

W O R L D
SCULPTURE NEWS

HK\$55/US\$7/
CAN\$7/£3.50/€6

VOLUME 21 NUMBER 1 WINTER 2015



XIE YUANQING



Jonathan Thomson * **Philip**
Blacker * **Jagannath Panda** *
Kochi-Muziris Biennale * **Reviews**

show is a lyrical narrative of life's splendor and glory and an emblematic visualization of passage of time. An extension to his previous exhibitions at Assar Art Gallery, *Life* portrays the artist's perpetual belief in the eternal cycle of life, executed in his signature aesthetic language.

Believing in design as ideology and drawing, painting, and sculpting—the three art forms in which he is well versed—as subcategories to the design thinking and methodology, Lavassani considers himself a designer whose aesthetic takes in both two- or three-dimensional forms.

Inspired by Persian poetry and mythology, Lavassani gives physical dimension to his ingenuity through his recreation and re-presentation of classic notions in a unique contemporary way. *Life* as an ongoing cycle so his artistic approach, ideological slant, and craftsmanship all become one and shape his creations.

The use of recycled paper in his uniquely designed large-scale papier-mâché sculptures is a perfect example of how his ideology affects his methodology and to what extent his sculptures refer to their materiality. During the actual act of making of a sculpture, Lavassani's initial drawings take on a new life and the virtual borders between physical and intellectual labor are torn down: thinking becomes a seamless synthesis of theory and practice.

In his most recent exhibition, Lavassani his papier-mâché sculptures are the shape of a table, a detailed tablecloth, some tableware, and a colossal chandelier of the same material. As viewers walk through the show, a journey of life they witness different phases of the cycle of life. His artistry is realized in the Persian literal and mythical motifs he has made on the table legs as his subjective declaration, exclaiming the transformative potential of aesthetics.



Reza Lavassani, *Life*, 2011-2014, papier-mâché installation. Image: Courtesy of the Artist and Assar Art Gallery.

Reza Lavassani was born in 1962 in Tehran, Iran, where he currently lives and works. He has held several solo exhibitions in Tehran and has been subject of numerous national and international group exhibitions. He has received several awards including UNESCO's *Noma Concourse* in 2007 and 1994 and the first prize of Tehran's *4th Biennial of Sculpture* and *6th Biennial of Illustration*. His work has been included in a number of publications inside and outside Iran in addition to being part of several important private collections.

Assar Art Gallery is at 16 Barforushan Alley, Iranshahr St., Karimkhan Zand St., 15836 Tehran. Tel: (98-21) 8832 6689. Website: www.assarartgallery.com.

...

ISRAEL

A Singular Career

Engel Gallery Tel Aviv is presenting *Elements – A New Exhibition* by Jack Jano through March 26, 2015. Jano is a local artist who plows, plants, reaps, and builds the meaning of the place. His is an endless exploration in fire, in water, in air,

and in earth. In the exhibition, Jano's works are spread across the gallery, forming installations and groupings that recount the story we all share through the eyes of a visual artist, who, with his artistic language touches on the places in which we live.

In *Elements*, Jano takes us on a journey on those things that make up his work, like a moment of silence in his artistic language, which delves into the layers of Hebrew culture: The white city, smoke rising from the windows along its de-

serted streets—fire; a house on top of which rests a rusted iron dome with splatters of sky-blue gouache paint, and which stands in the source of life—water; the transparent city made of iron mesh surrounded by a wall of wire—air; the village built on the mountain and connected at its core to the ground—earth; and the fifth element, a boat made of rusted iron that moves on opaque black liquid (burnt oil), and on its sail the word "Thou Shalt Love" seared into it. This is the only piece in the show that contains writing, the topmost element in our existence here, if we see this place as the place in which we want to live as its dwellers, not as wayfarers. The nomadic spirit is deeply engrained in Jano's soul.

Born in Fez, Morocco, Jack Jano emigrated to Israel at an early age and settled in Shlomi. After his graduation from the Bezalel Academy, he exhibited widely. He met Joseph Beuys, who was intrigued by Jano's art. Beuys wanted to maintain the connection through letters but the connection with a German artist whose language was foreign to Jano faded. In New York, he shows works at the OK Harris Gallery. The art-



Clockwise from above: Jack Jano, *Thou Shalt Love*, *Air 1*, and *Water*. All images: Courtesy of the Artist and Engel Gallery.