

What's On

PET PALACE

people & their pets

Look out for the Arab Times series, the Pet Palace, and read about how people and their animals enrich each other's lives.

The Palace welcomes submissions by our readers. If you'd like to tell the world about your pet, send us a photograph and accompanying article for publication.
— Editor



By Khair Kamil
Special to the Arab Times

I am not very sure of my dog's breed. But I call him Lukz and he is a friendly dog. He likes to give people a wash with his tongue. It could be off putting to some, but he is just showing his boundless love for you.

He is very quite and rarely barks. There is a sort of mildness even to his barking, and he never sounds daunting. He is some mixed breed, and is gentle, cuddly and cute.

Dog is a man's best companion. Often times we think of dogs as guardians of a house. We expect them to be loyal and so forth. This is our way of understanding animal behavior. We try to make sense of them by equating their characteristics with our own.

Qualities like loyalty, love etc make sense only

in the world of humans. But we try to interpret the territorial instincts of dogs as loyalty. They are not guarding your house; they are only guarding their territory.

I bought Lukz not as a guard or to have him in the stead of children. He is a dog, and that's all.

I preferred a less territorial dog, because I don't want my dog to scare away my guests, and create a nuisance to people around. Lukz is the perfect dog that suits all of my requirements.

Lukz loves watching television. He likes ads especially. Probably it's the fast cuts in the ads like a visual montage that attracts Lukz to it. Ads showing animals or dogs give him a vicarious pleasure, and he does funny things on seeing them.

Sometimes he puts his paws over his head and ducks like feeling shy at the sight of his television clones. Sometimes he would go close to the

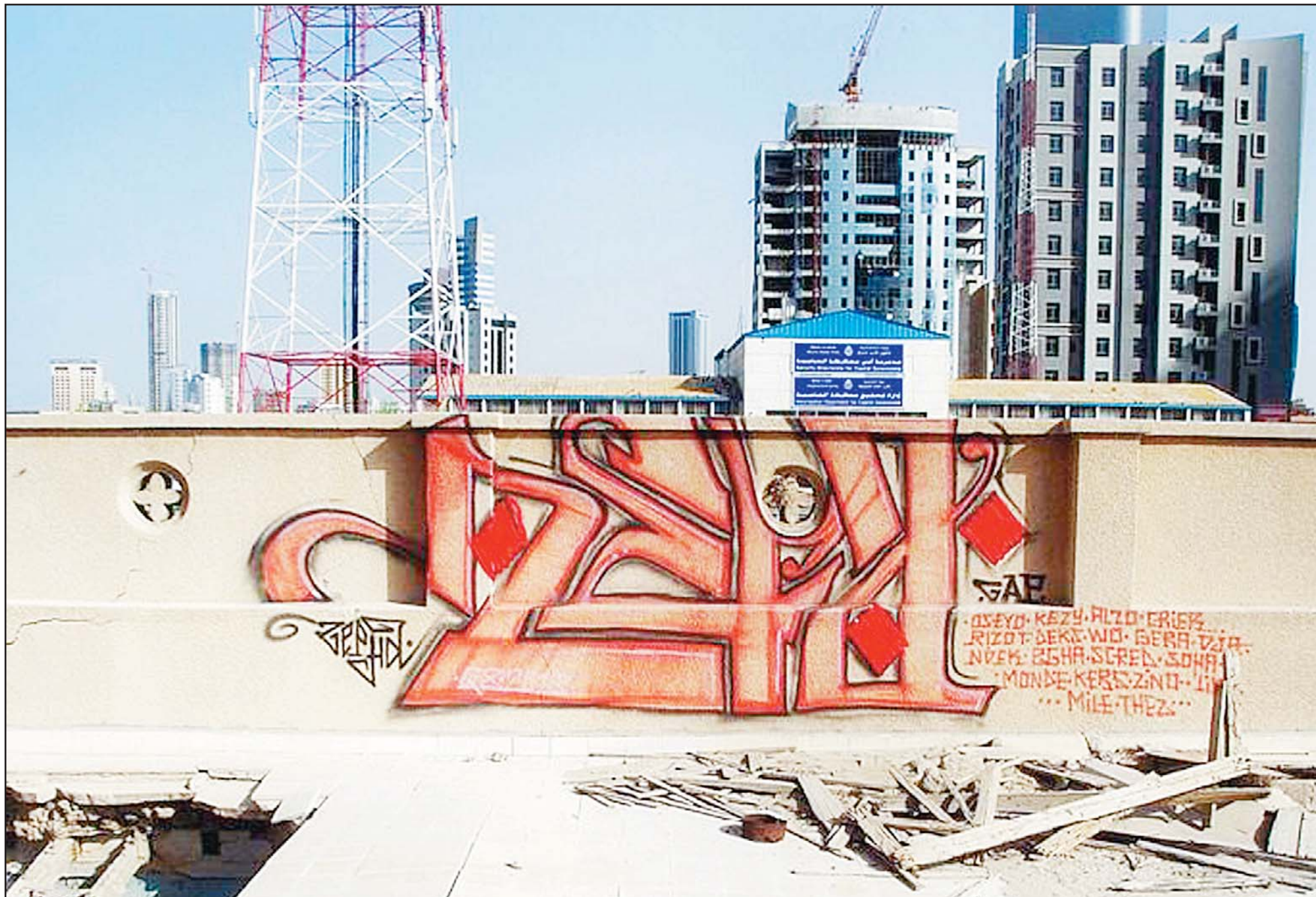
television and rear up propping himself on the TV stand with his forelimbs. But I never let him lick the screen, and when pulled away from the screen he would whine.

One good thing about Lukz is that he quickly resigns to his fate and accepts what is offered. Lukz, though docile, is a very intelligent dog. He imitates things that he sees, a trait seen only in the highly intelligent dolphins.

He shows how people walk. He imitates how babies crawl by hunkering down and crouching. He picked it up from my baby niece. He also imitates my gait when I had a fracture in the leg. He would walk with a jerky limp.

People who visit me grow fond of Lukz, because he is a very adorable dog. Anybody tends to like a quiet, cute looking dog. Even to the sight he is very pleasant, with big eyes.

Art



JAMM is delighted to present Inked Skin, Cristiana de Marchi's first solo exhibition in Kuwait from Oct 23 to Nov 21. Preview on Tuesday, Oct 22 from 06:00 to 9:00 pm.

De Marchi enjoys walking, observing and documenting aspects of the life of individuals while walking through the city, but she constantly

searches for an interaction; a personal one, a silent and solitary one. Walls!

Walls bare messages which nature significantly changes according to every individual's specification; messages such as love and hate, politics and peace or simply unspoken and forbidden messages.

In 2011 de Marchi started walking through the writings, drawings and graffiti of the urban walls of Beirut, Dubai and Kuwait and captured images of scarred walls with messages reflecting the spirit and the "inner" character of ordinary people. After capturing and printing the eye catching images of the "tat-

toos" protected on the walls, she then selects an element in the photo and using cotton thread and a needle she starts a very unique and classic embroidery on the selected piece on the photo.

Cristiana de Marchi was born in Turin, Italy. She currently lives and works in Beirut and Dubai. In the past

years she has held several solo and group exhibitions in the UAE, Lebanon, the USA, Italy, the UK, Mexico, Spain, The Netherlands and Switzerland.

Location: JAMM Art Gallery, Life Center, 2nd floor (next to CAP), Block 2, Street 28, Industrial Shuwaikh, Kuwait.

New Look

'Art is a form of expression important in human life'

Ali Al Shimmeri asserts importance of family values

Today's article takes a look at Ali Al Shimmeri, the Manager of Kuwait Maritime Museum.
— Editor

By Lidia Qattan

Special to the Arab Times

We behave and act according to what we think, and formulate our thoughts according to our belief and conviction, hence a great deal of our success in life depends on our early upbringing and family surroundings.

Ali Al Shimmeri was born in 1975 in a family abiding to cherished traditions based on respect and honor. His father, a high ranking military officer in the Kuwaiti army, educated his boys according to military discipline while encouraging them from an early age to attend his diwana, in which while absorbing the wisdom of their elders the youngsters were learning the golden rules of social etiquette.

In such a family surrounding Ali grew up emotionally and mentally matured at an early age. Clever in his studies but naughty, in his misdeed in school he was often pardoned because of his high marks in his studies. Among the subjects his preference was philosophy, because it is most congenial to his mental inclination.

Ali loves to look deeper into things and happening to gain a wider perspective of the world around him and a better understanding of the metaphysical status of things, such as: why is art so important in human life? Some primitive cultures may have no mythology or religion but they all have art in one form or another: dances, singing, or design on the body. Hence he came to the conclusion that art is a form of



Ali Al Shimmeri

expression important in human life, indeed it is the spearhead of social and individual development; when it is vulgarized it is a sign of ethical decline.

Affection

Incidentally, this is the situation he is seeing in his own country following the decline of the fine arts and the growing affectation of his people verging on indifference to higher social values by which the Kuwaitis lived in the frugal old days and on which he himself had been nurtured to respect and cherish.

As mentioned Ali was brought up by his father with a military discipline, which as most teenagers yearning for the freedom of interaction with their peers he resented, but later when he understood the reason, he appreciated the wisdom of his father.

The transition from teenager to adult-

hood is a critical stage in the life of the individual, some never make it through. His father was one of those parents who had the understanding and the right approach in guiding his children during their formative years. When Ali graduated from high school, his father granted him full freedom of action: for, by then his boy had become a man with enough perspective on himself to make the right decision and take full responsibility of his action.

Happy in his childhood, Ali was fifteen when the Iraqi invasion suddenly shattered the security he hitherto felt all through his life, the experience of suddenly awakening one morning to find he lost his country left in him a lingering incubus of uncertainty ever since.

Conclusion

For some time he heard from the men in the diwana of the escalating crisis between Kuwait and Iraq. The lack of conclusion in the crisis at the last meeting in Jeddah between the Crown Prince & Prime Minister, Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah and his Iraqi counterpart on Wednesday, the first of August 1990, left everyone in suspense worrying about what would happen. Some speculated there would be an infiltration of frontier as in 1973, when the Iraqis penetrated 5 miles into Kuwait territory; no one expected there would be a total invasion of his country!

Early that fateful Thursday morning, the second of August Ali was awakened by the blast of guns and firing going on around him. His house in Rabiya was near the G. One (the Supreme Military Headquarter of the Security Forces). Jumping out of bed he ran to his father to wake - him up, worrying about what was

going on. Going out into the courtyard with his father the moment they tuned on the radio they heard the announcer inciting all Arabs in a brotherly stand on behalf of Kuwait against the invaders. Responding to the call of duty his father, though retired from the military, promptly took off to join his colleagues at the G. One to see what could be done.

The shock of the suddenly waking up and discovering his country was invaded combined with his worrying about his father strongly affected Ali with a lingering feeling of an impending doom. For centuries, since Kuwait emerged into a suzerain state in 1756 with the election of Sheikh Sabah Al Jaber the founder of the Sabah dynasty, it has been a peaceful country; its prosperity was enhanced by the spirit of cooperation and resourcefulness of its people engaged in sea and land commerce. Prosperity inevitably triggered the covetousness of its neighbors and that prompted the Kuwaitis to defend their land through battles and clever diplomacy.

Reading the history of his country Ali knew that Iraqi covetousness was nothing new; the first instance was a frontier trouble in 1934, allegedly caused by the smuggling of arms into Iraq, a rumor proved ungrounded by the British investigators and the matter dismissed. Incidentally earlier that year was discovered at Bahra.

From the first week of the invasion Ali's father was in

danger of being taken away by the Iraqi Mukhabarat who was going through the neighborhood asking questions about Kuwaiti high-ranking military officers. Fearing the implication on their families if caught many officers left the country; in the second week of the invasion Ali and his family escaped into Saudi Arabia.

Symbol

Leaving his homeland was a daunting experience, for the first time he felt what really meant losing one's land, his home, the symbol of life itself. Though he lived with his relatives he felt the constant yearning for his homeland in the hope of returning soon; a hope his father fanned with his optimism saying that within few days the situation would have been resolved. But those few days stretched to seven months of tedious waiting for those abroad and an agony of suspense and impending danger for those inside the country.

At the opening of the scholastic year in Saudi Arabia Ali sought to continue his education but could not concentrate his studies; the thought of his homeland and the vision of the destruction and bewilderment he witnessed during the first days of Iraqi occupation were constantly in his mind, so he stopped going to school. Till the day he returned home he kept following with growing trepidation any development in the liberation front. When the war was finally declared on Iraq he rejoiced but his happiness was soon marred by Iraq's immediate retaliation, with the release of a huge spill of crude oil on the water of the Gulf, then systematically destroying the entire Kuwaiti infrastructure including setting on fire the oil fields.

To be continued

click

Latest

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of the course on clearing common misconceptions about Islam. On Sunday Oct 20 at 7:00pm, we will specifically talk about the misconception that men and women are not equal in terms of polygamy: while polygyny is allowed, polyandry is disallowed. Polygyny did not only exist during the time of Prophet Muhammad (PBUH), it was there long ago. According to the Bible, King Solomon had 700 wives and 300 concubines (1 Kings 11: 3). David had many wives and concubines (2 Samuel 5: 13) — Jesus never married, neither did Paul. The Glorious Qur'an is the only religious book on the face of the earth that contains the phrase "marry only one." According to the report of the 'Committee of the Status of Women in Islam' (1975: pages 66 - 67): the percentage of polygynous marriages between the years 1951 and 1961 was 5.06% among Hindus and 4.31% among Muslims. Polygyny is not a rule but an exception (Quran 4: 4)

For more information, please call 25231015/6 or e-mail: Hassan@tiescenter.net

Oct 21

TIES Quran/Tafseer class: Qur'an Quotes and Tafseer class by Hassan and Nejud. After reading specified Qur'anic verses aloud and explaining them very briefly, Hassan will explain the various connotations of some words and phrases to show the literary beauty and miracle of the Qur'an. After that, attendees will be asked to participate in a discussion on the topic and other related issues. The class will involve an open discussion in a casual setting with the aim of reflecting and pondering verses from the Noble Qur'an as well as learning how to recite some short surahs. On Monday, Oct 21, we will discuss Surat Al-Kawthar (A River in Paradise 108), which is among the virtuous surahs (chapters) in the Qur'an. All those interested are most welcome.

For more information, please call 25231015/6 or e-mail: Hassan@tiescenter.net

Oct 22

TIES lecture: The TIES Center welcomes you to 'break the ice' with one of the World's most successful polar expedition leaders, Sean Chapple FRGS the 'Ice Man,' who will be speaking on leading through turbulence at the TIES Center on Tuesday, Oct 22, 2013 at 7:00pm. Against the backdrop of his recent 72-day ground breaking South Pole journey (a journey completed by less people than have stood on the moon!) Sean will offer inspirational and powerful learning in self-motivation, risk-assessment, teambuilding and high performance leadership. Q&A will follow a 40-minute multi-media presentation.

Closer to home, Sean recently worked with the Council of Ministers to improve Kuwait's coastal defense to protect critical oil infrastructure. Here his planning, management and leadership skills were used to build a 'first-of-type' operational maritime security force fully staffed by Kuwaiti nationals.

For more information, please call 25231015/6 or e-mail: Hassan@tiescenter.net

Oct 24

CAP organizes Art Festival: Contemporary Art Platform (CAP) is delighted to announce our partnership with "Art Moments Festival 2013" one of the major public art festivals in Hungary, under the title "Zenith Art Exchange/Hungary (2013-2014)" a series of events and exhibitions organized and curated by CAP to promote Arab and Middle Eastern artists, photographers and designers in Hungary.

● **Marwan — The Head as a Cosmos**
Date: 24/10/2013 — 24/11/2013
Location: M21 Gallery, Zsolnay Cultural Center

About the show: This exhibition celebrates Marwan Kassab Bachi body of work. By featuring one of the largest collections of portraits/"Heads" assembled by the artist himself. "The Head as a Cosmos" outlines Marwan's adaptation to the "Head" as a dominant theme in his work through the years and an identity to his name by bringing together more than 90 works of watercolors and etchings and a small selection of canvases, part of Contemporary Art Platform collection. For Marwan the head is a "landscape, a world, or even a universe"

Marwan was born in Damascus, Syria, in 1934, he did his studies in literature at the University of Damascus and then went to Berlin, Germany, to pursue painting with Hans Trier in 1957. He has remained in Berlin, and draws on both Arab and modernist German recognizable artistic influences.

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