

LERC Inaugurates Two New Pieces into its Museum

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The Lebanese Emigration Research Center (LERC) at Notre Dame University-Louaize (NDU) recently inaugurated two beautiful works of art donated to the LERC Lebanon Migration Nucleus Museum by two Mexican artists of Lebanese descent, sculptor Ms. Nour Kuri, and painter Ms. Gabriela Abud.

Ms. Abud donated the painting “*La Independencia Nos Ha Dado Presente Y Futuro*” [*Independence Has Given Us a Present and a Future*], which she completed in 2010. The scene depicts children celebrating Mexico’s Independence Day. The painting is of vivid colors that reflect the vibrant colors Mexico for which the country is known and is adorned by “*The Angel of Independence*” most commonly known by the shortened name *El Ángel* and officially known as *Monumento a la Independencia*, one of the most important symbols and recognizable landmarks in Mexico.



“La Independencia Nos Ha Dado Presente Y Futuro” by Gabriela Abud, Lebanon Migration Nucleus Museum, NDU, Lebanon

Ms. Abud holds degrees in art history, watercolor technique, human figure drawing, and painting. Her works are exhibited in the Museum-Study Master Luis Nishizawa and in the National Watercolor Museum Alfredo Guati Rojo. She has held 36 solo exhibitions in various

countries including Mexico, the U.S.A., and Lebanon, among others. She has participated in 140 group exhibitions.

The sculpture Ms. Nour Kuri donated to the Museum is titled, “Aldea,” or “The Village.” The bronze sculpture (24 x 36 x 14 cm) was completed in 2010. Sculptor Kuri describes the sculpture as a representation of the village [Jezzine] from where her father migrated to Mexico, leaving behind his parents, brothers, and friends, and the life he knew in search of a dream he eventually made come true. The artist donated this sculpture in memory of all the “marvelous people” her father left behind.



“AlDea” by Nour Kuri, Lebanon Migration Nucleus Museum, NDU, Lebanon

Ms. Kuri’s style is one of “modern, stylized human shapes leaning toward abstraction but maintaining closeness with the original source of inspiration.” Her recurrent theme is “the human figure, searching to express it in different instances of life, individually, or as family, or even as a community.”



(from left): Ms. Liliane Haddad of LERC, Ms. Nour Kuri, Ms. Jasmin Lilian Diab of LERC, and Ms. Gabriela Abud.

Dr. Guita Hourani, Director of the LERC, who chaired the event, said that it was a proud moment for NDU and the Museum to have two recognized artists of Lebanese descent donate a piece of themselves to the Museum.

In an emotional speech, Kuri said that she was grateful for the opportunity to have her piece exhibited at NDU, and she emphasized what her *AlDea* represents for her father and family where it needs to be – in Lebanon. She added that she felt closure to the process of migration, which her father experienced, now that her piece is permanently on exhibition in Lebanon.

Abud talked about her piece being in a way a recognition of what Mexico gave to her family and a tribute to the children who are the future. She also thanked NDU and the LERC for the opportunity to have a piece of her work exhibited at the Museum.

NDU staff, lecturers, and NDU students, attended the intimate ceremony. Artists in attendance along with some of the attendees joined the two artists for their exhibition at the Holy Spirit University in Kaslik (USEK).