

The Dying Lion of Jörg Madlener

By Dr. Charles Windsor



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Jörg is a new breed of professional western artist that moved to the Middle East choosing to spend their diaspora in an environment that is a mix of the basic elements of earth; water and sand trying to explore the wealth of culture that has created a civilization that lasted for long epochs of time. Though trained as an impressionist in Europe he chose a different stroke and different expression of thoughts, to mix the mythology

with the new myth of the land of residence. Changing from drawing Avant-garde horses with very personalized souls of expression as a representation of his formative years in dressage, Germany. Shortly after his move to Abu Dhabi in Early 2011, he exhibited one of his most unique works – the Dying Lion Nineveh 645 BC - at Splendors of Mesopotamia, hosted by the British Museum at Manarat Al Saadiyat. The small



Lion painting 15, 140x200cm 2011.

glass-framed piece represents the threshold between life and death through a lion killed in combat at the hand of King Ashurbanipal. When viewed from right to left, the breath of life can be seen trying to float back into the dying animal. The sculpture inspired the creation of 50 other works that were shown at Sorbonne University in Reem Island Abu Dhabi during November 2011. The lion, though rarely seen in the Arabian Peninsula or the region yet it is visible in every seen of culture as a symbol of courage, daring and the peek of personal traits of heroes be it mythological ones or real.

Jörg is currently developing a new piece commissioned by the British Museum as part of his Lion series that features the animal standing upright and looking into the eyes of the king. All of these works including the Heron, also shown in Tecklenburg, were inspired by the Song of the Earth by Gustav Mahler and reflect the

variations of space that constitute and embrace the body thus fusing it and therefore unifying it with the ground. In the artist's opinion, art stems from a profound fascination that manifests itself through a painting, sculpture or medium. "Fascination is vision that is no longer based on the possibility of seeing, but the impossibility of not seeing. Fascination is tied in a fundamental way to the neutral, impersonal presence, the indeterminate One, the immense and faceless someone.

About the writer

Dr. Charles Windsor is a culture operator and curator from Kingston, Canada. Through his specialization in Inuit art he examined the effect of primitive painting in Western Arts researching the effect of icons of mythology (horses, bears, bison and lions) in the development of post-war Canadian art.