

Australian-born Lebanese artist famous for painting in chocolate visits LERC

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Reported by Elie Nabhan

Winner of the Young Achiever Award granted to artists under the age of 24 and student of one of Australia's finest schools of art, the Julian Ashton Art School, Australian-born Lebanese artist, Mr. Sid Chidiac, was accompanied by Dr. Clovis Karam of NDU on his visit to the Lebanese Emigration Research Center.

Mr. Chidiac has exhibited his work in group exhibitions in Sydney, but in 1999 he began solo exhibitions. In early 2003, he held an exhibition at the Australian Consulate in New York entitled Modern Portraits, where he showed his large painting of The Last Supper.

Ever since his days at art school, Mr. Chidiac work has focused on oil and canvas. In 2005 he was commissioned by a private sponsor to begin painting the history of the Phoenicians and has since completed ten paintings of the anthology.

However, his revolutionary idea of painting with chocolate gave him an international exposure. His chocolate portraits have been a huge hit both with the public and media and have been exhibited in major cities around the world. Mr. Chidiac was recognized for painting with a new medium, which was chocolate, winning the gold medal at the 8th International Culinary Art Show in Warth in Austria. Mr. Chidiac's chocolate paintings have found a home in the Chocolate Museum in Barcelona.



Mr. Sid Chidiac at the Lebanon and Migration Museum at NDU (Oct 2009).

Always seeking to remain innovative in whatever form of painting, Mr. Chidiac remains universal in his art. He also devotes a considerable amount of time to charities,

fundraising from art exhibitions, and donating paintings to several charities. He is keen to continue this work to help the young and the sick in the United States and around the world. Originating from Becharre, Mr. Chidiac is passionate about the reforestation of Lebanon with the Cedrus Libanus.

Mr. Chidiac also represents the World Lebanese Cultural Union, an NGO associated with the United Nations, in New York City.

Ms. Guita Hourani, Director of LERC, extended a personal invitation to Mr. Chidiac, to participate in the upcoming FAAD/LERC exhibition of paintings of the Lebanese diaspora that will take place in spring 2010. Following his meeting with Ms. Hourani, Mr. Chidiac was taken on a tour of the Lebanon and Migration Museum.