

Ashraf Nassif

Innovative Vision

Ashraf Nassif was destined to become an artist. Whether it was using paints, pencils or charcoal in abstracts, graphics or oils, Ashraf's medium of expression is one that speaks to all.

By Roulla Soussou



Tell us a bit about yourself.

I was born in Cairo on January 4th and at the age of 5 I started drawing and my father who was also artistic realised that I had plenty to offer. I studied the basics and history of the arts at the Fine Arts Faculty in 1990 and after participating in many collective exhibitions, I finally got the chance to host my own exhibition in Paris in July 2011. My dream is that one day I'll become a known artist worldwide and hold exhibitions all over the globe.

When did you realize you have artistic talent? How many years have you been painting?

My father discovered my talent when I was only five because I had a thing for lines and mixing colours; and he's been very supportive ever since. I used to draw all the time during my school years but I started painting professionally when I joined the Fine Arts Faculty. During that time I participated in several exhibitions on a national and international basis, so you can say I have been painting professionally for about 21 years.

How do you conceptualise your images? Do you draw on memories, from photographs of events, individuals or locations?

Anything and everything inspires me! I am constantly looking at everything that is happening around me. I memorise the images so that later I 'let them out' on paper or on any type of material. Sometimes I can't

wait and use my pencil and sketchbook to translate an event or character at that very moment. I've also taken up photography to help me get the best of the shoots I take so I can turn them into my paintings.

Who is your role model as far as painting goes?

Pablo Picasso. He is simple, creative and courageous. Something a lot of people don't know is that George Braque is the one who created Cubism and Picasso developed it. Picasso amazed the world by the geometric shapes he used in his simple childlike drawings. "All children are artists. The problem is how to remain an artist once he grows up"- Picasso.

What influences you?

The simple sharp lines, the shiny colours and the composition of the artwork are all influences. The perfect combination of lines and colours just make me feel great and relaxed. Every single sketch made even by a child is a piece of art.

What do you hope people will take away from your paintings?

My paintings express my thoughts and feelings and when someone looks at my work I hope they feel and see what I wanted to express. It doesn't bother me if they see something else. I just want to give them a basis for my story but it's up to them how the story ends. Some of my famous pieces are expressing general problems in the world we live in today and still have not found a solution to them. I draw the problems in lines and the solution is expressed in my colours,

spaces or composition.

What advice would you give to emerging artists who want to showcase their work and be part of the scene?

Keep your pencil on you at all times. Any artist should be productive and practice daily. You need to work hard, keep sketching and creating all the time. Practicing develops the quality and knowledge of any person.

What upcoming projects should we be expecting?

I'm currently working on a new kind of art, mixing photography with graphics and composition as well as some contemporary art and abstract paintings. I still haven't decided where my next exhibition will be held but hopefully instead of Paris it will be the United States.

Fun Qs

What talent would you most like to have? Acting

Something that is overrated? Violence

When we say art, you say Air

Choose One

Salvador Dali Vs. Monet... Salvador Dali

Surrealism Vs. Realism... Surrealism