

off the wall gallery

paintings • sculpture • original prints



SAMIR SAMMOUN

Samir Sammoun (born August 10, 1952) is a Canadian–Lebanese artist and telecommunications engineer.

Early life

Samir Sammoun was raised in Joun, Lebanon on his family's 1,000-year-old olive plantation. His father, Fares Sammoun, was a broker at the Port of Beirut, and an olive grove farmer. His father Fares and mother Marie Bouchrouh, were married for 65 years until their deaths in 2008 and 2010. Born into one of Joun's notable families, Samir is the third child in a family of six children; five boys and one girl. In 1976, his brother Elias, (age 20), was killed in the Lebanese civil war.

Samir Sammoun began painting in oils at the age of 13, while continuing his formal education. After completing studies at the Ecole des Arts et Metiers in Beirut in 1969, he emigrated to Montreal, Quebec, Canada in 1973 at the age of 21. There he obtained a Baccalauriat en Ingenierie (Engineering degree) in Electronics in 1977, followed by a master's degree in Telecommunications from the Ecole Polytechnique de Montreal in 1978. After becoming a citizen of Canada in 1976, it was there he met and married Yvette Charron in 1980.

Work and careers

While pursuing a career as a telecommunications engineer, and obtaining several patents for Cable TV transmission systems, Sammoun resumed painting oils on canvas, and simultaneously launched a second career as a professional artist.

In 1988–92 Samir Sammoun obtained three patents for engineering inventions that would enable Cable providers to broadcast and receive high speed data over Cable Networks. From 1990–95 Sammoun served as Vice President of Videotron in Montreal, after which he founded his own company SHS Technology.[5] SHS was a leading analyst in the technology that operates the Broadband over power line, which transmits internet signals to and from subscribers of electricity companies. While at Videotron he and his colleagues, as described in their 1990 patent, invented a "cable communication system comprising a bidirectional transmission network connected to the head end for transmitting signals downstream from the head end to a plurality of subscriber stations, and for transmitting data signals upstream to the Cable provider". Along with others, this system forms the basic technology for addressing data traveling over the internet.

In 2003–2004 he was the featured artist in a televised segment on Mountain Lake PBS Television, Plattsburgh, New York. His work is cataloged in the National Library of Canada.

In 2003 Samir Sammoun was the invited guest of Emile J. Lahoud, President of Lebanon. His visit was featured in a segment on LBC-TV; and his painting Olive Grove was installed in the Baabda Palace, Presidential Palace in Beirut.

A solo exhibition of his paintings was held at the Gallery d'Art at the Musee des Beaux-arts de Montreal from October–December 2005, attended by Quebec Premier Jean Charest and his wife Michelle Dionne. Prior to that, Samir Sammoun was given a retrospective at the Musee de Marc-Aurele Fortin in the old city of Montreal, Quebec, Canada.

New York State First Lady Michelle Paige Paterson with Samir Sammoun at the Governor's Mansion

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In 2009 he exhibited at the Plattsburgh State University Art Museum, Plattsburgh, New York to create a series of 18 oil paintings commemorating the 400th Anniversary of the European discovery of Lake Champlain. The paintings were exhibited there from May – July 2009, and featured in a live broadcast there on Fox TV; after which two were exhibited for a year at the Governor’s mansion in Albany, upon the request of the First Lady of New York, Michelle Paige Paterson. Paintings from this group were also entered into the Plattsburgh State University Art Museum, and the Samuel de Champlain Museum’s permanent collections.

Three of his paintings were acquired in 2011 by the Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development (AFESD) Museum of Kuwait, for their permanent collection.

Other Museum credits include a Group Exhibition at the McCord Museum in Montreal Feb–March 2002, a Guest Artist Exhibition at the Latino Art Museum in Pomona, California 2008 and a commission he painted in 1997 for the St. Joseph’s Oratory, a National Historic Landmark in Montreal that receives 2.5 million visitors every year. Another painting was commissioned by Corporate Affairs International and donated to the government of Quebec. It is now included in the permanent collection of the Quebec government offices in Quebec City.

Works

Sammoun works in a series of images from one palette. He works with oils on jute and linen canvas, applying a heavy impasto, created in fast emotional bursts of energy. The result is a spontaneous rendering of the subject, as if a flickering effect of light is coming through, reflected by the colors he places side by side and on top of one another on his canvas. Critics like Noel Meyer of MAGAZIN’ ART have said, “Sammoun attempts to make his audience feel the wind blow through the trees, the heat in the air and the colours of the sky ...” Victor Forbes Editor of Fine Art Magazine, has said that “Sammoun’s emotional investment in each work is evident in every canvas.”

Paintings by Sammoun were in a 2012 group exhibition “Viewpoint and Vistas”.

Personal life

With his siblings in Lebanon, he is today the owner of an olive grove near his birthplace in Joun that produces extra virgin olive oils.

Samir Sammoun is active in several charitable organizations, including Sainte Justine Hospital of Montreal and the Medical Mission for Children in Boston. In 2012 Sammoun met with Cardinal Bechara Boutros Al Rahi, Patriarch of the Maronite Catholic Church, during his visit to Montreal; and presented him with an oil painting to be placed in the Bkerke, at the historic coastal city of Junieh, Lebanon.

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Museum exhibitions

Walking with Giants by Samir Sammoun 40x60 Original Oil on Canvas
Boston Museum of Fine Arts, "Give the Arts a Chance" project 2014, 2012, 2011
Plattsburgh State University Art Museum, Plattsburgh, New York, 2009
Latino Art Museum, Pomona, California, 2008
Montreal Museum of Fine Arts, Art Gallery, Quebec Nov–Dec 2005
Retrospective at the Marc-Aurèle Fortin Museum, Montreal, November 2003 to January 2004
McCord Museum, Montréal, Group Exhibition 2002
Permanent collection of the Latino Art Museum, Pomona, California
Permanent collection of the Plattsburgh State University Art Museum, Plattsburgh, New York
Permanent collection of the Champlain Museum, Lake Champlain, New York
Permanent Collection St. Joseph's Oratory Museum, Montréal, Québec, Canada
Permanent collection of Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development Museum, Kuwait

Publications

Boston Museum of Fine Arts "Give the Arts a Chance" Catalog 2011, 2012
Fine Art Magazine, Samir Sammoun in Montreal, Channeling Van Gogh, Victor Forbes, Winter 2006
Musée des beaux-arts de Montreal – Galerie d'art Catalog. Forward by Michelle Dionne, First Lady of Quebec. 2005
Fine Art Magazine, Samir Sammoun Fields of Faith, Groves of Gratitude, Victor Forbes, Spring 2004
Fine Art Magazine, Samir Sammoun Walking with Giants, Victor Forbes, Spring 2003
Musée Marc-Aurèle Fortin Museum Catalog "Sammoun au Musée Marc-Aurèle Fortin" 2003
MAGAZINART, October 2000 : Samir Sammoun, Artiste Peintre de Grande Classe
Samir Sammoun, Artiste Peintre de classe internationale, Pierre H. Savignac, 1996
National Library of Canada, 1993
Bibliothèque Nationale du Québec, 1992

Solo exhibitions

Galerie d'Orsay, Boston, Massachusetts, 2012, 2011, 2010, 2009, 2007, 2006, 2005
Onesimo Fine Art February 2013.
Douglas Albert Gallery, State College, Pennsylvania, 2009
Chasen Galleries, Richmond, Virginia, 2009, 2005, 2004, 2003, 2002,
Latino Art Museum, Pomona, California, 2008
J.R. Mooney Galleries, San Antonio, Texas, 2007, 2004
Exhibition, Gallery d'art of the Montreal Museum of Fine Arts, 2007
Artgraphix, Westlake Village, California 2005, 2002
Retrospective One-Man Exhibition at the Marc-Aurèle Fortin Museum, Montréal, 2003 to 2004
Salon des Galeries d'Art, Montréal, 2000
Gallery Klimantiris, Montréal, Québec, 1997
Salon des Galeries d'Art, Place Bonaventure, Montréal, Québec, 1995
Gallery Centre d'Art Monrency, Montréal, Québec, 1994

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Group exhibitions

Palm Beach Jewelry, Art & Antique Show, February 2013.

Art Expo, New York, 2013, 2012, 2011, 2010, 2009, 2008, 2007, 2006, 2005, 2004, 2003, 2002, 2001, 2000, 1999, 1998, 1997, 1996.

Galerie d'Orsay "View Points & Vistas" 2012

Art Expo Miami, 2013

Le Balcon D'Art, Montreal, Quebec, 2012

Off the Wall Gallery, Houston, Texas, 2012

Gallery D'May, Cape May, New Jersey, 2011

Red Dot Miami, 2011

Montreal City Hall, June 2005

Canadian Heritage Art Gallery, 2004

Palm Springs Expo, Palm Springs, California, 2003

Plattsburgh State University Art Museum, 2002

McCord Museum, Montréal, 2002

Decor Expo, Atlanta, Georgia, 2002

Collectors Editions, New York Art Expo, 2002, 2001

Caza, Longueuil, Québec, 1999

Galleries Ozias Leduc, Montréal, 1998

CAPI, Venice, Italy, 1993

CAPSQ, Dorval, Québec, 1992

Corporate and public collections

Government of Quebec, Offices of the Premier : Quebec City, Québec

Baabda Palace, Presidential Palace: Beirut, Lebanon

City of Plattsburgh, New York: Office of the Mayor

St-Joseph Oratory Museum: Montréal, Québec

Vidéotron : Canada

Ayerst Laboratories : Montréal, Québec

Metropolitan Orchestra: Montréal, Québec

Novartis Pharma Canada Inc. : Montréal, Québec

Swaby Ogilvy, Renault : Montréal, Québec

Bkerke, Maronite Catholic Patriarchate, Junieh, Lebanon

Delta Hotel : Montréal, Québec

IBM Corporation : Montréal, Québec

Coca-Cola Corporation : HQ, San Antonio, Texas

Arab Fund for Economic & Social Development(AFESD)

DataPoint Capital, Boston, Massachusetts

Also in private collections in the United States, Canada, Mexico, France, and England.