

Mohammed Al-Thaqafi

Born in 1975 in Taif, Saudi Arabia, Mohammed Al-Thaqafi is amongst the pioneers of Saudi Arabia art scene. He has been distinguished in the art of sculpting both locally and internationally. The artist holds a Masters degree in Fine Art, Sculpting department from Umm Al Qura University where his thesis topic was "An Analytical Study of Contemporary Sculpture Trends in Saudi Arabia".

His style is characterized by his ability to alter raw materials while highlighting their inherent beauty. He expands the space of a shape and creates the value of the abstract beauty through the curiosity of materials. He believes that an artist's role is not in the creation of beauty, but also to be the reflection of senses and humanity; "I am busy with humans and their intellectual & psychological issues. The two contradictions which begin with Man and Woman ... and even Life and Death" says Al Thagafi regarding his inspiration.

His work has been showcased extensively in group local and international exhibitions including Exhibition of UNESCO in Austria 2007, Anamel exhibition in Germany, 2008, Misk International Symposium in Riyadh 2018, represented by Mono Gallery at Misk Art Fair in 2019, and many others in Egypt, Syria, Kuwait, Oman, Morocco, and Russia. Some of his solo exhibitions include; the "Legendary" exhibition at Shoubra Palace in Taif in 2007, and The Desert Heritage exhibition in Khobar 2016. He is also the chairman of the Fine Arts committee in the Art & Culture Association in Taif, and an active member in The House of Artists group in Jeddah, as well as the Arab Talents Association in Morocco.

Al Thagafi won a number of awards, some of which are; The Oscar sculpture in the Biennale of Culture and Arts in Cairo in 2011, and the first place in the Al-Qasbi Fine Arts Competition 2013. His work can be found in many local and international organizations.

Al Thagafi believes in research and experiment and is mainly interested in locally sourced natural materials. In describing Al Thagafi's work, Artist Youssef Matouk says: "He uses all available environmental raw materials and solids, and he mixes different mediums to be sculpted in a very magnificent style. He focuses on using the resources of his own land; thus, he reflects the Arabic origins. However, he opens the door for the new artistic generation to seek uniqueness and to evolve in their own re-search."