

**BASSAM KYRILLOS**

**'THE CHAOS'**

**April 20, 2017- May 6, 2017**

Mark Hachem Gallery - Beirut is delighted to present “ **The Chaos** ”, a solo exhibition by artist Bassam Kyrillos, featuring a selection of his most recent works.

As a Lebanese, Bassam Kyrillos has been affected throughout his whole life by the conflicts that have taken place, and are still taking place on the soil of his country. Through his recent works, he explores the narratives of places through cycles of destruction and regeneration inhabiting the border zones between devastation and renewal. He creates sculptures of alternate urbanity, a place bearing witness to its history and simultaneously regenerating itself.

Kyrillos sets his goals on defining the relation between the sculpture and the place. He identifies the nature of this relation in order to demonstrate through the restoration of the missing link, how art can have a meaning and how the place is capable of influencing our personality, shed light on our dreams and sculpt our physiognomy.

His sculptures represent suffering and death. Though a dark symbolism, they seem to embody the victory of the contemporary human and his tragic destiny. They express aging in appearance and the wrinkles are the imitation of a burned skin. The shape and color of the aluminum outlining their cavities refer to the soil, whereas the colors of red and blue that glitters on the internal surfaces symbolize hope, rebirth and life

As part of his role in society as an artist, Bassam Kyrillos is trying to pass on what our ancestors had fought for. He is telling stories of their struggles and victories, their efforts to resist falling into despair and surrender. To him, this is what is so worthy of shining light upon and what bears so much positivity.

Born in Byblos city in 1971, Kyrillos holds a PhD in Plastic Arts from the University of Sorbonne. He has been working as a Professor of Fine Arts at the Lebanese University in Beirut since 2001, where he graduated with a BA in Plastic Arts in 1995. He also holds an MA in Plastic Arts from Damas University and from the University of Sorbonne.

Bassam Kyrillos has exhibited locally and internationally, notably at the Sursock Museum in Beirut and participated in several International Biennales and numerous group exhibitions and art fairs in Paris, Moscow, Hong Kong, Basel, Dubai and Beirut.

He currently lives and works in Byblos, Lebanon.