

ANACHAR  
BASBOUS



Anachar Basbous has regularly erected his sculptures in public spaces across Lebanon, including sites such as Rachana (where his father, the eminent sculptor, Michel Basbous, inaugurated an open-air sculpture park in the early 1960s), the Sanayeh Garden in 1995, and downtown Beirut in 2008, for which he produced a site-specific monument to commemorate the Prime Minister Rafic El Hariri's assassination. His exhibitions have also been hosted in the Beiteddine Palace, the Silk Factory in Beiteddine-Maasser, Starco, and Agial Art Gallery. His current exhibition at Saleh Barakat Gallery is his first extensive exhibition in a large white cube space in Beirut.

Anachar Basbous' work is at home in the white cube. Decades of artistic, curatorial, and art historical practice have revealed that the notion of the white cube as a neutral space is ideological. However, it is in the white cube that Basbous' work is no longer put in the service of a site which ultimately remains extrinsic to its conceptualization. To put it differently, Basbous is an artist of skill, rather than gesture.

In his most recent body of work, Basbous makes the venturesome formal move of inverting the relationship between the whole and its parts, so that his sculptures are produced and displayed as if from the inside-out. This shift in practice does not constitute a rupture with his older work. Through such formal variation, the latest sculptures remain to be defined by harmony and balance.

Anachar Basbous' work is idealist in character: with the inversion of the inside and outside, the whole is not fragmented and lost. The parts stand in for the whole, with the latter defined by its essence rather than appearance. Echoing Constantin Brâncusi via Michel Basbous, there is a binary split between essence and appearance in which the essence is foregrounded. But in its monumentality, Anachar Basbous' work articulates its own singular voice.

Natasha Gasparian  
Beirut, 2018



Basalt | 60 x 75 x 46 cm | 2018



Concrete | 62 x 50 x 42 cm | 2018



Concrete | 37 x 55 x 37 cm | 2018



Basalt | 50 x 52 x 55 cm | 2018



Basalt | 51 x 45 x 30 cm | 2018



Concrete | 51 x 40 x 40 cm | 2018



Concrete | 52 x 55 x 38 cm | 2018



Stainless Steel | 70 x 70 x 70 cm | 2018



Basalt | 55 x 62 x 45 cm | 2018



Marble | 40 x 50 x 25 cm | 2018





Marble | 41 x 45 x 48 cm | 2018



Stainless Steel | 70 x 70 x 70 cm | 2017



Concrete | 57 x 45 x 35 cm | 2018



Concrete | 52 x 55 x 52 cm | 2018



Marble | 51 x 85 x 42 cm | 2018



Concrete | 46 x 72 x 55 cm | 2018



Concrete | 72 x 57 x 52 cm | 2018



Basalt | 59 x 69 x 50 cm | 2018



Rusted Plexi | 172 x 136 x 85 cm | 2018



Concrete | 56 x 45 x 38 cm | 2018



Marble | 36 x 58 x 50 cm | 2018



Concrete | 53 x 37 x 40 cm | 2018



Concrete | 74 x 50 x 40 cm | 2018



Marble | 41 x 45 x 48 cm | 2018



Marble | 37 x 37 x 32 cm | 2018





Stainless Steel | 80 x 110 x 55 cm | 2018



Steel and Magnet | 60 x 54 x 54 cm | 2017



Corten Steel | 85 x 126 x 126 cm | 2017



Corten Steel | 100 x 139 x 126 cm | 2018



Concrete | ?? x ?? x ?? cm | 20??



Marble | 170 x 52 x 52 cm | 2018









## About the Artist

Anachar Basbous (b. 1969) lives and works in Rachana, Lebanon. Basbous was born into a family of artists; his father was the renowned sculptor Michel Basbous, and his mother is a writer and poet. Having grown up in a village of open-air sculptures overlooking the wide expanse of the Mediterranean Sea, he produced his first sculpture at the budding age of 10. His own name, Anachar, is a play on words of his birthplace, Rachana. Anachar received his bachelor's degree in Beirut, after which he continued his graduate studies in Paris at the ENSAAMA (Ecole Nationale Supérieure des Arts et des Métiers d'Art) where he specialized in architectural wall design. He returned to Lebanon in 1992 and opened his own sculpture workshop in Rachana where he dedicated himself to stone, wood, metal, and mural sculptures. In 2008, he was commissioned to design a ten-meter bronze memorial site to commemorate the life and death of Prime Minister Rafic Hariri where the latter was assassinated by car bomb in Downtown Beirut. His work can be found across Lebanon and beyond, in public places, hotels, private residences and gardens, as well as in various private collections, and in public spaces in France, The United States, UK, Canada, the United Arab Emirates and beyond.

### Selected Exhibitions:

- 2000 Stone sculpture at the Biennale of Chaco Argentina
- 2000 Wood sculpture at the symposium of Alem Argentina
- 2002 Stone sculpture symposium in Fes, Morocco
- 2003 Stone sculpture symposium in Turkey
- 2004 "Salon d'Automne" Sursock Museum Beirut
- 2007 "Salon d'Automne" Sursock Museum Beirut
- 2008 Memorial of Rafic Hariri in St Georges Beirut
- 2011 Bronze sculpture for the city of Mont-Royal, Montreal Canada
- 2012 Solo exhibition (Beirut exhibition center - Soludere) Downtown Beirut
- 2013 Solo exhibition (Artsawa Gallery) DIFC Dubai
- 2013 Solo exhibition Art Lounge / Beiteddine Palace Lebanon
- 2015 Solo exhibition AGIAL Art Gallery / Beirut Lebanon
- 2016 AGIAL Art Gallery / Art Dubai
- 2016 AGIAL Art Gallery / Abu Dhabi Art fair
- 2017 Grand Palais / Art Capital / Paris France

Corten Steel | 180 x 240 x 170 cm | 2017 (Pages 38&39)

Stainless Steel | 200 x 222 x 190 cm | 2018 (Pages 40&41)

Stainless Steel | 243 x 250 x 70 cm | 2018 (Pages 42&43)

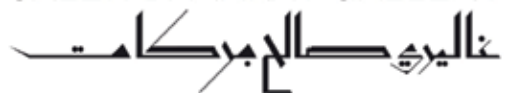
Stainless Steel | 175 x 200 x 120 cm | 2018 (Pages 44&45)



Anachar Basbous, 2018



SALEH BARAKAT GALLERY



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