

Press release – March 2016

The Sursock Museum is pleased to announce its upcoming exhibition *Assadour: Landscape in Motion*, opening on Thursday 17 March from 18:00 to 21:00.

The opening is open to the public, and everyone is welcome to attend.

On Tuesday 15 March, from 12:00 to 14:00, the Museum will hold a press preview to give journalists the opportunity to view the exhibition and speak to/interview the curators and the artist.

Assadour: Landscape in Motion

Guest curator: Joseph Tarrab

Co-curator: Nora Razian

Opening Thursday 17 March, from 18:00 to 21:00

The exhibition will be on view until 30 May, 2016

Special Exhibitions Hall, Level -2

Assadour: Landscape in Motion traces the career of the artist Assadour, a key figure in the history of art in Lebanon, from the 1960s to the present day.

The exhibition showcases over one hundred works on paper as well as paintings and artist books spanning the last fifty years.

Assadour's first major solo exhibition in Lebanon brings together never-before-seen works, new paintings and etchings, and earlier works held in the Museum's collection, generously bequeathed by Pierre Cardahi in 1996. Cardahi was a longtime friend of Assadour and an avid collector of his works, often visiting his studio in Paris to select them. Over his lifetime, he amassed over a hundred works by Assadour, many of which are shown here together for the first time.

The work of Assadour is an exploration of the modern condition, one of alienation and unrootedness. His detailed compositions depict bodies that are transformed, transfigured and morphed with architectural and cosmological objects. His early fascination with technology, landscape, and the human body continued on later into his career.

In the 1980s, Assadour's work began to focus on the abstracted landscape, where geometric shapes and colors create visions of changing cities, seemingly torn apart and rearranged according to a master narrative. His works from the 1990s onwards return to the study of the human figure in space.

Drawing on influences ranging from Buddhist iconography and African tribal masks to Renaissance paintings, Assadour's body of work questions our place in the world, the construction of identity, and the role of fate, time, and history.

On Saturday 19 March, from 16:30 to 17:30, Assadour will be in conversation with guest curator Joseph Tarrab. The talk will take place in the Sursock Museum auditorium.

About the artist

Assadour was born in Beirut in 1943, where he studied under Paul Guiragossian and with the painter Guvder, as well as with Jean Khalifé at the Italian Cultural Institute. He completed further studies at the Academia Belle Arti Pietro Vannucci, Perugia, Italy and at the École Supérieure des Beaux-Arts, Paris, France (Atelier Coutaud). He was a member of the committee of the Salon de Mai de Paris (1974-1977), of La Jeune Gravure Contemporaine, Paris, (1975-1979), and since 1975 is a member of Les Peintres-Graveurs Français.

About Joseph Tarrab

Joseph Tarrab is a Lebanese journalist and art critic. After studies in economics, sociology, and philosophy, he opted for cultural journalism and art criticism in the early 1970s. He has published more than 150 essays and books, including monographs on Paul Guiragossian, Hussein Madi, and Jamil Molaeb.

About the Sursock Museum

The Sursock Museum is a modern and contemporary art museum in the center of Beirut first opened in 1961, with a mission to collect, preserve, and exhibit local and international art.

Through our collection, archives, exhibitions, and public programs, we aim to produce knowledge on art practices in the region and explore work that reflects on our contemporary moment. Our goal is to support local art production, to provide a platform for encounter and experimentation with art and ideas, and to inform and challenge different audiences in new and unexpected ways.

Opening hours

Open daily from 10:00-18:00

Late opening on Thursdays from 12:00-21:00

Closed on Tuesdays

Admission to the Sursock Museum is free of charge.

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