

MONA SAUDI:

Mona Saudi was born in Amman on the 1st of October 1945. As a young girl she was passionate for art – a love of poetry and music – Mona Saudi's dream was to leave to Paris. When her father refused her permission to go to university at seventeen she left for Beirut in defiance, immediately thrown into the vivid circles of artist and intellectuals such as Adonis, Paul Guiragossian and Michel Basbous who were to become lifelong friends. She stayed for a year and held her first exhibition of drawings at Café de la Press in 1963, making enough from sales to afford a ticket to cross the Mediterranean to Paris.

Enrolled in the Ecole des Beaux-Arts, Saudi soon focused her studies on the art of sculpture, inspired equally by frequent visits to the Louvre to contemplate Etruscan, Greek, African & Egyptian art and the Museum of Modern Art where she was immediately taken by Picasso, Miro, Van Gogh, Giacometti, Calder and Constantin Brancusi. While a student at the Beaux Arts she created her first sculpture in 1965 by carving stone. Mona started her own organic abstract style in sculpture that evolved until these days.

Over the last half century, Mona Saudi has been shown in solo and collective exhibitions worldwide, recently at the Mosaic Rooms in London, and also at venues that include Musee d'Art Moderne, Paris, National Museum of Women in the Arts, Washington D.C., the Institut du Monde Arabe, Paris, and the British Museum, London.

Her works are featured in the collections of the National Museum for Women in the Arts, Washington DC, the Barjeel Foundation (Sharjah), The National Gallery of the Fine Arts, Amman, Jordan, the Sharjah Museum, UAE, The Khaled Shoman Foundation, Amman, Jordan, the Sursock Museum, Beirut, Lebanon, Dar Al Athar Al Islamiyya, Kuwait and the Museum of Modern Art, Kuwait, the Ministry of Culture, Cairo, Egypt, the Assila Museum, Morocco, and the French Embassy, Amman, Jordan.

A monumental work by Mona Saudi entitled Spiritual Geometry (1987), stands outside the Institut du Monde Arabe in Paris, the only sculpture permitted to grace the surrounding precinct by its architect Jean Nouvel. The Institut also owns two more works of hers.

Recent acquisitions have included those by The British Museum and the Sharjah Art Foundation.

Mona Saudi lives and works in Beirut, Lebanon and Amman, Jordan.

Source: Lawrie Shabibi Gallery and Salma Tuqan, curator