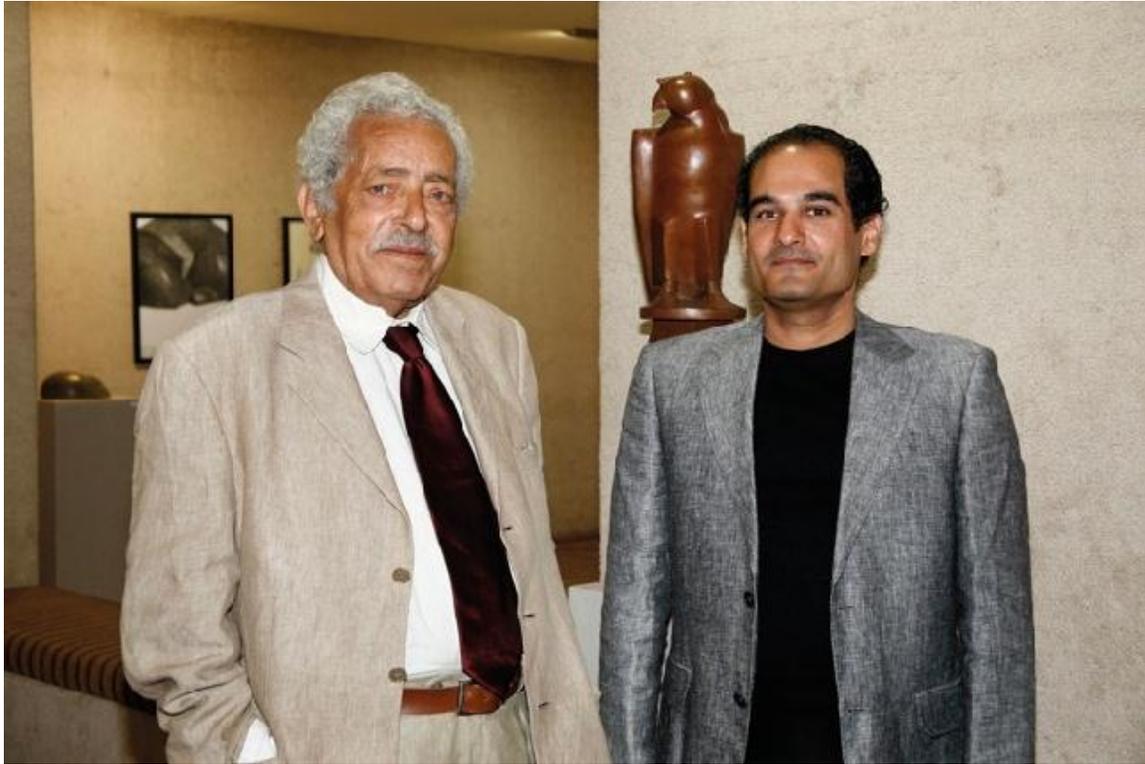


# ENCHANTING EXPLORATIONS

**Incorporating language and imagery culled from the rich Egyptian idiom, the show was a testimony to the sculptural nation. Each artist articulated a distinctive approach that demonstrated just how rich and versatile Egyptian sculpture is.**

By [Deepa Pant](#) [October \(2011\)](#) edition of bazaar



**Through bringing together diverse approaches and understandings from Egyptian artists, the dynamic show at Boushahry gallery was an opportunity to engage with the sculptural pieces drenched in energy and movement.**

This thought-provoking exhibition featured groundbreaking bodies of work by Adam Henein in addition to the selected works of Hassan Kamel, Mahmoud Al Dweihi, Essam Darwish, Hani Faisal, Mohammed Radwan and Majid Mekhael. These artists drew upon Egypt's rich past and their own innovative vision.

The exhibition highlighted the work of the Godfather of Egyptian sculptor, Adam Henein , a highly acclaimed virtuoso at working in bronze or stone. Sculptor Adam Henein made his

foray into sculptural art at the tender age of eight, when he made a clay figure of Ramses II, for his father.

This lifelong love for sculptures was sparked by his school visit to Cairo's Museum of Egyptian Antiquities.

Henein is unquestionably among the most innovative and influential sculptors of the 20th century. While remaining best known for his sculptures, Henein has also enjoyed a successful career as a painter. His paintings, too, show pharaonic influences.

He was born in Cairo in 1929 and received his Diploma from the Academy of Fine Art, in Cairo, in 1953. Henein was instrumental in the restoration project of the Giza Sphinx. He is the founder and Director of the annual International Sculpture Symposium in Aswan which presents new trends in sculpture.

Reminiscent of Rodin, Master Sculptor Henein's dominant style in his visually provocative ensemble demonstrates a strong sense of movement, energy, and elegance, turning ordinary objects into graceful spectacles of light and shadow. Central to Henein's work is an enduring interest in the past, pyramids, pharaonic kings and hieroglyphs.

Even at the ripe age of 82, artist Henein continues to work every day in his atelier. "The contact between the artist and the materials is very important," notes this artist. "Every piece of sculpture has its own place, but I like to make birds and animals more than the human figures."

The gallery presented an amazing cross-section of interpretations, materials and techniques used by these sculptors. Among the ensembles, some of the notable works on view were "The Night Watcher" and "The Falcon" (Adam Heinen) "On the Sand" (Majed Mekhael), "Reclining Man," "To the Throne", "Torso" (Hasan Kamel), and "Untitled" by Hani Faisal in black granite.

Majed Mekhael's sculptures were exuberant and a celebration of the inventive mind. His body of work, starkly simplified, dominated by the minimalist philosophy were akin to lucid abstractions in motion.

Mahmoud Al Dweihi demonstrated the interplay between tradition and innovation in his sculptures. His beautiful and carefully executed sculpture titled "Man" was spectacular.

Mohammad Radwan's creative works in iron and bronze were Untitled as he wanted the viewer to be free to interpret his unique work.

Sculptor Essam Darwish's work differed significantly. It was both simple and sophisticated. Using materials like marble and bronze he rendered expressive pieces. His work entitled "Women" at the gallery was very appealing.

Dr. Hassan Kamel is a well-known name in the contemporary art movement in Egypt. A teacher of sculpture at the faculty of Art Education at Helwan university, Dr. Kamel had a couple of thought-provoking and visually arresting works in the show.

Inspired by Adam Heinen, Auguste Rodin, Henry Moore, and Constantin Brancosi , Kamel likes to work with natural materials such as stone, bronze, wood and clay composite. "Meeting Adam Heinen was a big turn in my career," stated Kamel.

His sculptures resemble Pharaonic offering tables. The startling clarity of his lines and subtle unfolding of a story create a vibrant visual experience and draws the viewer directly into the work.

Kamel views his work as a journey of discovery and explains that ancient Egyptian sculpture remains this sculptor's inspirations. He further adds that the main traits of Egyptian sculpture can be characterized as cubic and frontal and this cubic trait is reflected in all of his work.

Although these artists worked with different materials and are separated by a generation, they all usher in memories of the yore combined with contemporary experience and extraordinary grace.

***For further information, please contact the Boushahri art gallery at telephone numbers: 2562 1116 and 2562 1119.***

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