

5th International Ceramic Art Symposium

September 2015 - Tunis

Waleed R. Qaisi

At the Centre of National Ceramic Art Sidi Kacem Jelizi in Tunis the capital, the 5th International Symposium for Artistic Ceramics was held from 2-12 September 2015, where multiple cultures come together. The symposium is organized by the director Mohamed Hachicha, PhD.

18 artists from 8 countries Spain, Egypt, Portugal, Iran, Turkey, France, Tunisia and Iraq participated in the symposium, which took place in Sidi Kacem Jelizi a historical palace that was built in the 15th century. This palace was turned into ceramic art centre some years ago and since then it has offered a 2-year training programme in ceramic art to students as well as special courses to the craft lovers.

The centre has opened its doors, studios, workshops and showrooms to famous artists to work, to exchange and to share experiences with each other and with students and daily visitors to the centre. Different techniques were practiced by the artists: building approaches, firing and glazing. Workshops, demonstrations and presentations started at 9:00 a.m. and went on to 5:30 p.m. During the working day some artists were scheduled to perform a presentation and talk about their work for the audiences.

The symposium programme also included cultural touristic visits to Bardo and Carthage museums, to the old town Souq of Tunis, to the ceramic factories and shops in Nableu, where they make bricks, tiles, and traditional pots, to the environment protection project in Sidi Bin Amour, and to the national carpet factory in the capital and other natural beautiful sites. This was great opportunity for the artists to have a close look at the history, heritage, customs and traditions of Tunisia.

On the closing day of the symposium an exhibition was held under the patronage of her Excellency the Minister of Culture to show the work of the artists, then a certificate of participation was given to each artist at the closing ceremony.

I was invited to this symposium and my participation included the first work, which was untitled (Is this art?); the second one was named organic, focusing on my ideas about the concept of rational thinking, because it is an image of reality.

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right from t. to b. - National Centre of Ceramic Art, Sidi Kacem Jelizi; The courtyard of the Art Centre; Raku firing with Mohamed Hachicha and Jose Ramos; Waleed R. Qaisi with ceramist Xohan Perez

below - the group of artists on the closing day, 12 September 2015

