

From Babel to Havana



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Iraqi artist Athar Jaber presents a solo exhibition at the National Museum of Fine Arts of Havana, Cuba (Museo Nacional de Bellas Artes de Cuba). His latest marble sculptures will be exhibited alongside the museum's collection of 16th and 17th century Dutch and Flemish Masters.

The exhibition marks the first solo show of an Iraqi artist at the prestigious Cuban museum, contributing to the growing international presence of Iraqi contemporary art and culture. The exhibition, titled **Offerings**, will open on the 9th of November 2018 and run until the 14th of January 2019.

Athar Jaber is a sculptor living and working in Antwerp, Belgium. He is a professional artist and a lecturer at Antwerp's Royal Academy of Fine Arts. He held a solo exhibition at the Palazzo Medici-Riccardi in Florence, Italy (2015). In 2017, he was invited as an artist-in-residence to participate in the inaugural exhibition of the Palestinian Museum in the West Bank.

The National Museum of Fine Arts of Havana is a museum that exhibits Cuban art collections from the colonial times up to contemporary generations. European paintings and sculptures, along with a collection of ancient art are on display. The exhibition **Offerings** will take place in the Museum's section that hosts paintings by Dutch and Flemish Old Masters.

"We asked the artist to present his work in a way that it interacts with the contemporary or historical collections of the Museum, so that a new or different perspective can be proposed", says the museum's vice-director Oscar Antuña Benítez.

As an Iraqi artist, living in Belgium, and presenting his work alongside Dutch and Flemish paintings in the city of Havana, Athar Jaber intends to stress common values between various cultures from different times and places.

A publication of the exhibition will follow the opening.

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