



ARTIST

BAHGORY LEGACY

EGYPT BY THE ARTIST



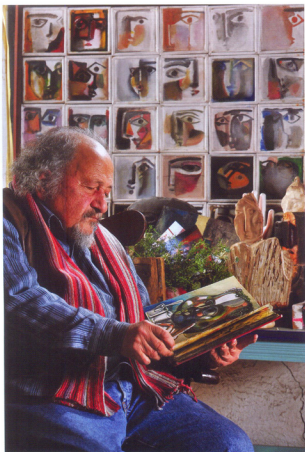
Above: This drawing depicts two serious-looking men engaged in a game of dominoes while spectators watch. Bahgory spends countless hours observing people around him in coffee shops and drawing them in his sketch-books.

Right: Bahgory typically starts his drawings using *encre de chine*, after which he uses aquarelle and gouache, and finally acrylic paint to highlight. The resulting drawings are rich in color and have layer on layer of paint. This gives them depth and leaves the viewer with the sense that he is seeing a story unfold.

Those who know Egyptian art will recognize a Bahgory painting by its style, but even those who do not know him can identify with his subject matter – the experience of day-to-day life in Egypt. Bahgory is widely considered to be among the most important and prolific of creative artists in the Arab world.

However, although he is a renowned painter, sculptor, writer, photographer and has gained huge popularity as a cartoonist, few know how dedicated a journalist he is. Obelisque Publications will print one of his many sketch book diaries that capture special fleeting moments of everyday life.





Bahgory's journals are so remarkable that, in keeping with its mission, Obelisque Publications wants to preserve their story and make them available to the public. We are passionately interested in promoting local art and culture, preserving the Egyptian art scene, and documenting the work of great Egyptian artists.

Readers wishing to reserve a copy of this numbered limited collectors' edition should contact Obelisque Magazine.

Expressing himself as genuinely through his words as he does through his art, his engaging diaries record his surroundings both in Egypt and abroad thus giving us a glimpse of this legendary artist's world.

An eager observer of the activities that unfold around him, Bahgory's diaries include familiar scenes of everyday life familiar to anyone who has lived in Egypt.

His sketches of market places, coffee houses, shisha smokers, backgammon and card games are accompanied with sharply observed explanations.

The books are bubbling with a certain 'Bahgorism' – his palpable love and affection for his subject matter. This love, shown through deep interest and careful attention to details, is seen everywhere throughout these journals. Using the media of *encre de chine*, *aquarelle*, *gouache* and acrylic, Bahgory creates a work of art on each page. The playful descriptions, stories and proverbs accompanying the drawings and paintings illuminate them, while often making us laugh.

It is fascinating to listen to Bahgory speak about his own work as he explains how he creates balance, fills empty spaces, and chooses his subject matter. He speaks with such curiosity and enthusiasm that one would think he was seeing these sketches for the first time. His sense of humor and creative spirit shine as he explains the story behind certain characters in his pieces (such as the *huhhud*, or hoopoe, bird that always appears in his presence or the dog that follows him from the coffee house to his home every day). Ω

Above: Bahgory in his studio leafing through one of his many journals. These chronicle his unique perspective of people and features events taking place around him. His drawings describe the world as Bahgory sees and interprets it. The reader is entertained and stimulated by his quirky view of everyday occurrences.

Right: Bahgory's abstraction of color and space endows his subject with a new dimension of daring and originality. The artist said that Picasso's art has had a great influence on his own work. One can see how Picasso's cubism has suggested to Bahgory ways in which space can be manipulated in a more abstract fashion.

