Basbous

Born in Rachana, Lebanon, Sculptor Alfred Basbous (1924-2006) is considered to be a pioneer of Modernist sculpture in the Middle East.

His works express a lifelong exploration of the human form and its abstract properties. Throughout his life, Basbous

"Sophia Contemporary Gallery" and the "Alfred Basbous Foundation" have partnered with The "Centre for Lebanese Studies" (CLS) and the "Arabic-British Chamber of Commerce" (ABCC) for a charity auction that will take place at "Sophia Contemporary Gallery" in Mayfair, London. The Gallery will have the exclusive representation of the estate of Alfred Basbous in the UK entitled "Figurative To Abstraction".

won many awards including the Prix de l'Orient in Beirut in 1963 and the prize for the Alexandria Biennale in 1974. Upon his death, the President of the Lebanese Republic awarded him the Medal of the Lebanese Order of Merit in Gold.

The works of Alfred Basbous are part of the permanent collection of the Alfred Basbous Foundation in Rachana, Lebanon and are featured in many private and public collections, including the Musée Rodin, Paris and the Ashmolean, Oxford. His monumental works are present in the public areas of Beirut and many other Lebanese cities.

The Vocation

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, Alfred Basbous explores the potential of noble materials such as bronze, wood and marble to express the sensuality and purity of the human form. This aversion towards frivolous and meaningless embellishments echoes his own philosophy of simplicity and earnestness.

First Exhibitions

His first exhibition in Beirut, at the Alecco Saab gallery in 1958, marked the beginning of a long and successful career as a sculptor. In 1960, he received a scholarship from the French government and became a pupil of the sculptor René Collamarini at 'The National Fine Arts School in Paris' (L'Ecole Nationale des Beaux-Arts de Paris). In 1961, his works were included in the International Sculpture Exhibition at the Musée Rodin, in Paris.

International Symposium of Sculpture

Cementing his position as a cultural icon at home and abroad, Basbous organised the International Symposium of Sculpture in Rachana from 1994 to 2004, attracting sculptors from across the world to participate in a group exhibition and resulting in the creation of the International Park of Sculpture. The Park includes 71 sculptures by 66 sculptors from 39 countries and was declared the UNESCO 'International Capital of Open Air Sculpture' in 1997.

Sculptures Exhibited

Three of Alfred Basbous' sculptures will be exhibited at the "Sophia Contemporary Gallery" in the context of the Summer Show from 27th July to 22nd of September, "*Accolade*" (1993), "*Phoenician Head*" (2003) and "*Woman Nude*" (2001) and three sculptures will be exhibited at the "Arabic Chamber of Commerce" in partnership with the "Alfred Basbous Foundation" from 15th to 17th of September.

The gallery's co-director Vassili Tsarenkov stated, "*We are delighted to be working with the Estate of Alfred Basbous and exclusively representing his internationally renowned sculptural work in the UK.*"

The "Sophia Contemporary Gallery"

"Sophia Contemporary Gallery" is a contemporary art gallery located in a 3,000 square foot space in the heart of Mayfair, London. The gallery exhibits, represents and champions a diverse roster of emerging and established artists from around the world working in a variety of media, including painting, drawing, sculpture, video and photography.

"Sophia Contemporary" is committed to conducting research and educating the public through events and talks, and is working with museums and institutions worldwide in order to place the gallery's artists in major public and private collections.

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