

# Mohamed Abla

## BIOGRAPHY

Mohamed Abla was born in 1953 in Egypt.

Renowned Egyptian artist Mohammed Abla, winner of the 1998 Biennial, is a man of curious character and many faces. He has an intense desire for expressing feeling through his paintings. As a young artist he traveled the world, almost detached from his native ties, reluctant to settle in one place. Abla had to struggle his way through college by painting houses to make just enough money for his tuition and bare necessities. Graduating at the top of his class in 1977, he took part in Egypt's "Young Artists Exhibition," winning the grand prize. He traveled and painted through Spain and France experiencing first-hand the great museums of Europe. With an enhanced competence in his abilities, Abla moved onto Germany where he once more toured the extensive galleries. Finding one gallery owner, he showed his work and was transported to elation by the owner's enthusiastic response. "He saw my sketches, loved them, bought them and asked if I would put on an exhibition." Six more exhibitions followed in the next 2 years. Germany was the turning point in his life and is fast becoming his second home. Abla says that he has an internal feeling that art is the key to bringing cultural and environmental awareness to people.

## CHRONOLOGICAL TIMELINE

- 1953 Born in Mansoura, Egypt
- 1977 Graduated from the Faculty of Fine Arts in Alexandria (Painting Section)  
Won the Grand Prize at the Alexandria Biennial  
First Prize in first Solo Exhibition at the Spanish Cultural Center, Cairo.
- 1978-79 Took an Art and Study trip throughout Europe  
Solo Exhibition at the "Hohmann Gallery" in Walsrode, Germany
- 1980-82 Studied Graphics & Sculpture in Switzerland and Austria  
Opened a studio in Zurich for painting therapy

- 1985-87 Had various exhibitions in Germany  
 Won first prize in the competition entitled "Cairo from the Artist's Perspective."  
 Awarded a scholarship to study in Basel, Switzerland.
- 1989 Exhibition at "Gallery Ewat," Lewarden, The Netherlands
- 1991 Exhibition at Art Hall Orebro-Sweden, and at the Egyptian Academy, Rome.
- 1992 Exhibition for the Opening of Gallery Cairo-Berlin, Germany.
- 1993 Graphic Exhibition at A.U.C in Cairo/ "Grenchan Graphic Triennials" Switzerland/  
 Mashrabia Gallery, Cairo.
- 1994 Erection of Sisyphus statue, at Walsrode, Germany / received Heitland  
 Scholarship, Lamspring, Germany / exhibitions in Switzerland
- 1995 Video Exhibition at El Hanager Cairo / Mashrabia Gallery Cairo.
- 1996 Cairo Biennial – adjoined work  
 First Prize Biennial-Kuwait  
 Galerie Hohmann, Hamburg, Germany
- 1997 Grand Prize, Biennial of Alexandria.
- 1998 Exhibition "The Nile" at Goethe Institute, Cairo Exhibited at Hart Gallery, Carmel,  
 California  
 His 21st October "Musafirkhan" studio burned down, and he lost most of his  
 work
- 1999 Gallery Arabesque, Scenes from Vermont (scenes from a 1998 visit)
- 2002 Zamalek Art Gallery, "Conviviality--The Nile & the Trees" Cairo
- 2003 Havana Biennial, Cuba
- 2004 Zamalek Art Gallery, "Cairo...Portraits of a City", Cairo
- 2005 Zamalek Art Gallery, "Nostalgia", Cairo / Group Exhibition, The British Museum,  
 London/  
 Int'l Art Exhibition in Muscat, Oman
- 2006 Professor at International Art Academy, Salzburg, Austria / Exhibition of "30  
 Years of his Art," Gallery Hohman, Germany.

- 2007      Exhibition "Contemporary Egyptian Art" at the National Museum of Modern Art,  
Bonn, Germany /  
Exhibited in Occidentalism: The West as Seen by Egyptian Artists, Espace Karim  
Francis, Cairo
- 2008      Exhibited in Dhaka, Bangladesh, Marseilles, France / Zamalek Art Gallery,  
"Labyrinth," Cairo, Egypt