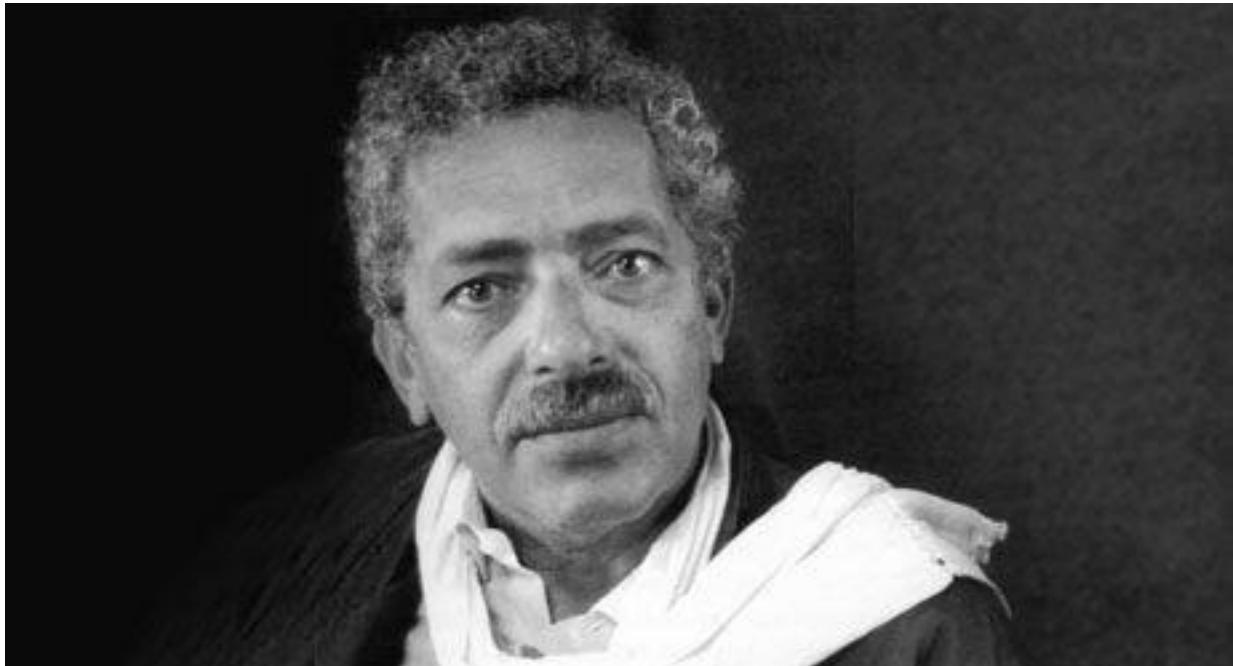


Adam Henein



An Egyptian sculptor and one of the greatest living masters of contemporary Middle Eastern art.

Description

Adam Henein (b. 1929, Cairo) is internationally renowned as one of the Arab world's leading sculptors. His work displays strong references to Egypt's Pharaonic past but also reveals Henein's astute talent as a distinctly modern artist—through his use of solid, simple forms and the clean lines of his sculptures. Prominent themes in his work include prayer and enlightenment, motherhood, the bird, ascension, as displayed in his obelisks, and crossing, which is one of the more prevalent themes in his work, expressed through his renderings of ships, boats and ferries. He works in a variety of media including bronze, wood, clay and granite. He is also a painter.

Henein has held numerous critically acclaimed exhibitions, including solo shows at the ASB Gallery, Munich and London, 1988; Egyptian Cultural Center, Paris, 1987; Sultan Gallery, Kuwait, 1983; and the Egyptian Academy, Rome, 1980. He has participated in group shows held in Paris, Naples, Rome, Venice, Alexandria and Cairo.

The artist first realised he wanted to be a sculptor at the age of eight, during a class trip to the Egyptian Museum in Cairo. He went on to study at the Academy of Fine Arts in Cairo, receiving his diploma in 1953. After graduating, he travelled Luxor and Aswan, where he immersed himself in the study of the cities' mineral landscapes.

In 1971, he travelled to Paris to 'learn everything about art' and take part in an exhibition of contemporary Egyptian art at the Galliera Museum. Unexpectedly, he ended up residing in the French capital for twenty-five years, from 1971 to 1996. During this period, he also travelled to Italy, particularly to Petrasanta, where

he befriended the caster Mariani. Yet despite his extended sojourn in Europe, Henein never ceased to draw inspiration from his own heritage.

When Henein returned to Egypt, his reputation as an artist of international recognition and prominence was already established. As a result, Farouk Hosny, Egyptian Minister of Culture, requested that Henein administer the restoration of the Great Sphinx at Giza. He also founded and is the curator of the International Sculpture Symposium, which provides sculptors, from all over the world, with the opportunity to carve the pink or grey granite found in Egypt's ancient quarries.

Although Henein's work evokes a strong attachment to the traditions of Pharaonic Egypt and Arab culture, modernity is central to his artistic vision. Indeed, Henein's vision has been consistent throughout his life's work:

I don't think I've changed; there is an obvious continuity throughout my work... Artistic time has its own measure, and what I am producing now looks a lot like what I was producing then [in the 1950s]. It is an itinerary pursued along a single road, which I took right from the outset, and from which I have never strayed.

Ultimately, Henein is not only representative of the modern arts of the Arab world but the international art world as a whole.

Citations from Adam Henein, ed. Mona Khazindar, Milan: Al Mansouria & Skira, 2005.

<http://www.abudhabifestival.ae/en/artist/adam-henein.html>