



SOCIAL & ECONOMIC ACTION FOR LEBANON: NAYLA ROMANOS ILIYA BENEFIT EDITION



Nayla Romanos Iliya

Hobb - حب (i), 2017

Bronze, plywood and mirrored steel

19 x 30 x 15 centimeters | 7.5 x 11.75 x 6 inches

7kg | 15lb

Edition of 20 from the series [#SEALturns20](#)

Nayla Romanos Iliya and Nayla Hadchiti are pleased to announce a new sculpture

Hobb - حب (i), 2017, from Romanos Iliya's seminal work the Scrabble series.

To celebrate SEAL's 20th anniversary, the Lebanese sculptor Nayla Romanos Iliya has donated her time to create *Hobb - حب (i), 2017*, a limited edition of 20 sculptures, sold in aid of SEAL's work.

[PURCHASE HERE](#)

Payment is via PayPal or credit card. If you would like to pay by check, please contact us at seal-usa@seal-usa.org. Your tax deductible amount will be the price paid, minus \$600 production cost for each piece.

The work ships from New York City or Beirut. Shipping not included. Please contact seal-usa@seal-usa.org for more details.

About *Hobb - حب (i), 2017*

Hobb - حب (i), 2017 is a sculpture from the artist's "Scrabble" series, named for the word "Love" in Arabic. It is composed of the two characters inspired by the Phoenician letters "Heth" and "Beth", which are the origin of Arabic letters 'ح' and 'ب' meaning respectively "wall" and "house". The bronze sculpture is fixed on plywood and mirrored steel. The layers of the wood make reference to the rich history of past civilizations, while the steel evokes the reflective nature of water. This series celebrates Phoenicians as great seafarers, who spread their alphabet during their maritime journeys across many other cultures.

"I was born and raised in Lebanon's rich multi-cultural environment. I was fourteen when the civil war started, pulling the country into the abyss of destruction, division and exile. Like many Lebanese of my generation, I fled and lived in different parts of the world but always yearned to visit and return to my home country. Identity became my primary concern; I was confused, and felt a need to anchor myself to my roots. I took an interest in the Phoenician civilization, and more particularly its greatest achievement, the Phoenician Alphabet, a writing system at the origin of most alphabets used today. In my Phoenician Alphabet series, I give new life to these archaic symbols, and use form and material to convey a message or tell stories. This is a way of reconciling the present while paying tribute to the past." – Nayla Romanos Iliya

Biography of Nayla Romanos Iliya

Nayla Romanos Iliya was born in Lebanon, and has lived in Beirut, Paris, London, Hong Kong and Dubai. She graduated from the American University of Beirut with a Bachelor of Architecture. She has participated in design workshops in Paris, and completed a Feng Shui diploma in Hong Kong. Nayla has also worked on numerous interior design, renovation and architectural projects in Lebanon, completed several sculpture workshops in 2011 and 2012, and has been sculpting on a full-time basis since. She co-curated an exhibition showcasing Lebanese designers at the Salon du Meuble, Paris. Selected exhibitions of her work include: Sikka Art Fair (Dubai, 2013), and Beirut Art Fair (Beirut, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016). Her sculptures can be found in private collections in Lebanon, France, and the UAE, as well as in public ones, such as the Four Seasons Hotel at Al Maryah Island. She currently lives and works in Beirut.

Biography of Nayla Hadchiti

Nayla Hadchiti is a New York-based art advisor, creative director, philanthropist and seasoned traveler. With a background in advertising and contemporary art, she has been a patron of the arts and a strong supporter of Middle East initiatives. Recently, Nayla served as the consultant to the Marrakech Biennial 6th edition, a non-profit art exhibition in Marrakech, Morocco. Nayla is currently collaborating on a project in Indonesia to exhibit Middle Eastern artists at a non-profit art center, with the intention to initiate conversation and communication between both communities.