

MAHER MORCOS

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Maher was born on February 23, 1946, in Cairo, Egypt to an Egyptian mother and an Italian father. He began his career as an artist at the age of 13 when he began selling his watercolors to tourists that depicted scenes of daily life amongst the ancient ruins of Egypt. At age 14, he competed in an Egyptian government-sponsored national competition and won Best of Show. This resulted in a commission from the Ministry of Education in Cairo to illustrate high school textbooks. By the age of 15, he had his first one-man show in Cairo and started what would be a life long adventure in the world of fine art.

When it was time for him to pursue a college education, his parents urged him to study law or medicine because they wanted their son to be a "professional". Instead he chose architecture, since it was the closest thing to art, and still acceptable to his parents. It was during his college years that he nurtured his love of music and learned to play the saxophone. He concluded his formal education in 1968, by

obtaining a degree in both Architecture and Fine Art.

After finishing college, Morcos played his saxophone professionally for four years in the nightclubs of Cairo. He then left Egypt to play with a jazz band in Sudan. From there he ventured to Chicago where first began to sell his work through established galleries such Circle Gallery and Arts International Gallery.

By 1971, he was ready for another adventure so he traveled to Paris to study fashion design. He eventually left Paris for the South of France where he drew with pastels on the sidewalks of Nice and collected money in a hat from tourists. Shortly after his adventure in France, Maher returned to the United States in an effort to expand his exposure through more galleries. But by 1974 he was again ready to travel, and he journeyed to Rio de Janeiro where he spent a year taking in the local scenery and carving out a living drawing on sidewalks once again.



Finally, in 1975, Maher decided that it was time to take his career in art more seriously and he returned to Chicago to focus on his passion for American western art. His success in the

field of western art was no small accomplishment. Due to his Egyptian heritage, many art experts and collectors were biased about his ability to truly capture the essence of the American West. His determination to prove himself and overcome the prejudice required him to be a far better artist than most American artists. With lots of determination and talent he accomplished this goal, and surprised the critics, by winning many medals and honors in prestigious western art shows such as the Charles Russell show and the George Phippen show. He was also invited to become a member of many prestigious Western organizations including Western Heritage and the Western Artists of America.

Morcos has been widely published; won innumerable awards, and is represented in the finest corporate and private collections throughout the world. He has clearly earned his position amongst the worlds most accomplished artists regardless of the subject matter. He continues to explore new worlds through his extensive travels and produce visual images that have a way of captivating his audience and winning their respect.



HONORS & AWARDS

Received first commission at high school age from the Ministry of Education, Cairo, Egypt.....Text Book Design

First One-Man show at age 15, Cairo, Egypt
Charles Russell Show 1980
Best of Show.....Sculpture
Silver medal.....Watercolor
Bronze medal.....Sculpture

George Phippen Show
Best of Show.....Sculpture
Gold Medal.....Oil Painting

Western Heritage Show 1980
Bronze Medal.....Mixed Media
Silver Medal.....Oil Painting
Silver Medal.....Watercolor

16 Foot Bronze Monument of the late Tommy Hernandez (Don Diego), (Del Mar Fairgrounds) San Diego, California

COLLECTIONS

The White House – Washington, D.C.
President and Mrs Ronald Reagan – California
Mrs. Anwar Sadat – Egypt
The Late President Nasser – Egypt
The Hunt Family of Texas
King Khalid – Saudi Arabia
Fred G. Walker, Jr.
Anthony Quinn
Jack Palance
Denver Pyle
Bert Reynolds
Reggie Jackson
Full Corporation – Japan
Merrill Lynch – New York
Phillips Petroleum – Oklahoma
David & David petroleum – Oklahoma
Buck and Abbott Laboratories – Illinois
Burger King, Inc.
Funk & Wagnalls, Inc. – New Jersey
Normano Ltd. – New Jersey
Buckeye Petrofuels – Oklahoma
National Electric – New York
George's Investment Company – Texas
National Teacher's Association – Texas
Buena Vista Investment Corp. – Arizona

Alloy Metals. Inc. – Michigan
Madison General Hospital – Wisconsin
Shultz Steel Company – California
New Century Merchandise, Inc. – New Jersey
Caperton Mills, Inc. – Georgia
Mid-State Company – Colorado
Sacramento State Fairgrounds – California
Stuckey's Permanent Collection – Arizona
Del Mar Fairgrounds – California
Gerry Mulligan



REVIEWS

“Cross culture, time, and ethnic boundaries. Enter the world of Maher Morcos. Simply ageless in style that is Morcos’ own image of elegance and perfection. The magical fusion of his exquisite taste in color, meticulous skill, and imaginative vision establish him as a master.

Of Egyptian and Italian descent, the secret understandings, shared commonalities, unspoken fates of these two ancient cultures merged into the talent that is uniquely Morcos.

Morcos’ paintings and sculptures contain the essence of sensuality, reflecting his understanding of today’s changing climate... tomorrow’s uncertain evolution... and

yesterday’s languid acceptance and love of the luxurious.

Sensuality moves throughout Morcos’ body of work... in the rolling crevasses of a moody landscape, the suggestive arabesque oppositions of female form... the gentle flow of fabrics used to caress figures.

...Timeless elegance... Luxurious sophistication... Precise execution... That is how Morcos’ art reaches into the soul and finds its place in the mind.”

“Colors are works of art in themselves. When mixing my paints, I feel tempted to use colors that will dare the viewer to taste them with me. In art, color is the extravagance of life...”

