

Art on 56th

Temporal Totems

Initially, this exhibition started out with an idea, a pseudo-philosophical concept that was about 'sculptural Heads' made by men, artists, throughout the ages, in an attempt to preserve a spot to oneself, not only in the art arena, but also a mark that would remain here on earth long after he has departed.

Sculpted images of man himself in an awareness of his passing, fleeting existence here on earth. Would man desire anything more than to stay here, eternally? Mother earth, our dear planet, what has man, despite his attachment, his love done but destroy you, your soil, forests, air and oceans, building monument, factories, weapons, chemicals- man's aggressiveness towards nature is unlimited, and in so doing, destroying what he most yearns for.

This exhibition started with a message that no matter what, our existence here is but a passing fleeting experience, no matter what we do or leave behind. Despite what we build, artwork, sculptures, monuments, towers, factories- our passage is temporary, and all that we do during this passage for strength and empowerment we derive and summon from a larger world, a meta-physical world that man has always known and felt in the core of his being.

Nurture your soul...
Your soul is eternal...
And all these totems are but temporal...

Then, months into preparing for this exhibition, another idea was born...
Researching sculpted heads... I came across the Easter Island.
This exhibition is not about the sculptures of Easter Island, but I was awed and astonished when I first laid eyes on these sculpted men... The resemblance struck me... The heads and then the bodies... Like how could it be??! Universal consciousness??!

Reading about the Easter Island, it all made sense... The story of the Easter Island's inhabitants, or the tragedy of those whose vanity and ignorance turned their heavenly island into hell, leading eventually into their tragic extinction... Oh what a powerful symbol... man destroying earth in an attempt to immortalize.

So this exhibition is like many, with an idea, but of which, another idea or symbol was born... Did the Rapa Nui people come to me in a vision conveying this message? Was it a thought wave from the ancestors or was it just an accidental channeling of universal consciousness? Or was it just a coincidence?

We all are alike, from the beginning of time, in this time space reality. We are one...
One consciousness...

In nurturing our souls, we not only benefit our external existence but also preserve earth our temporal hostess.

Our soul is eternal, all else is but temporal totems...

Mona Nahleh

Art on 56th

Mona Nahleh

Mona Nahleh graduated from the Lebanese University with a major in English literature. She is a self-taught artist. Her artistic education started with the Egyptian painter Mansour Ahmad. After having learned academic painting techniques, she started developing her own style. She had her first exhibition in 1994 and she has participated in many collective shows in Egypt, Qatar, Kuwait, France, Lebanon and the UAE. Mona Nahleh also exhibited individually in Lebanon, Egypt, Bahrain, Kuwait and Syria. Her exclusive style and indulged technique paved the road for her artworks to be embraced in several private collections as in "Château De Léon", St. Étienne, France. In 2011, she published her book titled "Between Form and Formlessness" which portrays her artistic path in her own words. Temporel Totems, represents a new wave that has been newly added to her artistic career.

Solo Exhibitions

2014	Summer Collective, Art on 56th Gallery, Beirut, Lebanon
2014	"Temporal Totems", Art on 56th Gallery, Beirut, Lebanon
2010	Boushahri Art Gallery, Kuwait
2010	Walls, Connaissances des Arts Gallery, Beirut, Lebanon
2008	Mirrors, Safana Art Gallery, Beirut, Lebanon
2007	Seekers, Al Bareh Art gallery, Bahrain
2006	Defying Morpheus, Safana Art Gallery, Beirut, Lebanon
2005	People – Abstracted, Al Sayed Art Gallery, Damascus, Syria
2004	From and Formlessness, Espace SD, Ashrafieh, Beirut, Lebanon
2003	Phoenicia Hotel, Chahine Gallery, Beirut, Lebanon
2003	Birth of Passion, Chahine Gallery, Beirut, Lebanon
2002	Silent Echoes, Beirut Association for Social Development, Beirut, Lebanon
2000	City Café, Beirut, Lebanon
1997-2001	Retrospective, Holiday Inn Martinez, Ain El Mrayseh, Beirut, Lebanon
1994	Al Shama'a Art Gallery, Maadi, Egypt

Collective Exhibitions

1994	Egypt United Arab Emirates Kuwait Qatar Paris London
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