

Dr. Raouf Rifai Donates Painting to the Lebanon Migration Nucleus Museum

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Dr. Raouf Rifai, a well-known Lebanese-born painter, donated one of his paintings to the Lebanon Migration Nucleus Museum at the Lebanese Emigration Research Center (LERC). The ceremony of the donation was held on Thursday, May 16, 2013, in the presence of Dr. Guita Hourani, Director of the LERC, Dr. Jean Pierre Asmar, the Dean of the Faculty of Architecture, Art and Design,, Khaled Abou Hol, a Lebanese artist,, and members of the LERC team.

Dr. Rifai's painting symbolizes Lebanese emigration under the title of *Diaspora I*, which he completed in 2009. In this piece, the artist depicts skyscrapers in New York and a Lebanese immigrant, as seen through the eyes of a westerner, wearing a *tarboush* (*fez*) with big lips and a big nose. The aim of the painting is to reveal the contradictory ways that westerners view the Lebanese. Dr. Rifai says westerners see the Lebanese in two ways: as scholars, researchers, successful entrepreneurs, famous doctors or, as lazy people or terrorists. The painting, therefore, expresses the need for dialogue between East and West..



(Dr. Raouf Rifai.)

Dr. Rifai studied Fine Arts at the Lebanese University and later obtained a Ph.D. in Urbanism from the Sorbonne I University in Paris, France. He started teaching in 1995 and is now a professor in the Department of Architecture and Design at the Lebanese University.

Dr. Rifai has held several solo exhibitions in Lebanon, Spain, the U.A.E., France, the U.S.A., and Japan, and has participated in many joint exhibitions around the world.

His work is also displayed in many public collections; namely, the Sursock Museum, Lebanon; the National Museum of Modern Art, Syria; the Muharram Beh Museum in Alexandria, Egypt; and recently in Christie's: Fine Arts Auctions.

Dr. Rifai participated in the "*Diaspora Exhibition*," which the LERC organized in 2010, where he exhibited his painting titled *Diaspora III*; he later donated the painting to NDU's Faculty of Architecture, Art and Design.

Dr. Rifai promised continuous cooperation with the LERC, and commended the Center's efforts in establishing the Lebanon Migration Nucleus Museum, especially since it exhibits artwork that reflects its Mission.