



Nabil Nahas Creates Stamp for Lebanon's 75 Years of Independence

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IMAGE COURTESY: BEN BROWN FINE ARTS



A Cedar Tree was chosen by artist Nabil Nahas to represent the hope of the people of Lebanon. His artwork now features on the stamp design for LibanPost, which will be used on 100,000 letters and parcels.

This special stamp marks Lebanon's 75th anniversary of independence and was unveiled at the Grand Serai under the patronage of Prime Minister-designate Saas Hariri. The original painting will be offered at an auction at Surssock Museum.

Nahas was approached by LibanPost's Khalil Daoud for creating this stamp and was so moved by this nationalistic gesture that he chose to paint a new piece reflecting idealism. The artist was motivated to paint the perfect tree with strong sacred undertones.

Earlier, the Surssock Museum had also held an auction to sell the original painting on November 20. The proceeds from the sale were distributed to the Lebanese families of the soldiers that died in the battle of Aarsal in 2014, a matter that still strongly affects the artist.

The new stamp design is in tune with LibanPost's series of honorary stamps and seeks to commemorate the efforts of Lebanese citizens as well as everyone who contributed in

raising Lebanon's name high, celebrating the diversity of the Lebanese people, while reaffirming LibanPost's commitment to its corporate social responsibilities.

Born in Lebanon, Nahas spent his formative years in Cairo and Beirut. He attended university in the US, earning a BFA degree from Louisiana State University in 1971 and an MFA from Yale University in 1973. Encounters with contemporary painters at Yale influenced Nahas to move to New York after graduation. The artist currently lives and works in New York but still spends significant amounts of time in his native Lebanon. Nahas has exhibited extensively in the US and abroad over the last three decades. His first major museum retrospective was held at the Beirut Exhibition Center in 2010. Public collections include The Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York; Tate, London; and the British Museum, London, among other international institutions. In 2013, Nahas was awarded the National Order of the Cedar for services to Lebanese culture, an honor rarely bestowed to visual artists.