

Saddek Wasil

Is a Saudi Sculptor

Represented

By Athr Gallery Jeddah



Saddek Wasil is a Saudi sculptor whose main medium is metal, and discarded metallic material. His powerful sculptures exuberate a rejection of binding stereotypes and an iron will to defeat material subjugation for the sake of spiritual freedom. His artwork is not to be understood as a present state, as it holds the promise of future success in overcoming chains, locks and closed boundaries.

Wasil was born in Makkah Al-Mukarrama in 1973. His mother was a seamstress and his father was a mechanic. Thus, Saddek became accustomed to working with his hands and spent much of his youth in his father's garage, where he learned how to weld and work with metal, mainly iron. During his free time, he often salvaged discarded car parts and metal scraps to create amorphous figures, distorted bodies and human masks from his imagination:

"I'm a hoarder, I don't like to throw anything away. I don't like the idea of discarding things. Nowadays, everything or everyone is dispensable. I suppose I try to show that you can find value in anything, or anyone"

As with many artists, Saddek is influenced by his surroundings and the happenings of the world around him, with particular focus on humans and human emotions. In Makkah, Wasil is a witness to the daily struggles of his fellow man, as well as an observer of their innermost struggles at the moment when they are at their most vulnerable, in the house of God. His work is in no way judgemental, as he rejects the role of the judge; it is merely a recognition of diversity in all its forms and colours. His work is about understanding, acceptance, and tolerance and foremost, it is about the acknowledgement of seen and unseen realities.

Saddek is not a sculptor in any traditional sense, as he has had no formal training, does not work with clay or with moulds, his work is not produced in a foundry and does not come in editions. He works with his hands, and by himself. His primary material is metal, in various shapes and forms. He equates metal, with strength, and his patience and ability to break down its intransigence and to manipulate it to his will, is what gives him his sense of empowerment and achievement.

Wasil received his formal education in Environmental Studies and Agricultural Sciences from King Abdulaziz University. He is a member of a number of arts societies. Namely, the Contemporary Artist's Home, The Association of Culture and the Arts and the Saudi Society of Fine Arts. He currently holds the position of Director of the Arts and Culture Department in Mecca.

He has exhibited extensively nationally and has participated in a number of international events and art fairs; Edge of Arabia, Istanbul (2010); OFID, Vienna (2011), Shanghai Expo at the Duolon Museum of Modern Art (2010); Art Dubai (2009, 2010, 2011); MENASA Art Fair, Beirut (2011); Marrakech Art Fair (2011) and the International Art Biennale in Dakar, Senegal (2008, 2009). In 2012, he launched his first solo exhibition at Athr Gallery 'And They Will Not Cease to Differ...'

Selected Exhibitions

Jul. 2012	ARAMCO Summer Festival, Riyadh, KSA
May.2012	'And They Will Not Cease to Differ', solo show, Athr Gallery, Jeddah, KSA
Jan. 2012	Edge of Arabia: Jeddah 'We Need to Talk', KSA
Jan. 2011	OFID, Vienna, Austria
Nov. 2010	Self-Portraits: Mirrors on the Wall, Athr Gallery, Jeddah, KSA
Sep. 2010	Nabatt, Shanghai Duolun Museum of Modern Art, Shanghai, China
Nov. 2010	TRANSiTION, Edge of Arabia, Istanbul, Turkey
Nov. 2010	Go Beyond, Athr Gallery, Jeddah, KSA

Art Fairs / Biennale I

Mar. 2012	Art Dubai, UAE, Athr Gallery,
Sep. 2011	Marrakech Art Fair, Athr Gallery, Morocco
Jul. 2011	MENASA Art Fair, Nabatt, Beirut, Lebanon
Mar. 2011	Art Dubai, UAE, Athr Gallery
Mar. 2010	Art Dubai, UAE, Athr Gallery
May 2010	International Art Biennale Dakar, Senegal
Mar. 2009	Art Dubai, U.AE, Athr Gallery
May 2008	International Art Biennale Dakar, Senegal

Public Collections

BASMOCA, UK

Baker Botts L.L.P., Saudi Arabia

Jameel ALJ Company, Saudi Arabia

Prizes and Awards

2010 3rd Level Prize, Sculpture Exhibition, Riyadh

2008 Recognition, Arab Ministers for Youth and Sports, Cairo, 2008

2008 Silver Medal, Arab Youths Fair, Alexandria, Egypt, 2008.

2007 Excellence Award, Group Arts Fair, Madina

2007 Addasi Award for Architecture & Arts, Southern Sinai