

bilAteral RelaTions

Celebrating Fine Art in Bahrain

Art is a way of communicating that withholds the translations of the inner voice, revealing thoughts and emotions of the subconscious, and expressing views of life from various perspectives. It allows artists to be free and tell stories through their powerful creations while sharing them with others in exciting and imaginative ways. As an appreciation for the Arts, **Bilateral Relations** celebrates the artists and their inspirational works of art in a harmonic showcase brought together this **April, from the 15th - 25th** at the Art Hall National Museum in Bahrain. The exhibition will be a part of the Spring of Culture 2009, initiated and organized by ART lounge in cooperation with the Ministry of Information and Culture, the Economic Development Board, the Bahrain Arts Society and the German Embassy in Bahrain.



When ART lounge was launched to promote artists in Bahrain by using a new concept for the region, it was only one step to the vision about a joined exhibition by Bahraini and German artists.

I followed the idea to have German artists on this show, who are taking their ideas and inspirations of living in the area and having already taken a breath of the oriental heritage and culture, and by being influenced for a certain time period or maybe even for a lifetime.

The artists represent Bahrain by reflecting their rich cultural backgrounds as well as being clearly influenced by the Western culture, style and design. Inspiration is such a mystery, and every artist, no matter their nationality, know how difficult it is to express the inner self to others, and how you have to listen to your heart to be authentic in your work.

To take this challenge by organizing a conversa-

tion between Bahrain and Germany by using art as well as by being a participating artist myself, was a huge personal and very emotional enterprise.

I would like to express my very deep appreciation to all who believed in me and have been involved in so many ways, helping the vision become true.

I called the exhibition "bilAteRal relaTions", which stands for the coming together of these artists and also the relevance of the key word "ART" which appears in the two words.

To draw the attention on artwork, influenced by orient and occident, is bringing the commonalities between the two cultures to the fore, and letting the distinctions take a back seat.

Communication is essential for understanding and accepting each other the way we are, and art is one of the best ways to communicate through. As a nation's art and culture is after all its soul.

- Marion Labani
Organizer of Art lounge

"I do not paint just like it is...I paint how I feel it."



ART lounge organizer: Marion Labani
Tel: + 973 392 12060
artlounge08@gmail.com
www.artlounge08.com



Creative Insight:

I developed my style especially for the series "colours of Bahrain" over the last 3 years, trying to channel my romantic nature into an emotive force. Feelings, impressions and ideas swirling in my heart and mind, joining each other to form new insights, creating an imaginary world on the canvas. I have always been dreaming about the orient-based in old books which I kept like treasures. I have been growing up in the Eastern part of Germany where people were not supposed to travel in countries with a different economic sys-

tem. The books taught me about places with great history, awaking my passion and interest for ancient cultures. After living in Bahrain for 5 years now, my style has been heavily influenced by the great history and culture of this Arabian region.

The light plays with colors and generates contrasts in every corner of this oriental country, unique to a place where sky, sea, desert and ancient history come together. I want to express this with intensive colors and structural simplicity, using acrylic paints, inks and fabrics.



Artist: Manfred Erber
Origin: Germany
Category: Photography



Creative Insight:

Based in Bahrain, I am a professional German photographer for 24 years. Prior to my move to the Middle East, I was managing the Gunter Sachs Studios in Germany, France, UK, Switzerland and USA for 16 years, where I have been working mainly in the fashion field with top-models such as Claudia Schiffer for numerous international companies and magazines. Photography being not

only my profession but also my passion, I enjoyed particularly black and white photography. My work can be seen in numerous renowned exhibitions, art books and calendars.

Beside my particular fancy for photography of Arabic Art and Culture, my daily professional activities are focusing on corporate and advertisement work throughout the Middle East.

Creative Insight:

Cities, Places and Women

All cities are a variety of colors, smells and tastes, just like human beings. As for a women they could be a city themselves, a port where the aroma reigned in from all around the world. Chaos is left for humanity, creating faces with painted features full of the strife of life and time gone by. You are comforted by these faces. A woman laying her worn out body on the brinks of these cities, full of chaos, colors and faces.

She represents me, she represents us. She is our world spread out from shore to shore, from a woman to all women leaving us with the memory of the water, the breeze and the breaths of cold air passing us by from here nor there. The breeze uplifts us to where the cities become places. And women are who unite these places together.



Artist: Faika Al Hassan
Origin: Bahrain
Category: Painting





Artist: Jaffar Al Oraibi
Origin: Bahrain
Category: Painting

Creative Insight:

When working with modern abstract, color is particularly important in creating translating a conception. The rules are based on the different trends for emotions in the painting, which create an unusual dialogue with the viewer and raise a lot of questions, according to the different reading of the painting. This essentially starts its composition in the beginning and during the implementation of a work of art. Here the weight of the work of

art has played an important role where there was common instability, which is an intended purpose for the demolition of existing values.

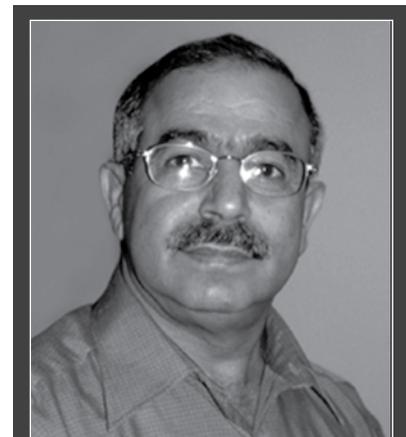
My work is based purely on abstract & at times includes portrait. There is the absence of the characters at the expense of color and line, whether by color (oil, pastel, charcoal, and pencil), by different techniques or anything that might contribute to the artwork in terms of color, shock and impact, which also includes impact on the viewer.



Creative Insight:

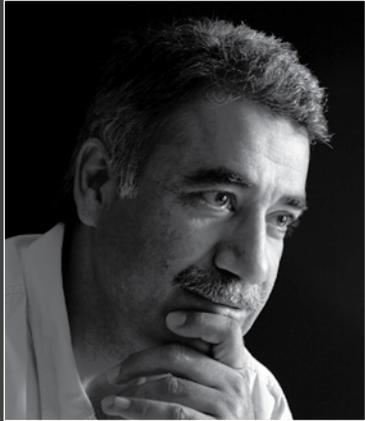
Sculpture is demanding and painstaking. It also requires patience and perseverance to translate the thoughts of the artist. For me, art is a profound passion etched on my heart.

My life has been destined to create art ever since I was young and to become an art teacher, painter, calligrapher and finally, a sculptor.



Artist: Ali Al Mahmed
Origin: Bahrain
Category: Sculpture

With Bahraini heritage and traditions in my heart and with everyday life serving as inspiration, I seek to make extraordinary pieces out of the ordinary. I am talking about love, meeting and togetherness with people, family members, and friends. As an artist I generally try to portray a deeper meaning so the viewer is open to the interpretation. Some see it just as a beautiful shape and others see the relevance of the image in a larger context.



Artist: Fuad Albinfalah
Origin: Bahrain
Category: Sculpture



Creative Insight:

They are works of art that travel in one's thoughts while they represent inter-connected structures sculpted. Each sculpture somehow brings together infinite geometric possibilities with various faces of everlasting beauty as it is transformed from solid stone into an exquisite piece of art. Each angle of each piece tells a different story to

the intrigued viewer. My wood sculptures, on the other hand, accentuate the splendor of Arabic calligraphy, culture, and identity. These pieces are a reflection of the culture's contribution to the essence of humanity. They provide testimony to the richness of a magnificent civilization through the eyes of an artist, who continues to make gifts to the world of art.



Artist: Khalil Al Hashimi
Origin: Bahrain
Category: Sculpture



Creative Insight:

The human being cannot survive outside the time and the living place which reflects his inner conflicts and his humanity. Hence, Man cannot stay away from his intertwined background and shape with the social conditions. Man has to live them to affect and be affected to produce the harmony of life.

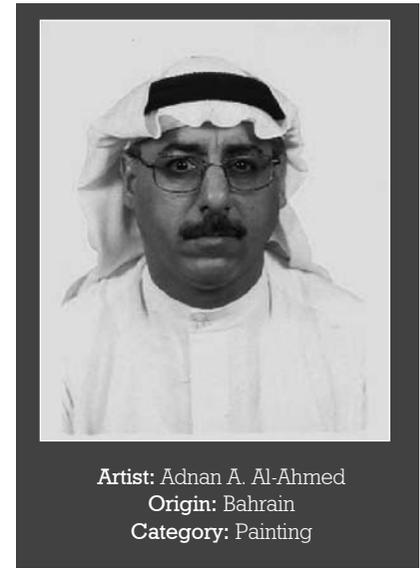


Creative Insight:

Personally, it is very difficult for me to explain my artwork. I prefer to leave it to the viewer. Contemplating my work the viewer may be able to find in his or her imagination living figures coexisting

with the figures in my mind. My creations shall speak for themselves.

I choose to speak through the colors and my pen, used like a brush. These represent my words and contain my message.



Artist: Adnan A. Al-Ahmed
Origin: Bahrain
Category: Painting



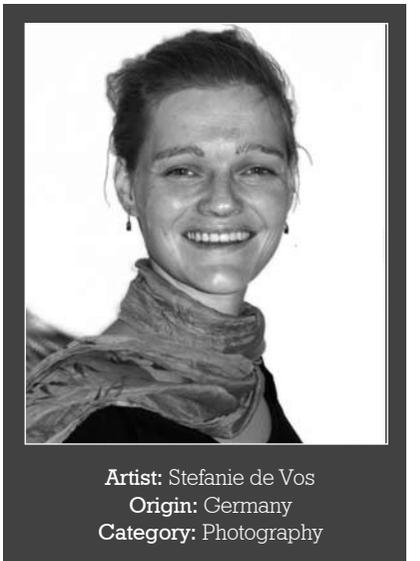
Creative Insight:

To keep hold the moments of life and to renew them whenever desired has been ever so fascinating to people. Photos turn these dreams into reality. A single picture contains at least 1,000 untold stories from the past and the present, of love and life, delight and agony. It inspires the curiosity for unexplored places and countries, for nature and creatures, architecture and progress.



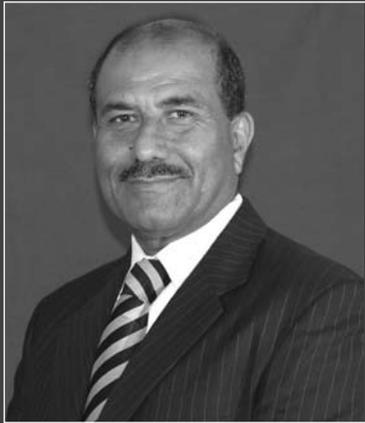
What is it that makes Bahrain so special to me? It is the combination of tradition and modern aspects. The extraordinary interaction of colors from the sun, sand, palm trees, and the sea, as well as the colorfully-lit buildings at night makes my photographer's heart beat faster than ever.

A life in a fairy tale of 1,001 nights between newly constructed skyscrapers and shopping malls; Bahrain polarizes the viewer over and over again.



Artist: Stefanie de Vos
Origin: Germany
Category: Photography

“Photography is the art of telling the viewer with one single picture an unforgettable story.”



Artist: Khalil Hammad
Origin: Bahrain
Category: Photography



Creative Insight:

Photography became such an important part of my life. As the days pass, I am being led more and more into becoming a professional photographer. It is of course a challenge, especially following the new techniques in digital photo-modification which requires a lot of effort and patience. Com-

puter technology nowadays has made the whole world into a small village as people exchange their ideas. This opens nearly unlimited possibilities for creativity.

I am getting inspired by so many themes, where I now have the opportunity to work on a translation into art with the eyes of a photographer.



Artist: Monika El Fehaid
Origin: Germany
Category: Painter



Creative Insight:

My paintings, always guided by Paul Klee's principle, seek to find harmony between imagination and reality by drawing on and enhancing life in a naturalistic way. For the past fifteen years, my favorite subjects have been artifacts found in the outdoors and scenes from daily life that evoke the ancient cultures of the Middle East.

Having the privilege of living on the sun-

drenched island of Bahrain, where hot intense light and deep shadows mystically transform the ordinary into a festival of texture. It is where the sun soaks objects with such brilliance that they glow from within. This has allowed me to express my true passions on canvas and my paintings to transcend cultures and touch all the hearts and souls of their beholders, no matter who they are or where they come from. AH

“Art does not reproduce that which we see – it makes it visible to us.”

-Paul Klee