

Khairy Hasab

THE FASCINATION OF LIGHT AND COLOURS

text by Judith Wenning





Resting under the Moon

Horses have been a powerful and symbolic subject in art for thousands of years, often representing speed, power, freedom, beauty, and grace. They have appeared in countless artistic traditions and mediums, from ancient cave paintings to contemporary works. One of the earliest depictions of horses can be found in the prehistoric cave paintings of Lascaux in France, around 15,000 BC. These images show horses in motion, often painted in dynamic, naturalistic ways. The horse was central to many early human societies, especially as a source of food, transport, and labour.

In classical antiquity, horses were often depicted in sculptures and pottery, symbolizing nobility and power. Famous examples include the equestrian statues of Roman emperors, like Marcus Aurelius on horseback in Rome,

which conveyed imperial strength and leadership. Horses were also featured in Greek art, such as in the famous Parthenon frieze, which shows horse-drawn chariots.

Also, the Medieval period and Renaissance as well as Baroque art had horses as a subject, but sometimes not as prominent as at other times. The 19th century then saw a growing fascination with horses in art, especially in the context of modernity and industrialization. In the 20th century, the horse continued to be an important subject in art.

In many cultures, horses have had symbolic meaning beyond their physical attributes. In Western art, they often represent power, nobility, or war. In Eastern cultures, such as in Chinese art, horses have been associated with speed,



The Night

strength, and freedom. Horses are also symbolic in the context of mythology and religion. For instance, in Greek mythology, the winged horse Pegasus represents poetic inspiration and flight.

Horses in art not only reflect the beauty and majesty of the animal itself but also carry deep symbolism related to human experience. They have come to represent themes ranging from power, war, and nobility, to freedom, grace, and spirituality. Artists from all eras have found inspiration in the horse, whether to explore the animal's form and movement or to convey complex ideas about society, nature, and the human condition. The horse remains a timeless symbol, both in artistic representation and in cultural imagination.

Have you heard of the importance of Iraqi art? The art scene in Iraq is rich, complex, and resilient, deeply shaped by the country's turbulent history, culture, and politics. Despite facing decades of conflict, economic hardship, and political instability, Iraq has maintained a vibrant and evolving artistic tradition that spans visual arts, literature, music, performance, and more. The art scene today is defined by a mix of contemporary and traditional practices, blending local heritage with modern global influences. While Iraq has faced significant challenges over the past few decades, the creative spirit of its artists has persevered, adapting to changing circumstances and pushing boundaries. The art scene in Iraq in the 20th and 21st century produced some important Arabian horse artists. One of them is the young rising painter Khairy Hasab. He was born in Baghdad, Iraq in 1986. Since his childhood he loved



Mleha





Jamilla & Nabeela & Shama





Egyptian Stallion

drawing and animals were always his most favourite subject.

But how did his career as a professional painter start? Khairy Hasab studied at the Institute of Fine Arts and the College of Fine Arts in Baghdad. After he graduated, Khairy worked as an assistant at the College of Fine Arts. The College of Fine Arts in Baghdad (Arabic: كلية الفنون الجميلة) is one of the most prestigious institutions for the study of the arts in Iraq. It is part of the University of Baghdad, which is the largest and oldest university in the country. The College of Fine Arts is renowned for its contributions to the development of fine arts, including visual arts, performing arts, music, theatre, and design, in Iraq and the broader Middle East. After long deliberations, Khairy Hasab decided to leave Iraq due to the deteriorating security situation.

Khairy moved to the Yalova Province in Turkey in 2015. He is married and has a daughter and a son.

Khairy Hasab's paintings impress with their unique use of light, fascinating colours and elaborate details. Khairy explains: "I use classical techniques to create my realistic paintings. I work in oil, watercolour, pencil and charcoal. My paintings begin with pencil drawings. After I make sure the shapes and details are fine, I start working on the canvas with oil colours."

When asked about his love for Arabian horses, Khairy Hasab ponders: "Since my studies, I have been attracted to Arabian horses in classical paintings. what fascinates me most about them is their strength, beauty and romance. My dream was to create vibrant works. Then in 2014 I began



After the Invasion

drawing Arabian horses and researching their characteristics and behaviour. My goal is to create artistic works that represent the identity of Arabian horses and their connection to our history." Then he continues with a smile: "I used to paint with realistic subjects but for years my interest has only become creating paintings related to Arabian horses."

When asked where he gets his inspiration from, Khairy Hasab replies: "I draw inspiration for my works from historical events and stories related to Arabian horses." Khairy Hasab is enthusiastic about the Arabian horse in 19th century art and has several favourite artists. "I like especially Horace Vernet, Eugene Delacroix and Henri Emilien Rousseau. They give me a lot of inspiration." Then he remarks "From contemporary artists in Iraq, I like

especially Faiq Hassan." Faiq Hassan is remembered as a visionary artist who bridged the gap between Iraq's rich cultural history and the modern art world. His fusion of traditional Iraqi elements with modern artistic trends created a distinctive style that has left a lasting imprint on both Iraqi and Arab art. His legacy continues to be celebrated by artists, scholars, and art enthusiasts worldwide.

In April 2024 Khairy Hasab decided to take another big step. He moved to Toronto, Canada. Regarding his artistic future, Khairy remarks: "Every day my goal is to create a piece of art better than yesterday's work. I hope to continue improving."



Arabic Treasure

Khairy Hasab

