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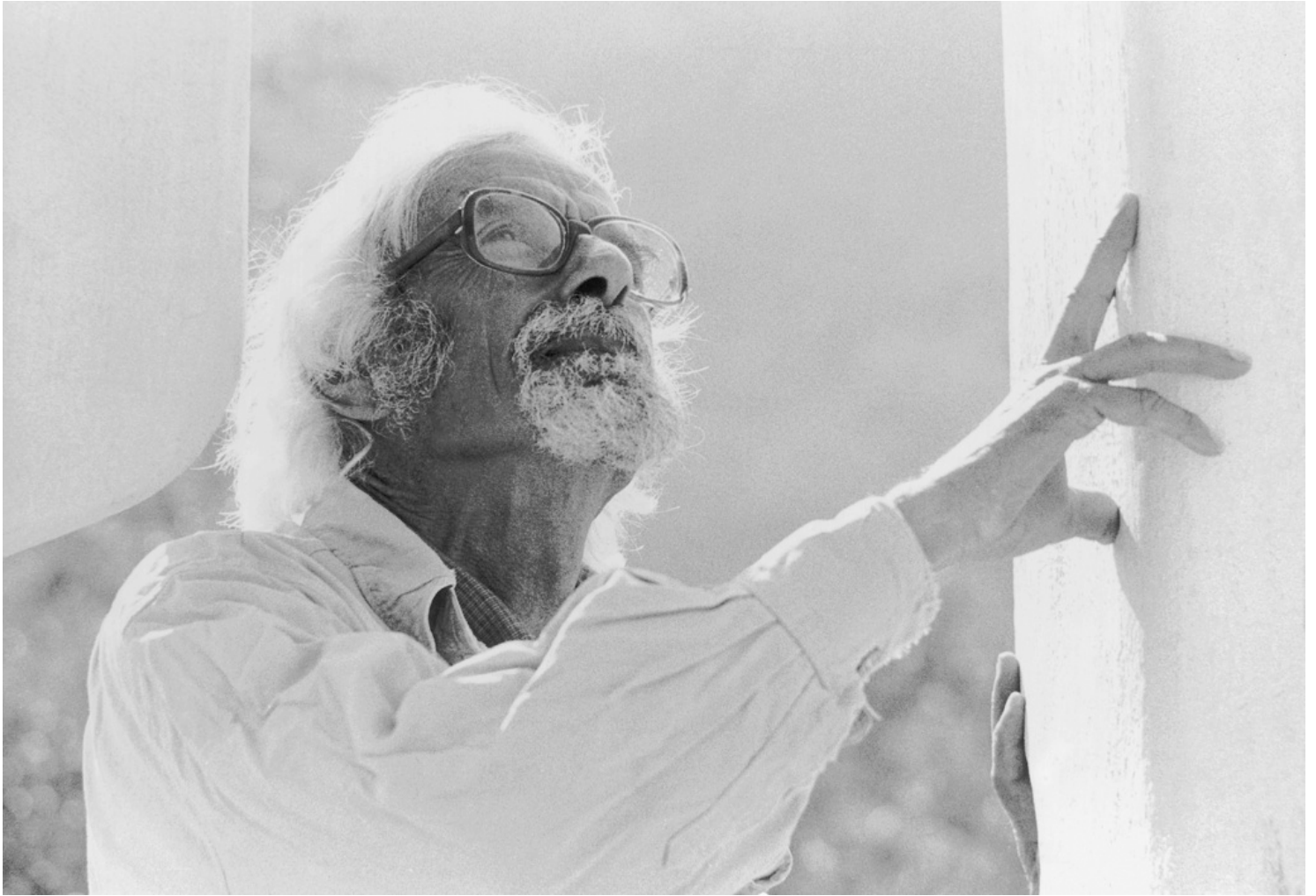
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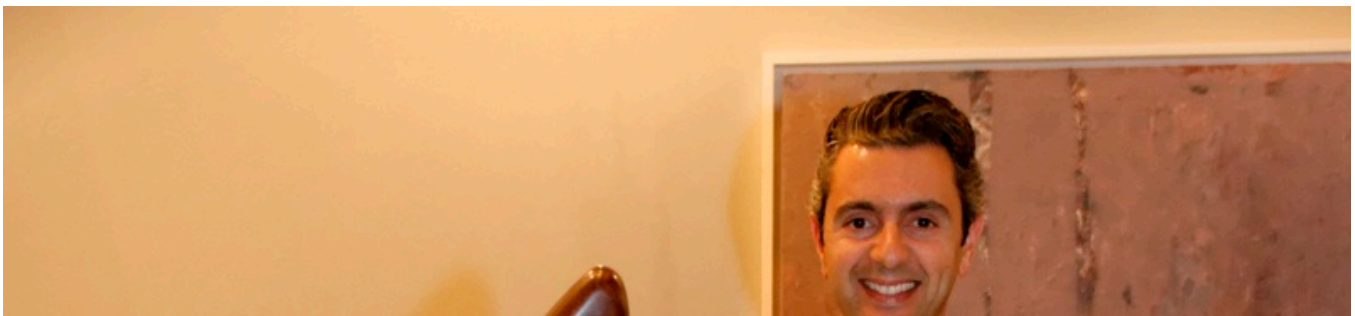
Alfred Basbous: An icon of modern art

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Born in Rachana, Lebanon in 1924, Alfred Basbous began carving works in the 1950s. He first started up reproducing animals and nude females in wood, metal, and stone. In 1960, he received a scholarship from the French government and became a pupil of the sculptor René Collamarini at “The National Fine Arts School in Paris”. A year after, his works were showcased at the International Sculpture Exhibition at the Musée Rodin, in Paris.



After his return from France, Alfred Basbous settled in his hometown Rachana to focus on his passion. This is when he became impregnated with the nature of Lebanon and was passionate about the forms of the human body, especially the feminine curves. Today, a decade after he passed away, his artworks still fascinate art lovers from all around the world. In this exclusive interview with InBsusiness.ae, Fadi Alfred Basbous, Curator, Alfred Basbous Foundation talks about the artist's inspirations and how the Foundation is keeping his flame burning.





Art is the reflection of the thought, what mainly inspired Alfred Basbous in his masterpieces?



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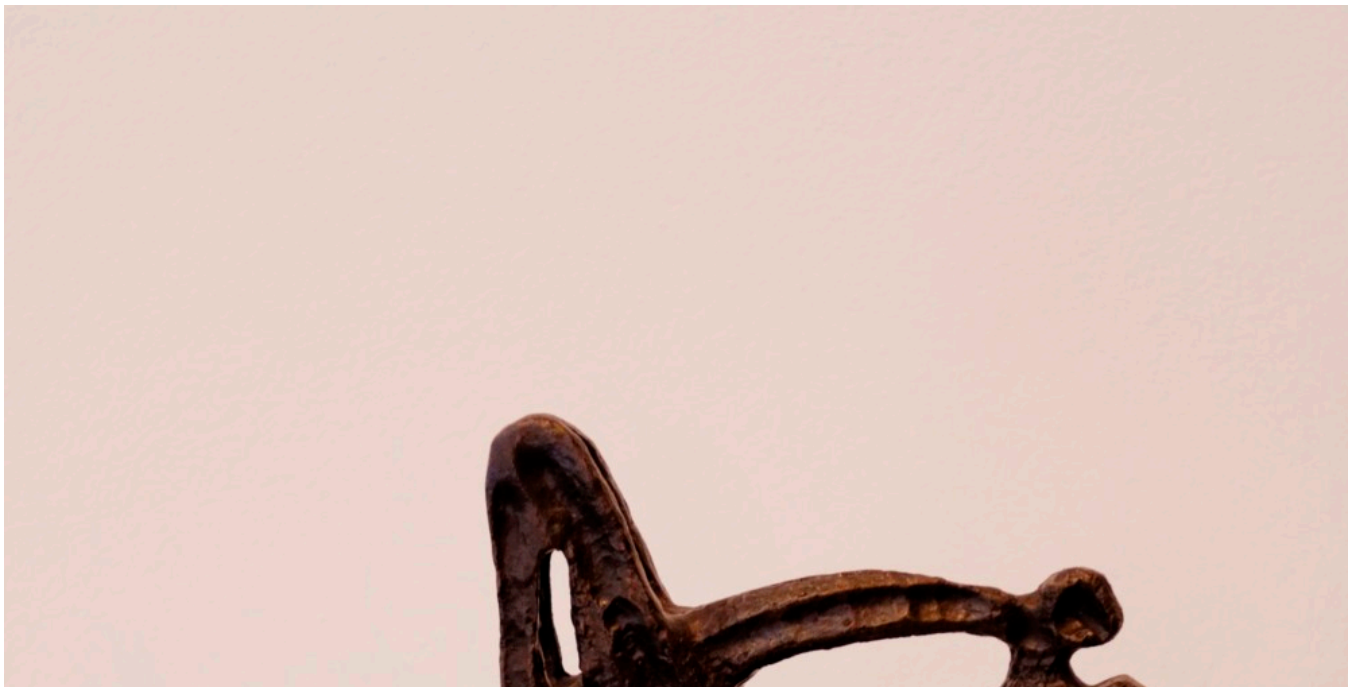
One of the most renowned French art critics, Paul Torrez wrote in Gallery Magazine: “Beyond Lebanon, Alfred Basbous radiates with the world and grants the East an artistic volume equivalent to the important moments in his life.”

Another art historian Jean-Jacques Leveque wrote in “Nouvelles littéraires”: “The sculpturing of Alfred Basbous attends the calm human relationships.”

“the constant search for the truth.

...I am on ongoing dialogue with the medium I work with. It is the fact of searching for the most beautiful line or form, whether abstract or classical or figurative” saying by Alfred Basbous.

As we read those writings on Alfred Basbous and as we can notice in his work, he realized that the main duty of art is to achieve the balance, to restore hope and reassurance to the conscience of man.





What differentiate him from other artists?

Alfred is one of the most celebrated modernist artists in the region. Each artist has their own work and research and I prefer not to compare but speak about Alfred's work because I spent a lot of time studying his work and evolution from classic to figurative to abstract. His work is very profound with a lot of respect to the material itself. His artwork is not separated from our world; it's connected to it. There is strong fluidity in his lines, and a true balance of form that harmoniously vitalizes the space around it.



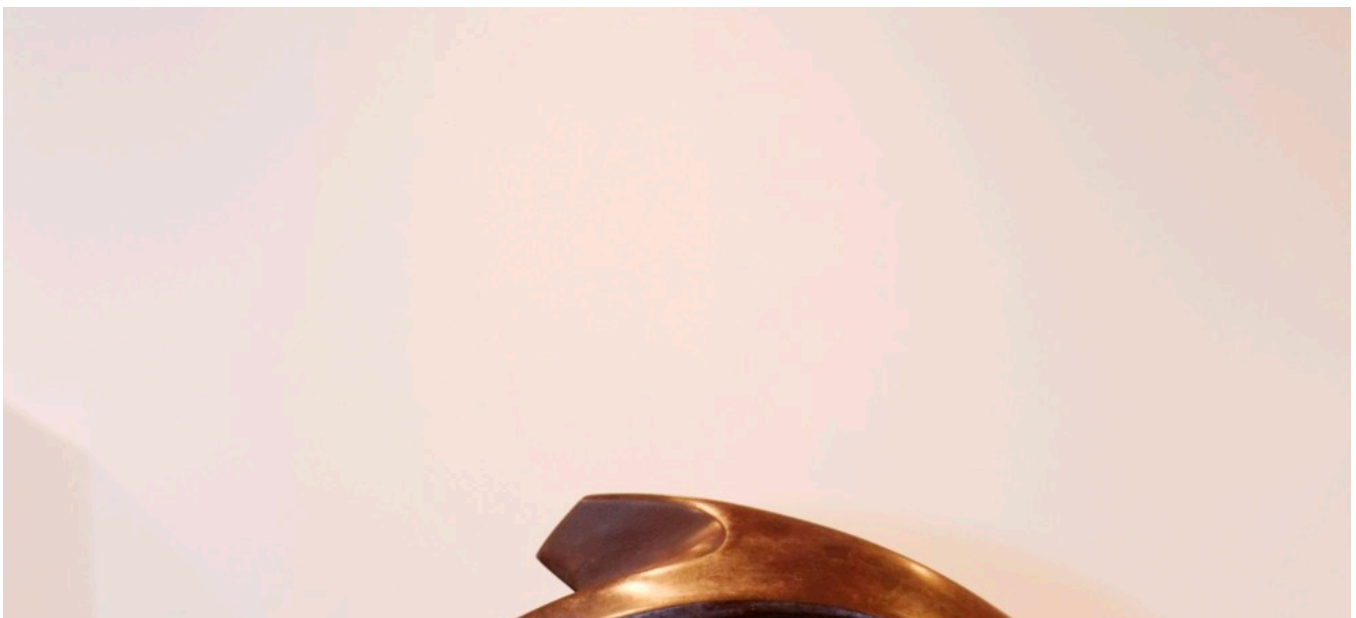


How are you promoting his art in different parts of the world?

Alfred Basbous Foundation is putting a lot of efforts to keep the Alfred Basbous legacy at his hometown Rachana-Batroun-Lebanon Artist workshop. It is also eager to keep the open air museum and his internal workshop open for public. As for the international showcase, we are represented in Paris, New York, Dubai and Beirut with particular prestigious galleries. We participate in more than 17 art fairs around the world; we have also presence at Musée Rodin that acquired a sculpture by Alfred Basbous, as well as Oxford Museum.

We are about to prepare an exhibition in London for the end of this year with the support of The Arab-Irish Chamber of Commerce.

The foundation supports charity organizations like St Jude Lebanon, The Children's Cancer Centre of Lebanon (CCCL), May Chidiac Foundation (MCF), USJ, LAU, and Heartbeat Association for children with heart decease, and this by donating the profits from specific sculptures sale for humanitarian aids.





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How would you describe your participation in Art Dubai this year?

Our involvement in art fairs in the UAE started in 1998 in Abu Dhabi, whereas in Dubai it only began in 2014-2015 and all our exhibitions there had tremendous success.

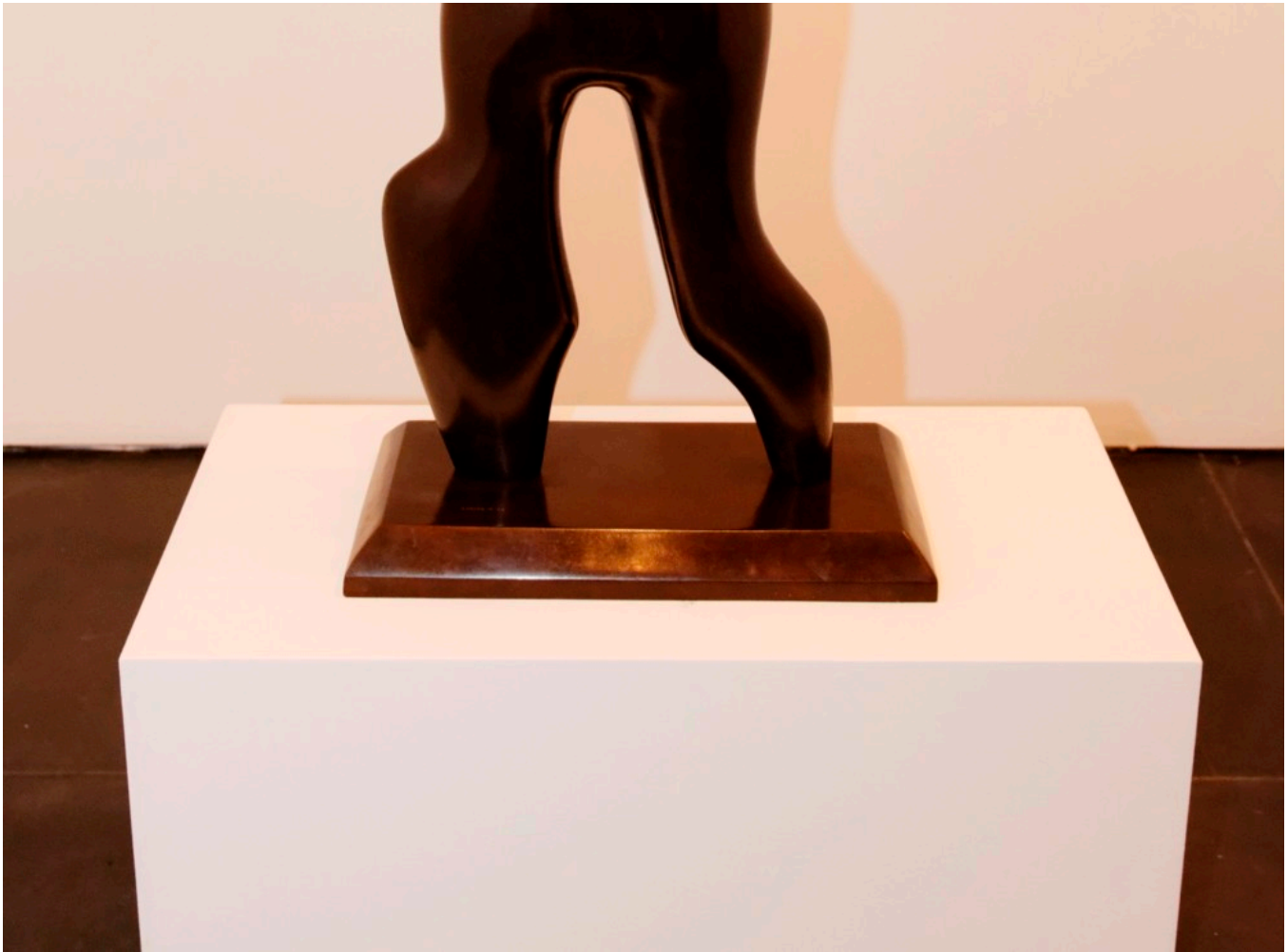


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Art Dubai is an agreeable exhibition, as one can find a lot of support for the art world. Moreover, the infrastructure is made to attract international collectors; therefore, it is a platform to meet new people and art lovers.

After participating in more than 17 art fairs around the world, I admit that Art Dubai is one of my favorites. I love it; I love the organization and the high-level preparations. We witnessed a great success in the show at the new section – Booth (Artspace Dubai). We received excellent appearances and did well in terms of selling pieces and meeting international art collectors.





As a curator, how do you choose the pieces to be displayed in each exhibition?

Choosing the pieces or the theme for an exhibition is essential in order to have a successful show. You need to have a good modern and well-curated show, especially now with art having an incredible growth in all directions.

I always discover a new mystery in every show, Alfred's work is a school of itself. You can study this artist forever, and still find that there is more to learn about him, his philosophy, his thoughts, his sculptures. It is fascinating, very exciting and very tempting.

Coming up with a single show needs extensive research and study. At the same time, the person in charge needs to stay faithful to how the artist would have wanted the show to be, as well as meet the expectations of the audience.