

Sculptor Nour Kuri of Mexico Donates a Sculpture to the LERC/NDU Museum

December 4, 2013

By: Jasmin Lilian Diab, LERC

Wednesday December 4, 2013 was a day of joy at the Lebanese Emigration Research Center (LERC) at Notre Dame University (NDU) because the Center received two priceless gifts from two Mexican artists of Lebanese descent—Sculptor Nour Kuri and Painter Gabriela Abud.

Ms. Kuri donated a splendid sculpture entitled “Aldea” or “The Village”. The sculpture is made of bronze (24 x 36 x 14 cm) that the artist completed in 2010. Ms. 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 for a dream in Mexico where he made his dream come true. The artist donated this sculpture in memory of all the “marvelous people” her father left behind.



“Aldea” [The Village] by artist Nour Kuri, LERC/NDU Museum (December 2013)

Ms. Kuri was born in Mexico City. She studied at the Anahuac University, and holds a Bachelor of Social Sciences Communication. Since 1994 she has been working with the sculptors Marcela Arbide and Eduardo Nasta at the Monumental Sculpture Atelier where she discovered a new way of communicating her emotions and feelings through Bronze, Marble, Wood Terra Cotta and Glass.

Her style, as seen in the sculpture bequeathed to LERC, is a “modern, stylized human shapes leaning towards 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.”

The two art pieces were brought to the Center by Mr. Nabil Semaan, official representative of the *Alfredo Harp Helú Foundation* in Lebanon. The Foundation generously financed the shipping and customs clearance of the two items as its contribution to this endeavor.

Philanthropist Alfredo Harp Helú established the Foundation with the belief that “*actions for the benefit of people are seeds that sprout now and that will start growing for the well-being of future generations.*” His Foundation’s different programs ranging from education and culture to sports and development have been empowered by his vision and philanthropy.

With the assistance of Mr. Antonio Trabulse Kaim Director of the *Instituto Cultural Mexicano Libanes* and Mr. Semaan, LERC was able to receive these two invaluable items to enrich its collection in general and that of Mexico in particular.



Mr. Semaan and Dr. Hourani unveiling the sculpture at LERC offices with Chief Archivist Ms. Liliane Haddad (December 2013)

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The sculpture will be displayed at the museum in a ceremony during Ms. Kuri’s visit to the Center in 2014.