

Collective Creations

ARTlounge 4

Appearing this month from the 14th - 23rd, ARTlounge 4 will kick off with a captivating collection of talent. The passion for art will drive this beautiful showcase of international artists as they come together to share artistic temperament, desire, and interaction. In this sneak peak preview you will get to know the artists who will entice you through their stimulating world of art.

■ For exhibition details, contact: Marion Labani / Tel: +973 3921 2060 / www.artlounge08.com

My work is primarily a reflection of my love for the making process. The primitive methods of coiling and smoke-firing fill me with anticipation while I watch the results appear on the surface of my work. My main passion is the figurative work, where I aim to reflect empathy and understanding of the human predicament.

My work has always been concerned with the human form and I have always used clay. I like the way that the mood of each sculpture is defined by the handling and texture of the clay. Rough textures and lines can suggest rhythms of movement while detailed work creates a feeling of stillness and intimacy.

The themes and ideas that I explore in my

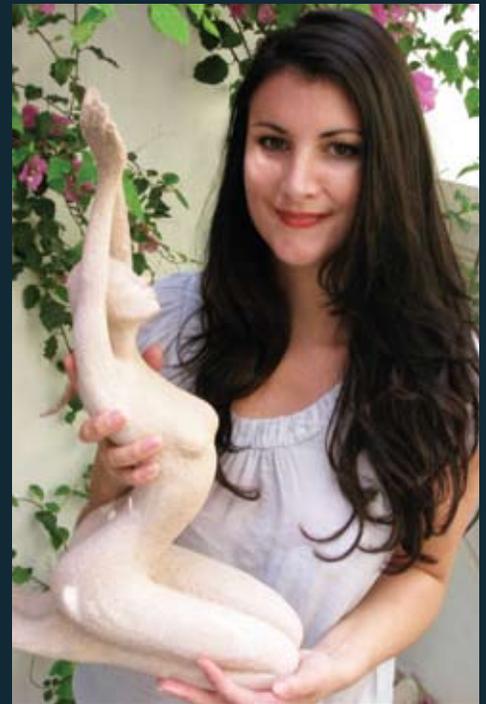
sculptures are inspired principally by the way people behave and react towards one another, and additionally of course they are influenced by my own feelings and life experiences.

Even though I always begin with a particular idea in mind, the concept and form for the sculpture can change dramatically during the working process. So in fact, the final piece owes more to my response to what is happening as I handle the clay, than it does to any preconceived idea.

I am really happy with the notion of figurative work and where this stands in the art world. Commercial success and acclaim don't concern me excessively. I just want to be really good at what I do.

Sculpture

Cheney Fairchild - UK



Painting

Abbas Almosawi - Bahrain



Abbas Almosawi is one of the most prolific Bahraini painters. Abbas uses a variety of material and media which include oils, acrylics, papyrus, and rice paper on canvas. His paintings range from figurative traditional Bahraini scenes in the impressionist mold to abstract works.

The desire to excel was probably inherited from his father, an established writer, poet and preacher in the Gulf. He certainly inherited his father's capacity for working long hours and this method paid its first dividend while still a student in 1978, when he won the Dilmon Prize for Art in Bahrain. The painting now hangs in the National Museum of Bahrain.

After his studies in interior design from Cairo University following his Fine Arts Diploma, Abbas established his own Art Gallery Asil, emphasizing his commitment and desire to remain a painter. A founding member of the Bahrain Art Society, and the world embraced Peace 2000 Organization, Abbas celebrates 30 years of hard work and dedication to Art, Children, World Peace and Society. His creative activities are a splendid experiment of colorful words and thoughts.

Abbas cautions that "how long a painting takes to finish is not a parameter of its quality, rather the depth, wisdom and message communicated that is of value." Style is not sequential or bounded by time and he sees nothing wrong with revisiting an old style until he has exhausted its potential.



Photography

Christian Chammachi - Lebanon



When he was 18 years old, he came across his father's camera and held it for the first time, awakening a latent passion for photography. Mesmerized by the details he could see in a photo, and fascinated by the notion that one could freeze a moment in time and forever capture an emotion, Christian began snapping photos. Now, 15 years later, he continues to do so. His collection is an eclectic mix of portraits, travel photos and random

moments of daily life, as well as fashion shots.

"I do photography mainly as a passion and hobby, a way to capture whatever moves me. I have done a few fashion shoots and enjoyed it but it doesn't compare with the joy of capturing things accidentally."

So why doesn't Christian, with so much passion for his craft, pursue in fulltime? Being a lawyer by profession, he knows that depending on

photography to pay the rent at the end of the day runs the risk of conducting purely commercial work that doesn't give elicit artistic gratification.

"I would not want to lose the spontaneity of it and the eye for random things worth capturing on a daily basis; that would be tantamount to forgetting why I love photography. I want to keep enjoying every second I pick up a camera and not feel forced to do so."





The inspiration for my artwork comes from the social issues surrounding family and community life, both directly and indirectly.

Recently, especially in my current project, I have been trying to deepen my experience by imitating a story from society about a girl who falls deeply in love with a man and wishes to marry him, but unfortunately her family will not permit her to the marriage.

This then creates a conflict for the girl as her inner desires are trapped and she is forced to marry another man. I imagined several scenes of this story, a picture of the wedding and the bride in a terrible state, an image with her mother buying the wedding dress and other images where I used the sad color gray.

As for the raw materials, I do not limit myself to anything but I mainly use acrylic in the form of

a collage. You can also find other materials in my work such as the weight of color punctuated by multiple layers of transparent color to give some space and comfort to the eyes.

The experience, then, gradually progresses to take on other colors and themes to create variation in accordance with the emotional circumstances felt through the experience and its continued vitality and humanitarian sense.



Painting

Sayd Hassan Al Sari - Bahrain



Painting

Sophie Stefan Berger - France



Since childhood, Sophie Berger Stephan could never stop drawing, and then subsequently painting women and subjects linked to femininity. She discovered the basis of this quasi-obsession through a lengthy psychoanalytical journey.

This interest in femininity originated because of immense void left in little Sophie's heart when she was deprived of her mother's presence. To

make up for this, the child that she was took refuge and pleasure in drawing, sublimating her missing mother or imaginative woman.

This "wound" became a driving force, the source of her creativity, leading her on a perpetual search. She attempts to recreate the essence of women in her paintings and capture all the facets of a woman's personality.

Being a dabbler, Sophie is forever curious about techniques. The exploration of various artistic mediums such as, decoration, wax sculptures for museums, costumer, and designer has given Sophie the knowledge of combining a skillful mix of techniques and media to give her paintings a unique style. The colorful harmony and soft feminine touches in her work allures viewers.





Born into a family where glassblowing is a tradition, Wilfried Markus is making more family history as he dedicates his entire work and creation to one material- glass.

In his studio, Wilfried creates a variety of objects by using common techniques, a combination of lamp-work and studio glass, and of course the experimental development of ideas in the style

of the master glassblower. His artwork has been exposed in many domestic exhibitions in Germany and Switzerland. Wilfried Markus does not only know how to bring his idea into its shape by creativity and fundamental manual skills, but he is talented in spellbinding people by the pleasure of glass-making. During his live performances in local fairs and markets, the intriguing glass-making process

becomes beautiful entertainment.

His talent is highly appreciated by trading gas companies like Ruhrgas AG, Gasversorgung Süddeutschland GmbH, Schleswig and many others. Wilfried Markus offers them his experience, knowledge and manual skills by showing his performance as a craftsman at national and international trade fairs.



Class Blowing
Wilfried Markus - Germany