



maszi

Artist Biography, Publications, and Notable Accolades

BACKGROUND

Masri, an Italian-Lebanese artist, was born in Tripoli, Lebanon, in 1965. A transformative moment occurred at the age of nine when he received a set of colored paints from his uncle. These paints would become his sanctuary for the next fifteen years as he navigated the traumas of Lebanon's protracted civil war. In 1989, Masri relocated to Florence, Italy, where he immersed himself in the study of fine arts at the Academy and the State Institute of Fine Arts. Italy served as both an escape and a new home where he honed his skills in painting, life drawing, and sculpture.

Despite being relatively reticent about self-promotion, Masri's profound talent drew a loyal following of admirers and led to a series of awards, gallery and museum exhibitions, and media recognition. Feeling the winds of change after a quarter-century of artistic creation, Masri finds himself at a new juncture, ready to explore fresh and challenging artistic endeavors.

PORTRAITS

Masri's portraits are a psychological exploration, stripped of daily façades. Inspired by Lucian Freud, Masri captures the essence of his subjects in a way that goes beyond mere physical resemblance. His works offer a profound look into the soul, making visible the emotional and experiential depths of each individual.

LANDSCAPES

Masri's landscapes are a vibrant tapestry of colors and tones. His use of light and shadow serves not merely as a technical device but as a narrative tool, transforming ordinary scenes into realms that verge on the otherworldly. Each work offers a tranquil yet dynamic escape, highlighting Masri's exceptional skill in composition.

ABSTRACTS

In his abstract works, Masri fuses color, movement, and emotion to create canvases that pulse with life. These abstracts often serve as magnified extensions of his portrait works, synergizing with them in the same way a robust Cabernet Sauvignon complements a tangy Roquefort.

TECHNIQUE

Masri's technical versatility has drawn comparisons to masters like Delacroix, Picasso, Emilio, Van Gogh, and Gerhard Richter. Often bypassing brushes in favor of his hands and palette knives, Masri employs a medley of techniques, ranging from abstract expressionism to metaphysical artistry.



Masri Live Painting at the 2023 LA "Portraits Throughout Time" Exhibit



Masri Painting in the Documentary "The Portrait of Masri"

NOTABLE PUBLICATIONS, PRIZES, AND NOMINATIONS

Solo Exhibitions Highlights:

2023: *Full Exclusivity* - The American Art Gallery, Carmel, CA
2023: *Portraits Throughout Time* - The Brentwood Oak Ranch + AAG
2020: *"Compulsion"* - Mary Tomas Gallery, Dallas, TX
2015: *Artifact Gallery* - New York, USA
2005: *The American Art Gallery* - Carmel, California
2002: *Galleria Modigliani* - Milan, Italy

Group Exhibitions Highlights:

2020: *International Biennial of the Norman* - Palermo, Italy
2020: *"Across the river"* - South Korea
2018: *Breckenridge Fine Arts Center* - Portrait Society of America, Texas
2018: *International Art Festival* - South Korea

Membership:

NEUTRAL-ISM - International Art Movement, Italy
Portrait Society of America
Lebanese Artists Association, LAAPS - Lebanon
International Culture & Arts Federation, ICAF - South Korea

Awards & Honors:

2019: *International Prize - "Artist of the Year"* - Mantua Social Theatre, Italy
2019: *International Prize "Diego Velazquez"* - MEAM Museum, Barcelona, Spain
2017: *Work selected for National Museum of Boxing* - Assisi, Italy
2012: *Finalist - Royal Society of Portrait, Mall Gallery, London*
2007: *2nd Prize International Arte Laguna* - Treviso, Italy
2003: *1st Prize International "Art e Società"* - Sicilia, Italy

Publications & Interviews:

2023: *Documentary "The Portrait of Masri"* by Pagliai Film Group in association with Kahuna Film
2023: *Artist Portfolio Magazine Issue #50*, USA
2020: *PATRON Magazine "Summer Issue,"* Dallas, USA

2019: *Art International Contemporary Issue #2, Italy*
2019: *Artist Portfolio Magazine Feature, USA*
2019: *Artist Portfolio Magazine Issue #40, USA*
2019: *Artist Portfolio Magazine Issue #39, USA*
2018: *PATRON Magazine, Dallas, USA*
2016: *PATRON Magazine, Dallas, USA*
2014: *Artist Portfolio Magazine Issue #19, USA*
2014: *Singularart Magazine, USA*
2013: *Amazing Paintings by Masri Hayssam, USA*
2013: *Artist Portfolio Magazine Issue #10, USA*
2012: *Artist Portfolio Magazine Issue #7, USA*
2004: *Cedar Wings Issue #79, Lebanon*
2004: *ARTnews, USA*
2003: *ARTE Magazine, Italy*

PATRONS

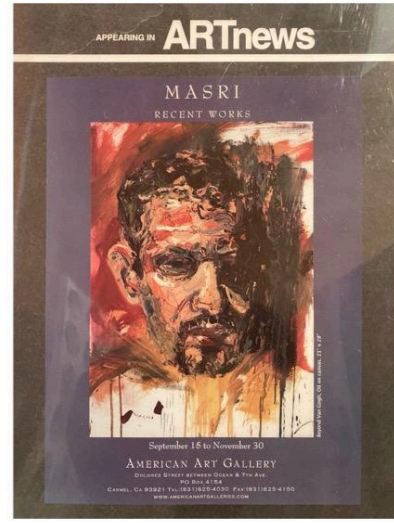
Masri's art has resonated with a diverse and distinguished group of patrons, including Ellen DeGeneres, Ringo Starr, and Tony Coles, showcasing the universal appeal and profound impact of his work.

EXCLUSIVE REPRESENTATION

Masri is exclusively represented by The American Art Gallery in Carmel, California, where his work continues to captivate and inspire audiences.



Masri's work in Ellen DeGeneres's Home



Masri's work on the cover of ARTnews



Masri and Mr Al Gore



Masri's work at Ellen Degeneres's house



UNA PRODUZIONE PAGLIAI FILM GROUP

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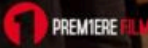
IL RITRATTO DI MASRI

DIRECTED BY
MATTEO GIULIO PAGLIAI

PAGLIAI FILM GROUP PRESENTS A PAGLIAI FILM GROUP PRODUCTION IN ASSOCIATION WITH KAHUNA FILM "IL RITRATTO DI MASRI"
WITH EUGENIO MINIMILI PRESENTED BY LORENZO SCELSI ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR IAN CEDIL SCOTT PRODUCED BY MIRKO FOLLI EDITED BY MATTEO GIULIO PAGLIAI
DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY ANDREA POLI EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS COSIMO PAGLIAI COLLABORATING PRODUCER FRANCESCO BRUSCHETTINI DISTRIBUTED BY PREMIERE FILM



PAGLIAIFILMGROUP



Documentary "The Portrait of Masri" by Pagliai Film Group in association with Kahuna Film



Portraits Throughout Time - The Brentwood Oak Ranch + AAG

Masri Hayssam

Dallas, TX
artmasri.com
@masri_arts



New Expression 01 | Mixed Media on Canvas | 20" x 16"

Artist Portfolio Magazine Issue #50, USA

INTERNATIONAL PRIZE
VELÁZQUEZ

Masri



Looking at you, self portrait, 2019, tempera, acrylic on canvas, cm 76x61

haymasri@hotmail.com

Italian Lebanese Artist. The artist was born in Tripoli-Lebanon. He moved to Italy in 1990. Most of his childhood and young age he experienced during a bloody civil war for fifteen years. His works can be divided into different periods and different series of works. .."I am always on the move discovering something artistically new and impressive; something significant with an eye-opening impact on the human psyche; something that does not let monotony and rote repetition take hold of my soul and the flow of my thoughts. This insatiable and agonizing feeling of unexpressed great potential inside of me is not fulfilled by the versatility in my work.

It is easy for one to be haughty, vainglorious and pretentious, but to be humble needs deep understanding to the universal truth in the conscience of the universe



Artist Portfolio Magazine Feature

Masri Hayssam

Dallas, TX
@masri_arts



Mery - Tempera on Canvas - 40" x 50"



Looking to the Sky - Self Portrait - Mixed Media on Canvas - 61 x 71 cm

Artist Portfolio Magazine #40, USA



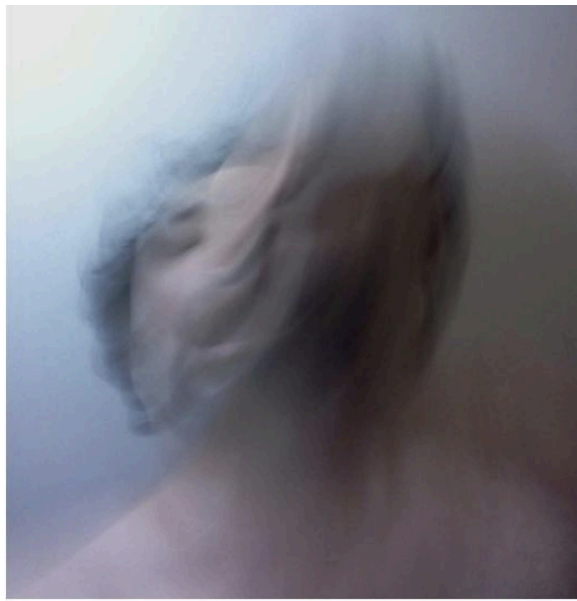
Selfies: The New Self-Portrait?

CAPTURING ONE'S OWN FACE



S.P65 (2014), Masri Hayssam, Italy

Singularart Magazine, USA



Masri Hayssam
Out of Me - Self Portrait
<http://www.artworksmasri.com>

Artist Portfolio Magazine Issue #10, USA

ArtWorld

MASRI HAYSSAM
Self-Portrait of An Artist
BY HANIA JORDAK

*To all who wish to think
 To all who desire to dream and live through the sunset
 To all who seek the color tubes and spray their wishes
 To all who can not express their thoughts and their anger
 To all sensible, delicate persons
 To dedicate my art
 To share, from one moment to another, in continuity.*

Masri's dedication to his website visitors (from www.artworksmasri.com)

"The earliest memory I have is my passion to paint. This passion grew with me. As a kid, I bought art books, and my big passion was color tubes. That made me very happy," said Masri when Cedar Wings caught up with him during his recent visit to Lebanon. Born in Lebanon, this Lebanese painter-gone-international had studied architecture in Tripoli and traveled to Florence to pursue studies in graphic design, photography, and art history. Florence is where he has resided for 14 years, and where his atelier is located. He has held exhibitions in Italy, Norway, Switzerland, USA, and Japan.

CEDAR WINGS Issue #79 The March 2016 14

Painting: Self-Portrait of An Artist

Masri is a painter with a capable and comprehensive palette equally at home with landscapes and portraits, concerned in an abstract expressionist style. Sometimes criticized for having different styles, he says: "I attempt to master each technique I apply. And I put a lot of love in my paints. I control the technique rather than the other way round. An actor can be the comic or tragic, on stage and on screen. Why can't the same apply to a painter? I find it strange that actors spend 40 years painting the same topic."

The key to understanding Masri's art, and his most innovative works, are his self-portraits, which number around 50, samples of which you see in this article. "If you want to understand my art, look at my self-portraits. If you focus at any of my paintings, you'll see my self-portrait in different forms and different expressions".

1. Self-Portrait, Oil on canvas, Size: 60 x 60 cm.
 2. Self-Portrait, Oil on canvas, Size: 60 x 60 cm.
 3. Portrait of Masri, Oil on canvas, Size: 45 x 30 cm.
 4. The World of Masri, Oil on canvas, Size: 60 x 60 cm.
 5. Self-Portrait, Oil on canvas, Size: 60 x 60 cm.
 6. Self-Portrait, Oil on canvas, Size: 60 x 60 cm.
 7. Self-Portrait, Oil on canvas, Size: 60 x 60 cm.
 8. Moments of Lebanon, Oil on canvas, Size: 80 x 60 cm.

Masri's self-portraits, rather than painted, are carved using the spatula technique. They speak of solitude, perceptiveness, anxiety, anger, and rebellion. They depict voices and conflicts and a man deep in thought. The man is young and old, and if there is a suggestion of contentment in any of them, it is something that must be sought. The face is sometimes clear and sharp, sometimes vague and mystical. The self-portrait is sometimes in focus – and when it isn't, it is engaged in a wild search for focus where only the eyes remain distinguishable, a guide to the character's dilemma.

For Masri, starting a painting is like slipping into a different world as a mad search for the right colors. "I mix the colors sometimes directly on the canvas. I can not control my touches because my hands tremble, behaving directly. Nervously. Spontaneously. Sincerely. Handling the canvas is usually violent to a large extent. I prefer that nobody sees me when painting. Suddenly, in a sudden end to this very nervous and uncontrollable situation, I feel I should stop and not touch the canvas anymore and that if I did touch it, I would destroy everything. I treat paint with the utmost sensitivity, like you would a newborn baby."

Painting requires concentrated energy.

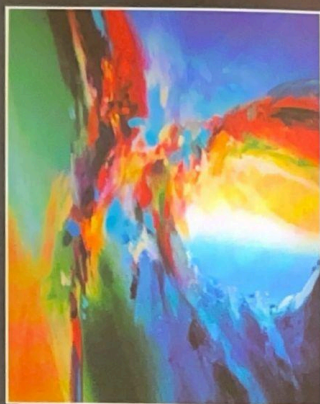
Says Masri: "My style is that I do not like to use a lot of words. I prefer to conserve this energy for my paintings. The best conversations I've had are with my paints. By the time I finish a painting, I feel tired." It must be interesting seeing the embodiment of your psychic energy on canvas, captured forever in color and form. The toughest thing about being an artist? "To continue with the art, and find something new to create and to find inspiration."

Masri's art exhibits mixed techniques ranging between abstractionism and realism, and as any true expression of human consciousness, it exhibits diversity, inconsistency, and excitement, traveling from the poetic to the harsh and from the pure and innocent to the overwhelmingly sarcastic. "My aim is to create art that lures the viewer into its world, that demands to be seen. When my work moves people, I feel that the message I meant to communicate has reached home," he says.

"Each, lush and hot colors, small, thick and so beautifully drawn are Masri's works that trying to describe them is like explaining the taste of water to a Martian. One has to see his works, touch them (with the back of one's hand) and then turn off the light, so the inner luminosity radiates..." writes Alec Bladen at California's American Art Gallery web-

CEDAR WINGS Issue #79 The March 2016 14

Cedar Wings Issue #79, Lebanon



Paesaggio dell'anima
acrilico su tela, cm 140x100

MONDI DI COLORI E BRANI SCONOSCIUTI



Masri sta preparando per una personale a Lecce con il Metropolitan International Art dal 25 aprile al 4 maggio

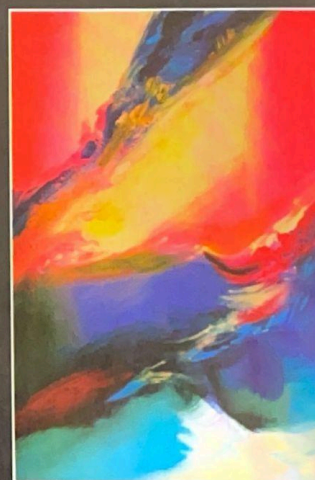
MASRI

Hayssam

Studio in Firenze
Borgo Ognissanti 63/r
tel/Fax 055-268618
Cell. 339-5481624
e-mail:masri@artmasri.com



Luci e colori
acrilico su tela, cm 120x100



Brano Sconosciuto
acrilico su tela, cm 120x80

Masri Hayssam è un giovane pittore libanese di grande qualità pittorica costantemente proteso alla conquista di una propria individualità estetica.

L'artista si cimenta in varie forme espressive: grafica, scultura, pittura raggiungendo in ognuna di tali forme vette davvero singolari. Di solida cultura europea Masri attraversa esperienze che vanno dall'impressionismo all'espressionismo per giungere all'informale.

Il pennello di Masri incontra e scontra sempre con un tocco sicuro, inconfondibile, poetico, delicato, ma anche ricco di forti suggestioni. Gli oli e acrilici presentati in questa personale trasformano la calligrafia araba, studiata con attenzione dal pittore, in possibili forme umane in movimento con un forte andamento musicale. Si può parlare di astratto certamente

ma anche in questo caso la pittura di Masri va al di là delle proprie ascendenze. Sono forme e colori, quelle del pittore, che si avvolgono e si disgiungono in volute musicali in cui talvolta la poesia, la melodia si spezzano con rabbia per lampi improvvisi che squarciano la tela.

FRANCA CARNASCIALI

... costantemente proteso alla conquista di una propria individualità estetica, quasi espressionistica, si avventura nello spazio dell'informale da prima con uno spatolare a tocchetti: un pannelleggiare nervoso per cesure arabeschi segni di acuta, libera esecuzione. Quindi con una pittura fusa, tonale suggestiva, nella quale i vari momenti si amalgamano, il segno si ammorbida, il colore si fa vaporoso, i grafemi linguistici si convertono in tratti di libera

geometria, assunti nel regno di un'immaginazione di sicuro gusto.

... e una suggestione di musica trapela anche dalle tavolette di grafica che fanno pensare ad un agile alfabetario di attenta qualità formale.

ELVIO NATALI

Lui dice:

... cerco di dare una forte emozione nei miei dipinti esprimendo l'amore che ho per la pittura e per i colori senza discorsi inutili e tanto intellettualismo. Mi piace andare più diretto, più veloce, più spontaneo, vero ... senza limite e lasciare il pennello a volte guidarmi e portarmi ad altri mondi, mondi pieni di colore e pensieri e brani sconosciuti...