



ALFRED BASBOUS (1924 - 2006)

Born in Rachana in 1924, three years following the birth of his brother Michael, Alfred Basbous spent a peripatetic childhood: In a family that has constantly to move, according to the mission of the father, who was a parish priest. The Basbous family regularly returned to Rachana, their home village, their indelible mark.

As a child, Alfred Basbous was impressed by the feather reed used by his father to illustrate the Bible. Later, Michael proposed to his teenage brother to help him polishing the stone sculptures and working on the hardest stone blocks. This was the first step towards sculpturing.

Alfred Basbous did not last long in the company of British Railways where he worked as a mason. By the late 1950s, he began carving works in wood, metal and stone, he first started up reproducing animals - poultry, rabbits, reptiles - and nude females. Encouraged by Michel, Alfred exhibited in Beirut, at Alecco Saab gallery in 1958; this exhibition has shown a success and introduced him into the world of sculpture.

In 1960, he received a scholarship from the French government and became a pupil of the sculptor René Collamarini at "The National Fine Arts School in Paris" (L'Ecole Nationale des Beaux-Arts in Paris). In 1961, his works included the International Sculpture Exhibition at the Musée Rodin, in Paris.

Upon returning home, Alfred Basbous noticed his career exploding. He chose to settle in the village of Rachana that his brother was planning to rehabilitate. If one draws its inspiration from the modernism of Auguste Rodin, Henry Moore and Jean Arp, Alfred became impregnated with the nature of Lebanon and was passionate in the forms of the human body, especially the feminine curves.