



« **Millennia of Creativity** »

Press Release

September 22, 2018

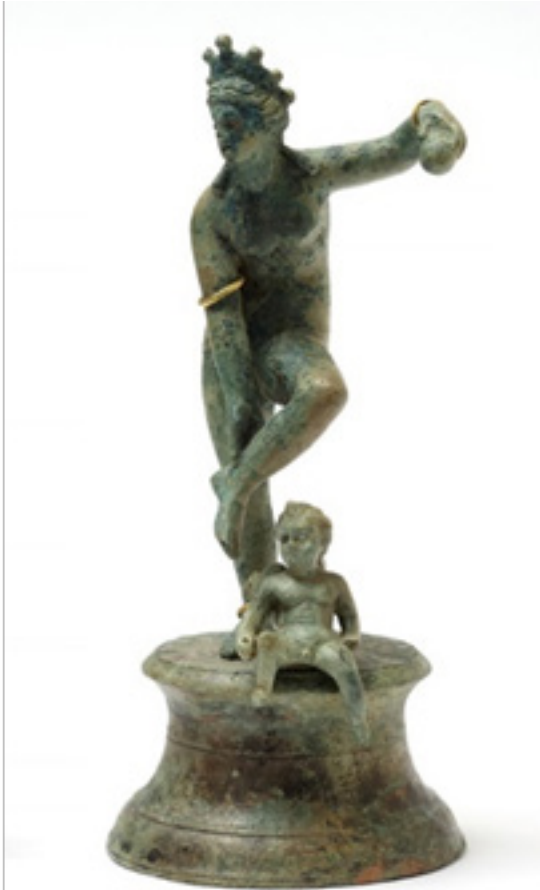
The NABU Museum will open its doors to the public for the first time with an exhibition entitled *Millenia of Creativity*. This exhibition will be presenting exceptional pieces of the archeological collection of the museum all the while drawing parallels with modern and contemporary art.

**Opening on September 22nd 2018 at 6:00 pm
Under the patronage of His Excellency Mr. Saad Hariri.**

On the coast of the Mediterranean in North Lebanon at Ras ach-Chaq'a or Theoprosopon of classical times, in the village of El Heri, stands the Nabu Museum. Named after the Mesopotamian patron god of literacy, the museum offers an exceptional permanent collection of early Bronze and Iron Age artifacts, antiquities from the Roman, Greek, Byzantine, Phoenician and Mesopotamian epochs, rare manuscripts and ethnographic material. The museum's collection also includes examples of local and regional modern and contemporary art by key artists such as Amin al-Bacha, Adam Henein, Dia Azzawi, Helen Khal, Omar Onsi, Mustapha Farroukh, Ismail Fattah, Khalil Gibran, Paul Guiragossian, Ahmad Moualla, Shafic Abboud, Rafic Charaf, Mustafa Ali, Shakir Hassan al-Said. In addition, there is an exceptional collection of works by Saliba Douaihy, covering all phases from the early 1930s until his death in 1994. Notable in the Nabu's collection is a unique selection of Cuneiform tablets and Phoenician stelaes dating from 2330 to 540 B.C.E that recount epic tales, give indications of other economic systems, information on ethnic groups and maps of ancient cities. The museum also holds an extensive collection of 19th and early 20th century photographs and postcards. The library houses books on art, archaeology, history, geography, and a collection of rare manuscripts. In a region of seemingly constant turmoil and strife, Nabu Museum is a space for art and an institution for preserving and enhancing culture reaching out to communities through educational programs, organized tours, public lectures and guided exhibitions. We aim to produce and encourage art practices in the region and to reflect on our contemporary realities. By providing a platform for encounter and cultural exchange and by supporting local art production we hope to challenge various audiences in new and unexpected ways.

The Nabu Museum: a unique archeological collection

The arts of bronze, glass and ceramics, are largely represented. Amongst many master pieces is an elegant votive roman statuette representing Venus, ornamented with golden bracelets, an exceptional roman glass blown carafe in shape of grapes, as well as rare terracotta votive Phoenician statues. Stone artifacts also make up a big part of the collection. There is a notable collection of eye idols as well as funerary stelaes from the Sour, Palmyra and the Arabic peninsula, most notably a spectacular low relief funerary bust of Palmyran provenance. Stimulating and didactic confrontations between art of the past and recent creations, in the aim of highlighting that behind the imperative for rupture, which is the foundation of contemporary art, a thread connects all forms of creation. Hence, artists like Ismail Fattah, Shaker Hassan Al Said and Dia Azzawi are pioneers of the modern Iraqi movement, have filled the gap between modernity and cultural heritage establishing a new aesthetic language for Arab art. An example of a work shedding light of this connection is the work of Dia Azzawi, inspired by the epic of Gilgamesh, representing "Ashtar", goddess symbolizing the female gender, of love and war like that of Eros and Thanatos.



Bronze Statuette of Aphrodite and
Roman, 1st-2nd Century AD
15 x 10 cm
© 2018 NABU Museum



Alabaster Eye Idol
2nd half of 4th century BC
13.9 cm
© 2018 NABU Museum



Limestone funerary relief
Plamyrene, 1st-2nd Century AD
© 2018 NABU Museum



Khalil Gibran
Watercolor on paper
29.7 x 22.3 cm
© 2018 NABU Museum



Saliba Douaihy | Study of a man
Charcoal on paper
61 x 42 cm
© 2018 NABU Museum



Shaker Hassan Al Said | Untitled

Pastel and gouache on paper

45.5 x 33 cm

© 2018 NABU Museum

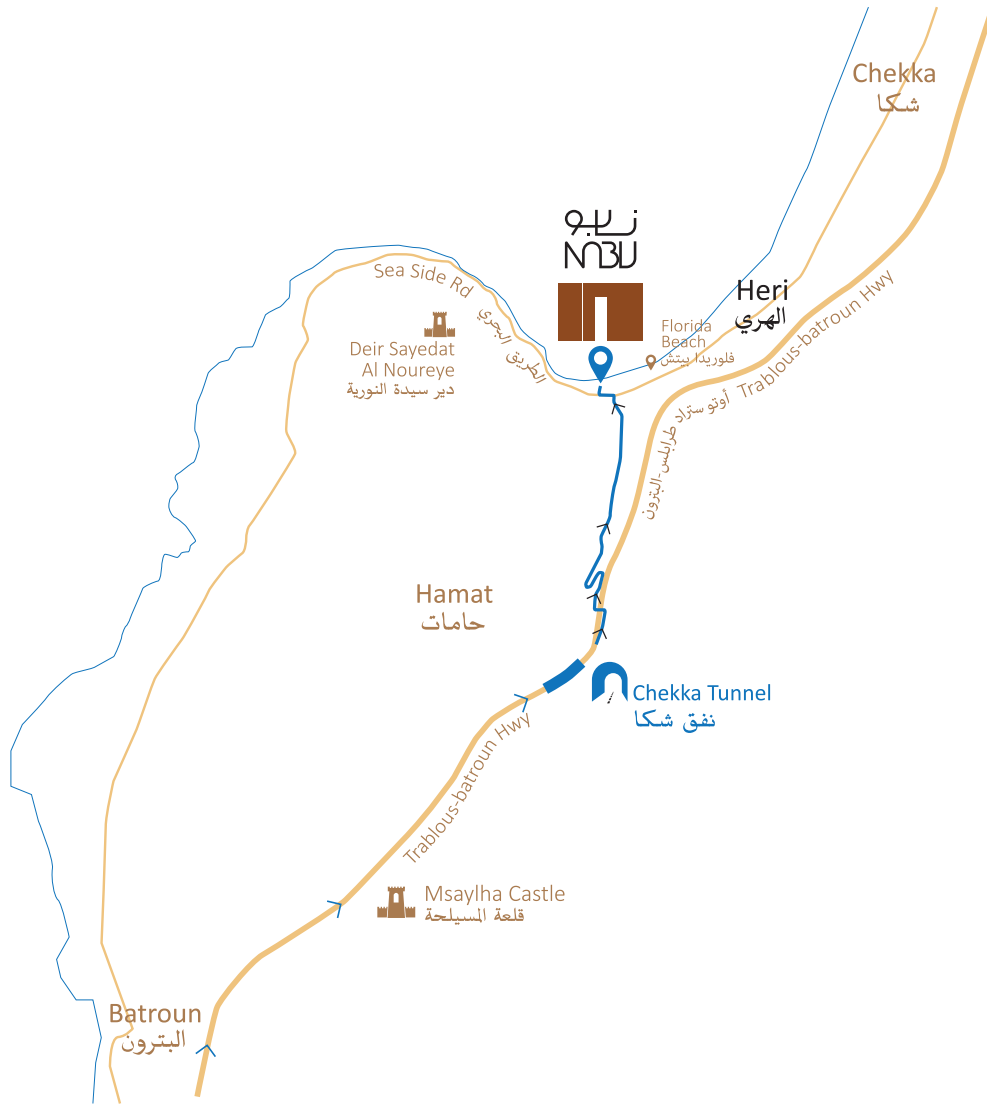


Helen Khal | Blue

Oil on canvas

75.2 x 76.2 cm

© 2018 NABU Museum



Information & Contacts

NABU Museum

El-Heri Village, Qada' Al-Batroun, North Lebanon

Tel: (+961) 6 541 341 – (+961) 6 541 941

Tel: (+961) 1 985 377

Fax: (+961) 1 980 630

Email: info@nabumuseum.com

Website: www.nabumuseum.com

Location; <https://goo.gl/maps/hyuSukh3NvQ2>

Connect with us:

<https://www.facebook.com/nabumuseum/>

<https://twitter.com/nabumuseum>

<https://www.instagram.com/nabumuseum/>

Twitter Instagram Facebook: @nabumuseum