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Nabil Nahas Creates Stamp for Lebanon's 75 Years of Independence

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Nabil Nahas creates stamp for Lebanon's 75 years of independence
(Courtesy: Ben Brown Fine Arts)

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[Nabil Nahas](#) chose to depict a Cedar Tree to represent the hope of the people of Lebanon for a stamp for LibanPost, marking Lebanon's 75th anniversary of independence. The stamp, which will travel on 100,000 letter and parcels, was unveiled at the Grand Serai under the patronage of Prime Minister-designated Saas Hariri. the original painting will be offered at an auction at Sursock Museum.

Born in Lebanon, Nahas spent his formative years in Cairo and Beirut. He attended university in the USA, earning a BFA from Louisiana State University in 1971 and an MFA from Yale University in 1973. Encounters with contemporary painters at Yale influenced Nahas to move to New York after graduation. The artist currently lives and works in New York but still spends significant amounts of time in his native Lebanon. Nahas has exhibited extensively in the USA and abroad over the last three decades. His first major museum retrospective was held at the Beirut Exhibition Center in 2010. Public collections include The Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York; Tate, London; and the British Museum, London, amongst other international institutions. In 2013, Nahas was awarded the National Order of the Cedar for services to Lebanese culture, an honour rarely bestowed to visual artists.

The artist was approached by LibanPost's Khalil Daoud. He was so moved by this nationalistic gesture that he chose to paint a new piece reflecting idealism; he was motivated to paint the perfect tree with strong sacred undertones. The Sursock museum had earlier also held an auction to sell the original painting on the 20th of November. The proceeds are to be distributed to the Lebanese families of the soldiers that died in the battle of Aarsal in 2014, a matter which still strongly affects the artist.

In tune with LibanPost's series of honorary stamps, the new independence stamp seeks to commemorate the efforts of Lebanese citizens as well as everyone who contributed in raising Lebanon's name high, celebrating the diversity of the Lebanese people, while reaffirming LibanPost's commitment to its corporate social responsibilities.

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