

LOCAL

Friday, November 3, 2006



A migraine triggered Al-Maghraby's artwork.

The painful art of a sane artist

By Nancy Oteifa

Mahmoud Al-Maghraby took painting in a bid to show the world what his real suffering was like.

Having suffered from a severe type of migraine headache this formative artist from Egypt decided to turn his pain into drawings.

"There is no difference between patients suffering from migraine and people suffering from everyday stress load in life. Suffering from the unbearable pain and severe migraine headache is exactly the same pain we find in our lives," Al-Maghraby tells me after the opening of his exhibition in the Francophonie centre of the French embassy in Kuwait yesterday.

This is Al-Maghraby's third exhibition, which opened under the patronage of the French ambassador to Kuwait Corinne Breuze.

"People's dreams and lives are limited and we can't go beyond these restrictions. We all have barriers that we try to escape from, but unfortunately we fail. The pain in our dreams and the lack of expressing our opinions controls us in the same way the migraine headaches and pain controls the people," he said once we sit down to talk about his work.

"These limitations could be due to cultures' and political believes," Al-Maghraby said noting that he is trying to change these restrictions



Mahmoud Al-Maghraby

and painful realistic life, through the paintings.

He metaphorically compares the migraine with pain and suffering in life in his exhibition that carries the idea of centralism and limitation by using the Egyptian eagle, as a symbol of the controllable authorities.

"One of our major loads in life is the laws and restrictions of the authorities" he said. "I sometimes use currencies as symbol of financial control or even to refer to a period of time. Basically, The money and the authorities are a combination of security, power and pain," he added.

Al-Maghraby believes in the real mission of art. He works with passion and faith to fulfil his mission and he feels his duty is to express people's pain and suffering through his drawings.

Born in Egypt Al-Maghraby graduated from the faculty of fine arts in 2000. He is a member in

syndicate of plastic arts in Egypt. He took part in many exhibitions in Egypt and Kuwait. He is also a winner of the graphic prize of the 13th annual salon of youth in 2001 in Egypt.

Keen on presenting new and unique forms of art in this exhibition he decided to use etching- the art of engraving with acid on metal. This art is not used a lot in Kuwait, he said adding that one can freely express his thoughts better than of the regular painting.

"Etching is much harder than any other fine arts, but it's very interesting and exclusive. It took me around a year to present these selective art works," he said. His work is a combination between the characteristics of agility and subtle sensation. Traits fade, he says, depiction and symbols flourish.

They all seem joined together to serve the artistic idea he wants to represent.