Fragmentation & Unity: The Art of Sari Khoury

January 31 - April 27, 2008

Arab American National Museum
Arab American National Museum
13624 Michigan Avenue
Dearborn, MI 48126

313.582.2266
www.arabamericanmuseum.org

Museum Hours
Wed., Fri. and Sat.: 10 a.m.-6 p.m.
Thu.: 10 a.m.-8 p.m.
Sun.: Noon-5 p.m.

Museum Admission
General: $6
Students, Seniors and Children (6-12): $3
Members and Children under 5: Free

On the cover: Untitled triptych, 1996. Acrylic, 98” x 48”

Gallery guide created by the Arab American National Museum.

The Arab American National Museum expresses its sincere appreciation to the family of Sari Khoury for their assistance in making this important exhibition possible. Their unique insight into the artist’s work and their diligence in archiving and preserving his paintings, writings and ideas helped to make this exhibition meaningful and stimulating for our visitors. We applaud their dedication to sharing their husband’s and father’s legacy with the larger community now and for generations to come.
ARTIST’S STATEMENT
My work has developed over the years from a figurative to a non-figurative approach. However, certain elements of the figure continue to persist. Symbolic content is more suggested than contrived, and emerges out of a personal warehouse of experiences. My visual vocabulary is rooted in my training in the modern traditions ranging from Cubism to Surrealism to Abstract Expressionism. Influences on my work incorporate the enigmatic paintings of Klee and Gorky, the structural sense of Kandinsky and the spontaneity of Matisse. Hence, my work can be hard edged on one hand, and expressionistic on the other. But in either case the emphasis remains on the spontaneity of shape, line, texture and color. I thrive on experimentation with media and tools which allow me to create a variety of sensual surfaces achieved through methods of layering.

My cultural roots encompass Arabic writing, Islamic design, as well as Byzantine images such as icons of the Orthodox Church. The Byzantine influence manifests itself mainly through the suspension of images, the sense of design, and a non-objective approach to the human figure. Elements of the Arabic scripts, Naskhi and Kufic, are manifested in my work in the balance of curvilinear configurations and geometricity.

Source: http://www.khouryart.org/biography.html
The Bride’s Entrance, 1989. Pastel and acrylic, 32” x 42”
Art is my life... we have to prove our capabilities through honest thinking, feeling and acting... my concern has always been with the struggle between fragmentation and unity... Art is an exercise in spontaneity... in honor of our national heritage and for the sake of our compatriots... Art is my life... we have to prove our capabilities through honest thinking, feeling and acting... my concern has always been with the struggle between fragmentation and unity... Art is an exercise in spontaneity... in honor of our national heritage and for the sake of our compatriots... Art is my life... we have to prove our capabilities through honest thinking, feeling and acting... my concern has always been with the struggle between fragmentation and unity... Art is an exercise in spontaneity... in honor of our national heritage and for the sake of our compatriots... Art is my life... we have to prove our capabilities through honest thinking, feeling and acting... my concern has always been with the struggle between fragmentation and unity... Art is an exercise in spontaneity... in honor of our national heritage and for the sake of our compatriots... Art is my life... we have to prove our capabilities through honest thinking, feeling and acting... my concern has always been with the struggle between fragmentation and unity... Art is an exercise in spontaneity... in honor of our national heritage and for the sake of our compatriots... Art is my life... we have to prove our capabilities through honest thinking, feeling and acting... my concern has always been with the struggle between fragmentation and unity... Art is an exercise in spontaneity... in honor of our national heritage and for the sake of our compatriots...
EXHIBITION CHECKLIST

1. **Self Portrait**, c. 1967.  Oil, 26.25” x 29.75”
2. **Untitled**, date unknown.  Acrylic, 42.75” x 37.25”
3. **Untitled**, 1996.  Acrylic, 50.5” x 40.5”
4. **Untitled**, 1996.  Acrylic and pastel, 37” x 31.5”
5. **Antique Symmetry**, 1994.  Acrylic, 33.5” x 35.5”
6. **Untitled**, c. 1990.  Acrylic, 32.5” x 29.25”
7. **Untitled**, 1990.  Mixed media, 32.5” x 22.75”
8. **Untitled**, 1990.  Pastel and charcoal, 31.5” x 23.25”
10. **Unfolding Petals**, 1989.  Acrylic, 31” x 27.5”
11. **Winterscape**, 1989.  Charcoal and chalk, 42.25” x 38”
12. **Untitled**, 1996.  Acrylic, 60” x 56”
13. Sari Khoury’s personal sketchbooks.
15. **Untitled**, 1982.  Charcoal, 13” x 10”
17. Sari Khoury’s personal easel.
27. **Fish Tale**, 1990.  Acrylic, 14.5” x 11.75”
28. **Consumed by Lights**, 1985.  Oil, 52” x 47”
29. **Children of the Night**, 1981.  Acrylic (spray), 47” x 47”
31. **Aerial Script**, c. 1981.  Acrylic (spray), 40” x 40”
ABOUT THE ARAB AMERICAN NATIONAL MUSEUM
The Arab American National Museum is the first museum in the world devoted to Arab American history and culture. Arab Americans have enriched the economic, political and cultural landscape of American life. By bringing the voices and faces of Arab Americans to mainstream audiences, we continue our commitment to dispel misconceptions about Arab Americans and other minorities. The Museum brings to light the shared experiences of immigrants and ethnic groups, paying tribute to the diversity of our nation.

The Arab American National Museum’s mission is to document, preserve, celebrate, and educate the public on the history, life, culture and contributions of Arab Americans. We serve as a resource to enhance knowledge and understanding about Arab Americans and their presence in the United States.

The Arab American National Museum is a proud Affiliate of the Smithsonian Institution in Washington, D.C. and the only Smithsonian Affiliate in southeastern Michigan to date. As such, the AANM may borrow artifacts from the Smithsonian’s 36 million-piece collection and access its education and performing arts programs, expert speakers, teacher workshops, and technical assistance.

To learn more, visit www.arabamericanmuseum.org.

To learn more about the life and work of Sari Khoury, please visit: http://www.khouryart.org/.

Self portrait, c. 1967. Oil, 26.5” x 29.75”
“In anything I do, my concern has always been with the struggle between fragmentation and unity. I am continuously in search of a linear energy that may manifest itself in a bulging line or in the edge of one color against another, or in the rhythmical flow of shapes. I can pursue these energies best in the abstract format and in the contrast refinement of shape, color, and contour.”

Sari Ibrahim Khoury
1941-1997