

“AlDea” One of LERC’s Museum Sculpture Exhibited in MACAM

**By Dalia Atallah,
LERC Akiki Grant Recipient
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An important sculpture from the Lebanon Migration Nucleus Museum at the Lebanese Emigration Research Center (LERC), Notre Dame University-Louaize (NDU), was exhibited outside of the LERC Museum for the first time on November 15, 2014.

The work of Mexican Sculptor Ms. Nour Kuri titled, “*AlDea*” or “*The Village*”, which she donated to the LERC Museum in October 2014, was exhibited alongside other sculptures of the artist at the Modern and Contemporary Art Museum (MACAM) in Alita, Jbeil.

The exposition in which *AlDea* was displayed also featured a retrospective exhibition showing the wood sculptures of the Lebanese master sculptor Youssef Basbous, and in parallel, the works of the participants in the Age of Wood competition.

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

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.”



Dr. Hourani, Ms. Diab and Ms. Atallah at MACAM (Nov. 2014)

Ms. Kuri's sculpture reached an even wider audience when the LERC agreed to loan it to MACAM along with five other sculptures that the artist is exhibiting at this venue. MACAM is a contemporary art museum with approximately 4,000-m² of exhibition areas that houses a Hall for Installation Art and another for Modern and Contemporary Art. MACAM is the result of the vision of Industrialist Cesar Nammour who bequeathed the land and the buildings to this inventive project.



The Nour Kuri Collection at MACAM (Nov. 2014)

MACAM has a collection of more than 1,000 books and catalogs about art in Lebanon at its RectoVerso Library in Monot Street, Beirut, which is a well-known reference library for artists and art lovers.

LERC Director Dr. Guita Hourani, the Center's Research Assistant Ms. Jasmin Lilian Diab, and Akiki Internship Grant Recipient Ms. Dalia Atallah attended the exhibition.